

Taveira's Library:

A Selected Bibliography.

This is not an article about Tomás Taveira. This is a peek into an architect's library, interests and practices. Rather than writing a critical essay about his work, or the moral considerations of his behaviour, what follows is a personal solicitation, a selected bibliography and a brief biographical sketch that depicts reading preferences as a ground from which a knowledge project can be acceded.

**Joana Rafael &
Giovanni Piovene**



Tomás Cardoso Taveira is a Portuguese architect who has worked on projects in Portugal, Brazil, Angola, Senegal, São Tomé and Príncipe, and Cape Verde. He is a graduate of the Lisbon School of Fine Arts and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. After starting his practice at Teotónio Pereira's office, and a year later at Conceição Silva's, he was appointed tutor at the School of Lisbon in 1971. He became chair in 1974, the year Salazar's dictatorship ended. After traveling and living in England and the States, Tomás Taveira introduced a new language into the institutional architecture of the new democratic state of Portugal. His buildings are happy, coloured, well-proportioned and huge – the landmarks of power in the Portuguese capital.

Lisbon, like the city *par excellence*, sits on seven hills. It was once the centre of a large and prosperous empire and the site of a momentous event that marked a historical change in enlightenment thinking. This event, a cataclysm of nature and of purely Earth-bound causality, prompted debates across Europe that affected humanity in general and in particular the theistic moral interpretations of disaster as a consequence of sin. The event yielded the distinction between natural and moral evils.

Atop one of the city's seven hills stands Tomás Taveira's Amoreiras tower complex (1980-1986). The complex is comprised of four mixed-use buildings containing offices, apartments and Portugal's first mall. Floor X of tower X houses the architect's office and library.



Being a cinema obsessive and author of a facetious remake of Andy Warhol's famous "Chelsea Girls" (shot in London instead of New York's homonymous neighborhood), Tomás Taveira has often conceived his buildings as film sets. For the Portugal of the 90s, some of Taveira's films were the focus of several socially uncomfortable debates on the intersection between architecture and moralism. Those who were critical of Taveira tended to regress to a pathetic conflation of natural and moral evil. We bring his library, the background of one of his films into the foreground. The aim of this work is to portray Taveira's intellectual curiosity.

In bookshelves we discern not just reading preferences but a systematic organization; often coherent ground on which a personal and quirky rational knowledge project is built.

Caro Professor Arquitecto Tomás Taveira,

Sou uma arquitecta, candidata a doutoramento na Universidade de Goldsmith, Londres que contribui regularmente para diversas revistas e publicações na area de arquitectura.

Foi-me pedido, recentemente, a apresentação de um arquitecto português com, entre outras premissas, obra e reconhecimento significativo, pelo que gostaria de pedir a sua colaboração. Esta colaboração conta com a apresentação de uma lista dos livros, ou de 30 a 40 livros, que possui na sua biblioteca pessoal. E é motivado, obviamente, ideia de que livros não são objectos isolados mas parte de um sistema de relações e correlações a que nos apoiamos como mecanismo de compreensão e, cuja escolha é indicativa da nossa curiosidade intellectual. A apresentação, artigo que tenciono desenvolver é de co-autoria com o arquitecto Giovanni Piovene, um amigo italiano com quem estou também a desenvolver um projecto de investigação e arquivo que compreende a biblioteca de uma série de arquitectos entre os quais estava já previsto incluir a sua. Por este motivo, o artigo compreenderia portanto apenas desenhos axometricos de algumas das suas obras - que estamos já a desenvolver - e, a sua biblioteca pessoal.

Atenciosamente,

Joana Rafael

Cara Joana,

Ai vai o que me tinha pedido, espero que sirva.
Se precisar de mais alguma coisa disponha.

Cumprimentos,

Tomás Taveira

Dear Professor Tomás Taveira,

I am an architect and Phd candidate at Goldsmiths, University of London, developing, together with my colleague Giovanni Piovene, a research project and archive of a series of architects among whom we would like to include you. This would comprise a brief description of your practices and the presentation of a list of 30-40 books from your personal library.

The archive is motivated by the idea that books are not isolated objects but part of a system of relations and correlations in which we support as mechanism for experiencing and understanding; and whose choice is indicative of our intellectual curiosity, often quirky rationale.

Yours sincerely,

Joana Rafael

Dear Joana,

Here is what you asked of me, I hope it serves.
If you need anything else, let me know.

