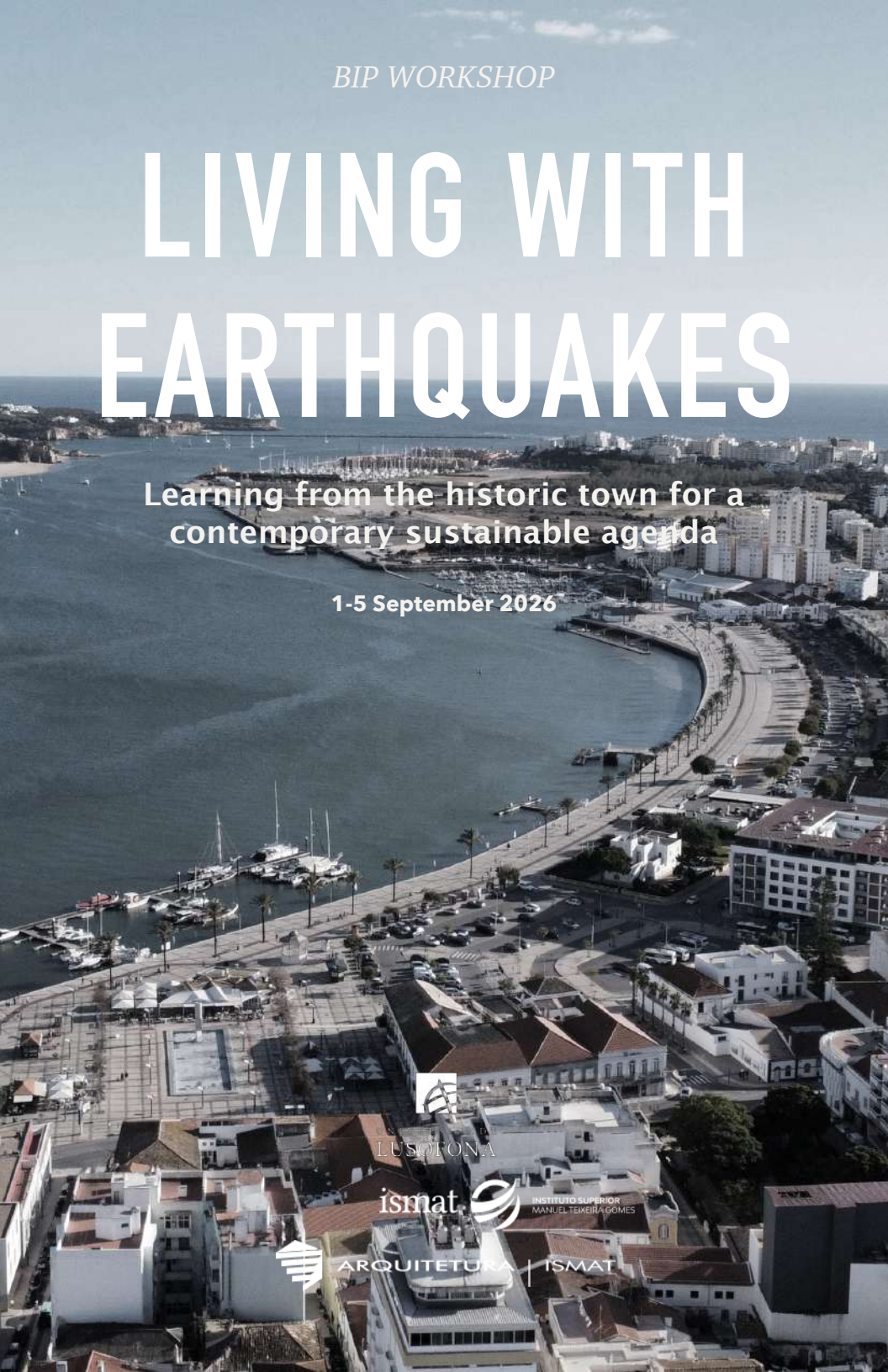
BIP WORKSHOP

LIVING WITH EARTHQUAKES

Learning from the historic town for a contemporary sustainable agenda

1-5 September 2026



LUSÓFONA

ismat INSTITUTO SUPERIOR MANUEL TEIXEIRA GOMES

ARQUITETURA | ISMAT

Erasmus+

Title: LIVING WITH EARTHQUAKES
Learning from the historic town for a contemporary sustainable agenda
Set 2026

Coordination: Ana Bordalo
Maria Rita Pais

Scientific Committee: Ana Bordalo, Andrea Fanfoni, Antonelo Alici, Justyna Borucka, Maria Rita Pais, Spela Hudnik

