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OVERTURE

Hoping that this event will constitute a contribution to those interested in these matters, we thank the organizers, the participants and especially the keynote speakers, the lecturers and the Scientific Committee, and greet the Director of the Faculty of Architecture and Arts Professor Horácio Bonifácio and all the attendance.

I would like to briefly mention that the 4th Seminar on Architecture and Mathematics is part of the scientific work conducted by the Research Group 'Architecture and Urbanism', in the Research Centre in Territory, Architecture and Design (CITAD), of the Lusíada University, in Lisbon. These seminars were created and have always been organized by Professors Maria de Fátima Silva and Elsa Negas, members of this Research Center, to whom I thank all the effort and dedication, as I also thank the committed and effective collaboration of the Research Fellow Architect Rui Seco, also part of this team.

The wide range of themes of this Seminar is very interesting in the context of Art and Science related subjects. There is a drive towards greater connection between these two fields of knowledge and development and, at the research sphere, technological innovations are often the result of this multidisciplinary between different areas.

There has always existed a very strong connection between Architecture and Mathematics, in the conception and construction of buildings. We easily remember the pyramids of Egypt or the Mayan-Toltec civilization, the Greek and Roman architecture or the construction of buildings until our days, but this relationship comes from the days when man first built his shelters for living, for example, in the shape of a prism cone, with a structure of inclined branches, tied at the top, covered with small branches and leaves, thatched, as, previously, he probably built stone walls at the entrance of the caverns he inhabited, to defend from wild animals, and from the observation of these walls he found out that its stability improved significantly as he staggered the joints of the stones of the different layers that he piled up, thus discovering, over time, the rules of bricklaying and locking, elemental to the construction of walls.

In this Seminar, the promotion of multidisciplinary and collaborative initiatives by its organizers should be highlighted.

Alberto Reaes Pinto
Lisbon, 21 November 2019