

- **16975 | FURNITURE EVOLUTION AND TRANSFORMATION AT PUBLIC SCHOOL IN PORTUGAL**

Soares, Pedro, Faculdade de Arquitectura da Universidade do Porto, Portugal

Santos, André, Faculdade de Arquitectura da Universidade do Porto, Portugal

This work is integrated to a research project 1, and aims to understand the evolution of school furniture, from the first primary school built in Portugal in 1866, by the benevolent action of the Count of Ferreira 2, to the latest modernization operation of secondary schools, carried by Parque Escolar. In this context, reasons will be sought, both in the various appropriations of the classroom space, as well as in the way the school furniture can interfere or condition the teaching-learning process.

Two moments of transformation of the classroom paradigm are notorious, the first, the elimination of the teacher's high position, and the second, in 1972, the implementation of the same-sex coeducation regime, and so, favored the conditions for the evolution of furniture, and therefore a greater balance and proximity of the school community.

In addition, it is also important to take into account the moments that are distributed, in a less visible way, throughout the school, such as information support equipment, selective waste collection systems, vending machines and, above all, the spatial contexts characterized by the employees's support furniture scattered throughout the circulation spaces.

In this regard, it's consensual to defend that the quality and relevance of the design and distribution of school furniture, constitutes decisive factors in the cognitive, social and even physical-motor development of the students uses.

The ergonomic condition and versatility are challenges to be integrated in the perspective of its multiple appropriations, providing comfort, being attractive and stimulating new teaching methods, based on the teacher-student approach and interaction. Outdoor furniture should integrate the study in the verification of its appealing conditions in order to contribute to informal learning and playful use.

1- ESCOLAS: Complexidade e Interpretação, under the coordination of Professor Doutor André Santos.

2- Joaquim Ferreira dos Santos (1782-1866).