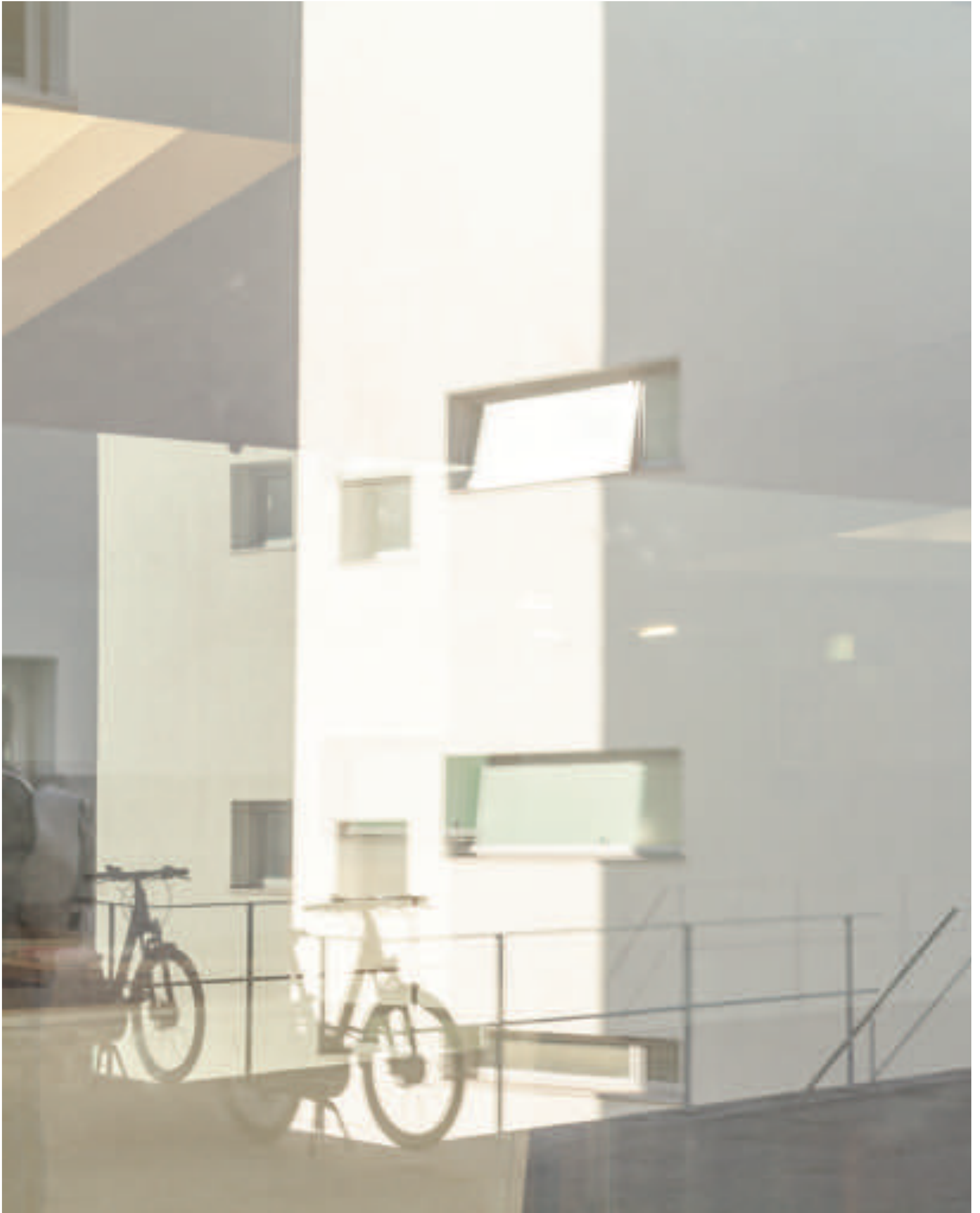


# SCOPIO NEWSPAPER

VISUAL SPACES OF CHANGE  
THE IDEA OF ÁLVARO SIZA  
by Mark Durden and João Leal  
#1 September 2020













































































## THE IDEA OF ÁLVARO SIZA

BY MARK DURDEN AND JOÃO LEAL

As John Szarkowski noted in his 1956 book *Architecture*:

“When photographers of the nineteenth century first made architectural photography, they were concerned with building their own aesthetic habit.”

