

Estudo Prévio 5-6 – Research Architect - Editorial

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Architecturology (Caroline Lecourtois, 2014), *Research-by-design* (Johan De Walsche, 2014), *Action research* (Johan De Walsche, 2014), *Research based design* (Jorgen Hauberg, 2014), *Practice based research*, *Research through Architecture*, *Research in Architecture* (João Menezes Sequeira, 2014) were concepts exposed and debated at the 3rd International Conference on Architecture and Research on Research at Architecture/Research in Architecture (Labart – Architecture Laboratory of the Centro de Estudos da Universidade Lusófona – April 2011). These concepts reflect the different types of approach to research in architecture currently debated in academic and professional circles.

The architects interviewed in the various *Estúdio Prévio* issue were very determined saying that the professional practice in which they are involved – carrying out architectural projects, from territorial analysis to the completion of the work, going through all the research processes and selection of constructive methodologies and respective materials – is in itself a valid method of research, as it follows the procedure of any other type of investigation: Thesis, Antithesis and Synthesis. Starting from a set of principles, new questions arise - which, during the process, are accepted, rejected and solved in a finished work, shared by all.

The problems raised by recent doctoral theses in Research through Architecture focus



on its validity as an object of study, especially when architects/researchers choose to work on their own architectural production. In a way, this new doctoral aspect forces us to be more open about the themes validated by the academy since, until very recently, only research was carried out on the History of Architecture (monographs and thematic historiographies), Urbanism or Technique in Architecture (constructive methods and constitutive elements).

The research problems raised by recent PhD theses in Research through Architecture focus on its validity as an object of study, especially when architects/researchers choose to work on their own architectural production. In a way, this new line of research forces us to be more open regarding the themes validated by the academy since, until very recently, research was mainly carried out on History of Architecture (monographs and thematic historiographies), Urbanism or Technique in Architecture (constructive methods and constitutive elements).

On the other hand, the growing need to cross knowledge from various disciplines (developed by many of the projects and collectives in recent years) make this different approaches unavoidable, resulting more from an increasingly innovative synthesis of various types of knowledge than from a cumulative sum of knowledges, as it was the usual practice.

The dossier published in this issue gathers papers presented at the international conference "Espaço Público. O Lugar da Praça in Cidade Contemporânea", organized by Da/UAL, in partnership with ISCTE and with the support of the Order of Architects, on the 13th and 14th January 2012.