

SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE FOR THE DISCIPLINE

This is a research project developed by students and teachers, working side by side, sharing experience and work processes as an open book in the teaching of design practice.

The multidisciplinary scope of the project, bringing together students from all degrees will illustrate what joint project work will look like in the future, actively contributing to the formation of multidisciplinary teams.

Social participation is a way of listening to contemporary needs, and a project opportunity to be developed in collaboration with the social sciences, as key tools in working with the population, in a humanist and sustainable perspective in all its aspects.

EXPECTED ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACT

To contribute to maintain and increase the amount of population in a rural region threatened by desertification.

To contribute to more balanced human and environmental relations – preventing additional demographic decline in the mountains is crucial for the prevention of fires, amongst other aspects of sustainability.

To improve communication of and in the region - the isolation of the uplands contributes to the progressive distancing of craftsmen - who live isolated, with few business opportunities, and see their production cyclically destroyed by fires.

To create job opportunities and entrepreneurial and sustainable dynamics among young people, in line with the objectives and opportunities pointed out by this project.

Sharing and updating the material culture and local know-how are instruments that give meaning to new collective practices and local traditions and boost local development and their active presence on the global scene, contributing to the settlement and increase of the population in the rural environment.

RESEARCH PLAN AND TASKS

The phase of diagnosis or recognition of the territory has already started with one student from each degree programme and two researchers, two of whom underwrite this proposal - Designer Rita Filipe and Architect Jorge Mealha. The students were chosen by a teacher from each FAUL project area, among undergraduate students, and one of them, now collaborating on this proposal, continued with this theme for his Master's thesis. We think that we can continue with the same model, working with undergraduate or master's students who want to pursue this theme in their studies. We think that we will have no difficulty in calling upon students, due to the topicality of the theme, within the scope of social design and cultural design, the opportunity to intervene in a real situation, and the practical viability of the project, supported as one of CIAUD's Embryo Research projects.

In line with the anthropology of design (Gatt and Ingold, 2013) the project will allow us to refine collaborative methodologies that bring together, in the same research venture, design, anthropology and local knowledge. This phase of the research will begin with the holding of at least one focus group with local actors/agents where the diagnosis made by the team during their first stay in Monchique will be shared and updated. After the analysis of its results, a participative workshop will allow the researchers (design & anthropology), students and local actors to map together the surveys to be carried out, with the researchers looking for partnerships (local support) to carry out tasks that will allow the defined objectives to be achieved.

To this end, we propose an initial phase of deepening the theoretical framework of the research within the scope of social and cultural design.

Afterwards, we will go again to Monchique for two periods of one week during one year, with students and teachers. Working to design situations of social sharing, create new interests for local daily life, and stimulate projects of creation and enjoyment of cultural heritage. Working on ideas and projects for social dynamization; integrating isolated people in the mountains into a shared experience of the region; directing scattered and ill-informed visitors; updating, viability and visibility of the craftsmen's work; arousing new interests for new notions of rurality in the younger, today more cosmopolitan and informed residents.

Thus, it is proposed to retake the observation and diagnosis phase, in a first week of fieldwork, promoting interviews and surveys of the local population, making an initially non-participatory observation of local customs and traditions, studying possibilities of relationships between different generations and social groups (foreigners), assessing technical and logistical resources for the implementation of new projects (workshops, exhibition halls, public squares, abandoned buildings, disused productive structures) and ascertaining how to communicate in the future a new dynamic agreed upon there.

We aim at working directly with local workshops, the Monchique City Council, artisans' associations, local independent entities with alternative projects in progress, within the scope of the production of resources and sustainable practices, local cultural associations, trying to work as a network in the region valorisation.

The research will be developed in a qualitative or interpretative perspective, in direct contact with the population, in a context in which both students and inhabitants are simultaneously interpreters and constructors of meanings (Usher, 1996, p.19). However the designer's work is iterative, and moves between fieldwork, the design studio and the college (Drazin, in Otto and Smith, 2013, p. 34).

The project phase, alternated with fieldwork trips, will be carried out at FAUL, in an office available for that purpose. It will be divided into a preliminary study, a basic project and an execution project. Starting from a study that is common to all the areas, from where it is expected that work proposals will emerge in each study area that will be opened and demultiplicated into projects of urban intervention, equipment, services and communication.

We hope to produce new urban design, mapping points of interest, establishing urban connections, proposing areas of intervention or rehabilitation, seeing the region as a sustainable urban? system; in the field of product design - producing urban environment projects and urban furniture design, updating local craftsmanship working close to the craftsmen; in the field of communication and interaction design - communicating the region, publicising services and interests, designing communication and information networks; in the field of fashion design - working with the craftsmen to produce local textiles, embroidery and clothing.

The prototyping phase of equipment, product and communication models will be carried out with the local support of workshops and craftsmen, but also with the support of the faculty's workshops for the execution of scale models and study models.

The 2nd week of fieldwork - will be an opportunity for development, gauging of objectives and suitability of solutions, testing of proposed solutions on site. In the middle of the stay there will be an exhibition of the work done in the Galeria Municipal de Monchique to discuss the actions and solutions proposed, with local population. By the end of the week we will try to implement some of the solutions approved by the population, feasible in good time.

The final beneficiary of the project will be the local population, with the fundamental and continued support of Monchique Municipal Council and the Parish Council as partners. And the country at large, if indeed we are indeed able to communicate change and a renewed interest in the Monchique region and the contemporary rural environment.

The project will culminate in presentations at conferences, promotion of exhibitions, publication of articles and sharing of experiences with the wider community.

Timeline:	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	September
Project launch:											
Documental research, literature review, case study research and analysis											
Preparation of fieldwork - phase 1:											
Execution of the fieldwork (phase 1):											
Development of the project in atelier:											
Implementation of the fieldwork - phase 2:											
Final exhibition of the works:											
Project closing seminar											

EXPECTED SCIENTIFIC RESULTS

Profiting for the partnership with the University of the Algarve, we propose to hold a scientific meeting in Monchique, open to the population and all the local institutions and associations, to present the accomplished work and to contribute to the successful implementation of the project.

We propose the publication of a book about the project, reflecting on the theoretical and practical aspects of the research. This book would have the theoretical contribution of all the participating teachers and all the practical projects developed in collaboration with and by the students.

This project meets the assumptions and objectives of the New European Bauhaus - Green Deal, and may compete for the New European Bauhaus awards, as this theme is in agreement with several different calls for papers and projects.

BUDGET: 7.500 euros

2 week Stay - 14 nights:

- Mountain shelter - 60 euros / 3 teachers / 3 rooms - October - 2,520 euros
- Casa dos Batalin - 150 euros / 6 students / 3 rooms - October - 2,100 euros
- External consultant accomodation: 300 euros (Prof. Elisabete Figueiredo, University of Aveiro)

Transportation:

- 9 train journeys X 4 = 1,080 euros

Material to support the execution of the project:

- Large format prints (work and exhibition in Monchique) - 300 euros
- Paper, pen, digital media for presentations - 100 euros
- Cards for models, markers, cutters, glues, paints, other materials - 100 euros
- wood, iron and others building materials for project prototyping – 500 euros

External consultant fee: 500 euros (Professor Jorgen Primdahl, University of Copenhagen)

Total value of the proposal - 7,500 euros