



## (Oficinas) Muhipiti Workshops: strategic planning, heritage, development

Island of Mozambique, 19-28 July 2017

cooperative action between the universities Lúrio and Coimbra

### PRESS RELEASE

This action has its origins in a challenge launched in August 2016 by the dean of the University Lúrio (Mozambique), Francisco Noa, to the coordinators of the project and PhD program in Heritages of Portuguese Influence [PIP] of the Institute for Interdisciplinary Research and the Centre for Social Studies of the University of Coimbra: the goal is to discuss and to find ways of optimizing impact generated by the settlement of a new polo of the University Lúrio in the Island of Mozambique (designed in Macua by Muhipiti) and to establish bonds of cooperation with the Faculty of Architecture and Physical Planning [FAPF] in the areas of land planning and heritage.

The contacts developed in the meantime drove to the definition of a chart of cooperation. Within that framework stands out an academic but prospective event, where we aim to elaborate on that strategic decision taken by the University Lúrio, looking for a development model for the island based on two interrelated key-topics: the integral and sustainable safeguard of its heritage (on the UNESCO's World Heritage List since 1991); to improve the quality of life of its inhabitants. All this under the guidelines and framework of the *New Urban Agenda* [NUA] and the *Sustainable Development Goals* [SGD].

The core team has the coordination of Isequiel Alcolete [FAPF] and Walter Rossa [PIP and DARQ] while executive coordination is carried out by Cristovão Tomás [FAPF] and Nuno Simão Gonçalves [PIP]. The executive team of FAPF consists of Milton Novela and Catarina Caetano in charge of public relations, and Catarina Caetano and Marta Paixão in logistics. At UC execution is carried out by Nuno Miguel Lopes.

The event will take place at Casa Girassol, under the format of 6 intensive workshops (*Oficinas*). Each of the *Oficinas* will be comprised by architecture graduation students from the universities of Lúrio and Coimbra, under the guidance of professors also from both universities. Alongside some intermediate states of play open to public participation, diverse cultural initiatives will also take place. The results will be showed at a final exhibition, which will also be at display at Maputo, Lisbon and Coimbra, and published in a book expected to be released on the first months of 2018. It is hoped that local and national stakeholders, including cooperation, will adopt some of the projects and recommendations.

The resources that are been used (photos, cartography, books, surveys, etc.) were gathered in digital format and in a near future will be structured as a data base to be public available online by CEDIM (the Island of Mozambique research centre). The 1:1.000 Island model (1,20m x 3,6m) such as the 1:200 fortress model (1,50m x 1,20m) made as work tool for the *Oficinas* will be both items of exhibition at Muhipiti's Centre of Interpretation. These will be the workshops with most immediate result.

The 6 *Oficinas* will address the following themes: **strategies for the Island sustainable development, public space, master plan for the fortress reuse, plan for a community centre, Macuti houses** (vernacular architecture neighbourhood) **and Muhipiti's Centre of Interpretation**. Thematic decisions are owed to the desire to launch a permanent debate over a set of actions that, in an concerted form, target dynamic improvement and definition of a sustainable development model for the Island of Mozambique, in the framework of the leverage caused by the installation of a new faculty of University Lúrio.

(See thematic description of individual workshops at the end of this document)



## Program

- **19<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday**
  - 12.00 Gathering, reception and document delivery at FAPF (Marrere's Campus)
  - 14.30 Transport and lodgement in the Island of Mozambique
  
