

- **16682 | Within a topographical Portico: (re)reading the Woodland Crematorium**
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The Woodland Crematorium, represents the last great work of the architect Gunnar Asplund, and plays an exemplary role in his professional path. Located in the Woodland Cemetery, in Stockholm, designed with Sigurd Lewerentz, in 1915, this building establishes a particular dialogue with the landscape, creating an atmosphere of peace and serenity, that tries to respond to the pain and feelings of personal loss.

The ensemble, formed by three chapels and a crematorium, is preceded by a continuous portico. This portico is the main element articulating volumetrically the whole ensemble, composing the first impact on the cemetery's main entrance. Through several architectural themes, symbolic notions, and an atmosphere intent, Asplund drafts the main portico as a temple, ascended by a long promenade, permeable and in constant dialogue with the surrounding nature.

This paper intends to understand and synthesize this enigmatic work, within Asplund's oeuvre, through the notion of an exceptional architectural element: the topographical portico. This monumental shelter welcomes, before and after the funeral ceremony, constituting an important transitional space between interior and exterior but, above all, of permanence and enriched discourse with the whole landscape.

This study is part of an ongoing master thesis on Master's Degree in Architecture, at FAUP, 2019/20, under the supervision of Helder Casal Ribeiro. It is our objective to emphasise the importance of this project in understanding modern architecture's contribution to contemporary discourses and narratives.