

**ABSENCE. INTERPRETATION OF THE METROPOLITAN FORMATION OF LISBON FROM THE UNOCCUPIED AS A BASIS FOR URBAN PROJECTS**

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**ABSTRACT**

Absence is the contemporary protagonist in the metropolis. Nevertheless, no author has attempted to interpret a concrete metropolis from this point of view, examining the circumstances in which unoccupied spaces occur, even when such spaces have been latent in conventional urban planning readings based on occupied space. Such a premise is true of Lisbon, which is formed around a large unoccupied central space: the Tagus Estuary.

Initially, progressive knowledge of the metropolitan formation of Lisbon (ETSAB-UPC, Barcelona), has made it possible to describe and classify unoccupied space at every stage. Analysis of each period showed a territorial structure under construction, from its foundation to its current status as part of a supra-metropolitan formation.

As part of an ongoing research (FA-UTL, Lisboa | ETSAB-UPC, Barcelona), two additional important premises have been defined:

- The potential of unoccupied spaces as instruments for urban control;
- A case study which revealed a certain degree of future impact or an emerging transformation. For this, the following natural and urban areas that are still unoccupied but which will house major infrastructures in the near future were selected: the New International Airport of Lisbon, the International TGV, and a new local skeleton network formed by a metropolitan tramway.

This interpretation may lead to an improved and more sustainable method of urban control and before that to a new concept of urban design.

**Related published research:**

MORGADO, Sofia, *Protagonismo de la ausencia. Interpretación urbanística de la formación metropolitana de Lisboa desde lo desocupado*, Universidade Politècnica da Catalunya, TDX URL: <http://www.tdx.cesca.es/TDX-0725105-162915/>, ISBN: 84-689-3468-2/ DL: B-40164-2005, Barcelona, Spain, 2005.

GEORGE, Pedro; MORGADO, Sofia; *et al* «Metropolitan Area of Lisbon 1970-2001. From monopolarity to an emerging matrix pattern» in *L'explosió de la ciutat. Morfologies, mirades i mocions sobre les transformacions territorials recents en les regions urbanes de l'Europa Meridional*, (ed. Antonio Font; Francesco Indovina, Nuno Portas), COAC/Forum Universal de les Cultures Barcelona, 2004 Barcelona, Spain.

GEORGE, Pedro; MORGADO, Sofia, «Dinâmicas do Uso e Ocupação do Solo da Área Metropolitana de Lisboa 1940-2001», Pós-Revista do Programa de Pós-graduação em Arquitetura e Urbanismo da FAUUSP, Faculdade de Arquitetura e Urbanismo da Universidade de São Paulo, Brasil, Nº 18, Dezembro 2005.