

Definitive abstract for paper presentation at the *coupDefouet* International Congress

Art Nouveau looks into the future: bionic interpretation of Art Nouveau in Aveiro Museum

Similarly to other European cities, Aveiro gathers the largest concentration of Art Nouveau buildings in Portugal, reflecting the power of the rising bourgeoisie welfare between the nineteenth and the twentieth century.

The Major Pessoa building (1904), sheltering the *Museu de Arte Nova de Aveiro* [Aveiro Art Nouveau Museum] displays a contrast between a simple sober interior and a monumental exterior exuberance, canvassing decorative elements from different art forms: stonework, woodwork, ceramic work and wrought iron works. Although the house reached our days with no furnishing, since 2008 it accommodates a permanent exhibition displaying original and copied pieces from the Art Nouveau period and artifacts designed according to Biodesign concepts. With this paper we intend to demonstrate the parallelism and recurrence of the organicist vision and the technological-scientific interpretation of nature from a distance of a century. Our thesis is based upon a critical approach to the principles of Art Nouveau and Biodesign, as well as by a comparative study of representative artifacts on display in that innovative exhibition.

Curriculum Vitae

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Francisco Providência is director of the PhD studies in Design at University of Aveiro. He got his PhD in Design with the thesis *Poet is the one who makes; Poetics as innovation in Design*. His scientific research, conciliating philosophy and projective practice, seeks to interpret the creative processes in Design as an aesthetics-ethical manifesto. He owns a Design Studio since 1985 within he develops projects in communication, product and environmental design and museography. He's consultant of the Centro Português de Design and of the Bienal Ibero-American of Design.

Fátima Pombo is Guest Professor at University of Leuven. Her research focuses on phenomenology & interior architecture, design theory and aesthetics. She publishes in journals like *Idea Journal*, *Architectoni.ca*, *The Intern. J. of Architectonic, Spatial and Environmental Design*, *Iconofacto (Arquitectura Y Diseño)*, *J. of British Society for Phenomenology*. In 2005/2006 she spent a sabbatical at Univ. of Barcelona; 1999/2000 researched at Univ. of Munich (fellowship of Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung); 1993/1995 researched on Phenomenology at Univ. of Heidelberg in the framework of her PhD.