





CARTHA

[2016]

ON THE FORM OF FORM

FINAL REPORT / PRESS

Associated Project of the 2016 Lisbon Architecture Triennale

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CARTHA

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About

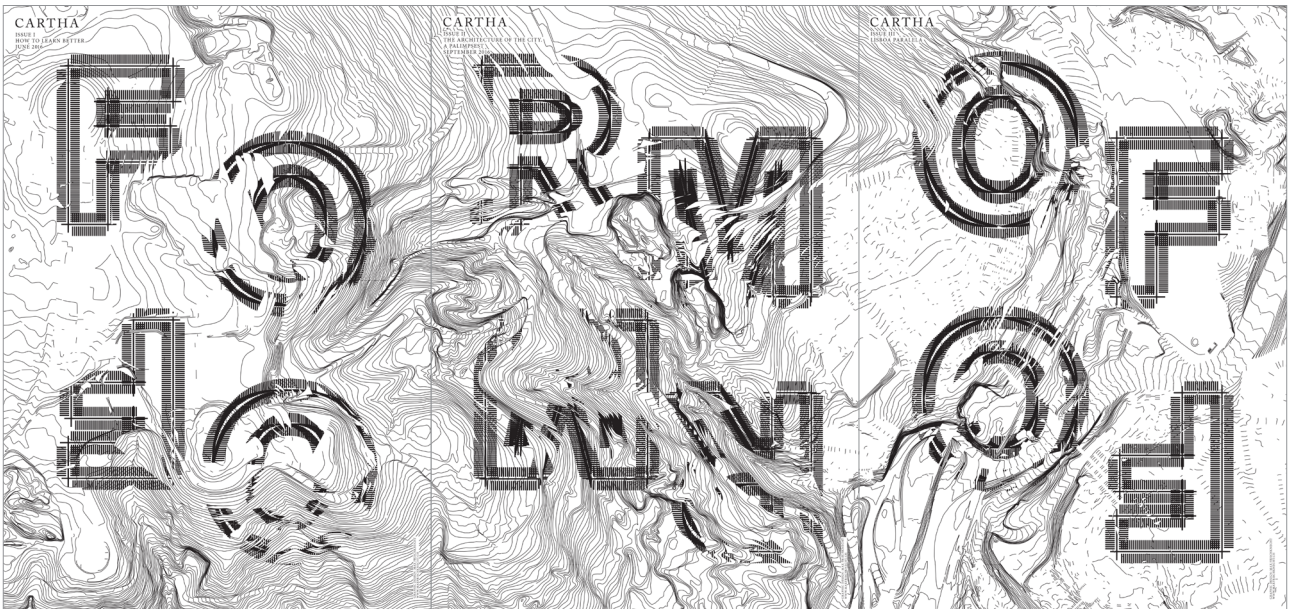
[CARTHA](#) is a curated platform that focuses on sharing different forms of critical thinking regarding architecture and society. Through opinions, experiences and works, CARTHA aims to map out the contemporary architectural landscape.

It is an ongoing archive of a territory under construction presented in three different media: a free of charge internet distributed publication, events and a book which is published at the end of the cycle as the embodiment of CARTHA's generated content.

CARTHA works in cycles where each year is dedicated to a topic. The issues published within this time frame attempt to explore the selected topic from different perspectives. Each issue varies in format and features contributions that result from an open call for papers and selected collaborations with voices coming from multiple latitudes and backgrounds.

CARTHA initiated its editorial activity in December 2014, in Basel. It is made by a group of young practicing architects and designers, who teamed-up to create an independent, periodical, non-profit publishing platform not bounded by geographical nor ideological borders. A platform that goes beyond slick imagery and provide us with time to apprehend the fast motion environment in which we evolve.

The ultimate goal of CARTHA is to contribute to generate a collective critical dialogue open to everybody. CARTHA does not rely solely on researchers and scholars to dissect our built environment, but also on individuals rooted in the practical grounds of the discipline, attempting to bridge the gap between the academia, practice and society.



Triptych of posters of the cycle *The Form of Form*. Graphic design by Max Frischknecht

2016 CARTHA Cycle on *The Form of Form*

In 2016 CARTHA was an [Associated Project of the Lisbon Architecture Triennale](#) and took the Triennale's topic *The Form of Form* as its own topic for the 2016 editorial cycle. CARTHA's associated project consisted of a year-long reflection on the Triennale's theme through the publishing of three issues; the realisation of two exhibitions, complemented by a series of events; and the publishing of a book: the "modus operandi" of CARTHA on *The Form of Form*.

