MÁRIO KRÜGER, JOSÉ P. DUARTE AND GONÇALO CANTO MONIZ

Editorial

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The journal *Joelho 5* presents the results of the International Conference "Digital Alberti: Tradition and innovation in the architectural theory and practice" as one of the outputs of the research project with the same title, founded by FCT in 2010.

The aim of both events, the conference and the project, was complementary: to understand the impact of Alberti's treatise on classical and modern architecture using either intelligent computational environment or cultural approaches related to theoretical or philosophical methodologies.

Although, while the project followed one focused approach, as can be seen in the exhibition folder, the conference should bring to discussion a set of researches that were using different kinds of methodologies and themes to study the impact of classical humanism in the Portuguese architecture.

We suggest that directly or indirectly Alberti's ideas and attitude crossed the last five centuries transforming the architectural theory and practice. Now, the main question is how and where to further research issues grounded on these ideals. That's what, these papers submitted to the conference and than to the journal, aim to explore, following this legacy throughout the most recent research, the most recent methodologies and the most unsuspected actors.

These papers were submitted following basically two main lines of thought. Firstly, to rethink Alberti impact through innovative methodologies in order to study the renaissance culture and designs developed by Alberti and his contemporary, supported by computational systems, with the aim to expand the state of the art in architectural research within an albertian framework. Secondly, to evaluate the Alberti impact in modern culture by crossing ideas and practices. Or, in another words, to identify the presence of Alberti's humanism in the architectural debates since the 15th century, namely those ones that occurred in Portugal and overseas territories.

These proposals introduced three main topics: "Form and Architecture", coordinated by José P. Duarte (Faculty of Architecture at the University of Lisbon), shows recent developments using shape grammars and digital technologies, some of them from the Digital Alberti Project. Than follows, "Learnning from Alberti", coordinated by Marta Oliveira (Faculty of Architecture at the University of Porto), framed the researchers that were working on classical architecture, supported directly from Alberti's lessons. And the last, Contemporary Issues on Alberti, coordinated by José António Bandeirinha (Department

of Architecture—Faculty of Sciences and Technology at the University of Coimbra), open the discussion to the 20th century putting in dialogue Alberti and contemporary architects and artists.

Digital Alberti International Conference was held in Coimbra in parallel with the 2nd International Congress "The foundations of modern rationalities: around Alberti and humanism" and also the exhibition "Digital Alberti: Tradition and innovation in the architectural theory and practice in Portugal" that presents the results of the research project with the same title.

The exhibition is also published in this issue of *Joelho* with the aim of being a counter point to the results presented in the papers. Although, Alberti didn't use images in his treaty *De re aedificatoria*, *Alberti Digital Project* is mainly about the use of images and drawings as a research methodology through digital and analogic tools which is, undoubtedly, a challenge to the more literary approaches to Alberti that are pursued in nowadays.

The exhibition reviewed by Mário D'Agostino and Andrea Loewen, from the Faculty of Architecture at the University of São Paulo, contextualizes this research in the international scene, exploring it's scientific and pedagogical

aspects, comparing with the other research projects already done on Alberti. These two Brazilian scholars and researchers on Alberti also highlighted the relevance of using "shape grammar" methodologies to explore new trends on Alberti research. Following this, the journal also invited the shape grammar expert, Terry Knight, from MIT — Design and Computation School of Architecture and Planning, to present in Coimbra her recent work that has been inspiring Digital Alberti's team, "Regarding Rules: From Rimini to Rio".

Although we would like to finish with a remark that Alberti does, over and over again, in his architectural treaty when he wishes to come to an end on a topic: "*de his actenus*" (but enough of this), we have to say that the papers presented at the Conference show exactly the opposite, since what we are faced now is a never ending research study on Alberti's ideals. *Let it be*.

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