

20818 | A Reflection for the future: Essay for the Polo III of UP

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Abstract

The present investigation is based on a reflection about a real need, motivated by the visit and daily use of the *Pólo III* of the University of Porto (*UP*) as a student at the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Porto (*FAUP*), the experience lived during the pandemic period, and with the opportunity of Erasmus in Paris.

Living *Pólo III* allows to perceive its virtues, but also its needs, which as a student and future architect concerns me. The opportunity to meet students from *FAUP* and other faculties within *Pólo III* and other University campuses allowed me to understand how people see and use these places, with a great diversity of opinions and considerations about what *Pólo III* was, is, and what it could be. This made evident the need to (re)think the *Pólo III*.

The research presented here is sensitive to contemporary debates, urgency, and concerns, to the understanding of the public and urban circumstances of the territory of *Pólo III*, and to the capacity of its potential physical, social, and environmental requalification. When pointing out these possible levels of contextualization, the aim is not to disapprove or condemn the idea or projects that are part of *Pólo III*, but rather to note its existing conditions and future potentialities. This justifies the pertinence of this investigation, which aims to be a process of research and critical reflection that responds to the contingencies of the city of today, facing it as an opportunity for renewal and adaptation to the needs of the city, people and education.

Keywords: Adaptivity, Flexibility, University campus, University of Porto, *Pólo III*.