

- **16736 | Architecture of the Essential: A Phenomenological Approach**

Fonseca, Alexandra Nunes, Faculdade de Arquitectura da Universidade do Porto, Portugal
Ribeiro, Helder Casal, Faculdade de Arquitectura da Universidade do Porto, Portugal

"(...) I hope for a new awareness of the tactile dimensions of material and detail, light and space understood from the point of view of individual human experience - a phenomenology of architecture."

Steven Holl's quote evokes the series of symposiums entitled "Alvar Aalto Symposiums" which began in 1979 and have been held every three years since then, whose main purpose is to give rise to reflections on the artistic, social and technical problems/aspects of architecture.

From a careful reading on the first four of these Meetings held in 1979, 1988, 1991 and 1994, with the discussion topics: "Alvar Aalto vs. The Modern Movement", "Architecture and Cultural Values", "Functionalism- Utopia or Way Forward" and "Architecture of the Essential", respectively, we intend to research into the theme set on architecture of the essential through the understanding of the essence of architecture i.e. the notion of architecture as an built idea, an idea of space and a sense of atmosphere within the conditions of place, programme and architectural intent.

Thus, the aim of this work is to evoke the sensorial side of Architecture, valuing individual human experience, having as a premise the contribution of the different protagonists who participated in these Alvar Aalto Symposiums, in order to reflect on the poetic discourses and tactile dimensions in play underlined by the different design themes and architectural notions.

The deepening of these notions aims to understand how this question of sensitivity, the idea of architecture perceived as spatial narratives - atmospheres - is fundamental to better understand the condition of Contemporary Architectural discourses.

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