

a cura di
LETIZIA DIPASQUALE
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LUCIA MONTONI

**Heritage for
people**
*Sharing vernacular
knowledge to build
the future*

authors

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TEACHING VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE: DIFFERENT PEDAGOGICAL APPROACHES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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Vernacular architecture offers a wide range of lessons that can be taught in the courses of architecture and urban design degrees. By applying progressive and strategic methods, these lessons are addressed in nine different courses of the Integrated Masters of Architecture and Urbanism at UPT. This represents almost 20% of the credits of the Integrated Master's programme. The approach began at the Escola Superior Gallaecia and is now continued at Portucalense University (UPT), following the integration of the school into the University, in September 2021.

Portucalense University promotes pedagogical innovation through regular training programmes, open to all its professors. It intends to change the interaction between students and professors, creating a positive environment where creativity and engagement are valued. One of the most effective ways of involving students with vernacular architecture is the Project Based Learning method. This tool engages students in real-case scenarios, stimulating communication skills, creativity, and critical thinking. In the course of *Materials and Construction Analysis*, students were asked to choose traditional and sustainable materials and to develop a project where they researched the selected material from a critical perspective. In the end, students present their work on a public exhibition with a poster, an oral presentation, and a sample of the material. Another example was developed at the *Design Studio-Concept* course, taught by Dr. Gilberto Carlos and Dr. Luís Paulo Pacheco. In this case, students were asked to create a traditional timber structure to be constructed at the university campus. They proposed different projects, and professors and students selected the most consistent proposal to be built. Besides the development of the design and function, students were engaged in the preparation of the materials and throughout all the construction phases. Finally, another pedagogical approach towards vernacular architecture is the students' participation in workshops. In that same course, a visit and a workshop were organised at an architect's studio that works exclusively with traditional and ecological materials. Following a theoretical presentation, students participated in a practical workshop of *Yakisugi* – a traditional Japanese technique that preserves wood by superficially burning it. The know-how acquired by students was skillful and contributed to a worthwhile learning process experience.

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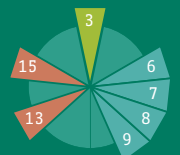
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USERS

University students

VERSUS SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES

3. Reducing environmental impact
6. Preserving the cultural landscape
7. Transmitting and sharing building cultures
8. Encouraging creativity
9. Recognising intangible values
13. Optimising construction efforts
15. Saving resources



Posters and samples of traditional and ecological materials

Pergola developed by the students and implemented on the university campus

Yakisugi workshop
(credits: T. Ribeiro)