Regards,

Tomás Taveira

Bernd Evers, Christoph Thoenes, et al. *Architectural Theory from the Renaissance to the Present* (Taschen, 2003)

Catherine Cooke, Andrew E. Benjamin, *Deconstruction: omnibus volume* (Academy Editions, 1988)

Rem Koolhaas, *Delirious New York: a retroactive manifesto for Manhattan* (Academy Editions, 1991)

Matthew Drutt, Kazimir Severinovich Malevich, *Kazimir Malevich: suprematism* (Guggenheim Museum, 2003)

Luigi Ficacci, Giovanni Battista Piranesi: *Selected Etchings* (Taschen, 2001)

Mario Zadow, Karl Friedrich Schinkel (Rembrandt Verlag, 1980)

Stephen Victor Ward, *Planning the twentieth-century city: the advanced capitalist world* (Wiley, 2002)

Demetri Porphyrios, *Sources of Modern Eclecticism* (Academy Editions, 1982)

Heinrich Klotz, *Filippo Brunelleschi: The Early Works and the Medieval Tradition* (Academy Editions, 1990)

David Sylvester, *René Magritte* (Thames and Hudson, 1992)

Virgilio Vercelloni, *Atlante storico dell'idea europea della città ideale* (Jaca Book, 1994)

Robert Halpern, *Rebuilding the Inner City* (Columbia University Press, 1995)

Edward Denison, Guang Yu Ren, *Building Shanghai: The Story of China's Gateway* (Wiley-Academy, 2006)

Christoph Kohl, *The making of a Town: Potsdam-Kirchsteigfeld* (Papadakis Publishers, 1999)

Preston Scott Cohen, *Contested Symmetries and Other Predicaments in Architecture* (Princeton Architectural Press, 2001).

Wolfgang Pehnt, *Expressionist architecture in drawings* (Van Nostrand Reinhold Co., 1985)

Aaron Betsky, Adam Eeuwens, *False Flat: Why Dutch Design is So Good* (Phaidon Press Ltd., 2010)

Tomás Taveira, *Discurso da Cidade* (Edições Próprio, 1973)

Tomás Taveira, Geoffrey Broadbent, *Tomás Taveira: Architectural Works and Designs* (Academy Editions, 1990)

Alan Balfour, *World Cities: New York* (John Wiley & Sons, 2001)

Robert E. Park, Ernest W. Burgess, *The City: Suggestions for the Investigation of Human Behavior in the Urban Environment* (University of Chicago Press, 1967)

Peter Frederick Smith, *Sustainability at the Cutting Edge: Emerging Technologies for Low Energy Buildings* (Architectural Press, 2007)

Gilles Béguin, Dominique Morel, *The Forbidden City: center of imperial China* (H.N. Abrams Publishers, 1997)

Nikolaus Pevsner, *The Sources of Modern Architecture and Design* (Thames & Hudson, 1991)

Charles Jencks, *What is post-modernism?* (Academy Editions, 1996)

Charles Jencks, *Ecstatic Architecture* (Academy Editions, 1999)

Charles Jencks, *The Post-Modern Reader* (Academy Editions, 2011)

Aldo Rossi, *The Architecture of the City* (MIT Press, 1985)

James Laver, Amy de La Haye, Andrew Tucker, *Costume and Fashion: A Concise History* (Thames and Hudson, 2012)

Michael Collins, Andreas Papadakis, *Post-modern Design* (Academy Editions, 1990)

Christian Norberg-Schulz, *Modern Architecture* (Andreas Papadakis Publishers, 2000)

Robert Venturi, Denise Scott Brown, *Learning from Las Vegas* (MIT Press, 1972)

Marta Iris Montero, Martha Schwartz, *Burle Marx: The Lyrical Landscape* (Thames and Hudson, 2001)

Franco Mancini, *L'evoluzione dello spazio scenico dal naturalismo al teatro epico* (Edizioni Dedalo, 1986)

Harold Linton, Wendy Lochner, *Color in Architecture: Design Methods for Buildings, Interiors and Urban Spaces* (McGraw-Hill, 2003)

Terry Rew, *Feng Shui Today* (Images Publishing Group Pty Ltd, 2000)

Hattie Hartman, *London 2012 Sustainable design : Delivering an Olympic legacy : An Official London 2012 Games Publication* (Wiley and Sons, 2012)

Michael Pawlyn, *Biomimicry in Architecture* (RIBA Publishing, 2011)

Joana Carla Soares Goncalves, *The Environmental Performance of Tall Buildings* (Earthscan, 2010)

Sang Lee, *Aesthetics of Sustainable Architecture* (O10 Publishers, 2012)

Robert Klanten, Lukas Feireiss, *Utopia Forever: Visions of Architecture and Urbanism* (Die Gestalten Verlag, 2011)

