"Architecture on Paper and sustainable materials."
Sustainable materials as methodological support of the graphical thinking process in the development of a creative aesthetic language.

Mário S. Ming Kong
CIAUD Research Center, Faculty of Architecture, Lisbon University
Faculdade de Arquitetura - Universidade de Lisboa – FA-UL
Lisbon, Portugal
mskong@fa.utl.pt

Abstract
The concept of sustainability in construction appears in various forms and with a plurality of terms. The aim is to reduce consumption and energy losses, the protection of biodiversity of natural systems and the integration of the built environment with the natural environment, without sacrificing comfort and beauty. In this sense it is useful to look not only around us but also to the past and find inspiration in historical models.

We strongly believe that architecture, being a product of imagination, creativity and ideation, arises from relations that the thought establishes between what we know, what we yearn for and the notion of harmony and proportion that is intrinsic to us.

In this research we analyze the applicability of sustainable materials such as paper and bamboo, as support of the graphical thought, using these materials during the creative process, as a methodological tool for the development of a creative aesthetic language in architectural design, and not only as a sustainable element in the implementation of architectural design.

We will devote particular attention in our study to constructions in China and Japan, where centuries ago a way of life emerged out of necessity and economy of means, dominated by a philosophy based on aesthetic proportions and harmony.

Our research is based on documentary analysis of works performed in the western and eastern world over the centuries, which resulted in the creation of a research unit in the field of architecture in paper and sustainable materials.

With this our project, we aim to provide academic reflection on the role and importance of sustainable materials in general and in particular on the presence of harmony and proportion in Memory and Cultural Identity, as elements that will encourage and develop avenues for development of an architectural language in the context of sustainable construction.

Keywords

I. INTRODUCTION
Current society, having perceived that its survival on Earth is directly related to the management of natural resources, is increasingly concerned about its habitat, in this sense; it is more attentive to the growth of consumption, the waste that this consumption causes and its impact on the environment.

Before the industrial revolution, which gave rise to the consumption society of today, man used the materials that exist around them as animal skins, clay, wood, plant fibres, stone, etc., to satisfy their needs in terms of housing, clothing and objects of common use. Waste was minimal, since everything was harnessed and reused, and the raw materials were mostly from sustainable sources.

However, successive scientific discoveries and the continued development of knowledge and techniques have relieved these materials over time to the background, giving privilege to new methods of production and use of new materials. The use of metals, the mass production of glass, plastics and other processed materials are common examples of this process of the domination of nature by man.

It is of note that, as with all technological developments that happened to this day, the consequences of development leaves marks and questions to be answered. Thus, there is, today, a mutation in the relationship between humanity and the use of materials. The use of synthetic materials that accompany the new requirements of production and its use tend to deplete the availability of natural resources. This reality has led to an increased awareness of the population to the principles of sustainable development and posed new challenges that relate to the sustainability of consumption and the need to consider as an alternative the options to reduce, reuse and recycle materials and products.

In this context, in the field of contemporary architecture, the issues associated with sustainable construction have proved of great importance.