From the intensity to the essence: Fantasy and architectural creativity between the Neorealism and the Third Modernism in Portugal

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Abstract

This work relates the affinity between two artistic movements that determined a rupture between the political power instituted in Portugal, in the second half of the 20th century, which were Neorealism and the Third Portuguese Modernism, in its various artistic expressions. However, we emphasise architecture in its practical and theoretical components and consequent revelations. There is sometimes confusion in telling the movements apart, due to a correlation based on a close affinity between the two, under a Marxist ideology opposing Salazar’s government. Nevertheless, these two artistic manifestations are different in their final demonstrations, because while Neorealism has practically as methodology the final destination between the class struggle portrayed in a formalistic realism and very contextualised in rurality, the Third Modernism is expressed in a more heterogeneous and abstract way, because the everyday city with all its idiosyncrasies is the support where it develops its state of art. This paper attempts to distinguish clearly and objectively, the main elements that exposed Neorealism and the Third Modernism in Portuguese architecture, the effects that they had as a critique to current aesthetics, and in the development of new trends within the national panorama.

Keywords: Neorealism; Third Portuguese Modernism; Architecture, Rupture; Creativity.