Post-disaster recovery: the role of design and the introduction of social innovation architecture features.

Background & Framework:

UE countries signed both the UNISDR and the HFA and have on-going discussions in order to build a new framework for the period 2015-2020. Portugal, a UE member and also a member of CPLP, the community of Portuguese speaking countries, have incorporated this strategy in the governmental policy in 2004.

Methods and Goals
Through systematic observation and interviewing, the research will review the National and European strategies for disaster risk reduction in regard to design programs that might expand the potential of resilience and transformation, while questioning the role played by architectural designers. Selected ongoing projects of Portuguese based NGO Building 4Humanity Design and Reconstructing Communities Association will be used as study cases. Ultimately, paper aims to give a contribution to strengthen Portuguese cooperation with CPLP members in areas yet not covered by this cooperation such as post-disaster planning & design & rebuilding and post-recovery assessment.

Hypothesis:
- In disaster recovery, the more sustainable, transforming and resilient accomplishments occur when architects work as both designers and community facilitators, assuming a creative but also a supporting and educational role near stakeholders, instead of merely working as self-sufficient designers or as omnipotent process controllers.

Discussion:
Dealing with severely affected communities involves a few crucial points. The presentation will address these points in the form of questions to be responded in order to stimulate discussion among conference participants:
- How to assist people build to meet their long term physical, psychological, cultural and spiritual needs?
- How to measure the long term impacts of on-field actions?

**Final remarks**

As the role of architects continue to evolve, to prioritize local cultures, knowledge and resources and paying special attention to vulnerable groups (such as women, people with disability, ethnic minorities, youth, elderly and migrant) throughout the design process while exploring and widening design tools (such as mapping, charretes, participatory models, interactive graphic, written and verbal presentations, sketch and 3D print models, etc) acquire a more significant meaning in both before and after disaster actions, plans and programs. This moving from user-centre-designer to experts in facilitation in relation to design and rebuilding issues can smooth the process of reconceptualization of which bodies matter in the practice of architecture in humanitarian aid context and which bodies are yet to emerge as critical matters of concern to be materialized within long term recovery process by an updated design palette in the years to come - resilience, transition, green design, communities participatory action, social change, Well-Being, Quality of Life?

Key words: *post-disaster rebuilding, design tools, disaster reduction, Well-Being, Quality of Life*

Theme: Presentation of paper with discussion