

CICA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ARCHITECTURAL CRITICISM 2026

ARCHITECTURAL CRITICISM: RESISTANCE AND COMMITMENT

Hybrid Conference: 10-11, 17-18 October 2026 at the
Casa da Arquitectura – Portuguese Centre for Architecture
Matosinhos, Portugal



Call for Abstracts

Truth, if rigorously deduced, then uttered or written, leads to enlightenment. In his Nobel Prize for Literature acceptance speech of 1957, Albert Camus reminded us that writers serve truth and liberty: "the nobility of our craft will always be rooted in two commitments, difficult to maintain: the refusal to lie about what one knows and the resistance to oppression."

Today, once again the world faces the collapse of shared meaning and the erosion of collective hope, natural and human catastrophes, the rise of military and oppressive regimes, the annihilation of communities, and the violent seizure of land. In this context, writing reasserts itself as an act of resistance, a means of giving voices to those who remain unheard.

Where architecture is professionally compromised by its dependence on power, architectural criticism has the potential to be a space of resistance and commitment within the discipline, capable of uncovering the hidden structures of power, meaning, and social formation.

Abstracts

Abstracts (max. 500 words) should propose one case study that has been visited by the author that will serve as a paradigm for the conference topic. Please submit the abstract via:
<https://forms.gle/TAzcKBt47ZVbGzKc7>

Conference

The selection to the conference is in two stages: first, acceptance of abstracts; second, development of abstracts into draft papers. Based on these, authors will be invited to one of the four sessions together with the keynote lecturers of the hybrid conference 10-11, 17-18 October 2026.

Publication

The proceedings will be published in 2027 by Park Books of Zurich.

Keynote Lecturers

Patti Anahory
Kazi Khaleed Ashraf
Valerio Paolo Mosco
Joan Ockman

Organization

Ana Tostões (Chair), Pedro Baía, Nuno Grande, Carlos Machado e Moura, João Belo Rodeia, Luís Santiago Baptista, Marta Sequeira, Susana Ventura

Partnership

Casa da Arquitectura – Portuguese Centre for Architecture
CICA International Committee of Architectural Critics

Conference Format

The hybrid format of the conference allows for active debate between the audience and lecturers. Presentations are succinct to allow for ample discussion time. Besides the four keynote lectures, there will be up to 16 short papers; depending on the availability of funds, authors of short papers will be invited to the Casa da Arquitectura. The conference will be recorded and placed on YouTube. The conference language will be in English. Attendance is open and free of charge.

Dates

Call for Abstracts	3 March 2026
Deadline for Abstracts	30 April 2026
Notification of Acceptance	29 May 2026
Submission of Draft Papers	26 June 2026
Return of Edited Papers	28 August 2026
Conference Sessions	10-11, 17-18 October 2026

Organizing Committee

Ana Tostões, IST University of Lisbon;
Nuno Sampaio, Ana Pinto, Carla Barros, Casa da Arquitectura – Portuguese Centre for Architecture, Matosinhos;
Pedro Baía, Nuno Grande, Carlos Machado e Moura, Luís Santiago Baptista, Marta Sequeira, Susana Ventura

Scientific Committee

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Valerio Paolo Mosco, IUAV, Venice
João Navarrete, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta
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Ana Tostões, CiTUA-Instituto Técnico, Lisbon
Kostas Tsiambaos, National Technical University of Athens
Wilfried Wang, CICA President, Tongji University, Shanghai
Mariana Wilderom, Universidade São Judas Tadeu