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Francesca Vita

Integrated Researcher

DINÂMIA'CET-Iscte - Centre for Socioeconomic Change and Territorial Studies

Contacts

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Curriculum

Francesca Vita is a designer and a researcher. She holds a PhD degree in Architecture (2023) from the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Porto (PT), sponsored by the FCT. In 2015, she spent one year in Guinea-Bissau laying the groundwork for her future researches on domestic space in urban and rural environments, from civilian to military, colonial to post-independence contexts. Her PhD deepens into the topic of colonial legacy in Guinea-Bissau focusing on domestic space: the house imagined, designed, built and then used and transformed. Since 2019 she has been disseminating her studies on colonial legacy and domesticity in international conferences, been awarded in 2022 by the Eleni Bastea award from the IASTE - International Association for the Study of Traditional Environments, for the best article presented about urban studies. Actually, she integrates the research centre Dinâmia'Cet do ISCTE taking part to different research project. From 2016 to 2021, she taught the annual-subject of Dwelling Culture in the interior design bachelor course at the ESAD (Matosinhos, PT) and she has been the art director of the documentary film cycle DESIGNAgorà on design and architecture for two consecutive editions (2019-2021).

Academic Qualifications

University/Institution	Type	Degree	Period
Universidade do Porto	PhD	Arquitetura	2023
Escola Superior de Artes e Design	M.Sc.	Design de Interiores	2013

Total Citations

Web of Science®	1
Scopus	0

Publications

• Scientific Journals

- Scientific journal paper

1	Vita, F. (2023). The entanglement between traditions and colonial spatiality: The resilience of Guinean domesticities in the Ajuda neighborhood, Bissau. <i>Traditional Dwellings and Settlements Review</i> . 34 (2), 39-50
2	Vita, F. (2023). "Uma Guiné Melhor": The psychological action and the spatialization of population control in rural areas. The strategic villages in Guinea-Bissau between 1968-1973. <i>Africana Studia</i> . 1 (39), 59-69 - Times Cited Web of Science®: 1
3	Vita, F. (2020). Património em causa. O legado colonial da política dos reordenamentos populacionais (1968-1973) no contexto rural contemporâneo da Guiné-Bissau. <i>CESContexto</i> . 26, 120-128

• Books and Book Chapters

- Book author

1	Vita, F. (2013). Aires Mateus. Vila do Conde. Verso da História.
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- Book editor

1	Vita, F., Cruz, M., Milano, M & Cardoso, A. S. (2022). Dwelling in transition – Experiences from Lockdown. Matosinhos. esad-idea.
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- Book chapter

1	Vita, F. (2024). The journey of the architect Milanka Lima Gomes from Yugoslavia to Guinea-Bissau (1974-1998). In (to be confirmed).: Dainese, E.
2	Milheiro, A. V., Serrazina, B., Vita, F., Rodrigues, I., Ribeiro, J., Silva, L. M....Pacheco, M. (2023). Decentralising the core: Notes on middle class mass housing in Portugal. In Inês Lima Rodrigues, Dalit Shach-Pinsly, Kostas Tsiambaos, Vlatko P. Korobar (Ed.), <i>European middle-class mass housing: Past and present of the modern community</i> . (pp. 435-441). Lisbon: Iscte-IUL.

• Conferences/Workshops and Talks

- Publication in conference proceedings

1	Rodrigues, I. L. & Vita, F. (2024). Large construction companies in the widespread of modern housing: A comparative analysis between Lisbon and Luanda. In Stefan Holzer, Silke Langenberg, Clemens Knobling, Orkun Kasap (Ed.), <i>Proceedings of the 8th International Congress on Construction History</i> . (pp. 439-446). Zurich: Vdf Hochschulverlag.
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- Conference proceedings editor

1	Serrazina, B. & Vita, F. (2026). Architecture + Infrastructures Working Paper Series #01: Colonial and Post-Colonial Landscapes. Architecture, Cities and Labour. Lisboa. Dinâmia'CET-Iscte.
2	Serrazina, B. & Vita, F. (2026). Architecture + Infrastructures Working Paper Series #02: Colonial and Post-Colonial Landscapes. Architecture, Cities and Labour. Lisboa. Dinâmia'CET-Iscte.

