

monade



ELECTRA 23

Dossier / Attention

Attention, the subject of the central dossier of issue 23 of Electra magazine, is a scarce and precious resource, and therefore subject to an unrelenting battle to capture it. And there has never been such a proliferation of information, consumer products, cultural goods, and events that demand our attention. Attention is the commodity on which the value of all other commodities depends, whether material or immaterial, real or symbolic. It is therefore a fundamental issue of our time and a crucial

topic for understanding it. This issue features articles and interviews with **Yves Citton, Enrico Campo, Mark Wigley, Georg Franck, and Claire Bishop**.

This issue's "In the First Person" section features interviews with the American writer, professor and critic **Svetlana Alpers** (with Afonso Dias Ramos), whose pioneering work has redefined the field of art history in recent decades, and **Philippe Descola** (with António Guerreiro), a central figure in anthropology, who speaks about topics ranging from the production of images and iconographic traditions and styles to the question of the opposition between nature and culture.

The "Scoop" section presents a set of unpublished drawings and letters by the painter **Maria Helena Vieira da Silva**. In 1928, she was twenty years old and had left Portugal to study art in Paris, before embarking on a study trip to Italy. During this journey she drew quick sketches in a notebook of what she saw, writing letters to her mother to tell her about her impressions and discoveries. A selection of these drawings and letters, in which an intimate and consonant dialogue is established, is now revealed.

In Electra 23, a portrait of the great Greek poet **Constantine Cavafy** by professor and translator **Nikos Pratsinis** is published in the "Figure" section, and writer **Christian Salmon** offers commentary on a reflection on the tragic history of Central Europe by renowned Czech novelist and essayist **Milan Kundera** in the "Passages" section.

Also in this issue, essayist and journalist **Sergio Molino** gives us a personal map of the city of Zaragoza, where history and geography, literature and art meet; Brazilian journalist and columnist **Marcelo Leite** examines research that has been conducted since the 1990s with a view to the pharmacological and therapeutic use of psychedelics; writer and veterinarian **María Sanchez** builds a diary that is permeated with searching and encounter, houses and journeys, books and animals, lands and women, love and friendship; Chilean architect, researcher and curator Francisco Díaz discusses the relationship between soil and terrain based on **Peter Eisenman's** City of Culture project in Santiago de Compostela; artist and essayist **João Sousa Cardoso** writes about the work of sculptor **Rui Chafes**, revisiting three exhibitions and a book presented during 2023; and playwright **Miguel Castro Caldas** offers a commentary on the word "Comfortable".

ELECTRA

Attention
Dossier
Yves Citton
Enrico Campo
Mark Wigley
Georg Franck
Claire Bishop

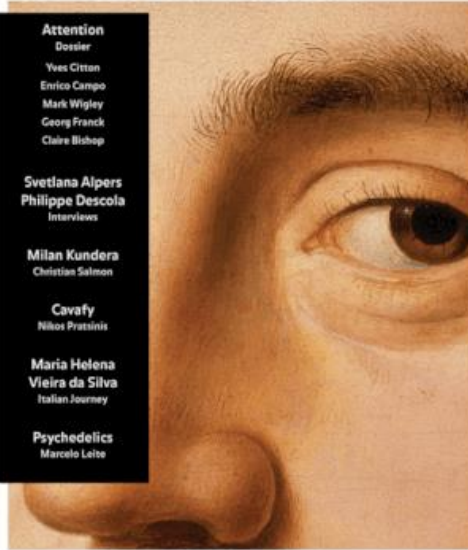
Svetlana Alpers
Philippe Descola
Interviews

Milan Kundera
Christian Salmon

Cavafy
Nikos Pratsinis

Maria Helena
Vieira da Silva
Italian Journey

Psychedelics
Marcelo Leite



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23

Texts by

Yves Citton
Enrico Campo
Mark Wigley
Georg Franck
Claire Bishop
Svetlana Alpers
Philippe Descola
Maria Helena Vieira da Silva
Konstandinos Kavafis
Sergio Molino
Marcelo Leite
João Sousa Cardoso
Miguel Castro Caldas

