

## ARCHITECTURE – MEMORY AND IDENTITY; From an identity matrix to the sustained reinvention of a 'New Inhabit'

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## Keywords

Identity Architecture; Cultural Memory; Inhabit; Inhabit sustainability; Architectural Heritage

### Partner Institutions

Centro de Invest. em Arquitectura Urbanismo e Design (CIAUD); Fac. de Arquitectura da Univers. de Lisboa (FAUL); Univers. da Beira Interior (UBI); Fundação Serra Henriques (FSH)

### Expected Future Partner Institutions

Câmara Municipal de Lisboa (CML), Câmara Municipal do Porto (CMP)

## OBJECTIVES

**The Research Project aims to reflect and interpret, in a culturally comprehensive way, on the importance of Memory and Identity as factors of qualification and sustainability of Architecture and Inhabit.**

Based on this objective, the Project should elaborate studies and reflections that, generically and/or objectively, demonstrate the value and the effectiveness of these main determinants, as certainly, these determinants are, now, unavoidable for a qualified and intentional cultural differentiation. Regardless of the 'place' where we find ourselves, the understanding and appreciation of 'Memory and Identity' is for Architecture a potentially qualifying reality, since the hegemonic and accelerated globalization, mediatization, and computerization of the world, in the last decades, has alienated/devalued its previous diversity.

**In this context, the Project should specifically promote research with two areas of approach: The first area will address the subject from a broader perspective, seeking summary responses for the valorization of a generic 'cultural sustainability' in architecture. The second area will focus on concrete situations, as well as explain, typify, and value the specific areas of this same generic reality.**

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## ABSTRACT + IMAGES

**The Research Project, "Architecture - Memory and Identity; From an identity matrix to the sustained reinvention of a 'New Inhabit'", intends to reflect upon the importance of 'Memory and Identity', in a culturally broader way, as qualification and sustainability factors of Architecture and Inhabit, as well as to interpret them as factors.**

Regardless of the 'place' where we find ourselves, the understanding and appreciation of 'Memory and Identity' is, for Architecture, a potentially qualifying reality, since the globalization, mediatization, and computerization of the world we are confronted with, in the last decades, has alienated/devalued its former diversity. Indeed, today we are confronted with the growing hegemony of an accelerated standardization of the world, which is almost indifferent to the memories and to the different traditions of identities and places. This world reduces our choices and tends to impose an urban and generic way of living. According to Jordi Borja and Manuel Castells, "three macro processes related to each other: globalization, informatization, and widespread urban diffusion seem to converge to the disappearance of the city as a specific form of relationship between territory and society" (1).

Therefore, in this context of increasing standardization, or as we say, of 'alienation from the World', it is fundamental for us to enhance the value of the differentiating role of 'Memory and Identity' in Architecture and Inhabit. It is fundamental to defend it, not necessarily for purely nostalgic reasons or authoritarian nationalisms/regionalisms(2), but for potential cultural and identity causes. The recognition of the value of Memory and Identity is imperatively justified, as its intentional recognition, without being crystallized in the past and understood as a process that is an 'open' and organic evolution, could be a powerful qualifying agent of the future.

Indeed, a qualified and sustainable cultural differentiation, based on the recognition of the value of memory, which implies the recognition of a material and intangible heritage, must necessarily be 'open' to evolve and transform. Therefore, this differentiation will have to be understood as a dynamic reality, that is differentiated from the world by an identity matrix, without alienating the essential of this difference, that responds to the needs of a new but unavoidable contemporaneity. As a result of this reality, we believe that this differentiation can and should be expressed, both in the reinvention of the built heritage, as in the different architectures and the City that we will leave as patrimony.

**From this generic reality, the Research Project will seek and systematize answers, necessarily partial and incomplete, because this reality is undoubtedly irresolvable. These answers will lead to a better understanding and interpretation of this 'new paradigm'.** Thus, starting from a cultural and identity vision of Architecture, in this Project, we will explore and interpret the multiple dimensions that are imposed between the preservation and revalorization of Memory, which is necessarily precarious and transitory, as well as investigate the identity reality that we want to determine for the future.

This is about considering "how we can intervene in a culturally organic territory without destroying its 'essence of identity'?. That is, using the metaphor of André Corboz, "how can we act on an effective qualified 'cultural palimpsest', choosing what we leave as marks of the past and, at the same time, how will we inscribe in it the marks of our time for the effective construction of a necessary future, a future that, obviously, we always want better and more qualified"(3). In other words, this Project, programmatically, will seek answers and compromises between the preservation and requalification of the preexisting and, organically, it will also allow the reintegration of new realities, because we believe that this synthesis will allow us to achieve a qualified and identity 'inhabit of future'.