These three issues addressed form through different yet complementary lenses. Issue I *How to Learn Better* was guest-edited by Bureau A and discussed the conception of form by questioning pedagogical approaches in architecture. Issue II *The Architecture of the City. A Palimpsest* was guest-edited by Victoria Easton, Matilde Cassani and Noura Al Sayeh and focused on the form of the city by revisiting Aldo Rossi's seminal work. Issue III *Lisboa Paralela* expanded on the urban form closing the cycle in December 2016.

The first two issues were published previously to the official opening of the Triennale, in April and July 2016 respectively. As it has been mentioned, for these two issues the editorial project explored the format of guest-editing to allow the publication to present a broader spectrum of views on the theme. The third issue was produced during the Triennale itself with CARTHA's editorial board as sole editors.

A brief description of each of the three issues follows.

2016 Issues

[ISSUE I – HOW TO LEARN BETTER](#)

Guest editors

Bureau A (Daniel Zamarbide, Leopold Banchini)

How to Learn Better inaugurated the cycle questioning, through a series of posters, the learning methods around architectural production. A wide spectrum of different personalities ranging from architects, artists, writers, photographers to graphic designers, contributed with their very unique vision on the matter, showing us in nine contributions a variety of directions that could hardly diverge more on the pedagogy of architecture.

[ISSUE II – THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE CITY. A PALIMPSEST](#)

Guest editors

Victoria Easton, Matilde Cassani, Noura Al Sayeh

While the previous issue *How to Learn Better* discussed the conception of form through the questioning of pedagogical approaches in architecture, this second issue focuses on the form of the city itself through the lens of a palimpsest of Aldo Rossi's pivotal oeuvre. Revisiting *The Architecture of the City* seemed a necessary exercise in a moment where drastic changes in the way we read and form the city make it necessary to question the current state of architecture in the same way

that Rossi questioned the modernist doctrine back in 1966. This palimpsest proved that the ideas embodied through the 33 chapters are as valid and lucid as they were 50 years ago. Their flexibility and, at times, ambiguity provided a fertile soil for reflections that not only seem pertinent but also urgently necessitated by the contemporary city, which becomes more and more abstract yet complex with the passing of time and the ever-changing nature of society.

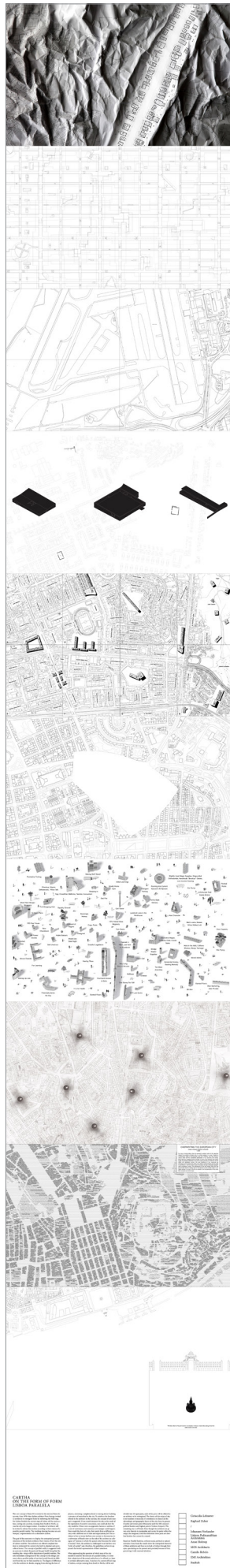
ISSUE III – LISBOA PARALELA

Issue III *Lisboa Paralela* expands on urban forms by questioning the status quo of the sets of natural and social laws and by speculating on these in possible parallel realities. In this issue we wanted to reflect on form from both a visual and a textual perspective. To do so, two complementary calls were launched: Using the 1973 “Roma Interrotta” exercise, an international group of 10 architects was invited to redesign a sector of the city of Lisbon free from any social, political or natural restraints.

Alongside, an open call for papers was published, asking for critical suggestions of possible parallel realities for all cities, from all sources. The results of these calls were exhibited at Mãe d’Água das Amoreiras, together with the two previous issues closing our cycle on *The Form of Form* and broadening our awareness on our built environment and the events that shape it.

2016 Book

In 2017, as the epilogue of our contribution to the Lisbon Architecture Triennale, a book compiling the content generated by CARTHA over the course of the year will be published by Park Books. For the graphic design CARTHA is working together with studio Début Début (Basel).



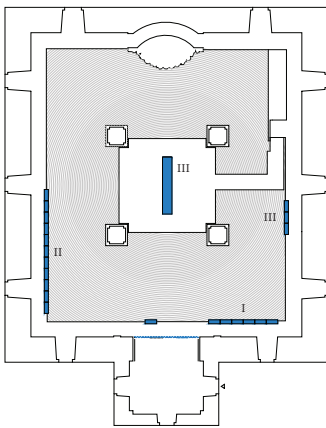
Lisboa Paralela

2016 Exhibition On the Form of Form

As described above, incorporated in CARTHA's proposal for the Triennale there were two exhibitions; one featuring the first two issues of the cycle in October 2016 and a second one featuring the entire cycle in the following December, during the closing week of the Triennale.

