

Urban legacies
of the late 20th century

GRAND PROJECTS

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

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	WEDNESDAY, 17	THURSDAY, 18	FRIDAY, 19
9:30		Parallel session Slot 1 T2 S1 T3 S1 T4 S1 T7 S1	Parallel session Slot 3 T1 S2 T2 S2 T3 S3 T7 S2
11:00		BREAK	BREAK
11:15	SIDE EVENT Lisbon Waterfront Buildings and Public Spaces	CLAIRE COLOMB <i>Keynote Speaker</i>	CHRISTIAN SCHIMDT <i>Keynote Speaker</i>
12:45		LUNCH-BREAK	LUNCH-BREAK
14:15		Parallel session Slot 2 T1 S1 T3 S2 T4 S2 T5 S1 T10 S1	Parallel session Slot 4 T1 s3 T3 s4 T6 s1 T7 s3 T8 s1 T9 s1
15:45		BREAK	
16:00		SPECIAL SESSION Ana Brandão, Jorge Bassani, Stefano Di Vita	
16:30	OPENING SESSION Tribute Vitor Matias Ferreira	<i>Roundtable</i>	
16:45			BREAK
17:00			JEAN-LOUIS COHEN <i>Keynote Speaker</i>
17:30	BREAK	BREAK	
17:45	JOÃO PEDRO MATOS FERNANDES, GONÇALO BYRNE and RICARDO PAES MAMEDE <i>Roundtable</i>	MANUEL SALGADO and JOSEP ACEBILLO <i>Keynote Speaker</i>	
18:30			
19:15			

Team	5
Programme	7

PART I

Organizer's welcome message	13
Foreword DINÂMIA'CET	15
Conference theme	17
Framework of the conference within the research project	19
Special Session: CELEBRATING VITOR MATIAS FERREIRA LEGACY	21
KEYNOTES SPEAKERS	25
Round Table: João Matos Fernandes, Gonçalo Byrne and Ricardo Paes Mamede:.....	27
Claire Colomb.....	31
Manuel Salgado and Josep Acebillo.....	35
Christian Schmid.....	38
Jean-Louis Cohen	41
Special Session ROUND TABLE: Ana Brandão, Jorge Bassani with Camila D'Ottaviano and Eduardo Nobre, and Stefano Di Vita	45
Side event: LISBON WATERFRONT BUILDINGS AND PUBLIC SPACES	51

PART II

Track 1: Mega-Events And Mega-Projects: Trends And Demands	59
Shared economy as a vector for gentrification	61
Urban legacies of sport mega-events.....	71
Olympic agenda 2020	85
Margins of the Olympic Rio.....	99
Ecological design strategies for urban spaces in European World Expos.....	111
How mega interventions are shaping Tokyo	123
Peak event.....	135
Great event, more troubles.....	137
Protests and Mega-events	147
Cultural mega-events in heritage-rich cities.....	163
Olympics and urban form.....	165
Olympic waterfronts	177
Track 2: Starchitecture	195
Urban projects by an Architecturbanistic tandem.....	197

Counter (Grand) Projects.....	213
The competition for the Bastille Opera	229
The great Egyptian Museum.....	243
Designing cities for arts.....	255
Transnational architecture and urbanism	271
New Housing in Angola. From modernity to contemporaneity	273

Track 3: Terrain Vague Redevelopment..... **289**

The Cable Factory, resilient architecture in Helsinki	293
Military terrain vague in Italy	307
Space__between.....	309
Designing in two expectant areas of Lisbon and Barcelona waterfronts	311
A public space in the post-apartheid city:.....	333
Rethinking creativity at neighborhood level in the post-industrial era	349
The Mauá Pier as a terrain vague.....	363
Subverting terrain vague.....	377
Occupy Estelita.....	387
Petit projects.....	399
Thinking with the unfinished	413
On the unpredictability of space.....	427
The ocean as a "terrain vague" of the twenty-first century	439
Walking in-between	451
Terrain vague, property, free space: the ideal of a common space.....	465
Railway territories.....	479
From drawing to space	495

Track 4: Environment Impact Awareness In Urban Developments.....**511**

Assessing Impacts of Urban SUNstainability	515
Seeing, pausing, inhabiting the riparian limits.....	527
Heritage and History as resources for the creation of new, sustainable, city	541
Lomas ecosystems landscape	555
Barra Funda intermodal terminal as an urban centrality in São Paulo	571
Weaponized Chagos Archipelago.....	587
Integration, adaptation, reconversion	589

