

The paradigms of the past are being questioned. We now have a desire for rebirth, we aspire for a new vision of the world, and the time has come for the architect to equip himself with his most valuable and unique qualities – the ability to provide a vision of a new world and to convey hope. Today, the proximity between the architect and society is remembered and the academy has been called to participate in this innovative process.

However, the institutions and the profession are in crisis, teaching is outdated and the reflection for its repositioning refers to the urgency of a paradigm shift. The unexpected (re)emergence of counterculture experimental teaching practices in Portugal, outside the academy, raises doubt that architectural education may not be fulfilling its mission.

The potential of radical and utopian imagination was recently defended as a response to the current global SDGs challenges in the European context. In the 1960s and 1970s, the approximation of the two concepts to architectural education gave rise to pedagogical experiences that marked the last real innovation in this panorama. This type of approach and the importance of its return has found resonance in recent theories, seeding future pedagogical ecologies at a time when the future of pedagogical radicalism faces new challenges.

In this context, and because it's fundamental to recognize the power of this mechanisms, a provocative dialogue between them emerges, warning us to the need for its rooting in the training and practice of the Portuguese architect. Therefore, this paper will present a critical reflection through a literature review and original interviews, in order to describe a paradigm shift in architectural education in Portugal and a new perspective at radical and utopian concepts, alerting to their urgent (re) approximation by the understanding and validation of their potential.

## Proximity Between Radical and Utopian Imagination : A Paradigm Shift

*Alexandra Paio  
Inês Nascimento*  
**ISCTE - University Institute of Lisbon**