

## On responsibility of the choice, Introduction to the Dossier

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This dossier is the result of an invitation, in the form of a challenge, to select 16 texts on architecture to be published in the journal EP - Estudo Prévio, in the context of the celebration of its 20<sup>th</sup> number. The idea would be to publish, in Portuguese and English, a selection of fundamental texts about Portuguese architecture of recent decades.

One of the challenges we found most interesting, even as a criterion to guide us in the complex choice of the texts, was the unique possibility of translating into English a set of texts that we consider fundamental for a better and wider international understanding of our Portuguese architectural culture of the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

We know the importance that had, for example, the translation from Castilian to English of the text "No son genios lo que necesitamos ahora" (1961), by José António Coderch. This translation into English allowed an expansion of the discourse and research around Coderch, also contributing to a deeper analysis of his work.

In this selection exercise, we imagined a researcher in Delft, or a student in Zurich, to be able to have free online access to EP journal and be able to read a set of carefully chosen texts. It is not just the reading of isolated texts, it is also the reading of a set of authors, with their references and perspectives.

Resources for translation work are very rare and difficult to obtain, especially in the Portuguese architectural context, where it is not very common to translate older texts or books into English. It is significant to note that the English edition of Álvaro Siza's *Imaginar a evidência* was only published in 2021 by Monade, with the title *Imagining the Evident*.

It is therefore a privilege to have the possibility to translate these 16 texts into English, in a set that represents an architectural thought and culture that has been built in a



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collective palimpsest of several generations, from the oldest texts by Fernando Távora, Nuno Teotónio Pereira and Pancho Guedes, to the most recent ones by Ana Tostões, Manuel Graça Dias and Paulo Varela Gomes.

The online publication of these texts is also an opportunity to revisit them or to read them for the first time. The texts also shed light about the critical acuteness of their authors, inviting readers to discover other writings of their own. Texts such as Nuno Portas', for example, in a message sent to the National Meeting of Architects in 1969, are thus disseminated to a wider audience, opening the most varied possibilities of relationship and interpretation. We have chosen to publish the texts in their original spelling, thus maintaining the spirit of the time of each one.

The texts were written in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, between 1953 and 1999, by authors of different generations, from Nuno Teotónio Pereira and Manuel Tainha, born in 1922, to Álvaro Siza, Nuno Portas, or Alexandre Alves Costa, born in the 1930s, to Ana Tostões, born in 1959.

About the responsibility of the choice we feel, we are aware that it is not a perfect selection, being the result, like any selection, of a subjective and questionable exercise. For this very reason, it is a debatable selection and available for debate. We also believe that it may be the first volume of a series of other future selections. Let there be time and will.