

Carlos Ramos Library, for an Archeology of Knowledge.

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Keywords

Carlos Ramos - Personal Library - Archaeology of Knowledge
- Teaching in Architecture - Architectural Practice.

Partner Institutions

Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian

Expected Future Partner Institutions

Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal

OBJECTIVES

Disciplinary fields are formed and evolve from advances in specialized research (Foucault, 1969, p.222), where literature becomes an integral part of a process that materializes knowledge.

The library, as a multiple and dialogical vehicle, is assumed as an in-between place from which the various aspects of knowledge can be architected, generated, and produced. In turn, the archeology of knowledge, as proposed by Michel Foucault, emerges in this approach as a theoretical instrument capable of studying its various fields, creating more comprehensive visions that are less restricted to its natural instance. Thus, a living organism, with a life of its own, where "books are made to be many" and gain meaning when put together.

Thus it is intended to:

1. Highlights the relations between the library and the archeology of knowledge.
2. Shows the viability of the study of the library as a valid instrument to the development that goes beyond its restricted field.
3. Constitutes a methodological foundation for research that aims to overcome the limits of the library as a quantitative instrument, showing the possibility of incorporating new categories of analysis to the studies developed from the selected literature.

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ABSTRACT + IMAGES

Carlos Chambers Ramos (CR) (1897-1969) was a Portuguese architect, urban planner and educator. A pioneer of the Portuguese modern movement, this architect's early work was marked by a desire to be in tune with the international architectural trends of the first decades of the 20th century. Despite being the author of numerous emblematic works of that period, such as the Radio Pavilion of the Portuguese Institute of Oncology (Lisbon) or the D. João III High School (Coimbra), his great legacy is left in Porto, by the mark he left on the following generations, as a teacher (since 1940) and director (since 1952) of the School of Fine Arts in Porto (EBAP). Carlos Ramos was the mentor, main protagonist, and driving force of the process of refounding education according to the modern ideology, which came to be fixed and implemented with the publication of the Reform of 1957. The scope of the transformation operated was not limited to the introduction of changes in the curriculum, didactics, and pedagogical practices, but included the very concept of school, through a resizing of its functions. One of the main contributions of Carlos Ramos, assumed in the various positions and actions he developed, especially throughout the 50s and 60s, was the construction of an identity, which was called Port School, to which a collective adhered.

In 2022 the complete library of this architect was donated to the Faculty of Architecture (FA-UL). It is now under the care of the Archives of Architecture, Urbanism and Design - ARCH/VES - a unit of the FA-UL, created with the aim of preserving, enhancing and disseminating the collections and holdings in its care, as well as promoting the study and research of these and the architectural and artistic culture that surrounds them, from the nineteenth century to the present day.

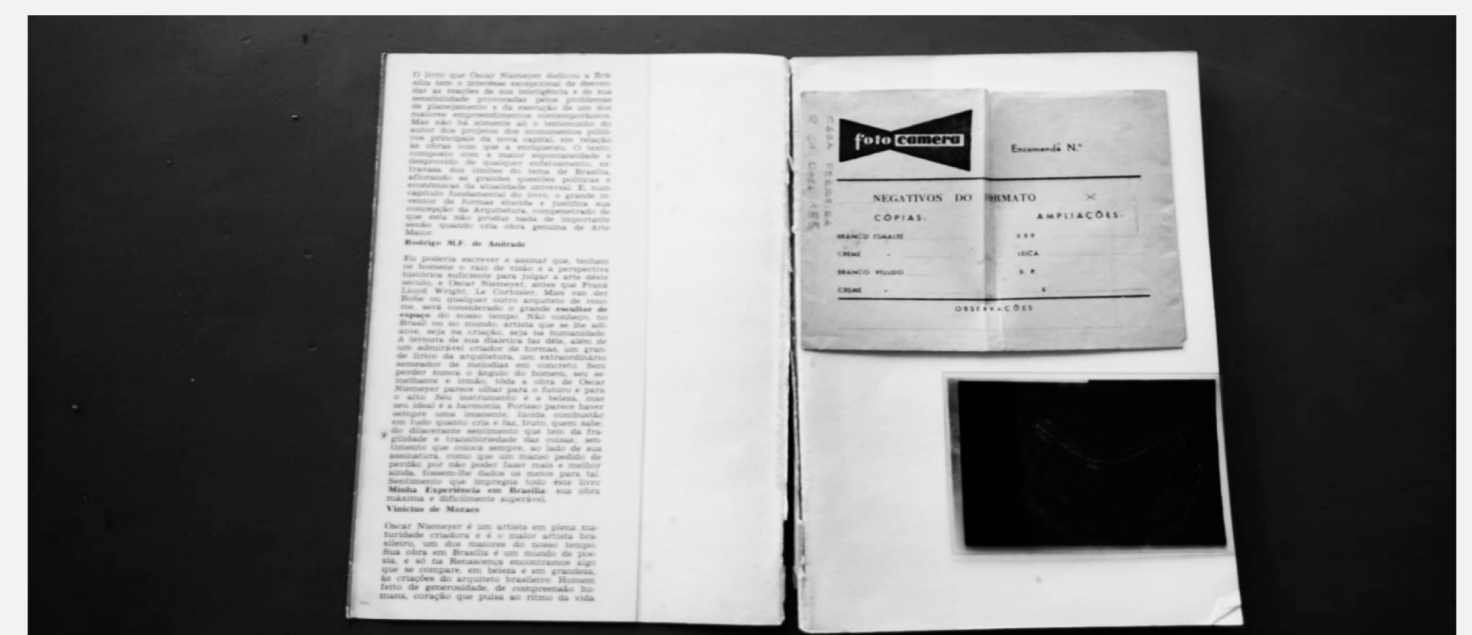
The importance and relevance of knowing and studying this library is, to our understanding, fundamental to the enrichment of knowledge and deeper understanding of the practice and theory of architecture of this architect, as a valuable repository of ideas, references, inspirations and knowledge accumulated over a lifetime. This library is composed of a wide range of sources, namely books, journals, periodicals, and documents, covering diverse fields related to Architecture, Art, History, Theory, Design, Urbanism, Construction, Tectonics, and society. This diversity of sources allows a deep immersion in the different aspects of Carlos Chambers Ramos' Architecture, both as a designer and as a teacher, and broadens the understanding of the fundamental principles and creative approaches he adopted.

