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Chief Editors' Note

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As the new editorial team of *Joelho – Journal of Architectural Culture*, we must start with an opening statement that reinforces our aim of continuing the work developed in the past years and consolidating the place of the journal both in Portugal and abroad. It is our goal to present a platform for thinking about architecture and the interdisciplinary fields that, to different degrees, are implicated in the discipline, fostering the development of our knowledge on both architectural design and theory.

If we mention design and theory it is because we are concerned with the present tendencies to treat them as distinct subjects rather than as inextricable activities. On the one hand, there are those who transform theory into an autonomous world, who ignore that the purpose of theory is the development of a profounder knowledge of the practice rather than the construct of a discursive field with an end in itself. On the other hand, there are those who, reacting against the self-indulgency and abstraction of these self-reflexive theoretical acts, simply reject theory, neglecting its heuristic function to the detriment of practice.

This concern is all the more relevant in a journal of a school of architecture, where this artificial distinction is forced by an increasing academic specialization. Either one is a practitioner or one is a theoretician. Either one teaches design studio or one teaches theory and history.

Becoming inevitably reflected in teaching practices, this specialization questions the tradition and nature of architecture as a synthesis of the manifold of factors involved in the process through design, or through *disegno*.

The context of architectural education is also one of the reasons why we feel an obligation to attempt a balance between the new challenges which architecture is facing today and those which are inherent to the discipline, and hence, transhistorical, if we may put it thus. This means resistance to following the latest thematic trends in an attempt to keep up with the fashionable and the politically correct, seizing the opportunities provided by the marketplace of culture industry. The case of COVID-19 and the way it took over the architectural debate in the past few months seems to be such a case.

Perhaps we might say that we assume a modern posture, giving primacy to an object-centred approach to architecture and theory. This modernism is not like that of the visual arts, with its strict concern for the autonomy of the medium, but like that in architecture itself, where the object is charged with and aims at being a synthesis of social, cultural, aesthetic, and political factors and values.

The present issue, edited by Paulo Providência, Alessandra Capuano, Domenico Palombi, and Konstantina Demiri, responds to our intentions. Focused on the intervention in archaeological sites, it brings to the fore an interdisciplinary debate on architecture and archaeology with growing relevance in today's context, bringing to the equation undeniable concerns that are posed to the present situation – such as those of climate changes brought by unsustainable practices and consumerism – without losing the central focus on our disciplinary field.