For both exhibitions CARTHA appropriated a significant infrastructural space of the city of Lisbon: the 18th century water depository, Mãe d'Água das Amoreiras. The exhibitions were thought as a minimal spatial gesture: a series of blue linear elements that displayed the three issues and adapted to the still, clear lines and reflections of the water contained within the reservoir. Though being held in the same venue and based on the same concepts of free access to and appropriation of information of the editorial project, the goals of the spatial interventions of both exhibitions were divergent.

Having only the first two issues, the first exhibition marked the embodiment of CARTHA in Lisbon, opening the space for an open dialogue, steering away from possible conclusions. The space of the Mãe d'água water reservoir was discretely intervened with two blue trays where the published issues could be consulted or, if the visitor chose to, taken home with them.



Exhibition layout at the Mãe d'Água das Amoreiras in Lisbon.

For the second exhibition, which contained the three issues of the cycle, the main exhibition space, the water reservoir, was separated from the entrance hall by a blue curtain, creating not only a visual shield for the exhibition's content but also a sort of vestibule from where only the ceiling and the running water of the reservoir was perceived. Behind the curtain, a third blue tray, containing the contributions resulting from the open call for papers, was added while on the central floating platform, a six meter long table was placed, upon which the graphic contributions of the invited architects were displayed.

Accompanying both exhibitions, a series of events were held, including a presentation and discussion on the cycle's second issue between the guest editors and the editorial board, a *TEOK* session with Andreia Garcia and Susana Oliveira, a closing party in collaboration with *The Club* project by Bureau A and a discussion between the Triennale's chief curator André Tavares and Daniel Zamarbide (Bureau A) on the cycle's third issue, among other events.

At Mãe d'Água, CARTHA celebrated its ethos embodied in a space that served as a platform for interaction among the published work, the Triennale and the city. A space within Lisbon manipulated into a tray, a board, an exhibition, a room for discussion.



Entrance at Mãe d'Água das Amoreiras in Lisbon



Exhibition *CARTHA* on *The Form of Form*



Exhibition *CARTHA on the Form of Form*

2016 Events

October

* The Edge of Knowledge (TEOK) is an informal lecture series, where uncommon, unexpected topics are presented in someone's living room. Short presentations are interspersed with video breaks and drinks, with topics ranging from food to the cosmos, internet memes and personal obsessions, seeking to offer an alternative look at the cultural outputs of the contemporary – and a window into the fantastic, rich ensemble of people that live and work around us.

10th of October

> Vernissage CARTHA ON THE FORM OF FORM

Presentation of the first of CARTHA's two exhibitions inserted in the 2016 Lisbon Architecture Triennale. This exhibition presented the two issues produced already, on the road to the Triennial: Issue I *How to Learn Better*, guest-edited by Bureau A, and Issue II *Architecture of the City. A Palimpsest*, guest edited by Victoria Easton, Matilde Cassani and Noura Al Sayeh. The guest-editors of both issues were present and joined the in-house editorial board on an explanatory conversation on the topics of both issues and the overall topic of the Triennale. The presentation counted with the presence of the Swiss Ambassador in Lisbon.

11th of October

> TEOK – PARALLEL

In its first Lisbon event, TEOK* inhabited the CARTHA exhibition space and brought along its very own take on *The Form of Form*.

12th of October

> ISSUE III – LISBOA PARALELA

The call for papers for Issue III, the last of this trilogy dedicated to *The Form of Form*, was presented and the core exercise of this issue unveiled, alongside the names of the invited architects.

14th of October

> Finissage CARTHA ON THE FORM OF FORM

With an informal exchange on the potential of the Triennale in the context of the city. From 22h00 on, the CLUB party, BUREAU A's associate project took over the Mãe d'Água.

December

8th of December

> Vernissage LISBOA PARALELA

The editorial board of CARTHA was joined by André Tavares, chief co-curator of the Triennial, and Daniel Zamarbide from Bureau A, for a discussion on Form, Parallelism and the potential in joining both.

9th of December

> Dîner de Confrères

A selected group of guests dined over the proposed *Lisboa Paralela*, following Saskia Sassen's suggestion that social bounds are strengthened when sharing a meal and sharing views and opinions on the outcome of the issue, the cycle and the Triennale.



