BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



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#### **Abstract**

# The Experience of a pioneer research program in architecture in Évora

Three years ago the University of Évora implemented a research PhD program in architecture. Generally a doctorate of architecture has been an academic title awarded to architects who present a theoretical dissertation; however, for us as a young but promising school of architecture it was just natural that a project (as a methodology, a process of knowledge or simulation of a hypothesis) could be part of an advance research in architecture. Thus, we started with this doctoral program seeking to question the current model of PhD programs and established a new pioneering paradigm syllabus in the national context with the intention to reach the international arena

During the course syllabus the project lab integrates the formulation of a theoretical hypothesis (a conjecture), that becomes an architectural design, which is unique, but simultaneously an universal knowledge.

The program has already two editions were PhD students have been encouraged to develop advance research and fostered interaction between the theoretical and architecture production. No research is yet finished. Students, although much interested in this type of research, are divided in their approach to architecture as a theoretical, speculative and critical field, and architecture as a field of research. Students and teacher are interested in research that develops their architecture design skills, as a relevant process of advancement knowledge in architecture.

We believe that PhD syllabus will contribute to demystify and implement the concept of advanced studies in architecture based on architectural research. This paper will share some of the ideas, doubts, and results of our PhD program.

## Short Biography

Sofia Salema, is graduate in Architecture by the Faculty of Architecture at the Technical University of Lisbon (FA-UTL), in 1994. Has a M.Sc. (Master in Science degree) in Preservation of the Architectonic Property by the University of Évora, in 2006, and a PhD in Architecture by the Faculty of Architecture (FA-UTL) in 2012. From 1995 to 2007, she worked as an architect at Évora in the Portuguese Institute of Architectonic Heritage (IPPAR), where she was responsible for designing, surveying and supervising several works of preservation and restoration of Monuments in Alentejo, as well as coordinated and managed some projects under the Culture Operational Program.

As a freelancer architect, she authored or co-authored a large number of projects among which the Preservation of the "Forte do Guincho" (Cascais), the rehabilitation of the "Igreja and Convento das Maltesas, em Estremoz", the rehabilitation of a Convent in Évora to a hotel (Mar d'ar Aqueduto). Some of her projects were published in magazines and scientific journals.

Teacher at the University of Évora, Degree Course in Architecture of the University of Évora, since 2004, and from the end of 2012 she is also the Head of the Department of Architecture.

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