

Universidades Lusíada

Bucha, Luís Carlos

The shell as spatial emergence : a house for and from the body

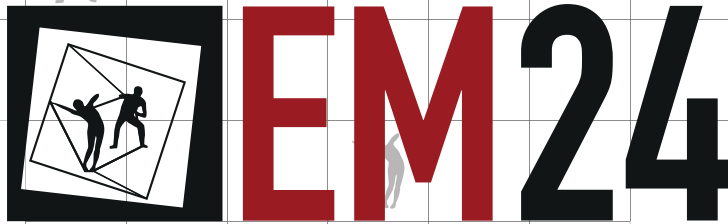
<http://hdl.handle.net/11067/8691>

Metadados

Data de Publicação	2024
Tipo	bookPart
Editora	Pública

Esta página foi gerada automaticamente em 2026-10-29T21:59:18Z com informação proveniente do Repositório

PUBLICA



EURAU - EUROPEAN RESEARCH ON ARCHITECTURE
AND URBANISM INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

IN-PRESENCE / THE BODY AND THE SPACE

The role of corporeity in the era of virtualization

Edited by: Marco Bovati, Anna Moro, Daniele Villa

ISBN: 978 · 88 · 99586 · 40 · 9

Marco Bovati, Anna Moro, Daniele Villa
IN-PRESENCE / THE BODY AND THE SPACE.
The role of corporeity in the era of virtualization
© PUBLICA, Alghero, 2024
ISBN: 9788899586409
Pubblicazione luglio 2024

Tutti i testi di PUBLICA sono sottoposti a double peer review.

PUBLICA
Dipartimento di Architettura, Urbanistica e Design
Università degli Studi di Sassari
WWW.PUBLICAPRESS.IT

/ EURAU NETWORK

EURAU is a network of schools and researchers in Architecture which meets biannually in a symposium to share their investigations.

EURAU's primary goal is to establish a debate and discussion on contemporary discourses about Architecture, City and Environment. This is a committed action organized by universities that contributes to the European Strategy for the transition towards a sustainable and inclusive society. Initiated by the French Ministry of Culture, EURAU has been active since 2004 organizing ten international conferences by different Schools of Architecture in various European cities: Marseille (2004), Lille (2005), Brussels-Liège-Mons (2006), Madrid (2008), Napoli (2010), Porto (2012), Istanbul (2014), Bucharest (2016), Alicante (2018), Birmingham-Staffordshire (2020-21).

The Department of Architecture and Urban Studies of the Politecnico di Milano organises at the School of Architecture Urban Planning Construction Engineering (AUIC), EURAU Milan 2024 "IN-PRESENCE / THE BODY AND THE SPACE - The role of corporeity in the era of virtualization", the eleventh edition of the international conference, which takes place from 19 to 22 June 2024.



POLITECNICO
MILANO 1863

DIPARTIMENTO DI ARCHITETTURA
E STUDI URBANI
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE
AND URBAN STUDIES



Universitat d'Alacant
Universidad de Alicante



U.PORTO
FACULDADE DE ARQUITECTURA
UNIVERSIDADE DO PORTO



UMEÅ
UNIVERSITY

ITÜ



POLITÉCNICA



Universitatea de
Arhitectură și Urbanism
„Ion Mincu” – București



ROBERT GORDON
UNIVERSITY ABERDEEN



dipartimento di architettura
università degli studi di napoli federico II
dipartimento di eccellenza 2023-2027



ENSAP
BORDEAUX



UNIVERSITY of
NICOSIA

/ EURAU Milan 2024

11th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

EUROPEAN RESEARCH ON ARCHITECTURE
AND URBANISM INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

IN-PRESENCE / THE BODY AND THE SPACE

The role of corporeity in the era of virtualization

For those who deal with the city and the territory, space refers to the body
(C. Bianchetti)

The EURAU Milan 2024 Conference aims to unpack the significance of corporeality in contemporary times and its relevance for the upcoming years. Specifically, the focus is on the relation between body and space and how this relates to architecture, the city and the environment, interpreted as physical facts and processes. Within the background of a technological turn, the focus is now on what has changed or will further change in this relationship and what, on the opposite, remains unalterable, inherently bound to the material and impervious to the virtual.

