

# Architects' networks in the 20<sup>th</sup> century

## Portuguese-speaking cities and territories

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### Introduction

Studying the production and the life of architects who worked in the ex-Portuguese colonies motivated the interest in analyzing the combined dynamics of both the biographical aspects of these architects and the patterns of displacement and social and professional relationships established between them.

Portuguese architects had a great impact in the urban development of these territories, mainly in the African continent and to a lesser extent in Asia. Furthermore, as they emigrated from Portugal, they carried the new doctrine of Modernism from the decade of 1920's onwards. In the former colonies, they had the opportunity of building modern architecture in uncompromised way. This new freedom was due, on one hand, to the lesser control exerted by the 'Estado Novo' (New State)'s regime in those territories, and on the other hand, to the concurrent will they had of doing it in *modern* style and the will and necessity of both the investors and the State of large-scale construction of public and private buildings.

As the unveiling of the architectural and urbanistic production proceeded – and continues to proceed -, a knowledge gap was felt regarding the agents of those works and their dissemination patterns. Different methods of registering and tracking data such as locations, dates, works and persons were used, in a search for a compliant and functional tool to help understand the development under study. Social network analysis was investigated and is currently used to probe into the nature and dynamics of the architects' nets.

### Mobility and professional relationships: prior and current work

The systematic study of the mobility and production of Portuguese architects having as their main destination the so-called 'overseas provinces' began in 2005. The first results as to the social networks of the architects who had worked and lived in Angola and Mozambique was presented in the next year at the IX International DOCOMOMO Conference by Matos and Ramos [1]. A set of subsequent works took on to analyze these trajectories under different points of view and including different scales of production, of urbanism and of architecture. In the research paper

presented in the 12<sup>th</sup> IPHS Conference by the same authors [2], the urban plans under the influence of the city-garden concept were analyzed. The study expanded and was then presented in the INHA [3]. Having as a forerunner as to the link between Brazil and Portugal a paper presented in the VI DOCOMOMO BRASIL 2005 [4], on the influence on the older country of Brazilian Modern Architecture, the relationship developed across the Atlantic between three architects, of encounter and of elusion, between the Brazilian architect Lucio Costa and the Portuguese architects Raul Lino and Carlos Ramos, was analyzed in the VII DOCOMOMO BRASIL 2007 [5]; with this paper was initiated the theme of the professional relationships between the architects, either of Portuguese nationality or of countries/other territories where Portuguese is spoken. The urban development of the city currently named Maputo was presented in the ASAUK 2008 Conference [6]. The city-garden concept that characterizes a set of cities of Angola (Luanda, Benguela, Malanje and Cabinda) and Mozambique (Maputo, Quelimane and Tete) and the city of São Tomé was the subject of the work carried out for the X SHCU [7]. Two articles were elaborated in 2009 on this subject-matter. In the VIII DOCOMOMO BRASIL 2009 [8], the public spaces that structure the central nuclei of the capital cities Luanda and Maputo were analysed, and some parallelisms with the architectonic production in Brazil were identified. In the AP 2009 Conference [9], a reflection on the record of the installation and urban evolution of the cities under Portuguese domain in Africa, under the lens of Luis Silveira, was made. In 2010 the evolution of the study with focus in the social networks was presented in the 1<sup>st</sup> International Meeting EAHN [10]; it was followed by the work presented in first General Working Group Meeting of the European COST Project 'European architecture beyond Europe: Sharing Research and Knowledge on Dissemination Processes, Historical Date and Material Legacy (19th-20th centuries)' [11]. Simultaneously, a monographic stream was being followed, pursuing the life trajectory of an individual architect across Europe, Africa and America [12]. An article giving an account on the amnesia in the historiography of Portuguese modernism as it encompasses the colonial production was published at the beginning of 2011 [13]. All the work using the graph theory had as inspiration an original work by Professor Mario Krüger, centred, not in the colonial, but in the Portuguese space [14].

### **Sequence: working with the architects' networks**

It was verified that, during the fifty years central to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, there has been a subdued diaspora of the Portuguese architects into Africa, Asia and, in lesser incidence, America (Brazil).

The study now under proposal consists of the organization of the knowledge already in place and the addition of new data, through the systemic structuring of a collection representing architects that have worked in the vast regions primarily under a common political domain. Although already present since the first paper presented, the Brazilian territory has gained relevance, as a destination and an architectonic reference, besides Portugal and its other former-colonies.

For such desiderata it proceeds by the method social networks analysis, on the basis of the software program Ucinet VI, which allows the measurement of the links and a deeper knowledge of the social and professional relationships of these individuals. Due to the dimension of the net, the graphical visualization of the study is supported in the program Pajek. Results refer to the unexpected centrality of some individuals in the net and at the formation of clusters and cliques.

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