- **20<sup>th</sup>, Thursday**
  - 07.30 Visit by the members of each *Oficina* to their respective spot(s) of intervention
  - 09.00 Concentration at the Municipal Council Hall and arrival of guests
  - 09.30 Arrival of the Dean and his retinue  
reception by the cultural group of *Tufo* of the Island of Mozambique  
performance of the National Anthem (Academic Tuna of FCSH)
  - 09.50 Presentation of the programme by Master of Ceremonies Isaura Máquina
    - Intervention of Professor Isequiel Alcolete, Director of the Faculty of Architecture and Physical Planning
    - Intervention of Professor João Salavessa, Director of the Faculty of Social and Human Sciences [FCSH]
    - Intervention of Professor Walter Rossa, coordinator of the project Heritages of Portuguese Influence at the University of Coimbra
    - Intervention of Professor Francisco Noa, Dean of the University Lúrio
    - Intervention of his of his Excellency Saide Gimba, President of the Municipal Council of Island of Mozambique
    - Intervention of his of his Excellency Luciano Zacarias, Administrator of the Island of Mozambique
  - 11.00 Lectures where the 1st cycle final assignments will be presented
    - *Detail Plan*, by Arch. Moisés da Costa
    - *Fish Market*, y Arch. Miguel Ferreira
  - 12.00 Performance by the cultural group
  - 12.20 Photography of the event
  - 14.00 Opening of the *Oficinas* by the Coordinators – Casa Girassol
  - 15.00 Workshops activity
  - 18.00h *Management Plan*, lectures presented by Professor Solange Macamo and Architect Jens Hougaard, moderation by Mauricio Régulo, professor in FCSH.
  
- **21<sup>st</sup>, Friday**
  - Workshops activity
  - 17.30 State of the works
  - 20.30 Recitation of a poem by Architect António de Amurane
  
- **22<sup>nd</sup>, Saturday**
  - Workshops activity
  - 18.00 *Territorial and environmental context*, lecture presented by Professor Carlos Serra, moderation of Vicente Daúce, professor in FCSH.
  - 20.30 Presentation of movie



- **23<sup>rd</sup>, Sunday**
  - Workshops activity
  - 17.30 State of the works open to public participation
- **24<sup>th</sup>, Monday**
  - Workshops activity
  - 18.00 *Sociological context*, lecture presented by Professor João Amaral, moderation of Camilo Cuna, professor in FCSH.
- **25<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday**
  - Workshops activity
  - 18.00 *Territory and Heritage*, lecture presented by Professor Luís Lage, moderation of Timóteo Giel, professor in FCSH.
  - 20.30 Traditional dance workshop provided by students of University Lúrio
- **26<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday**
  - Workshops activity
  - 17.30 State of the works open to public participation
  - 20.30 Theater workshop provided by students of University Lúrio
- **27<sup>th</sup>, Thursday**
  - Workshops activity
- **28<sup>th</sup>, Friday**
  - Conclusion of the works and set up of the exhibition
  - 17.00 Closing session
    - Intervention of Professor Isequiel Alcolete, Director of the Faculty of Architecture and Physical Planning
    - Intervention of Professor Walter Rossa, coordinator of the project Heritages of Portuguese Influence at the University of Coimbra
    - Intervention of Professor Francisco Noa, Dean of the University Lúrio
    - Intervention of his of his Excellency Saide Gimba, President of the Municipal Council of Island of Mozambique
    - Intervention of his of his Excellency Luciano Zacarias, Administrator of the Island of Mozambique
  - 18.00h Inauguration of the exhibition and cocktail

### **organization**

Faculty of Architecture and Physical Planning of the University Lúrio  
Centre of Studies and Documentation for the Island of Mozambique  
Project and PhD program  
Heritages of Portuguese Influence from the Institute for Interdisciplinary Research and Centre for Social Studies and

Department of Architecture from the Faculty of Sciences and Technology from the University of Coimbra

### **partners**

Camões, Instituto da Cooperação e da Língua  
Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation  
UCCLA Union of Capital Cities of Portuguese Language



## **THEMATIC DESCRIPTION OF THE 6 OFICINAS**

### **Strategies for the Island sustainable development**

This workshop aims to evaluate (e.g through SWOT analysis) the dynamics of the Island's territorial relations, allowing the definition of framework and strategic actions which will potentiate the establishment of the of Social and Human Sciences pole of the University of Lúrio for sustained development. It is necessary to acknowledge the local economical dynamics that take place, such as fishing and tourism, the characteristics, commuting movements and demographic tendencies of the inhabitants, the ratios and characteristics of visitors, settlement and displacement of services, nodes of economic activity, etc.

Minimal results are set at reaching the synthetic definition for a set of actions (equipment, infrastructures, services, etc.) and its prioritization. The indication of agents and potential sponsors for each one of them should function as a preliminary test of its viability, thus enabling local decision-makers to use these references in defining their urban policies.