/ COMMITTEES

/ MILANESE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

DAStU-Politecnico Di Milano

Marco Bovati – Chair

Anna Moro – Chair

Daniele Villa – Chair

Virginia Vecchi – Event Manager

Alisia Tognon

Gerardo Sempredon

Francesco Airoidi

Silvia Di Mauro

Kevin Santus

Stefano Sartorio

Arianna Luisa Nicoletta Scaioli

Marco Vedoà

Maria Elena Ciucci

Giulia Citro

Ekin Olkay

Erica Ventura

/ HONOUR COMMITTEE

Donatella Sciuto, Rector at the Politecnico di Milano

Ilaria Valente, Vice-Rector for International Affairs at the Politecnico di Milano

Massimo Bricocoli, Director of DAStU Department – Politecnico di Milano

Andrea Campioli, Dean of AUIC School – Politecnico di Milano

/ INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Hocine Aliouane-Shaw, ENSAP Bordeaux

Joaquín Alvaro Bañón, University of Alicante

Roberta Amirante, Napoli Federico II

Carla Collevicchio, UMA – Umeå Universitet

Roberta Amirante, Napoli Federico II

Pelin Dursun, Istanbul Technical University

Fatma Erkök, Istanbul Technical University

Carla Garrido de Oliveira, University of Porto

Paola Filipa Guerreiro, University of Porto

Maria Hadjisoteriou, University of Nicosia

Joaquín Ibáñez Montoya, UPM Madrid

Beatrice Jöger, Ion Mincu University

Angela Kyriacou Petrou, University of Nicosia

José Lage, University of Porto

Gisela Lameira, University of Porto

Maria Martinez Sanchez, RGU Aberdeen

Maria Luna Nobile, UMA – Umeå Universitet

Madalena Pinto Da Silva, University of Porto

Maria Jose Pizarro, UPM Madrid

Gülsün Saglam, Istanbul Technical University

Javier Sánchez Merina, University of Alicante

Paola Scala, Napoli Federico II

Alessandra Swiny, University of Nicosia

/ INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Aksoy Meltem, Istanbul Technical University, Faculty of Architecture

Alemaný Ester Gisbert, Alicante University

Aliouane-Shaw Hocine, UMR-CNRS Passages, Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture et de Paysage de Bordeaux

Al Jumaily Arwa, Scott Sutherland School of Architecture, Robert Gordon University

Alvado Bañón Joaquín, Alicante University

Amirante Roberta, University of Naples Federico II

Ionu Anton, "Ion Mincu" University of Architecture and Urban Planning

Armitt Matthew, Birmingham School of Architecture and Design

Ata Zeynep, Mardin Artuklu University, Faculty of Architecture

Avcı Ozan – MEF University, Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture

Avilés Angel Benigno González, Escuela de Arquitectura de Alicante

Barosio Michela,, Politecnico di Torino

Baslo Meltem, Istanbul Technical University /Faculty of Architecture

Bassanese Silvia, Scott Sutherland School of Architecture, Robert Gordon University

Belkouri Daria, Scott Sutherland School of Architecture, Robert Gordon University

Berlingieri Fabrizia, Politecnico di Milano

Bevan Whitney, Scott Sutherland School of Architecture, Robert Gordon University

Bianchi Irene, Politecnico di Milano

Boehm Carola, Staffordshire University

Bovati Marco, Politecnico di Milano

Bozzuto Paolo, Politecnico di Milano

Bricocoli Massimo, Politecnico di Milano

Brown Martin, Staffordshire University

Browne Jemma, Birmingham School of Architecture and Design / Birmingham City University