An architect's library can reflect his worldview, his design philosophy, his cultural and aesthetic influences, and even his social and environmental concerns. It reveals the intellectual and artistic references that have shaped his thinking and practice. By studying this library, we can establish connections between the ideas and concepts found in the texts and the architectural work produced by CR.

As director of EBAP his library may contain not only works related to his professional practice, but also academic books, dissertations, theses and research papers produced by professors and students of this school, which provide us with a theoretical and critical foundation for Architecture, exploring issues of his time, innovative approaches (at the time) and new directions for the discipline. To know and study the library of Carlos Chambers Ramos, as a designer architect, teacher and director of EBAP, is extremely important and pertinent to expand our knowledge in the area. This library offers access to a wealth of information, influences, and ideas that help shape our understanding of architectural theory, practice, and education of his generation and following. Through this research, we can deepen our understanding of Architecture, Urbanism and Design, discover new perspectives, inspirations and approaches, and thus enrich our own practice and contribution to the different fields of study at FA-UL. Conclusively, this archive deserves to be analyzed and studied, for connecting us to the past, informing the present and enabling us to contribute to the future.

To better read this library we will follow the principles established by Michel Foucault in Archaeology of Knowledge (1969), in an analytical approach that proposes a critical investigation of knowledge systems and the historical conditions that shape the production condensed in this archive and the circulation of knowledge during its period. The Archaeology of Knowledge proposes that knowledge should be understood as a system of rules that govern practices of enunciation, that is, how ideas are formulated, disseminated, and transformed over time. In this sense, we intend to identify the networks of relations, practices, and discourses that are influenced by historical, political, social, and cultural factors in which Carlos Ramos fits. For Foucault, the Archaeology of Knowledge does not focus on the search for truth or the validity of a given theory, but rather on the analysis of the conditions of possibility of knowledge at a given time. It investigates how knowledge is produced, classified, organized, and excluded, examining the power relations present in these discursive practices.

By using the archaeological methodology, we intend to analyze documents, such as books, treatises, speeches, interviews and archives, in order to identify the regularities, transformations and ruptures that occur in the field of knowledge over time. Thus, we propose to understand the rules and conditions of knowledge production, the dominant forms of knowledge, and to open space for new perspectives and possibilities of knowledge.



SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE FOR THE DISCIPLINE

The theoretical foundation of the study of the architect's personal library, as well as the interpretation of what comes from it, in the light of the methodological instrumental and the principles of the archeology of knowledge, could enable a broader view of the various approaches and segments intervening in the structure of Carlos Ramos cognitive universe, highlighting historical and qualitative categories capable of reflecting this reality in a more complete way, emphasizing specific and essential factors inherent to knowledge and its forms of dissemination, in any of its instances.