In this context, this Project is intended to promote and dynamize, through individual and group reflections, inserted in a thematic strategy, an investigation of the recognition and generic interpretation of this 'new paradigm' of Architecture and inhabit. This project will seek to establish two intentional approaches. An approach that explains more synthetically the thematic theorization of research. And, in addition, another one will focus on situations that allow us to analyze concrete situations (urban or specifically architectural) that show in an experimental way these same determinants.

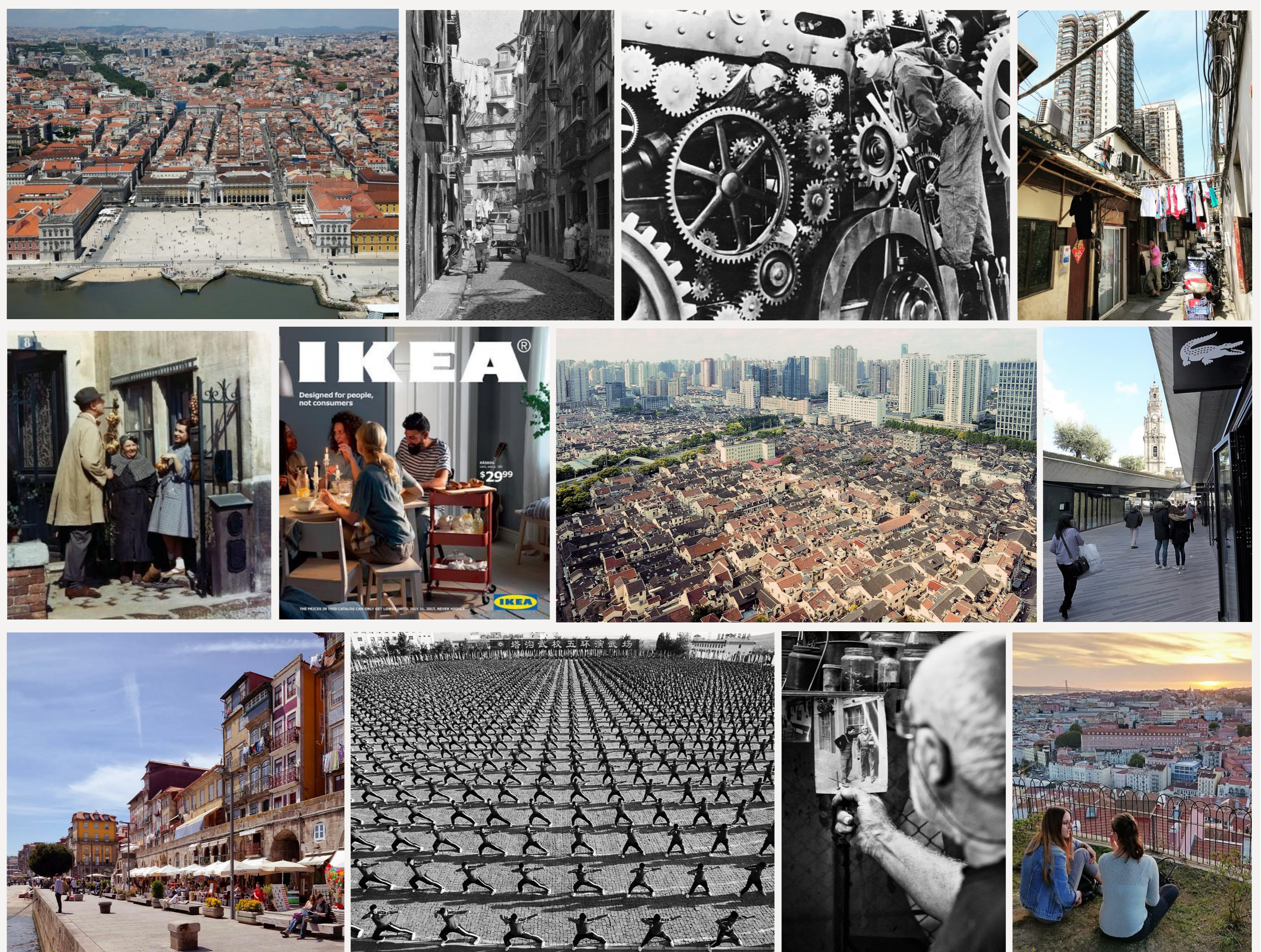
Therefore, this Research Project should promote research with two areas of approach. The first one will address the subject from a broader perspective, seeking summary responses for the valorization of a generic 'cultural sustainability' in architecture. The second one will focus on concrete situations and will aim to explain, systematize and eventually typify specific areas of a reality that is inevitably recognized as multifactorial, genetically diffuse, and complex.