Cálix Teresa, FAUP Faculdade de Arquitectura da Universidade do Porto

Campi Massimiliano, University of Naples Federico II

Capener David, Birmingham School of Architecture and Design

Carvalho Antonio, Politecnico di Milano

Casino David, ETSAM Universidad Politécnica de Madrid

Ciriquian Pablo Martí, Alicante University

Cirugeda Almudena Nolasco, Alicante University

Coelho Rodrigo, FAUP Faculdade de Arquitectura da Universidade do Porto

Collevocchio Carla, Umeå University, Umeå School of Architecture

Colmenares Vilata Silvia, ETSAM Universidad Politécnica de Madrid

Columbano Alessandro, Birmingham School of Architecture and Design

Comsa Daniel, "Ion Mincu" University of Architecture and Urban Planning

Coppetti Barbara, Politecnico di Milano

Costa Sandra, Birmingham School of Architecture and Design

Cozza Cassandra, Politecnico di Milano

Day Jonathan, Birmingham Institute of Creative Arts

Derer Hanna, "Ion Mincu" University of Architecture in Bucharest

Deveci Gökay, Scott Sutherland School of Architecture, Robert Gordon University

Dusoio Elena-Codina, "Ion Mincu" University of Architecture and Urban Planning

Dring Michael, Birmingham School of Architecture and Design

Dundjerovic Aleksandar, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

Dursun Çebi Pelin, Istanbul Technical University, Faculty of Architecture

Erckrath Charlotte, Bergen School of Architecture

Erkök Fatma, Istanbul Technical University, Faculty of Architecture

Fairburn Jon, Staffordshire University

Fatigato Orfina, University of Naples Federico II

Fontanella Elena, Politecnico di Milano

Frost Christian, Head of School of Architecture at London Metropolitan University

Gameira Gisela, FAUP Faculdade de Arquitectura da Universidade do Porto

García-Germán Jacobo, ETSAM Universidad Politécnica de Madrid

García Mayor Clara, Alicante University

Garrido Carla, FAUP Faculdade de Arquitectura da Universidade do Porto

Ghyka Celia, "Ion Mincu" University of Architecture and Urban Planning

González Avilés Ángel Benigno, Alicante University

Gratton Nicola, Staffordshire University	Paker Nurbin, Istanbul Technical University, Faculty of Architecture
Guerreiro Filipa de Castro, FAUP Faculdade de Arquitectura da Universidade do Porto	Pamfil Francoise, "Ion Mincu" University of Architecture and Urban Planning
Hadjisoteriou Maria, University of Nicosia	Parra José, Escuela de Arquitectura de Alicante
Hadjichristou Yiorgos, University of Nicosia	Pasqui Gabriele, Politecnico di Milano
Ibáñez Montoya Joaquín, ETSAM Universidad Politécnica de Madrid	Paulino Raquel, FAUP Faculdade de Arquitectura da Universidade do Porto
Jöger Beatrice-Gabriela, Ion Mincu University of Architecture and Urban Planning	Pérez del Hoyo Raquel, Escuela de Arquitectura de Alicante
Jones Martin, Staffordshire University	Petrou Angela, University of Nicosia, Architecture Department
Jones Mat, Birmingham School of Architecture and Design	Pinto da Silva Madalena, FAUP Faculdade de Arquitectura da Universidade do Porto
Kleanthouse Adonis, University of Nicosia	Piscopo Carmine, University of Naples Federico II
Lage José Alberto, FAUP Faculdade de Arquitectura da Universidade do Porto	Pizarro Juanas María José, ETSAM Universidad Politécnica de Madrid
Lameira Gisela, FAUP Faculdade de Arquitectura da Universidade do Porto	Portschy Szabolcs Dávid, Budapest University of Technology and Economics
Lepratto Fabio, Politecnico di Milano	Póvoas Rui, FAUP Faculdade de Arquitectura da Universidade do Porto
Machado Carlos, FAUP Faculdade de Arquitectura da Universidade do Porto	Pritchard Douglas, Scott Sutherland School of Architecture, Robert Gordon University
Marchigiani Elena, Università degli Studi di Trieste	Rachel Sara, Birmingham School of Architecture and Design
Marco Elena, University of the West England, Department of Architecture and the Built Environment	Rice Louis, University of the West England, Department of Architecture and the Built Environment
Martínez Sánchez María J., Scott Sutherland School of Architecture, Robert Gordon University	Rodrigues José Miguel, FAUP Faculdade de Arquitectura da Universidade do Porto
Menikou Markella /University of Nicosia	Rueda Jiménez Óscar, ETSAM Universidad Politécnica de Madrid
Meraz Fidel A., University of the West England, Department of Architecture and the Built Environment	Salamer Gülsün, Former Rector, Istanbul Technical University
Mihaila Marina, "Ion Mincu" University of Architecture in Bucharest	Salman Huda, Scott Sutherland School of Architecture, Robert Gordon University
Moreno Joaquim, FAUP Faculdade de Arquitectura da Universidade do Porto	Sánchez Merina Javier, Alicante University
Moro Anna, Politecnico di Milano	Scala Paola, University of Naples Federico II
Nieto Enrique, Alicante University	Scott Jonathan, Scott Sutherland School of Architecture, Robert Gordon University
Nifosi' Chiara, Politecnico di Milano	Semprebon Gerardo, Politecnico di Milano
Nobile Maria Luna, Umeå University, Umeå School of Architecture	Serrano Estrada Leticia, Escuela de Arquitectura de Alicante
Nourrigat Elodie, National Superior School of Architecture of Montpellier	Setti Giulia, Politecnico di Milano
Oldani Andrea, Politecnico di Milano	Sirvent Dani, Escuela de Arquitectura de Alicante
Oliveira Marta, FAUP Faculdade de Arquitectura da Universidade do Porto	Sousa José Pedro, FAUP Faculdade de Arquitectura da Universidade do Porto
Pacchi Carolina, Politecnico di Milano	

