



## **SESSION 10. THE INTERRUPTED UTOPIA. LANDSCAPES OF MODERN COLLECTIVE HOUSING IN FORMER EUROPEAN COLONIES.**

### **ABSTRACT:**

The construction of large complexes or housing units led to a profound transformation of the landscape of the Former European Colonial cities; in the Portuguese context, this transformation occurred especially in the sub-Saharan region, not only affecting the morphology of the urban landscape but also its management and function. But, above all, it meant a radical change in the way of understanding and designing the habitable space, defined by the authors themselves as the development of a utopian project. These works not only meant to address the urgent housing needs but also the set up of a new model of city and society.

In Angola, for example, the struggle for independence and, above all, the subsequent civil conflicts interrupted this impulse, either because the projects were left unfinished, or because they were developed in a social and political context of great instability. In practice, these housing complexes continued inhabited but with increasingly worse conditions due to the lack of maintenance and control. Thus, the new landscape of modernity became a sad metaphor for the historical evolution of the different countries. After the end of the conflicts, a series of key questions have been put on the table:

- What motivated and how to materialize these utopias; can we really consider them as such, in the manner of Pepetela's "The Generation of Utopia"?

- Seen from a distance, how to value its most recognized project contributions: the tropicalization of modern models, the use of appropriate technologies for the climate and local economy, the recognition of pre-existing conditions...?
- Did the type of promoter - public or private - influenced the type of project carried out and the way in which they were used and accepted?
- What was the role played by its users (before and after the independence and their collective identity in this process?
- What to do with these interrupted utopias today? Should we consider their landscape (real) and their (utopian) model of life as a heritage to be preserved or as a sign of the colonial stage to be eliminated, as in many cases it is happening?

Although the session focuses on the former Portuguese colonial cities, as a case study and as an example, it intends to open up to other formerly colonized territories beyond the Lusophone countries. Generating knowledge and critical reflection about these issues is the main objective of the proposed session. Additionally, understanding that the disclosure of these works and their authors dignifies this heritage and allows us to expand the (re) knowledge about the interesting Portuguese modern housing and its utopian political, social and disciplinary motivations.

#### **CHAIRS:**

**Inês Lima Rodrigues.** Architect and researcher, PhD on Architectural Projects in the field of Portuguese influenced modern collective housing, with recognized merit as the "Premi Extraordinari Doctorat 2013-14". She has published articles in magazines and book chapters and participates in national and international conferences, promoting the dissemination of Portuguese influenced heritage. She is currently a postdoctoral researcher at DINÂMIA'CET-IUL, deepening Portuguese-Angolan modern architecture through the legacy of Simões de Carvalho, Castro Rodrigues and Vieira da Costa.

**Roberto Goycoolea.** Dr Architect Professor of Analysis of Architectural Forms at Escuela de Arquitectura, Universidad de Alcalá, Madrid. He has publications about his projects and researches in books and magazines from 11 countries, focusing on the conception and perception of the habitable space. In Africa, he has participated in cooperation projects and academic exchange actions, highlighting the research on modern architecture in Luanda, Angola, co-directed with Professor Paz Núñez.