

- **14153 | Creating introspective atmospheres: water as an architectural element**
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This research aims to study the presence of water in internal spaces and question its architectural meaning by identifying its properties and different capabilities in interpreting and molding atmospheres of introspection, reflection and creativity.

In today's increasingly accelerated world where the frantic pace and excessive amount of information that fulfills our senses, takes up a big part of our daily routine, we need to conquer some pauses that will allow us to get out of this accelerated rhythm, by escaping to spaces, which will receive us in their essence, providing moments of peace, meditation and connection with ourselves. In this endeavor water comes up as a natural resource that, for its characteristics and multisensorial properties, is capable of generating these kinds of atmospheres.

Water appeals to our five senses: its capacity of reflection to work as a mirror, the shine it emanates when illuminated, the sound it creates when in motion; simultaneously, water also appeals to our touch and to our taste, for its essentiality to all life forms, providing us pleasure due to the fulfilment of our vital needs; finally, water appeals to our smell because it's a means through which olfactory stimulus can be achieved.

This versatility permits us to work with water and to introduce it into the architectural narrative of internal spaces in very distinctive ways, exploring different meanings and atmospheres. We intend, through the analysis of two specific study cases, Alhambra and Thermal Baths in Vals by Peter Zumthor, to deepen the understanding of water as a preponderant element in the definition of quality spaces, i.e. to study its presence as an architectural constitutive element.

This research is currently underway within the master thesis integrated on Master's Degree in Architecture, at FAUP, 2017/2018, under the supervision of Helder Casal Ribeiro.