IN A POSITIVE WAY NUNO LACERDA LOPES

We have always viewed architecture in a positive way. A game of confluence of values, principles, desires and problems to solve. It is not just a simple or complex exercise of abstraction or the mere result of a more or less conceptual sketch in which, with each line, the limits of imagination, difference or pure contemplation are tested.

We see too that our contemporary way of being does not permit us to think of architecture simply as a "wise, correct and magnificent play of volumes gathered together under the light", as Le Corbusier wrote.

We know and believe that our designs are not restricted to this play of volumes and shapes that create spaces of light and shadow, even if they are wise and correct and often magnificent; they are above all a game of collusion and complementarity between the shapes, the programmes, the circumstances, the commissions, the architect's background, his past and all he brings with him, and the individual, the surroundings and the community that will breathe life into them.

There is no architecture without construction and there is no construction without men. So our architecture, more than an approximation to an ideal of paradise, is (seeks to be) in essence (a true) "thing" of men.

We like to see our architecture filled with people, lived in architecture, to feel it is used, to see it contaminated and infected with the presence of reality and of people who adapt to these spaces and who adapt or change them; in other words, they bring them to life and turn our projects into a construction and then, with appropriation, into spaces with Life.

We design our spaces to exercise, to experience life or, as we have already mentioned, spaces to see the sea, that is to say to take us beyond the blatancy that walls and beautiful shapes often enclose.

In this relationship between the individual and the appropriation of space, architecture allows itself to be contaminated by those who inhabit it and, accordingly, influences the way of being, of perceiving the world and experiencing spaces.

The decision to develop a certain type of construction, to accept this or that programme, to choose from the different kinds of materials, to opt for a certain constructive process or system, or even a particular solution is never innocent. It is always based on that ideal of participation, of interpretation of circumstances and values of the past, but also of the present and what we seek to achieve by creating feelings and fostering dynamics of use and appropriation that we aim to be enriching and stimulating of new and different uses, new and different relationships and new life experiences.

After all, is architecture not an infinite system of relationships where life evolves? That is why and how we design it and conceive it: to build it but most of all to inhabit it and, in a positive way, to rebuild ourselves.

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