Track 5: Methods And Technologies On Architectural Design And Urban	601
22 years later, what is the future for the South Door of Expo '98?	603
The construction process of a pedestrian bridge in Covilhã, Portugal.....	619
A new waterfront for Vila do Conde	629
Track 6: Urban Policies.....	649
Urban regeneration policies and mega-events	653
“Uma praça em cada bairro” program.....	655
After all, what are Favela Museums?.....	669
The urbanism of exception?.....	681
The governance of Grand Urban Projects: public power and private actors	683
Track 7: Urban Competitiveness And Social Challenge	695
The spatial change between migrations and religions in the capital city of Taipei.....	697
Representations and landscapes of Lisboa94 and Expo98:	715
The reproduction of the beautiful city by the 2014 World Cup	725
Still selective after all these years?	739
Touristification of spaces and urban lifestyles.....	741
White elephants in southern europe.....	753
Porto Maravilha Project 10#years	765
The pandemic challenge on temporary public space in Indonesia	775
The entrepreneurial countryside.....	791
Lisbon Boom(erang).....	793
Potsdamer Platz Urban Project	809
Seizing the opportunities of the post-pandemic to save a cultural district.....	819
Track 8: The Role Of Artists And Urban Art	821
The ‘Expo’ and the post-‘Expo’	825
Horticultural parks in Lisbon.....	837
Gentrification and Public Policies.....	839
The Estelita case and the influence of Grand Projects on the formation and production of young professionals’ collectives	851
Malagueira.....	865

Track 9: Syndrome Of Grand Projects: Contamination Processes Between North-South, West-East, Global-Local.....	885
Urban Voids and the Contemporary Spatial Production:.....	889
Luanda’s Venice	903
São Paulo from the 1990s to 2020s	919
Progressions and new deals between urban rivers and dwellers: from an enclosed channel to a new fluctuating social space	927
Jungle fever: Manaus and 2014 World Cup.....	939
Meta-cities XXI	949
Track 10: Urban Analytics And City Design	967
King’s Cross.....	969
Utilizing gis for a critical heritage mapping of urban activism in Istanbul in the 1960s	971
Author Index.....	984
Acknowledgements	987

deprived neighbourhoods that were common to those areas of Lisbon.

The relationship between the city and the Tagus River was another theme widely debated by the observatory, with the assumption that the new investments would bring the metropolitan area closer to its estuary, thus reversing the processes of urban expansion towards the hinterland, a result of both the positivism of the late 19th century and the “estado-novismo” that marked the 20th. The Great Projects associated with Expo’98 would be an opportunity to reflect on a vast geographical area, breathing new life into an urban development process that would restore to its rightful place the importance of housing, infrastructures, and public space as solid arguments for improving the social conditions of the metropolis’ inhabitants.

Two decades after the launch of the Great Projects that marked the end of the twentieth century, it is important to return to the questions raised by Matias Ferreira, not only because of the inspiration that his work and methods brought to research within the scope of Cities and Territories, but mainly because of the broad vision of urban themes, based on the conviction of a multidisciplinary and, whenever possible, an interdisciplinary scientific culture, which is at the core of Iscte’s identity and, particularly, that of DINÂMIA’CET – Iscte”.

Lastly, on behalf of the organizing committee of the Grand Projects conference we express our gratitude to professor Vitor Matias Ferreira.

Keynotes Speakers

João Matos Fernandes
Gonçalo Byrne
Ricardo Paes Mamede
Claire Colomb
Manuel Salgado
Josep Acebillo
Christian Schmid
Jean-Louis Cohen

intensely agglomerated and dense urbanisation (spatial clustering of population, employment, means of production, infrastructure and investment) are profoundly related to extended urbanisation; “the suburbs” is an increasingly inaccurate and contradictory category; the limits or the “outskirts” of the urban are pseudo-concepts urgently in need of re-thinking.

Finally, the Grand Projects that are recognisable within the context of neoliberal urban politics in Europe - the so-called urban renewal operations - have become in the Global South, one of the faces of planetary urbanisation as an expression of the globalisation of disorganised capitalism: creating exceptional conditions to anchor the logistics of capital and the commodification of urban production, and at the same time, to continue to take advantage of the social and environmental dumping that is endemic in so-called developing countries.

Prof. Christian Schmid is a geographer and urban researcher. He is Professor of Sociology at the Department of Architecture, ETH (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology) Zürich. In 2003, he received his Ph.D. from the Friedrich Schiller University in Jena: “City, space and society – Henri Lefebvre and the theory of the production of space” (2005).

