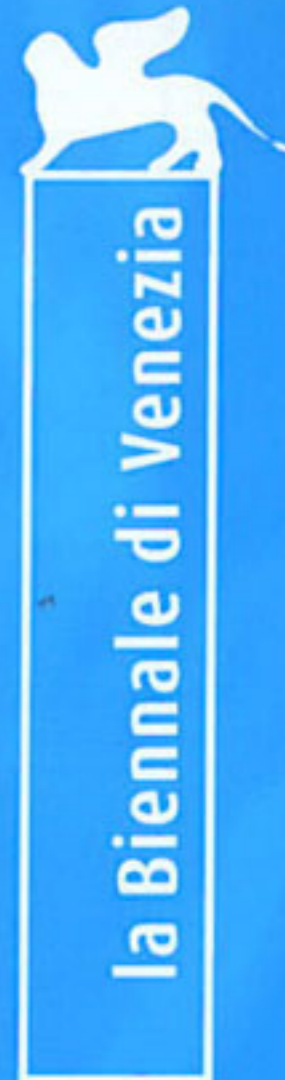


# METAMORPHIS

9. INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE EXHIBITION

# VECTORS

Marsilio



## PORTUGAL > METAFLEX: TWO GENERATIONS IN RECENT PORTUGUESE ARCHITECTURE

**COMMISSIONERS** Pedro Gadanho, Luís Tavares Pereira **EXHIBITORS** Augusto Alves da Silva; a.s\* atelier de santos; Bernardo Rodrigues; Diogo Lopes | Nuno Cera; Guedes + de Campos; Inês Lobo; João Mendes Ribeiro; Nuno Brandão Costa; marcosandmarjan architects; Pedro Bandeira; Promontório Arquitectos; Rui Toscano; S'A Arquitectos; Seródio, Furtado & Associados; Didier Fiúza Faustino

How and why do attitudes change? How do the landscapes and realities that evolve around us give shape to the intentions and responses of architectural production?

**Metaflux** explores the flows of influence and context that have recently been identifiable in Portuguese architecture. Cultural identity proves to be central as architects compare their traditions and innovations with creative urban atmospheres and with the increasingly global nature of everyday culture.

Two generations separated by a little more than half a decade show how, even in established local situations, architectural practices change at the fast pace that typifies the evolution of contemporary European identity. Signs of a recognized aesthetic tradition now cross with references from international popular culture. The experience that made the reputation of Portuguese architecture, through the mixing of local conditions with internationally defined languages, takes on new tonalities and allows new sensibilities to be anticipated. Metamorphosis is defined by circulation, exchange, translation and adaptation.

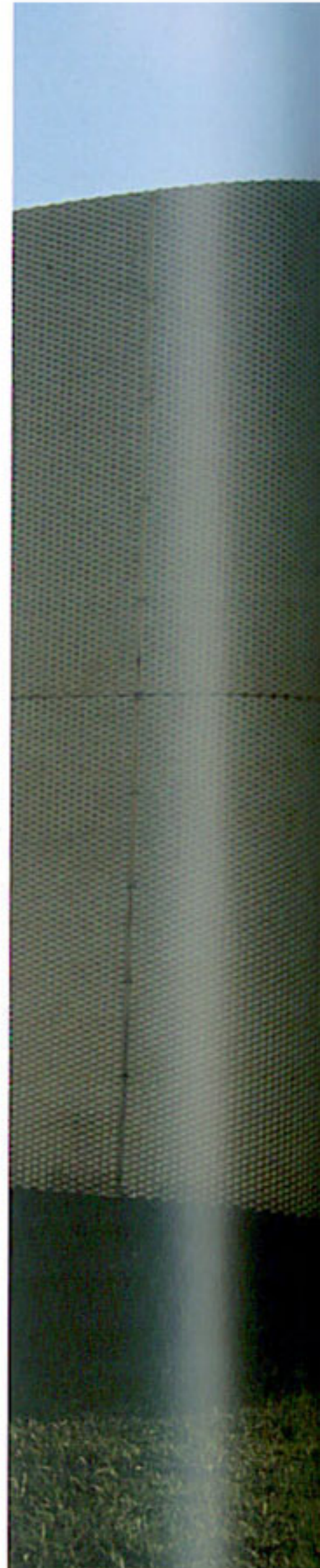
The continuity of some recent practices is permeated with global and transverse trends such as Minimalism. The local traditions of shortages again prove useful, as survival kits able to respond to the inhospitable conditions of reality. Other positions adopt strategies that emanate from the creative world and reach a new fluid form of internationalism. Movement and diversity give way to collage, to experimentation and to individual expression.

