



MARIA JOÃO DURÃO

BIOGRAPHY

Maria João is a Fine Arts graduate (FBAL-UL), holds a PhD Degree with thesis on Colour and Space and a Doctoral Degree awarded by Lisbon Technical University, with PRODEP grant. She holds an FCT funded Post-Doctoral fellowship at The University of Salford, Manchester and Technion University Haifa in “Art, Science and Technology – Drawings of Santiago Calatrava”. Professor at Faculdade de Arquitectura da Universidade de Lisboa since 2001, she founded and directed pioneer Masters Degree ‘Colour in Architecture’; Founder and Head of the LabCor – Colour Laboratory since 2004, she supervises national and international projects and master, doctoral, post-doctoral research on the culture of drawing, colour and light. She directs ‘Colour and Light Research Group – CIAUD/ Faculty of Architecture’ since 2016. Maria João was founder-president of the Portuguese Colour Association and is presently the Honorary President. She is Scientific Council member of first Doctoral Course in Design in Portugal since 2006; lecturer at Doctoral Course in Architecture, as well as Master Degree Programmes in Design and Lighting Design (FA) and Masters for Built Environment Evaluation for Sustainability (U. Salford). In 1994 the Ministry of Education of Portugal approved her curriculum proposal for the creation of undergraduate Diploma Degrees in Design and in Art that are still running. Elected member of Executive Committee of International Colour Association (AIC) (2013-2017) Maria João is presently the Secretary/Treasure for (2021-2023) term. At the AIC she coordinates ‘International Colour Day’ and is AIC ‘Study Group of Arts and Design’ Chair. She is senior member of American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA); and member of Space Architecture Technical Committee-SATC, where she is Exhibitions Subcommittee Chair. She writes yearly for ‘Aerospace America’ and is co-founder of Space Architecture – ‘Team 11’ formed in Houston, Texas. She is editor, scientific committee member and author of books, scientific journals and conference proceedings in the fields of art, design, terrestrial architecture, and space architecture. Maria João is also a painter whose works have been exhibited since 1989, many of which belong to national private and international public – England, Japan and South Korea – collections.

FIELD OF RESEARCH

Colour, light, drawing in art, design, terrestrial architecture and outer space architecture.

CONTACTS

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PROJECTS

2018-2023 **Colour folds of Pompeii. Can we identify Pompeii by colour?**

Research Line

Drawing, Visual Communication.

Team

Maria João Durão (coord.)

Abstract

The project investigates a multiplicity of colour sources that range from architectural elements, façades and reconstruction thereof, interior colours and house objects, outdoor and indoor settings, frescoes, sculptures, mosaic panels, pavements, ceilings, vaults, floorings and walls, clothes, technologies, materials, and broader cultural fields of knowledge. It focuses on a thematic cluster that is inclusive and integrates architectural and pictorial colour and was distilled from the strategies implemented for the study of Pompeii remaining colours. These colour sources can be found at the archaeological site or protected in a museum.

Methodology

The methodology adopted in the research project include investigation of colour sources through the analysis of Pompeii's archaeological site *in situ*, where photos were taken and sketches were made, further complemented with the record of selected collections at the Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Napoli. Inventories of the colours were carried out, and finally, creating colour harmony palettes that highlight essential aesthetic phenomena of relationships and interactions encountered on surface material colours.

Project Relevance

The creation of harmonies reveal an identity and connection to a sense of place that add to colour education, scholarly research, professionals of art, design, architecture, communication programmes, conservation of chromatic remains, and culture related fields of knowledge.





Results

To achieve a foundation for the creation of harmonic palettes that highlight essential aesthetic phenomena of relationships and interactions encountered on surface material colours and take into account colour pattern, rhythm, dynamism, repetition, affinity, contrast and unity as harmonic characteristics.

Dissemination

PUBLICATIONS

2022 Durão, M. J.

Did the Ancient Greeks perceive the color 'blue'? An interdisciplinary approach. In Kong, M. et al (eds.) *Creating Through Mind and Emotions*. London: CRC Press Taylor & Francis Group. pp. 351- 355. ISBN: 9780367279936. By submission

2019 Durão, M. J.

Considerations on the colours of Pompeii walls. In Kong, M. et al (eds.) *Intelligence, Creativity and Fantasy*. London: CRC Press Taylor & Francis Group. eISBN 9780429297755. By submission

2018 Durão, M. J.

Colours of Pompeii: Colour harmony palletes. In AIC – International Colour Association (ed.). *Book of Abstracts of AIC Interim Meeting: Colour and Human Comfort*. 26-28 Septembre. Lisbon: AIC – International Colour Association and APCor – Associação Portuguesa da Cor. p. 76. ISSN: 2617-2410, eISSN: 2617-2429, ISBN: 978-0-64844724-4-5. By submission.