

# From palimpsest to an intentional identity re-inscription; the value and ways of preserving an 'identity essence' in the urban and architectural rehabilitation of our contemporaneity

António SANTOS LEITE

Department of Architecture, Faculty of Architecture - University of Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal

[amleite@fa.ulisboa.pt](mailto:amleite@fa.ulisboa.pt)

Orcid: 0000-0003-2529-5362

## **Abstract**

Starting from the idea of the palimpsest by André Corboz, which implies understanding the urban and architectural heritage as a cultural space open to inscriptions and re-inscriptions, this reflection seeks an understanding of the fundamental questions that are posed today to rehabilitation. In concrete terms, the intrinsic organic nature of the urban and architectural heritage remains inoperative, the impossibility of urban and architectural heritage to remain static to change, thus questioning the 'identity essence' that should be maintained in order not to irreversibly de-characterise the pre-existing legacy. It is also reflected in the different specific modes of intervention in rehabilitation, as well as on the dimension and responsibility of the architectural act in our contemporaneity.

**Keywords:** palimpsest, heritage, urban rehabilitation, architectural rehabilitation, identity city