Vernissage Exhibition *CARTHA on the Form of Form* in October



Vernissage Exhibition *CARTHA on the Form of Form* in December

ISSUE I

How to Learn Better

Guest editor:

Daniel Zamarbide

Amateur Cities

Stapenhorst Dutto

Farquet architectes

Tristan Lavoyer

åbåke

Dieter Dietz / ALICE

Titi Balali

+Shirana Shabazi

+Manuel Krebs

Sam Jacob

Luis Urculo

ISSUE II

*The Architecture of the City.
A Palimpsest.*

Guest editors:

Victoria Easton

Matilde Cassani

Noura Al Sayeh

Fosco Lucarelli

Ala Younis

Nelson Mota

Ahmad Makia

José Pedro Cortes

Alejandro Valdivieso

Guido Tesio

Armin Linke

Adrià Carbonell

+Roi Salgueiro Barrio

Irina Davidovici

Martin Marker Lasrsen

+Christian Vennerstrøm

something fantastic

Camille Zakharia

Shumon Basar

Cino Zucchi

Giovanna Silva

ursa

Stefano Graziani

Philippe Rahm

Gabriel Tomasulo

Nicolas Lobo Brennan

Annette Amberg

Daniele Pisani

Nicolò Ornaghi

Walter Mair

Nikos Magouliotis

Owen Hatherley

Bureau A

WAI Think Tank

Cloé Gattigo

Laura Bonell

+ Daniel López-Dòriga

Milica Topalovic

Pier Vittorio Aureli

ISSUE III

Lisboa Paralela

baukuh

EMI Architekten

Studio Anne Holtrop

Ciriacidis Lehnerer

Johannes Norlander

MOS Architects

Lütjens Padmanabhan

Camilo Rebelo

Raphael Zuber

Simona Ferrari

Daniela Silva

Labics

Pedro Pitarch

Patrícia Barbas

Babau Bureau

Pau Bajet

George Foufas

+George Papam

Institutional Support

CARTHA is permanently supported by [Fundação Serra Henriques](#)



The exhibiton CARTHA ON THE FORM OF FORM was supported by

The Swiss Arts Council [Pro Helvetia](#) (Switzerland)
[Museu da Água – EPAL](#), Lisbon (Portugal)



Sponsors

The exhibiton CARTHA ON THE FORM OF FORM was supported by

Argilla wines, Lisbon (Portugal)
Imagem Definida lda., Lisbon (Portugal)
Lino e Filhos carpintaria, Lisbon (Portugal)
Expresso Gráfico, Lisbon (Portugal)

Photographic Credits

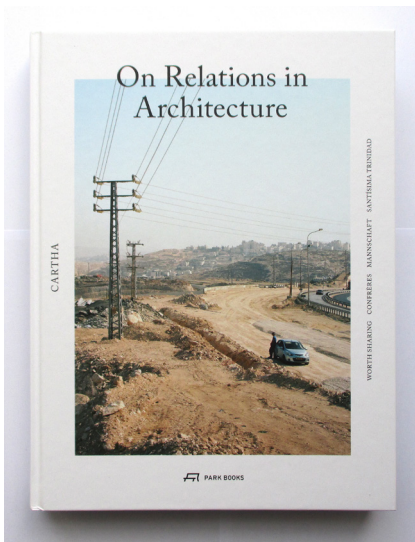
CARTHA: pages 11 (bottom), 13, 16
Francisco Nogueira: pages 9, 10, 11 (top, middle)

ANNEX / 2015 CARTHA
Cycle on *Relations in Architecture*

In 2015, the steering topic for the editorial cycle was *Relations in Architecture*. Four issues *Worth Sharing*, *Confrères*, *Mannschaft* and *Santísima Trinidad*, respectively aimed to dissect the ways in which we share and in which architects relate to architects, collaborators, users and clients. By choosing this topic for the first cycle, we aimed at enlarging our perceptions of the role of architects within their own milieu and to raise the awareness on complex network of relations that lies behind our built environment.

These four issues were published with a periodicity of three months. Each issue was structured as to include an interview with a person whose profile matches the topic at hand, to feature the curated work of a selected photographer and the contributions resulting from the call for papers. In total, during 2015 CARTHA published a total number of 42 contributors, from which 32 were essays by authors from 16 different countries from Europe, Africa, the Americas and Asia. Additionally, the work of renowned figures and rising young names in photography brought to CARTHA's first cycle a distinctive visual value and an appealing extra layer of nuances and interpretations for the topics of discussion.

2015 Book



CARTHA *on Relations in Architecture*,
Park Books 2016

Closing 2015 CARTHA's editorial work, the book *On Relations in Architecture* was published in September 2016 by [Park Books](#) (Zurich).

Prefaced by the art historian, editor and curator Rebekka Kiesewetter, the book also features exclusive contributions by George Kafka and Samuele Squassabia, not included in the website.

Its graphic design is the result of a collaboration between CARTHA and Studio Huebner Braun (Basel).

CARTHA