“In the First Person”

Svetlana Alpers

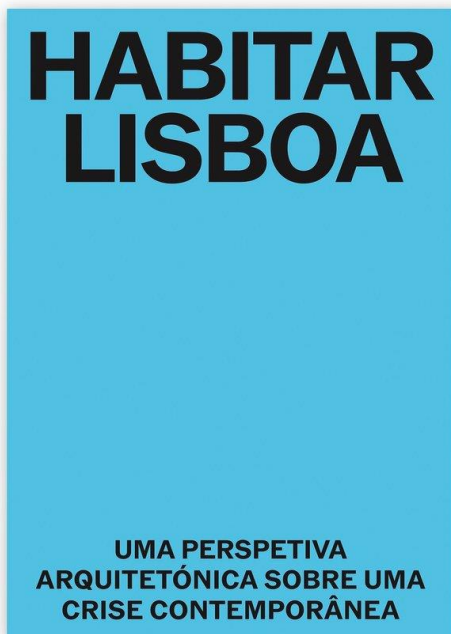
“Figure”

Konstandinos Kavafis

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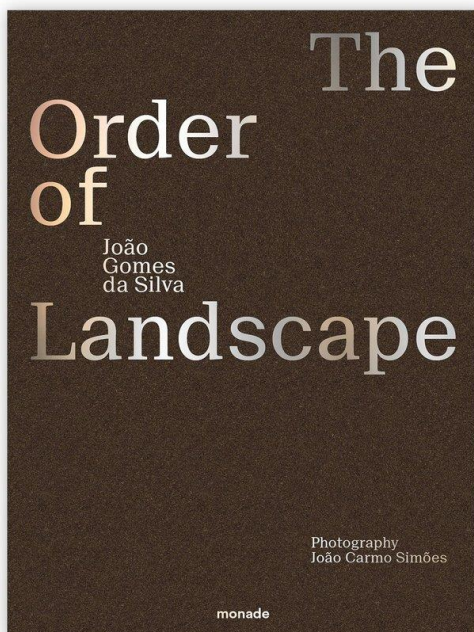
Highlights



Living in Lisbon

Lisbon is being ravaged by an unprecedented housing crisis. The exponential increase of prices, the combined outcome of the financialisation of housing and the lack of continued investment of public policies, means that every Portuguese person is, or knows someone who is, affected by the crisis. There is a restless public debate, but little has been told about the buildings that will give shape to the political strategies that are being conceived and implemented. Which city do we wish to build to face the problem? What can be the role of architecture in this context?

Order



The Order of Landscape / João Gomes da Silva

Beginning in 1987, with Álvaro Siza in the Malagueira plan, Gomes da Silva's career has decisively marked Portuguese contemporary architecture. From Serralves Museum Garden to Madeira's Seafront Promenade and Lisbon's riverfront, his particular conception of new grounds proposes a formality without formalisms and a naturalness without naturalisms.

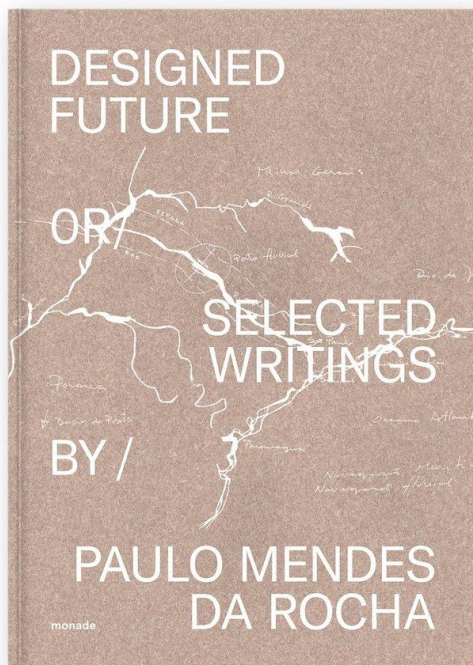
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FEP / Viana de Lima

A groundbreaking work of modernity in Porto, the FEP faculty building is a hidden architectural masterpiece, designed by Alfredo Viana de Lima in the 1960s. Through photographs especially taken by João Carmo Simões and edited drawings, this book shows why the project has been, a silent reference for generations of Portuguese architects.

