

Municipal cemeteries of Lisbon, strategies for the reintegration of Thanatos in Polis

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The theme of this paper is the urban dimension of cemeteries. It proposes a reflection into the spatiality of burial spaces, their functionality and operating modes. The subjects of study are the Municipal Cemeteries of Lisbon, Portugal. The aim is to understand their contribution to both the renaissance of the urban environment and the provision of good quality services, and also to recommend practical solutions founded on the principles of design excellence. It is argued that the regeneration of burial spaces will undoubtedly fosters the integration of cemeteries precincts within the urban legacy and therefore in the ethos of life itself. The paper considers three parts. The first one is focused on the thematic of death itself including the attitude of Man towards death, followed by its materialization through the definition and composition of burial spaces and consequent integration within the urban life. The second part refers to the case study - Lisbon Municipal Cemeteries. An individual analysis of each cemetery based on the description of its spatial layout and architecture features is provided. The third and last part brings about design guidelines to cemetery precincts. They are addressed in an integrated manner so as to become adaptable to the growing physical and social diversity of the contemporary city.

Keywords: cemeteries, death, urban dimension, spatial layout and architecture