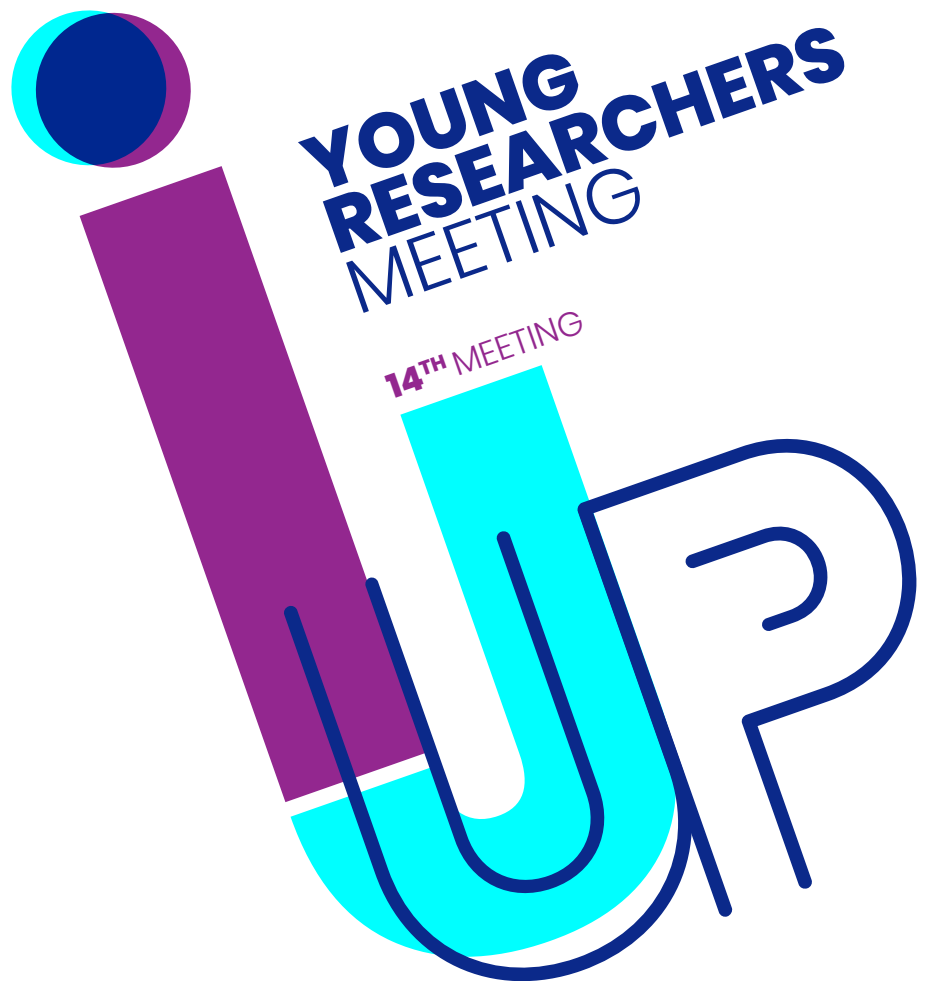




# BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



U. PORTO

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## Rem Koolhaas: Delirious Countryside

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### Abstract

"Only 2% of the surface of the Earth is sitting, where 50% of the global population lives, what happens about the remaining 98%?"

With this simple and alarming statistic, the Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas, OMA's founder, has opened the door to a new field of investigation that has led him to numerous research and surprising results that have been made collected in the exhibition entitled "Countryside, the Future?" in the last year, at the Guggenheim Museum in New York. This presentation aims to actively participate in the global provocation that emerged during the exhibition, which due to the ongoing pandemic, has partially failed to get the potential attention it deserved. The countryside, this new scenario and field of investigation, has always played a marginal role in the architectural panorama of the last centuries, especially focused on the development and spread of the cities. Consequently, also the rural tradition, over the years is gradually fading. The great migration from the countryside to the city in the last century has meant that so far fewer and fewer people are interested in caring for the land, preserving it, increasing the strong caesura toward the human and nature.

The research leads to a conceptual-visual provocation that attempts to synthesise the stages of Rem Koolhaas' own path of investigation, manipulating the cover of his first book, "Delirious New York, A Retroactive Manifesto for Manhattan", 1978. The distinctive features of his architectural theory are highlighted, at first happily influenced by the "bigness" and the overwhelming figure of "Manhattanism", now obscured by a broader image, that of the "Ignored Realm", which includes everything that is not referable to the city, carefully reported and illustrated in the exhibition catalogue, elaborated by AMO, "Countryside: A Report, 2020".

At this point it is fair to ask, "Could Delirious Countryside be a new horizon of our reality?"

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