### **Public Space**

We will start by the evaluation and listing of types of the Island public spaces in order to produce a chart of intervention that, at least in the cases considered as models and strategic, will reach a high level of development in the form of a preliminary project, but already pointing out concrete solutions of implementation. It is fundamental that in this previous evaluation both the existent and potential uses of public spaces are identified. Questions regarding symbolism and representation are in no way to be discarded.

Other questions will need further attention such as: costs of solutions; easy access to raw materials and specialized/skilled workers; resistance in relation to local requirements; standardization of the essential to reduce management and repositions costs; the aesthetic impact of transformations, due to the Island heritage values; optimization and reutilization of materials and/or existing solutions. In short, an appeal to good sense in a way that the quality of the drawing should stem from its applicability and not from the impact it might have as a project. It would be great if one of the outputs from this workshop were a manual of good-practices for the qualification of public spaces in the Island.

### **Master plan for the fortress reuse**

Saint Sebastian Fortress was made available for the University of Lúrio as to install its Faculty of Social and Human Sciences. The fortress is, probably, the Island most symbolic built asset and has undergone various actions of conservation that, faced with the lack of function/use, rapidly become degraded. The Installation of this school could be the solution or just another problem, depending on the concept that comes to be adopted in its functionalization.

At the programming of this event we have set forward the assumption that the concept of the abovementioned installation of the faculty should serve to nourish the fixing and development of a set of local construction firms, specialized in heritage assets of great relevancy which will be able to answer, beyond the construction and maintenance of this particular set, to all the Islands vast array of actions. For such, it is crucial that the Master Plan that comes to be adopted implement step by step interventions of short and/or medium dimension, supported by concrete indications, in a way that the result of the various interventions, very likely distant in time, will turn out harmonious.

### **Plan for a community centre**

The area situated roughly in the centre of the Island (defined in a North-South direction by the hospital building and comprehended between the East and West Island's coastlines) marks the articulation between the so-called city of "stone and mortar" and the residential district of Macuti (palm leaves



cover). Today there are a plethora of ruins, residual spots and informally appropriated, public or private, poorly used buildings, despite their great potential (starting by the hospital itself). But it is a meeting point of the local community, a type of forum that lacks spatial clarification in use and space. This *Oficina* plans to make a comprehensive survey of all that complex reality and propose one or more scenarios for its reurbanization, and the rehabilitation of its buildings and spaces so that its potential of civic center clearly emerges.

#### **Macuti Houses** (vernacular architecture neighbourhood)

With the Master plan for the fortress reuse *Oficina*, this has been used as an example of what, and how, we intend to achieve or, in other words, the concept that presides the event. Why? Because it reproduces the notion of potentiating the university's installation in the Island as a way to create economic and social effects that, in fact, do introduce a new development model that enhances the residents' way of living and enables an upgrade of the welcome conditions for students and visitors. Furthermore, it might promote a broad-spectrum movement of architectural rehabilitation within logics of valuing and integrated development of the Island cultural heritage, both material and immaterial. The request is very simple: to develop a limited number of rehabilitation projects of houses belonging to volunteering families of the Macuti neighborhood. With minimal resources, the aim is to significantly upgrade housing quality and providing it with a student accommodation facility, henceforth creating a form of additional income for the family. The intervention must abide by an extreme respect towards the constructive characteristics and residential habits.

#### **Muhipiti's Centre of Interpretation**

This workshop has two goals:

- a) To structure and produce the matrix of what may be the themes and materials available in the future interpretation center of Muhipiti/Island of Mozambique (the model of the Island and the one on the fortress, produced for the event, will integrated the center);
- b) To make the project of its installation in the place chosen by the Municipality.

The goal is to gather the most possible detailed materials in order to process a comprehensive graphic production of the elements to be exposed, as well as the necessarily physical adaptation of the chosen building. This will enable both teams, in a very short time after the workshop, one from Coimbra the other, from University Lúrio, in the field, to start the actual construction of the interpretation center. The workshop will also address some other important questions such as: will it be possible to immediately integrate multimedia components? If so, they need to be define; delineate a set of promotional materials and merchandising; production or republication of albums (cartography, old photography), re-edition of books, articles, papers on the island history, culture, etc.