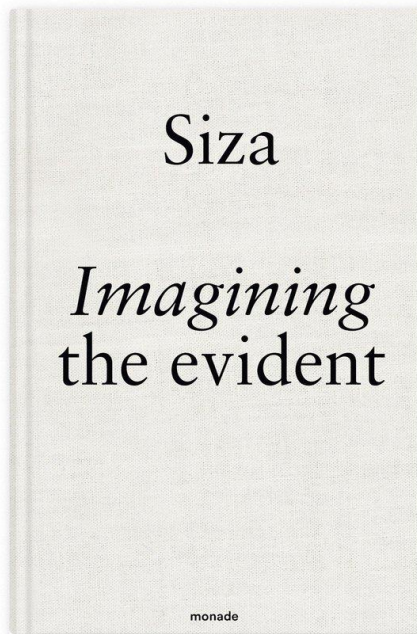
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Designed Future / Paulo Mendes da Rocha

As the most complete collection of essays, interviews and lectures, this book is an in-depth view of the journey and particular thinking of one of the most contemporary architects, the Brazilian modern master, Paulo Mendes da Rocha (1928-2021).

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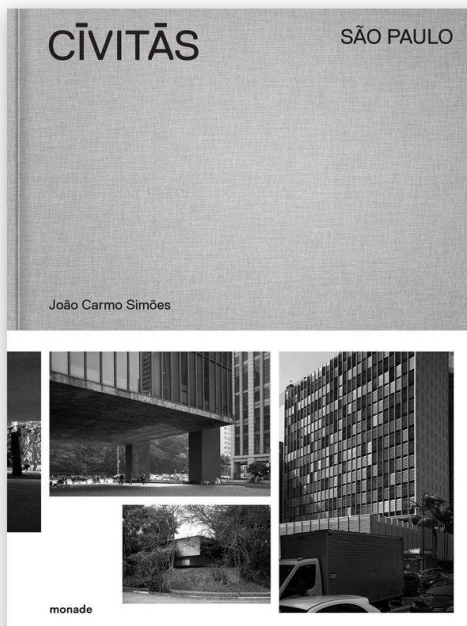
Imagining the Evident / Álvaro Siza

The referential book by Álvaro Siza on his own work, for the first time in English.

Describing some of his projects, his expectations and struggles, references and decisions, this book is a fundamental contribution to the understanding of Álvaro Siza's architectural thinking.

A personal and fundamental testimony of one of the most celebrated living architects, covering the full range of design – from architecture to city planning, furniture and objects – in a must-read book for all interested in Art and Architecture.

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CIVITAS / São Paulo

CIVITAS apresenta o desejo de construir cidade manifestado pelos mestres modernos brasileiros através dos seus edifícios em São Paulo. Obras de Vilanova Artigas, Lina Bo Bardi, Salvador Candia, Rino Levi, Oscar Niemeyer e Paulo Mendes da Rocha são desenhadas como resposta ao caótico crescimento de uma das maiores metrópoles do mundo.

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Um Jogo Perigoso / Álvaro Siza

Serigrafia Álvaro Siza, 2022

Assinada e numerada pelo Autor

Edição limitada de 50

Há um jogo segundo o qual, aberta a mão e afastados os dedos, se golpeiam sucessivamente os intervalos com uma navalha, cada vez mais rapidamente. Um jogo perigoso. Assim é a arquitectura.

Álvaro Siza

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News



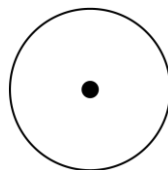
Book launch of "The
Order of Landscape",
Lisboa

Book launch of "The Order of Landscape", Porto



A new book in coming: FEP / Viana de Lima

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