- Talk

1	Vita, F., Serrazina, B. & Milheiro, A. V. (2026). Construction and labour in motion. A methodological approach to film images of colonial infrastructures. International Symposium Construction History & Film.
2	Rodrigues, Inês Lima & Vita, F. (2024). Large construction companies in the widespread of modern housing. A comparative analysis between Lisbon and Luanda. 8th International Congress on Construction History.
3	Serrazina, B. & Vita, F. (2024). The neighbourhood. A research site for questioning the multiple agendas of colonial housing. Housing production in times of conflict (Lieux et Enjeux #1 2024/25).
4	Vita, F. (2024). Milanka Lima Gomes: a journey from Yugoslavia to Guinea-Bissau. Gender struggles in architecture, colonialism, and housing.
5	Vita, F. (2023). Rethinking the domestic. Questioning the colonial discourse on the 'civilized' and 'uncivilized' house. SAH-Historic Interiors Affiliate Group (SAH-HIG) and the Chelsea College of Art (UAL) Symposium "Delving Inside: A New Research Symposium on Interiors".
6	Vita, F. (2023). Between coding and decoding. Inquiring on the late colonial need for surveying the native settlements in Guinea-Bissau. Society of Architectural Historians 76th Annual International Conference.
7	Vita, F. (2023). A house to colonize, house to decolonize. The case study of the Ajuda Neighbourhood, Bissau. Colonial and Post-Colonial Landscapes - Architecture, colonialism, war.
8	Vita, F. (2022). The entanglement between traditions and the colonial spatiality. The resilience of the Guinean domesticities in the Ajuda Neighbourhood, Bissau. IASTE2022 - Rupture and tradition. Disruption, Continuity, Repercussions.
9	Vita, F. (2021). "Middle-class exported". The colonial inscription of European mass housing in Luanda, Maputo and Bissau. Optimistic Suburbia II.
10	Vita, F. (2021). Unpacking colonial legacy in contemporary Guinea-Bissau. The case study of former military resettlements, built by the Portuguese army during the colonial war (1963-1974), and their post-independence layers of appropriation. "Africa challenges", African Studies Association (VAD), Centre for Interdisciplinary African Studies (ZIAF) at the Goethe-University.
11	Vita, F. (2019). "Uma Guiné Melhor": the psychological action and the spatialization of population control in rural areas. The strategic villages in Guinea-Bissau between 1968-1973. Colonial and Post-Colonial Landscapes - Architecture, colonialism, infrastructures.

• Other Publications

- Doctoral Thesis

1	Vita, F. (2023). Arquitetura doméstica em diálogo. O papel da colonização portuguesa na forma de construir e habitar o espaço doméstico contemporâneo na Guiné-Bissau.
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Research Projects

Project Title	Role in Project	Partners	Period
Architecture, Colonialism and Labour. The role and legacy of mass labour in the design, planning and construction of Public Works in former African territories under Portuguese colonial rule	Researcher	DINAMIA'CET-Iscte (CT) - Leader	2024 - 2028
Women architects in former Portuguese colonial Africa: gender and struggle for professional recognition (1953-1985)	Researcher	DINAMIA'CET-Iscte (CT) - Leader, AHU - (Portugal), IPGUL - (Angola)	2023 - 2024
Dominance and mass-violence through Housing and Architecture during colonial wars. The Portuguese case (Guinea-Bissau, Angola, Mozambique): colonial documentation and post-independence critical assessment	Researcher	DINAMIA'CET-Iscte (CT) - Leader, DGLAB - (Portugal), EME - (Portugal), Gulbenkian - (Portugal), IPGUL - (Angola), UAN - (Angola), UEM - (Mozambique)	2021 - 2024

Awards

Eleni Bastea Award (2022)

Organization/Coordination of Events

Type of Organization/Coordination	Event Title	Organizer	Year
Coordination of non-scientific event	Colonial and Post Colonial Landscapes, Roundtable series I - Infrastructures, Labour, War	Dinâmia'CET	2024
Member of scientific event's organizing committee	Gender Struggle in architecture, colonialism and housing	Dinâmia'CET	2024

Member of scientific event's organizing committee	Colonial and Post Colonial Landscapes - Architecture, Colonialism, War	Dinâmia/CET	2023
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