

Authenticity and Values

Fran Silvestre

In our case, it is not a matter of prioritizing our vision or of seeking authenticity in each of the projects. For us, dialogue is very important, which is always present, since the work becomes part of the identity of those who inhabit it. It is an unmistakable expression of your personality or your corporate culture. Likewise, in each project we look for continuity. Continuity with both the environment that we must respect, as well as understood from a spatial and temporal point of view, valuing the architecture that is capable of going through time without becoming obsolete.

In fact, the focus of the projects arises from a double commitment: the will to give a technical response to a specific context and the desire to seek beauty through the built work, pursuing the satisfaction of all those who actively participate in the development. Especially users, but also collaborators, builders and designers. We should also mention our theoretical basis, which is nourished by the work of Álvaro Siza, for whom I was fortunate to work for two years, as well as the sculptural production of Andreu Alfaro. The relationship with both is crucial to understand the evolution of the study. In the case of Portuguese, it goes far beyond architecture, since it has to do with an attitude, the attitude of the relationship with work. In this sense, it is José Saramago who explains it in a clearer way, as he said that “in essence we are the essence of what we do”. The identity of each and the authenticity



Fran Silvestre Arquitectos, Photographer: Fernando Guerra

of what he does or produces ends up being the same. As for Alfaro, the connection with his work through his workspace, his workshops, where today is the study of Fran Silvestre Arquitectos, leads to the development of a same production philosophy, a process articulated in all its phases. On the other hand, it is worth mentioning the legacy, which is often

something that has been lost. Both with Siza and with Alfaro one is very clear about what is the legacy and the intangible importance of what people like them leave for posterity. Because in the end, it is the succession of an inheritance, of a knowledge that is impossible to be in a book, which makes it something of great importance. Also the precision, one

of the keys of the system of work, that demands a concentrated and attentive activity throughout the process, from the initial idea until its materialization, is an intrinsic aspect in the work of the Valencian sculptor that has also been absorbed.

As a whole, aspects such as seriation and modulation give a good account



Fran Silvestre Arquitectos, Photographer: Fernando Guerra



Fran Silvestre Arquitectos, Photographer: Fernando Guerra



Fran Silvestre Arquitectos, Photographer: Fernando Guerra

of this, reflecting in ways that underlie a deep and meticulous study of the field of geometry. The analysis of space on the one hand and light on the other are some of the acquired characteristics of the Portuguese teacher, being reinterpreted and adapted to be endowed with a personality of their own. The form takes as reference the sculpture of the Valencian artist cited above, reconsidering it to turn it into a habitable space, practical and particular. Likewise, and as an acquired

knowledge of both, the use of innovation is emphasized. New materials, new technologies, that improve the lives of people.

And those components that together form the architecture of the study, are aimed at the search for the purity of the form through a language that, as an architectural grammar, tends to the systematization of the process. It has not so much to do with the style, which would be calligraphy, but

with the concept. A series of forms, or pieces, that, through internal experimentation, give rise to the different projects that until now have seen the light.

Broadly speaking, throughout our professional career, very diverse types of buildings are collected. Work done with high budgets and made with low budgets, but in all cases has paid great attention to the economy, without waste.

And finally, the team. The authenticity in the design is based on the integration of a network of professionals who coincide in the pleasure for their work. A team that produces an environment of shared creativity capable of generating a contagious motivation, taking care of what is in process and excited about what is to come.