In addition to these objectives and general framework features, it should be noted that, in parallel with this Research Project (which will be done in the Arcland Research Group (CIAUD)), this project will propose and promote an Ibero-American international congress (biannual). This congress will promote the realization of a synthesis publication and it will be held in the City of Covilhã in a partnership between CIAUD, FAUL, and UBI.

(1) Jordi Borja, Manuel Castells; "Local y global, La gestión de las ciudades en la era de la información"; ed. Taurus, Madrid, 1997; p.12.

(2) Because these nationalisms/regionalisms tend to justify themselves in an authoritarian and unitarian way, a reality that is contrary to the diversity that must be implicit in a true, free and democratic identity; author's note.

(3) António Santos Leite; "Reabilitação ou Arquitectura? Reflexões sobre Reabilitação Urbana e Arquitectónica"; ed. Caleidoscópio; Lisbon, 2022, pág.45.



## SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE FOR THE DISCIPLINE

The main objective of this **Research Project** is to **reflect upon the importance of 'Memory and Identity', in a culturalist process, as qualification and sustainability factors of Architecture and inhabit, as well as to interpret them as characteristics.**

In fact, **in a time marked by a 'generic and standardizing' globalization, the reflection upon the Memory and Identity in Architecture is a decisive path for the development of the educational area where it takes part.**

More specifically, the development of the research on the theme proposed can contribute, with its synthesis and its specific investigations, to the understanding and dissemination of an effective humanization/ individualization of our built reality.

The development and exploitation of this theme tend to contribute to the awareness of a more diversified and qualified habitat, necessarily reflected both in the sustained preservation of a determinant cultural heritage and in the social, economic, and political qualification of a more identity and democratic way of life.

## EXPECTED ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACT

Although it is a Research Project that seeks to synthesize a very vast and diffuse cultural knowledge, through the concrete methodology proposed, and especially by the articulation with other specific areas of research, an effective socio-economic return is expected. **This return will be real because the knowledge that will be produced, will contribute, directly or indirectly, to a qualification of a determinant paradigm.**

Indeed, by researching and interpreting the current situation and the new opportunities that exist in our contemporaneity, this Project will facilitate the management of the investment and political strategies (architectural, urban, or even territorial) that should be developed and encouraged.

Apart from the general relevance of the project, it should also be noted that the project's specific studies can be applied to concrete actions (new ways of living or new environmental and tourist opportunities, etc.) to ensure an immediate socio-economic return.

## RESEARCH PLAN AND TASKS

### 1. Preliminary Investigation and information gathering:

- Bibliographical research and collection, research on other groups and projects about Academic or Scientific Research that address themes, totally or partially, similar.
- Specific research on themes shown in the traditional media, namely in the written press and the periodicals of Architecture, Urbanism, Sociology, and Economics.
- Specific research on possible events (Congresses, Seminars, workshops, etc.) that address the themes to be developed.
- Specific research on the newly conceptualized expressions used in the Arts, seeking new experiments that emphasize the thematic issues to be addressed.
- Complementary research on digital communication networks, using mainly the survey of occurrences/citations of specific keywords of the theme/themes.

### 2. Preliminary Systematization:

- Elaboration of a first systematization of the widely collected material that we think is significant for the art and the themes we want to address, firstly trying to find concepts that can be transversal to the whole investigation.
- Classification and systematization of the bibliography, and systematization of synthesis of the content in spreadsheets.
- Creation of a digital platform (website), which will make available the gathered information to the members and collaborators of this Research Project. This website should also enable the dissemination of the results and the interaction of the researchers with other similar projects and investigation networks.
- Creation/rectification of the schedule that will assemble and organize future projects.

### 3. Rectification of the Objectives:

- Once it was established a first collection and preliminary systematization of the data and contacts obtained, the project's investigators should make a re-evaluation of the proposed objectives. These objectives should be readjusted, and the priorities and the theme of the research should also be re-established, in coordination with the former research and the investigators' interests.
- The Research areas, that were readjusted, should be distributed by the researchers (one investigation area may be assigned to more than one member of the research project).
- Setting the Theme and the organization of the 'Ibero-American International Congress', which should promote the elaboration of a synthesis publication. This congress will be held, in its first edition, in the city of Covilhã, in a partnership between CIAUD, FAUL, and UBI.
- Rectification of the previous Schedule.