According to Szarkowski, the application of this habit of concentrating on the forms of buildings as the insect enclosed in the amber of photography’s “life facts” as well as the people who had worked in and ignored and perhaps

This series of photographs takes its cue from Szarkowski’s approach. The photographs do not attempt to illustrate the buildings and their pictorial response to Álvaro Siza Viera’s buildings, we were very much aware that we were photographing a work of another’s much more encompassing and comprehensive art. Our concern as a result has been much with the tensions between photography and architecture.

The Faculty of Architecture of the University of Porto involves a virtuoso play of geometric elements, a hyper or embellished detail. By photographing the distortions and abstractions of the buildings’ structures through reflections, as well as models of student work that could be seen through windows. This allowed us to respond both to the chimerical quality of three pavillions: Ramos Pavillion, functioning as a building’s relationship to this that is integral to our pictures—the geometries and white walls may jar with its natural setting. The pavillion’s exterior is constantly animated by what surrounds it. The large expanses of glass the interior court of the Faculty of Architecture. The Bouça photographs are the most straightforward. Our fascination with the tensions between the buildings’ modernist forms and the play of light and shadow upon them, between their symmetries of its structure and use, as well as the ever-changing, colourful,

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## BIOS

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João Leal

## EDITORIAL

Integrated in MFDA-ARP research this newspaper is an Architecture, Art & Image Research newspaper with a special interest in Photography as an instrument of inquiry and expression in the realms of Architecture and Art. The journal is structured around major themes as other periodical publications of Scopio Editions as well as Sophia and these major themes can integrate diverse related projects. We are mostly interested in publishing work that explores the grammar and syntax of photography to build exploratory and critical visual constructs about architecture which stand by themselves. Thus the written text in the journal complements the visual essays and they both create synergies securing that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. scopionewspaper wants to disseminate several works and authors who use photography as an instrument to communicate in a critical, exploratory and innovative way diverse themes related to architecture, and who have a comprehensive understanding of architecture as a practice and discipline able to integrate the dimensions of Art, sociology, history, politics, construction and the like. We are also interested in photographers and researchers whose work explores the material processes of creating, managing and interpreting sets of documents. This means we are interested in material processes where photography is explored as a significant research tool for critical on architecture and urban transformation in their expanded fields.

We want to achieve a greater democratisation and diffusion of the AAI 2 universes by making these themes close to a wider audience, while ensuring the integrity and quality of information, analysis and criticism that characterise the scopio editorial group. scopio news is one of several projects to be developed for each case study of MFDA-ARP will thus have to rehearse a documentary and artistic photography methodology that has architecture as its subject and artistic matter. These photography projects will have as reference the work of diverse authors coming from documentary and / or artistic universe who have architecture as its subject, thus moving away from traditional main stream architectural magazines.

scopionewspaper has technological support for its dissemination and communication in the scopio News Editorial area at scopio network platform. An online platform that creates synergies and interconnects in a more dynamic way Scopio Editions together with the AAI CEAU | FAUP research group, Cityscopio Cultural Association and other institutions and groups outside the academic world. We want to achieve a greater democratisation and diffusion of the AAI 2 universes by making these themes close to a wider audience, while ensuring the integrity and quality of information, analysis and criticism that characterise the scopio editorial group. scopio news is one of several projects to be developed for each case study of MFDA-ARP will thus have to rehearse a documentary and artistic photography methodology that has architecture as its subject and artistic matter. These photography projects will have as reference the work of diverse authors coming from documentary and / or artistic universe who have architecture as its subject, thus moving away from traditional main stream architectural magazines.

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