

The Utopia of Paradise in Architecture - Gardens, Countryside, and Landscape in Roman and Renaissance *Villa*

Inês PIRES FERNANDES

Centro de Investigação em Arquitectura, Urbanismo e Design, Faculdade de
Arquitectura, Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal

Abstract

A person, naturally creative, lives of utopias. Architecture is a way for humans to manifest their creativity, motivation, their life and make those utopias possible. In moments of strong urban development, people sometimes desire the restraint of country life. This way of living materializes the ideal of the relation between people and their origins. In these moments, throughout architectural history, expressions of this kind of utopia appear - the *villas*. Although their formal and artistic variety being product of centuries, the *Villa* is always the result of the owner's will for *villegiatura*, for contact with nature and the leisure activities associated to it. These drives are present in the architecture of the *Villas*, which expands beyond the main building, includes leisure structures, gardens, and similar buildings. Beyond leisure purposes, the *Villa* is also equally apt for agricultural purposes, potentiating land resources. The *villa* project, over centuries of evolution and adaptation, transcends architecture itself and equally transforms its surroundings, by making architecture, gardens and nature a single unit, an entity in symbiosis - the maximum expression of the utopia of country life.

Keywords: Villa, Landscape, Utopia, Country, Garden