

What facades tell us? About Harmony in Architecture

Rita Roquette de VASCONCELLOS

Departamento de Arquitectura, da Faculdade de Arquitectura, Universidade de Lisboa, Lisboa, Portugal
rvasconcellos.arquitectos@gmail.com

Abstract

Building rules are intended to create order and harmony by regulating the occupation of space and assuring good construction and housing. However, despite the strict definition of urban parameters, often the uniqueness of each architectural object breaks through the different interpretations of scale, proportion, volume, full, void, different materials and colour, among other requirements, thus affecting the final result. The human being needs to reflect its individuality. Dwellings reveal in small or big details how the person wants to stand out. This study aims to identify those changes that contribute to a greater or lesser harmony on the facade of a building set, although they all complied with the set rules. It appears that the fulfilment of urban and regulatory parameters allows a morphological diversity. Law enforcement does not by itself generate harmony. The architectural object is configured according to a universe of rules, proportion and scale; but cannot forget other variables and factors which contribute to the final equilibrium in particular the temporal dimension and dissonance.

Keywords: legislation; urbanism; facades; harmony; dissonance.