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Dipartimento di Architettura, Università degli Studi "G. d'Annunzio" Chieti - Pescara [DdA, Italy];
Department for Humanistic, Scientific and Social Innovation, Università degli Studi della Basiliticata [USB, Italy]
University of Bolonha [UB, Italy]
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SINOPSE

This program addresses the architectural and urban legacies of seismic events, reflecting on how historic towns can inform a sustainable and resilient design agenda today. It explores the interplay between built form and landscape, while critically examining strategies of reconstruction and transformation in the aftermath of historic earthquakes. By revisiting these processes, the discussion aims to frame methodologies that bridge heritage values, community engagement, and future-oriented architectural practice.

This workshop will gather specialists, students and local stakeholders on a common work to understand, debate and propose architectural solutions for the future of this heritage.

2
CASE-STUDY: PORTIMÃO

The Algarve region, in southern Portugal, forms a culturally layered landscape shaped by both natural forces and human settlement. Its coastal and fluvial topographies, marked by estuaries and the Atlantic horizon, have produced urban forms that embody resilience and adaptation.

Portimão, has a very ancient human occupation, with prehistoric remains and evidence of successive seafaring peoples such as the Phoenicians, Greeks, Carthaginians and Romans, who took advantage of the excellent natural harbour of the Arade River for trade. From the fifteenth century onwards, it developed as a structured urban centre, with the foundation of São Lourenço da Barrosa/ Vila Nova de Portimão, the construction of the main church and defensive walls, and its integration into the dynamics of Portuguese maritime expansion. In the nineteenth century, the canning industry and the fishing port drove strong economic and urban growth, transforming the town into an important industrial centre in the Algarve. In 1924, Portimão was granted city status, consolidating itself as a regional urban hub which, over the course of the twentieth century, gradually shifted from an industrial and port city to

a tourist destination focused on its beaches and coastal landscape.

The downtown area of Portimão is structured as the city's traditional urban core, located on the right bank of the Arade River and organized around its riverside axis and former port. It is characterized by a dense grid of small- and medium-scale blocks, with buildings predominantly for housing and ground-floor local commerce, preserving significant features of nineteenth- and twentieth-century architecture. The urban fabric adapts to the gentle topography descending towards the river, creating a network of narrow streets, squares and open spaces that function as the main public realm with strong pedestrian activity. In recent years, urban regeneration and the pedestrianization of several streets have strengthened the role of the downtown as a historic and commercial centre and as a high-quality urban waterfront facing the estuary.

The workshop will address the construction and transformation of urban space at different scales, with a focus on the downtown of Portimão. It aims to provide students with methodological tools to critically analyze the relationship between architecture, urban form, and social practices, in order to envision strategies for sustainable and resilient urban futures.

Participants will be introduced to established approaches in the study of urban life, including methods inspired by Jan Gehl, that emphasize the social, cultural, and psychological dimensions of public space. Spatial analysis, mapping, and overlay techniques will be employed to interpret urban morphology and to explore

new possibilities for contemporary urban density. Case studies in Portimão serve as laboratories to identify exceptional spatial conditions in historic environments and to reframe them as drivers for innovative design responses.

The pedagogical framework is structured around three interrelated categories:

1.The physicality of space – material, tectonic, and morphological dimensions.

2.The narrative of space – historical layers, memory, and Inclusion and diversity; Sustainability; Citizenship

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WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

Studying and teaching methods

Active methodology for monitoring and guiding the work developed by students in working groups with elements from all universities working together.

Learning outcomes

Multidisciplinary research, social responsibility, sustainability, promote innovation and entrepreneurship, multicultural approaches

Evaluation criteria and methods

The assessment of the students will be done by the supervisors of the group work and by the representatives of the municipalities involved in the project that will award the best projects.

Primary teaching/training language

English

City and country of the venue

Portimão, Portugal

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AGENDA

28.08.2026
Online Session

01.09.2026 – 05.09.2026
Duration: ***five days***
Activities: ***Design workshop***

31.08.2026 / arrival day
Arrival in Portimão.

01.09.2026 / Auditório do Museu de Portimão
Introductory seminar introducing the place, its cultural qualities, and the workshop methodology.
Group organisation and site investigation in Portimão.
Meeting with the local community and first work review.

02.09.2026 / ISMAT
Full-day comparative study in Portimão, exploring its unique cultural and urban values.
Work review in the afternoon.
Meeting with the local community and first work review.