### 4. Development of the Research Work:

- Development of the previously defined themes, considering the priorities and the complementary work defined by the coordination of the Research Project.
- Holding monthly meetings, to monitor and discuss the ongoing project's investigations.
- Continuation of the organization of the 'Ibero-American International Congress', developing the formal protocols of support and financing to this initiative.

### 5. Preliminary Presentation and Discussion of the Investigations:

- Presentation to the group, of the research and partial conclusions previously developed, this moment should be open to possible contributions that can enhance or correct specific aspects of the investigation.
- Discussion and comparison of the results, a process that can contribute to deepening some of the previously addressed issues.
- Setting a thematic program for the 'Ibero-American International Congress', that will be held.
- Promotion of part of the themes under development, on the website of the Research Project.
- Possible publication and dissemination of the first results.

### 6. Final Presentation of the research:

- Presentation of the investigations and the conclusions, that were previously developed, for the group.
- The start of the elaboration of the 'synthesis book' of the Research Project, a book that, regardless of the publication and dissemination of part of the investigations developed, should systematize coherently and thematically the different investigations (generic or specific) resulting from the investigations.

- Definition of the definitive program for the 'Ibero-American International Congress'
- Partial publication of the themes under development on the website of the Research Project.
- Possible publication and diffusion of results.

### 7. Final Publication of Results:

- Once it was completed and discussed, within the group, most of the research that was developed, the final publication of the results obtained, in the project, should begin. The dissemination of results should begin by publishing the thematic articles, as well as finish with the publication of the 'synthesis book', a book that should systematize the main information and the results that were obtained.
- Participation in events (Congresses, Seminars, workshops, etc.) that allow the dissemination of the results developed, in the educational scope and the common media platforms.
- Update the publication of the themes that were under development on the website of the Research Project.
- Holding the 'Ibero-American International Congress', which should be held in Covilhã (CIAUD, FAUL, and UBI).

### 8. Final Actions:

- Once the main objectives and goals of this research project are accomplished, a conclusive meeting should be held. In this meeting, the researchers should make an overview and a critical assessment of the work that was elaborated. It should also be established possible continuity lines that may be developed in future projects.
- Preparation of a synthesis report by the Leading Investigator.
- Diffusion of the main conclusions and syntheses, on the website of the Research Project.
- Closure of the Research Project.

MONTHS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1. Collection and Preliminary Investigation:	*	*	*															
2. Preliminary Systematization:			*	*	*													
3. Rectification of the Objectives:					*													
4. Development of Research Work:						*	*	*	*	*	*							
5. Restricted Presentation and Preliminary Discussion of Investigations:											*	*	*					
6. Final Presentation of Investigations:													*	*	*	*		
7. Final Dissemination of Results:																*	*	*
8. Final Actions:																		*

Provisional Research Project Calendar (18 months, including only partially the time of publication and dissemination of the results obtained).

## EXPECTED SCIENTIFIC RESULTS

The main results of the Research Project are:

- Elaboration of a **(1) Synthesis Book** that contains the most relevant of the work that was done, highlighting the two areas of analysis in which the project was developed - generic area and specific area.
- In addition to the Synthesis Book, a **(1) Complementary Document** should also be elaborated, which should systemize, as an Annex, the documentation collected, and which can be used for further future research.
- **The International publication of Two (2) Papers referenced in a database** (Web of Science (ISI)/Scopus) and the **publication of three (3) Papers nationally**, with scientific arbitration.
- **Development of six (6) communications in scientific events** (conferences, meetings, etc.) with scientific arbitration.
- Organization/Execution of **one (1) thematic 'Ibero-American International Seminar'**, which should be held, in its first edition, in the city of Covilhã, in a partnership between CIAUD, FAUL, and UBI.
- Establishing **one (1) Internet site**, which will disseminate the information that was obtained by the Research Project. This website should also allow the interaction of the investigators with other projects and similar research networks.
- In parallel to the previously cited results, the project should contextualize and support at least **two (2) master's degree researches** (FAUL/MIARQ) that are already under development.

## BUDGET: € 7.500,00

The following expense is foreseen for the implementation of the project:

- **Missions:** travel and registration expenses in Congresses, Seminars, Workshops, or other trips of researchers of the Research Project (2500 €).
- **Acquisition of Goods and Services:** acquisition of Computer Equipment (2500€) and acquisition of Analog and Computer Consumables (250€).
- **Promotion and Dissemination of the results of the Project:** preparation and publication of a Synthesis Book (1500€) and creation and maintenance of a Thematic Digital Site (500€).
- **Other current expenses:** other small expenses (250€).

**Note:** This budget may be increased, without recourse to CIAUD funds, if we get economic support from other official entities that integrate the Project.