EXPECTED ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACT

Believing that the methodological framework that is defended as the final product for the interpretation of the work of Carlos Ramos may extend its use, in the near future, to new readings that focus on new ways of looking at and through Personal Libraries or that deepen the analysis on the contribution of the book in modifying the relationship between man and memory, opening in a sensorial way a universe of possibilities that makes reading fruitful, and with it, knowledge, envisaging themselves as disciplinary contributions and spaces for reflection and articulation between Man and Architecture.

RESEARCH PLAN AND TASKS

Starting from concerns that formulate initial questions in order to achieve the objectives to which this research is predisposed, the following plan is proposed, subdivided into 10 tasks corresponding to the various states of evolution of the assumption, fully supported by the "Carlos Ramos" collection donated to the FA-UL unit - arch/ves (Architecture, Urbanism and Design Archive) and that is seen here as the object of study.

Starting with the obvious task of reviewing the entire donated collection, analyzing and pre-assessing the state of conservation of each of the items in the Personal Library, to the choice of the physical and theoretical method for their treatment, with a view to stimulating the study and research on these and the architectural and artistic culture that surrounds them.

In this phase we will assign a unique identifier to each piece after type-morphological organization of the objects and the different production media, cataloging and listing each physical unit of work. After this step, a formal analysis of the constituent elements is made, crossing the issues with the specific chronology and bibliography indicated.

By decomposing through the Personal Library what may be its intrinsic nature, but extrapolating its restricted field, what other lexical visions and what other fields of knowledge may be glimpsed, we intend a greater and better understanding of who

Carlos Ramos was, an architect and urban planner, but a mentor and protagonist of the teaching of the profession in one of the most prestigious schools of Architecture and Urbanism at various scales.

Adding the previous information about contextual, procedural, and projectual influences, we intend to produce a comparative picture supported by a methodology that aims to overcome the limits of the library as a quantitative instrument, showing the possibility of incorporating new categories of analysis to the studies developed from the selected literature.

Finally, it will be necessary to produce conclusions in order to have the intended relevance, but above all to achieve the expected impact, contributing greatly to disciplinary effects but creating spaces for closer reflection and articulation between Man and Architecture, serving society, through a holistic education that encourages experimentation through research.

1. Review of the donated collection.

2. Analysis and pre-assessment of the state of conservation of each of the objects that make up the Personal Library.

3. Type-morphological organization of the constituent objects of the Library by their different production media.

4. Cataloguing and listing of each work unit.

5. Formal analysis of the elements.

6. Crossing of the problems previously assessed with the specific chronology of Carlos Ramos' work.

7. Comparison of the formal and theoretical information between the themes.

8. Identification of the directives that unite the written works acquired to the teaching and the production of the Architect Carlos Ramos.

9. Production of conclusions.

10. Establishment of consultation modes from the Architect's Personal Library to the resulting information sharing through the Documentation and Archive Center - arch/ves.

EXPECTED SCIENTIFIC RESULTS

The goal is to disseminate the research results through scientific articles, both in journal publications and on digital platforms, culminating in the production of a book resulting from the project.

Participation in national and international congresses whose topics are pertinent to the research, as well as interactive workshops that enrich the debate on the subject and its application.

The creation of a masterclass - "Library of Infinite Possibilities" - as a pragmatic tool in teaching a mechanics of treatment and analysis of architects' private libraries offering a narrative window to the built environment.

It is also intended to hold an exhibition of the work developed, serving society through a holistic education that encourages experimentation through research.

Finally, the results will be integrated into the arch/ves platform, allowing public and open access.

BUDGET: € 7.490,44

The expenses of this Embryo Project will focus on the dissemination of its results, both in the publication of a book and the preparation of an exhibition. So, the budget was structured in:

Graphic Elements - **3000 euros** will be set aside for printing the book and **1000 euros** for printing panels for the exhibition.

Human Resources - The funding granted will enable the hiring of a research scholarship holder (for 2 months), which represents a value of 1104,64 (grant) + 7,5 (insurance) + 129,89 (social insurance). All in all, per month, this represents a total cost of 1242.03 euros, which amounts to **2484,06 euros** for the 2 months of grant requested.

To organize the documentation of these projects, we will need 1 shelves (Picking Galvanized 250) with 3 meters high, 1.6 wide, 0.8 deep and 6 shelves. The shelf is worth **523.11 euros**. Also needed are the projects. To organize the documentation of these projects, we will need 3 reams of white A3 paper (11,99 each – total **35,97 euros**) and 7 sets of 25 acid free archive box's to safely conserve the spoils (63,9 euros each – total **447,3 euros**).