03.09.2029 / ISMAT
Workshop activities in Portimão, with continued application of the methodology. Work review in the afternoon.

04.09.2029 /ISMAT
Group preparation of presentations. Afternoon session for presenting preliminary findings to the local communities.

05.09.2026 / Auditório do Museu de Portimão
Final Presentations.
Closing dinner to celebrate the outcomes and exchange reflections at ISMAT.

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ONLINE SESSION

The online session for students and teachers will take place the **28.08.2026** at **14:00** [WEST - Western European Summer Time] to introduce:

14:00	**Welcome**	
14:10	**BIP Presentation**	
14:30	**Pablo Allarde** Fables of the reconstruction: Lessons from the 2010 earthquake and Tsunami in Chile	
15:15	**BIP Information**	

Zoom Link:
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82444053541

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1ST DAY CONFERENCE

Autitório do Museu de Portimão

10:30	**Workshop Presentation**	
10:45	**Antonello Alici:** Living with earthquakes. The social dimension	Living with earthquakes. A strategic plan for the earthquake prone regions' is a research project conceived in 2017 by the Department of Civil and Construction Engineering and Architecture (DICEA) of the Polytechnic University of Marche in collaboration with the University of Cambridge and a broad international partnership. It suggests a new vision and roadmap that goes beyond the concept of emergency and temporary recovery to accepting the seismic nature of the place as the founding stone for an adequate process of prevention and adaptation. The research focuses on how the response to the seismic events has shaped landscapes, towns and villages, how it has affected the evolution of building technics, marked religious worship, as well as the rituals and everyday life of the communities. Therefore, to study the history of these events becomes a priority. Today, the earthquake can offer an opportunity to re-write the history of the place and promote a culture of prevention and maintenance towards a sustainable future in close cooperation with the local communities and stake-holders.

11:30	**Maria da Graça Ventura** Portimão Before and After the Earthquake of 1755: A City Shaped by its maritime condition	This lecture by Maria da Graça Ventura examines the urban, architectural, and socio-economic evolution of Portimão, exploring how the catastrophic earthquake of 1755 fundamentally redefined its spatial fabric. Centered on the city's intrinsic relationship with the Atlantic Ocean and the Arade River, the session analyzes how Portimão's maritime condition, coastal defensive structures, and harbor economy dictated both its pre-disaster layout and its subsequent post-earthquake reconstruction and modernization.
	Lunch	
14:00	**Dana Arnold:** Space, Time and the Metropolis	I am interested in the convergence of space and time within the metropolis and the impact this has on our understanding and experience of urban environments. Our ideas about the function, significance and value of architecture as design and as built heritage can shift over time and are influenced by cultural, social and physical circumstances. Here I use London Bridge in all its various forms, geographical locations and historical complexities to explore how we might think about the interaction between past and present within the context of the city and how the spatial location of objects, including buildings can inflect on their meaning. In this way the intertwined nature of the practice of architecture and research in architecture is explored.

14:45	**Simon Kaner** Authenticity, integrity and the value of reconstructing ancient 'Japanese' architecture	In a country where wooden (and latterly concrete) architecture reigns supreme, most people encounter Japan's ancient past through reconstructions - of buildings, objects and dioramas, often in association with modern concrete structures (museums). This presentation will review some prime case studies of prehistoric buildings and early temples through the lens of authenticity and integrity, the two pillars by which UNESCO recognises Outstanding Universal Value, the demonstration of which is central to inscription as World Heritage. Issues that relate to such structures were the imperative behind the Japanese drive to establish the 'intangible' as a category of cultural property. The presentation will focus on the Jomon Sites of Northern Japan https://jomon-japan.jp/en/ https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1632/ (inscribed on the World Heritage list five years ago) and the Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara, including a number of the most important early Buddhist temples https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/870/ (inscribed in 1998) and set these in the context of the many thousands of historical reconstructions throughout Japan, with a brief comparison with the situation in the UK.
16:00	**City walk**	

LAGOS
LAGOA
ALBUFEIRA
FARO
LISBOA
0.15h
0.20h
0.30h
0.50h
1.00h
3.00h
MIA.ISMAT

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TRIP TIPS

Conference Address
Auditório do Museu de Portimão
Rua D. Carlos I Zona Ribeirinha, 8500-607 Portimão

Workshop Address
ISMAT
R. Dr. Estevão de Vasconcelos, 33a, 8500-590 Portimão

Travel Tips

You can consider travel by plan to Lisbon or Faro and then travel by bus or train to Portimão

Staying Tips

Multidisciplinary research, social responsibility, sustainability, promote innovation and entrepreneurship, multicultural approaches

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CONTRIBUTERS

Antonello Alici

Antonello Alici, Master in Architecture at the University of Florence, Italy, Ph.D. and Associate Professor in Architectural History at Polytechnic University of Marche, Ancona, Member of the Doctorade School in Engineering Sciences, where he holds courses on "Cultural Heritage and Landscapes".