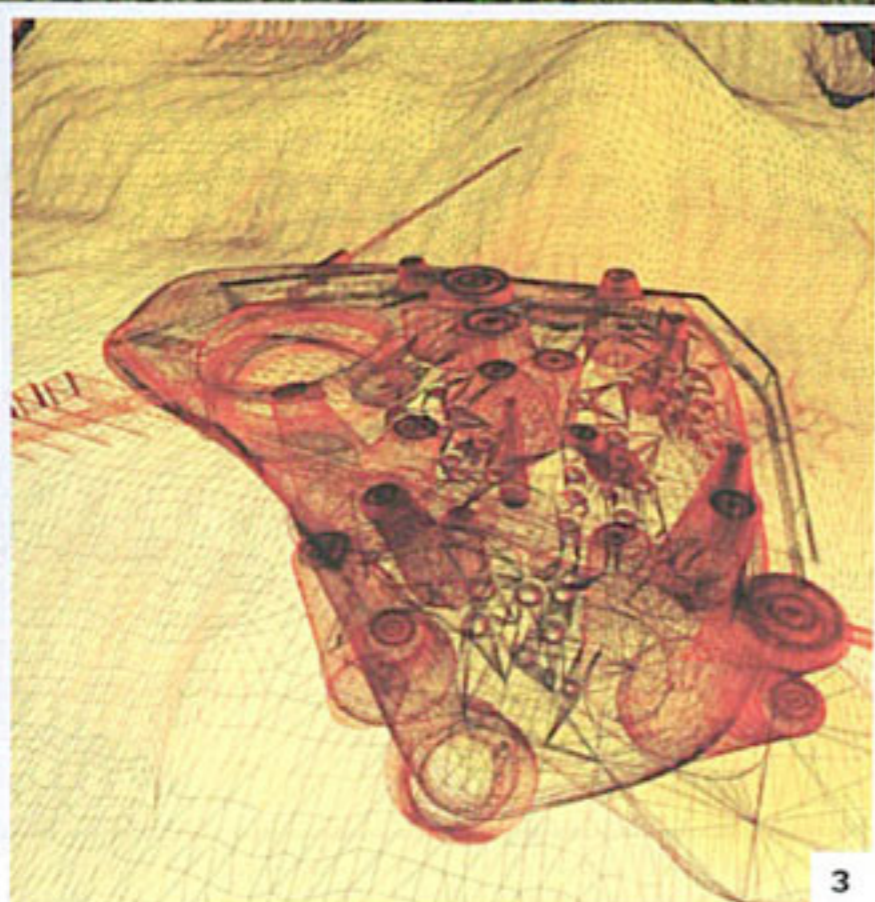
Five groups around the age of forty are transforming the continuity and traditions of recent Portuguese architecture. Learners directed by references to a traditional style like that of Souto Moura and Carrilho da Graça, they slowly modify their approaches through new conceptual means and interdisciplinary references. They substitute pure form with abstract concepts, reinvent creative collaboration, draw data from visual and performing arts and explore market conditions.

Five groups of younger architects reflect the increasingly nomadic nature of architectural training. The references become diffuse and may include contradictory and conflicting sources, be they local or international. Although the expressive character of their work is less and less identifiable with a particular architectural culture, it is from a context and a specific identity that they draw more intimate motives: poetry, humour and the 'return of the repressed' are crossed with more expansive means of communication.

A further five artists and architects present specially ordered installations, adding a narrative parallel to the exhibition. The idiosyncrasies, languages and attitudes of ten ateliers are therefore contrasted. Critical, utopian or ironic views of the social and urban landscapes that inform the nature and diversity of contemporary creative thinking emerge from these works. It is precisely from this point of view that the genetic mutation of recent practices may be fully understood.

- PEDRO GADANHO AND LUÍS TAVARES PEREIRA





**1** Guedes + de Campos, Bar, Vila Nova de Gaia, 1999–2002. Photo: Luis Ferreira Alves.  
**2** Diogo Lopes | Nuno Cera, Cimêncio, 2003. Courtesy Nuno Cera.

**3** Marcosandmarjan Architects, New Museum Tomihiro, Azuma Village, Japan, 2002 (competition). Rendering. Courtesy of the architects.

**4** Serôdio, Furtado & Associados, Centre for Nuclear Technology Applied to Health, Coimbra, 2000. Photo: João Pedro Serôdio.

**5** Promontório Arquitectos, Carnide Block, Lisbon, 1999–2003. Photo: Fernando and Sérgio Guerra.