

Urban Art analysis

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The present article arises in the context of an urban rehabilitation process which took place in Bairro Alto, a neighbourhood in Lisbon. This process, which was set in movement in July of the year 2008, aimed, amongst other things, to re-establish a visual uniformity of the public surfaces that both integrate and delimitate this specific area. Indeed, for more than two decades, a variety of non-regulated and non-commissioned personal and visual expressions multiplied and were gradually rejected by the local actors.

Having a durable rehabilitation as objective, the city council had the need to identify, preserve and promote the quality of some of these visual expressions whose authors are internationally recognised by credited contemporary art institutions such as the Tate Modern Museum, the Cartier Foundation, and so on.

This being, the definition of the theme in analysis, that is, "Urban Art", is clarified through a chronological summary of the terms' applications. Given the complexity of the term itself only the relevant aspects of its definition to this paper are here presented.

The analysis methods adopted are those which are generally applied to analyse the characteristics of public spaces and here identified to be useful to analyse "Urban Art".

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