Transforming, thinking, seeking democratic architecture

Cássio **CARVALHO**

CIAUD, Research Centre for Architecture, Urbanism and Design, Lisbon School of Architecture, Universidade de Lisboa
CITUA, Centre for Innovation in Territory, Urbanism and Architecture, Instituto Superior Técnico, Universidade de Lisboa
Email: cassiolucena@hotmail.com
ORCID: 0000-0002-1250-1107

Abstract

This article discusses the processes of transformation and construction of a democratic architecture. At first, an analysis of the syntactic and semantic correlations between the words Architecture and Democracy is developed to delimit the universe of study intended for this analysis. In the sequence, it seeks to evaluate possible attributes that can help construct a democratic architecture. Next, a discussion is proposed around two hypotheses: the first deals with the possibility of establishing formulas capable of guaranteeing the success of a democratic architecture project, that is, the adoption of pre-defined design solutions to provide a democratic appropriation of the space. The second hypothesis is related to the capacity of the architectural project so that, alone, it can guarantee such appropriations and democratic relations. After an analysis of correlated texts explored by other authors, it reaches results that, although it is not possible to provide pre-defined design solutions, it is possible to identify desirable qualities in the planning of these buildings. Therefore, it is about thinking of common questions that can reinforce desirable qualities, but that must be answered within the specificities of each particular spatial solution. Finally, it is concluded that a democratic architecture must allow citizens to build and express their political ideas and legitimize contestation, representing the fluid and impermanent nature of democratic representation.

Keywords: Transformation, Architecture, Democracy, Democratic architecture