Stan Angelica, "Ion Mincu" University of Architecture and Urban Planning

Stevens Sarah, University of Brighton

Swiny Alessandra, University of Nicosia, Architecture Department

Tognon Alisia, Politecnico di Milano

Tolve Valerio, Politecnico di Milano

Travasso Nuno, FAUP Faculdade de Arquitectura da Universidade do Porto

Trisciuglio Marco, Politecnico di Torino

Valente Ilaria, Politecnico di Milano

Vialard Alice, Northumbria University, Department of Architecture

Victoria Michele, Scott Sutherland School of Architecture, Robert Gordon University

Vila Domini David, Scott Sutherland School of Architecture, Robert Gordon University

Villa Daniele, Politecnico di Milano

Voltini Marco, Politecnico di Milano

Vowels Hannah, Birmingham School of Architecture and Design

Williams Julian, Westminster University London

Wishart Gillian, Scott Sutherland School of Architecture, Robert Gordon University

Xiao Jieling, Birmingham School of Architecture and Design

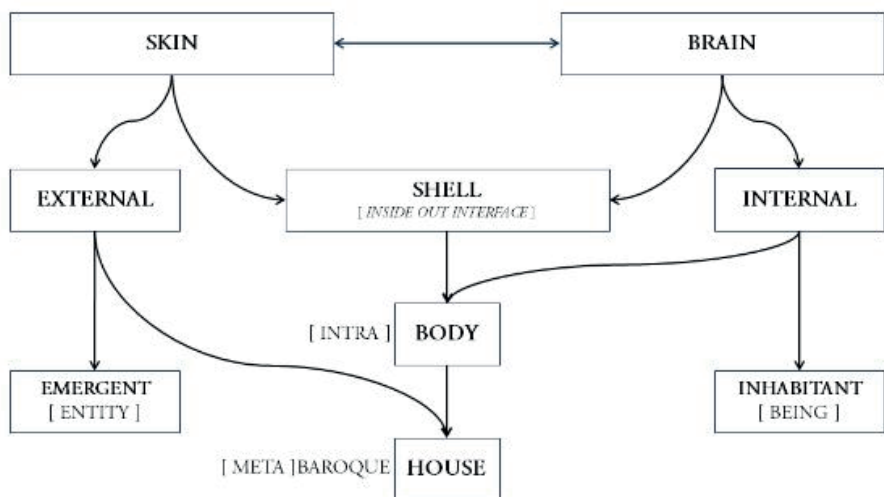
Zahariade Ana Maria, "Ion Mincu" University of Architecture and Urban Planning, The Doctoral School of Architecture

Zaman Quazi, Scott Sutherland School of Architecture, Robert Gordon University

Zanotto Francesca, Politecnico di Milano

Zhao Fang, Staffordshire University

Zmfir Mihaela, "Ion Mincu" University of Architecture and Urban Planning



Luís Carlos Bucha

Lusiáda University,
CITAD - Centro de Investigação em Território, Arquitectura e Design, Lisbon
luiscarlosbucha.arch@gmail.com

The shell as spatial emergence: a house for and from the body

Key Words

Shell, Space, [Meta-Baroque] House, [Intra]Body

With this paper, we aim to take part of the depiction of the shell as an interface between the macro and micro dimensions of our corporeal relationship with space, as an *emergent* entity. With this in mind, it is worth questioning and clarifying the following: are we referring to the space from which we, that is, the Being emerges, or is space something that emerges from the Being itself?