He is the President of Do.co.mo.mo Italia (documentation and conservation of the modern movement), board member of the International Confederation of Architectural Museums (ICAM), board member of the Italian Association of Architectural Historians (Aistarch),and of the Vitruvian Study Center in Fano, Marche.

He is the founder and director of the international research programme and summer school 'Living with Earthquakes. A strategic plan for the earthquake prone regions' which proposes a holistic approach to the recovery of the Appennine areas in central Italy.

His research interests deal with the history of landscape, city and architecture as well as architectural conservation theory, museums and archives and cultural heritage. He has lectured and published on 19th and 20th Century city and architecture, with a special focus on the Nordic Countries, Great Britain and Italy.

Dana Arnold

Professor Dana Arnold FSA is Professor of Art and Cultural Heritage at the Sainsbury Institute, University of East Anglia. She is an internationally renowned authority in the field of Architectural History and Theory whose work has been published in over 25 languages. Her research focuses on feminist and decolonising alternatives to canonical architectural histories and includes *Women and Architectural History* (2024), *Architecture and Ekphrasis* (2020), and *The Spaces of the Hospital* (2014). She is a member of the Arts and Humanities Research Council Advisory Board; Chair of the Programme Board of Research Infrastructure for Conservation and Heritage Science; and Deputy Chair, Research Diversity Advisory Panel for the Research Excellence Framework 2029. Her new book *The Public Consumption of Architecture* will be published by Routledge.

Maria da Graça Ventura

Architect and MArch ‘97 PUC Chile, MAUD ‘99, and Doctor of Design Studies ‘03 from Harvard GSD. Since 2011, he is Dean of the Faculty of Architecture and Art at Universidad del Desarrollo and has been visiting professor at Harvard, the University of Arizona, Tec de Monterrey, the Catholic Universities of Chile and Ecuador. He co-founded the ELEMENTAL do-tank and the Cities Observatory at PUC and served as National Coordinator of Urban Reconstruction for the Ministry of Urbanism after the 2010 earthquake. Former member of the National Councils for Culture and the Arts, Urban Development, and Infrastructure Policies, and director of Fundación Chile. He is currently a principal at Allard & Partners and Nueva Vía Consultants. Board member of The Chilean Railway Company EFE, Cerámicas Santiago, the Junto al Barrio, Cosmos, and Reforestemos Foundations, and columnist for newspaper La Tercera.

Pablo Allardo

Architect and MArch ‘97 PUC Chile, MAUD ‘99, and Doctor of Design Studies ‘03 from Harvard GSD. Since 2011, he is Dean of the Faculty of Architecture and Art at Universidad del Desarrollo and has been visiting professor at Harvard, the University of Arizona, Tec de Monterrey, the Catholic Universities of Chile and Ecuador. He co-founded the ELEMENTAL do-tank and the Cities Observatory at PUC and served as National Coordinator of Urban Reconstruction for the Ministry of Urbanism after the 2010 earthquake. Former member of the National Councils for Culture and the Arts, Urban Development, and Infrastructure Policies, and director of Fundación Chile. He is currently a principal at Allard & Partners and Nueva Vía Consultants. Board member of The Chilean Railway Company EFE, Cerámicas Santiago, the Junto al Barrio, Cosmos, and Reforestemos Foundations, and columnist for newspaper La Tercera.

Simon Kaner

Simon Kaner MA Cantab, PhD (2004) FSA, FRAS is an archaeologist specialising in the prehistory of Japan. He is Professor of Archaeology and Heritage and Executive Director at the Sainsbury Institute, University of East Anglia. A Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London and the Royal Asiatic Society, he has taught and published on many aspects of East Asian and European archaeology. He has undertaken archaeological research in Japan, the UK and elsewhere and worked for several years in archaeological heritage management in the UK. He has curated a number of exhibitions, including at the British Museum, the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge and the Sainsbury Centre in Norwich. His most recent exhibitions were Nara to Norwich: art and belief at the ends of the Silk Roads in Norwich (May 2024) and Circles of Stone: Stonehenge and Prehistoric Japan at the Stonehenge Visitor Centre (2022-23).