Since 2008, Prof. Christian Schmid has worked together with Neil Brenner (Harvard, Urban Lab.) on the development of a new theory of *planetary urbanization* that aims to understand the “urban”/urbanicity as an increasingly worldwide condition in which social, economic, and political relationships are enmeshed. The advent of planetary urbanisation means that even spaces that lie well beyond the traditional urban regions have become integral parts of the worldwide urban fabric. In this sense, we highlight one important book on this topic that he has written – *Implosions/Explosions, Towards a Study of Planetary Urbanization*, 2013.

Between 2011 and 2019, Prof. Schmid was the leader of the research module *Urban Sociology: Planetary Urbanization in Comparative Perspective*, *Future Cities Laboratory* (FCL), Singapore ETH Centre for Global Environmental Sustainability (SEC), having published several papers and a book in preparation. He is a founding member of the *International Network for Urban Research and Action* (INURA). Together with architects Roger Diener, Jacques Herzog, Marcel Meili and Pierre de Meuron, Prof. Schmid was the scientific director of the project *Switzerland: An Urban Portrait* at the ETH Studio Basel, a pioneering analysis of extended urbanisation in Europe. A book with the same title was published in 2006.



Frank Urbanism: Gehry Takes up Cities

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Jean-Louis Cohen, New York University’s Institute of Fine Arts and Collège de France

CHAIR AND FINAL REPORT:

Marta Sequeira, CIAUD, Research Centre for Architecture, Urbanism and Design, Lisbon School of Architecture, Universidade de Lisboa and DINÂMIA’CET-IUL

It is commonly assumed that Frank Gehry’s architecture is objectual and does not establish a close relationship with the site. This conviction is nourished as much by its innovative and disruptive nature, as by the way it has been presented in the specialised press. However, it is certain that Gehry himself regrets: “When people photograph my works, they usually crop the context”². Through unprecedented research, based on in-depth archival analysis but also interaction with the author himself, Jean-Louis Cohen reveals just the opposite.

As Cohen demonstrates, Gehry is an urban being. He spent his childhood and adolescence in Toronto and later in Los Angeles, while other cities, such as Chicago and New York, played an important role in the development of his thinking on large metropolises. Although the months spent in the urbanism programme at Harvard University’s Graduate School of Design in the 1950s were important for his training as an urban planner - not so much for the programme itself, but mainly for the discoveries made at that time – it was his collaboration with Victor Gruen between 1954 and 1960 that played a determining role in his understanding of this discipline. The discovery of works such as *Encyclopedie de l’Urbanisme*³ by Robert Auzelle and Ivan Jankovic, or *City Planning According to Artistic Principles*⁴ by Camillo Sitte – to give just two examples – also contributed greatly to his understanding of urbanism. The urbanistic culture he accumulated over the years eventually had a strong impact on his work.

The truth is that despite the negligible number of planning assignments throughout his career, Gehry’s investment in defining urban strategies for his architectural projects is remarkable. The most important buildings designed by this author in the 1990s are, moreover, not just “urban pieces”, fundamental to the

² GEHRY, Frank, “Conversation with Kurt W. Forster”, in *Frank Gehry, Kurt W. Forster: Art and Architecture in Discussion*. Ostfildern-Ruit: Cantz, 1999, p. 88.

³ Robert Auzelle and Ivan Jankovic, *Encyclopedie de l’Urbanisme*. Paris: Vincent & Freal, 1952-68.

⁴ Camillo Sitte, *City Planning According to Artistic Principles*. New York: Random House, 1965. The first American translation was published in 1945, fifty-six years after the original German edition.

revitalisation of cities - as they are often understood - but forms that interact with the most complex of urban processes.

Throughout the lecture, and with a captive audience, Jean-Louis Cohen clearly demonstrated that although Gehry's projects are photogenic, they never begin as an image. And that even if Gehry's relationship with the urban context does not correspond to a subordination to pre-existing scales and textures, the fact is that his experimental attitude and the vital pulse of his buildings in the urban context are not fortuitous, but reveal a strong urban sensibility and culture, nurtured throughout his already extensive career.

Extricating himself from a tangle of preconceived notions about the work of one of the most relevant architects of the turn of this century, Jean-Louis Cohen finally proves to us how the urban dimension has been a constant in Gehry's creative process since the 1970s, and that his works from then on not only do not give rise to a schism with their surroundings but can only be fully understood precisely from the context in which they emerge.

This book and its contents is a contribution to the research project *The Grand Projects: Architectural and urbanistic operations after the 1998 Lisbon World Exposition* to support the reflection of the urban policies and architectural works produced in Portugal after the 1998 Lisbon World Exposition (Expo'98), funded by a Project grant of the FCT, Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia, ref. PTDC/ARTDAQ/32561/2017

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