

- **15071 | The Woodland Crematorium: a peak into Gunnar Asplund's design process**

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The Woodland Crematorium, located in the Woodland Cemetery, in Stockholm, represents the last great work of the architect Gunnar Asplund. In 1935 Asplund was asked by the Stockholm Cemetery Commission to design a crematorium in the cemetery designed by himself and Sigurd Lewerentz, in 1915. This new building was intended to serve funerary ceremonies from three chapels - a main one and two smaller ones, - and a crematorium, connected to each of the chapels.

Anchored to the place and the landscape, the ensemble, developed along a route, ends with a portico that precedes the entrance to the great chapel. This condition reminds us of the placement of a temple on the monumental landscape, and the harmonious relationship between nature and architecture, experienced by Asplund on the trip to Italy in 1913. Inside, the main geometric lines balanced with the work of light contribute to create an atmosphere of peace and serenity. Considering the atmosphere of the cemetery as a place of worship and silence, the crematorium's architecture tries to respond to the pain and feelings of loss caused by death, not only by the relationship with the landscape, but also by the work of the form, balancing a particular architectural expression - language.

This paper intends to understand and portray the significance of the crematorium's work phases, by analysing Asplund's personal archive, in order to interpret how the different design themes were underlined and decisive for a unique reading of the whole ensemble.

This study is part of an ongoing master thesis on Master's Degree in Architecture, at FAUP, 2018/19, under the supervision of Helder Casal Ribeiro. It is our objective to emphasise the importance of this project for the understanding of modern architecture.