INTERNET CONTRIBUTION

Pedro Ressano Garcia is a Senior Architect. For the last years he has been researching the transformation of port cities and waterfront regeneration. In his office in Lisbon, theory and practice are combined in projects of architecture, urban design and participation in international competitions. He started teaching at U.C. Berkeley, since 1997 to the present teaches in Lisbon at Universidade Lusófona and he is a visiting teacher at International Workshops. Since 2010 is the coordinator of the European Workshop on Waterfront Urban Design. He as published widely in books, magazines and international conferences.

Pedro RESSANO GARCIA

Architecture

LUSOFONA UNIVERSITY

PORTUGAL

Un groupe international a travaillé dans le cadre des European Workshop on Waterfront Urban Design de 2014. Les participants de nombreux pays se sont réunis dans la ville de Cascais pour analyser, discuter et contribuer par des propositions au développement durable des villes portuaires avec la région de Cascais comme un cas d’étude. Les autorités locales ont contribué activement et l’équipe a élaboré des propositions sur trois sites visant à améliorer la qualité de vie dans le port et la ville.

An international group worked together at the European Workshop on Waterfront Urban Design in 2014. Participants from many countries met in the city of Cascais to analyse, discuss and contribute for the sustainable development of port cities having this region as a case study. Local authorities contributed actively and the team produced proposals at three locations aiming to improve the quality of life at the port and city.

Un grupo internacional trabajó en la European Workshop on Waterfront Urban Design realizado en 2014. Los participantes procedentes de varios países se reunieron en la ciudad de Cascáis para analizar, discutir y contribuir al desarrollo sostenible de las ciudades portuarias con la región Cascáis como caso de estudio. Las autoridades locales contribuyó activamente y el equipo elaboró propuestas para tres sitios, con el objetivo de mejorar la calidad de vida en el puerto y la ciudad.
Starting in 2010 European Workshop on Waterfront Urban Design (EWWUD) became a think tank of growing interest for many participants. The complexity that challenges the sustainable development of the Port City is continuously attracting the attention of Maritime transportation and Port activity grows while environment protection also increases. The local community struggles between powerful actors and stakeholders that aim to implement their needs. This year the fourth edition of EWWUD was dedicated to the region of Cascais in Portugal.

Nine schools of Architecture, Urban Planning and Landscape Architecture brought graduate students and teachers to work with the Municipality of Cascais together on site. The initiative joined participants from Europe, Africa, Middle East and North America exchanged their own views regarding the future increment of the waterfront, climate change, fast growing community, protected landscape, tourism activity and future cruise terminal.

For two weeks workshop’s participants had the opportunity to analyse, discuss and formulate hypothesis for the sustainable development of the region, based on the preservation of environmental quality and growth of the economy. The local community was in the center of the discussion to imagine a process that aims a better future for the whole region.

The conclusions presented at the end of the meeting are published online and printed in a book, summarizing the content of the panels produced by each of the eight groups participating at the workshop. They illustrate the ideas of a multidisciplinary and international group that analysed, discussed and formulated hypothesis for the Cascais region.

Municipal representatives from the departments of town planning, urban quality, cultural activities, climate change and external consultancy for tourism were engaged with the international participants and gave a great contribution to decide the priorities of each area. The wide range of disciplinary backgrounds intended to stimulate the debate on various fields of knowledge and prevented from getting caught in a narrow discussion of one discipline. The groups integrated participants coming from architecture, planning, urban design, economics, geography and landscape architecture. Since the topic of waterfront urban design is interdisciplinary and involves a wide scope of expertise, the working environment gave the possibility to open the discussion to an international level. The guests were put together to deal with the task of a difficult subject and were required to bring their new fresh perception of the problems.

The present situation in Cascais was critically reviewed integrating information of local, historical, geographical and regulatory constraints. The interdisciplinary approach gave the evidence that the waterfront subject benefits from their presence, because through constructive dialogue they succeed to embrace the complexity of the problems.

Regional planning and urban design is increasingly focused on regulations and the way they can survive administrative procedures. The lack of ideas settles down and buries some possibility to improve the present situation.

The three sites subject to research, analysis, critical review and development of design solutions were chosen in close cooperation with the Municipality. The selection of these sites was brought into consideration by the people who have been involved in the last twenty years. Revelation at the European Workshop Urban Design has been done through pragmatic design proposals that inspired different visions merging conservation and regeneration guided by a sustainable strategy.

The master plans were analysed and each team was enabled to deal with this task and develop ideas. The presence of local prominent professionals and municipal representatives at specific dates succeed to raise the quality of the discussion. Some of finest experts and highly qualified professionals were able to come and join the group to share their knowledge and answer to particular questions.
This fragile equation relies on human values and not strictly technical values. They are successful in creating the appropriate working environment where each participant soon understood that the diversity of cultures and their own perception brought richness to the group. At the end of the workshop, the general perception was that the improvement of the built environment requires a humanistic approach. The parameters taken in consideration are useful to influence the design decisions. Parameters do not decide, they inform. They build a body of knowledge to inform the mind of the designers.

The thoughtful process had extraordinary contribution from a large number of academics, professionals, municipal representatives and international experts.

The workshop offered solutions to be considered by the stakeholders and political leaders who hold power. The workshop is partner at Rivers of Opportunities, which is an European Program coordinated by: The River//Cities Platform Foundation, based in Poland, with partners from Sweeden, Austria, United Kingdom, Croatia, Italy, Czech Republic, Germany, Finland and Portugal.

It also envisioned producing solutions that will be a reference for the years to come. The work that was done is seen as a milestone made for the present.
Illustration of the proposal of group 2

Illustration of the proposal of group 4
Masterplan of water and green areas (group 5)
Masterplan of the waterfront (group 5)

For further information please consult:

ewud.ulisofona.pt/

www.river-cities.net/