



Title: Time can attribute value to a specific object. Can Portuguese rural typified railway stations confirm this premise?

Abstract

The standardization of the construction industry, which had already started in Europe during the Industrial Revolution, informed the implementation¹ of the Portuguese railway network. Hence, promoters² developed a series of train station types distributed across the country throughout its execution, which represented the rural typified of railway stations in Portugal. As part of an ongoing Ph.D. investigation, this article aims to provide an insight into how time defines the historical value of a spatial object, or in other words, how the process of attributing value to a structure that not only represents a historical period but can also activate our future? And therefore, informing our spatial awareness?

Attributing value to any architectural object is defined by time and (also) defines time itself. It is time that regulates its historical importance, yet, the attribution of value does not end there. It is, therefore, outlined by several other attributes, so intrinsically connected to the spatial characteristics of an object, its context, and its cultural roots, which makes it impossible to have a universal consensus or universal heritage valorization system. Consequently, the results presented in this article are not final and definitive findings. Yet, they are the latest findings³ for one to prove that the Portuguese rural typified railway stations have, in fact, heritage value.

Keywords: Portugal; Architecture; Railway; Heritage; Value

¹ Mid of 19th Century onwards.

² There were several private and public promoters, such as: the national government represented by: Direção-Geral dos Caminhos de Ferro (DGCF); Concelho Superior das Obras Públicas (CSOP) and MPs, as well as the local government represented by its municipality, tradesman; businessman; farmers and in many cases, the local community. (Alves, 2015, p. 600)

³ These findings are specific for the object of study presented in this paper, and therefore will not work with a different object, even a similar one, or the same object in a different country.