Gaston Bachelard (1884-1962) suggests that the shell is an imaginative transposition of the primordial function of the modern human dwelling, mirrored in nature. By focusing on the shell as a symbolic expression of intimacy, it appears to be a unique form of life. This is due to its enclosure in a rigid, rocky structure [Bachelard 2014, p. 155]. When empty and unoccupied by the invertebrate life form that gives it its shape, it evokes the spatial imaginary of refuge and the potential of this dimension to inhabit [Bachelard 2014, p. 127].

Indeed, given this rich potential of the shell's imagery, Bachelard begins his reflection by drawing on Paul Valéry's (1871-1945) poetic vision [1], which synthesises this same singular and distinctive dimension of the shell and also conveys his absolute fascination with this form of life; or more precisely, this continuous formation of life, as follows: "[...] a shell stands out from the usual disorder that characterizes most perceptible things. They are [...] more intelligible for the eye, even though more mysterious for the mind [...]" [Valéry 1936, as cited in Bachelard 2014, p. 125].

The mystery lies not in what is expressed by the beauty of its forms, which are guided by a transcendental geometry, but in the slow and continuous process of formation, which starts from a dimension of interiority, whose house [emphasis added] emerges out of itself, intending to protect and shelter this inner substance [Bachelard 2014, pp. 126-127]. To this end, we return to Valéry's poetic observation: "[...] 'the mollusk exudes its shell', it lets the building material 'seep through', 'distill its marvellous covering as needed.'" [Valéry 1936, as cited in

Bachelard 2014, p. 126].

Bachelard believes that the formation and functioning of the human body is based on a process of ontogenesis, supported by a theory [2] developed by Jean-Baptiste Robinet (1735-1820): each organ forms and develops from within itself, much as a shell forms from within itself, forming the inner substance that is important to protect. This inner substance constitutes the interdimensional reality of each being. It is here that we can claim a clear approximation to an approach that is particularly associated with (architectural) space, or, to be more precise, with the dwelling, as Bachelard says:

[...] Robinet thinks of form, from the inside out. For him, life originates forms, should create living forms. [...] form is the habitat of life.

Shells, like fossils, are so many attempts on the part of nature to prepare forms of different parts of the human body; [Bachelard 2014, p. 133]

Once placed within the possibility of considering the body as an entity beyond the fundamental concepts, essentially as an entity "more-than-human" constituted and living in a body-house-shell *continuum*, the previous observation finally correlates with the vision and understanding of the French archaeologist and historian Louis Charbonneaux-Lassay (1871-1946) in *Le bestiaire du Christ* (1940):

[...] 'Taken as a whole, with both its hard covering and its sentient organs, the shell, for the Ancients, was the symbol of the human being in its entirety, body and soul. In fact, ancient symbolics used the shell as a symbol for the human body, which encloses the soul in an outside envelope [...].' [Charbonneaux-Lassay 1940, as cited in Bachelard 2014, p. 135]

Certainly, in the context of our reflections, both from Bachelard and his cross-dialogue with Valery, Charbonneaux-Lassay and Robinet, the shell is duly supported as a synthesis of what we wish to convey, based on all this gathering and interweaving of poetic, allegorical and symbolic perspectives: an entity [body-mind], or, alluding to the diagram presented above, an entity [skin-brain] that includes the [Intra]Body [3], that is, and according to the Portuguese architect and researcher Maria João Soares (b. 1964), "[...] a superimposed enrichment of soul, mind and flesh, in succession, or progression, without boundaries, without limits [...] an enhanced version of our bodies." [2018, p. 241]. And, inherently, the [Meta-Baroque] House [3], which, as Soares suggests, resides, precisely, in "[...] the body, as an *intra*body, and the architectural object [...] [which] are *forced* together resulting in an architectural apparatus in constant metamorphosis." [2018, p. 242].

In this sense, and returning to the idea and proposal of the [meta-baroque] house as "[...] something close to a living-in-a-living-object - a house in a continuous process of change through reaction to being [...]" [Soares 2018, pp. 242, 243], it may be possible to conceive of the body-house-shell *continuum* as a spatial and architectural fact, encoded as the inhabitation of a dynamic inner space, fully interdependent, without rationally imposed limits or boundaries. The body-house-shell *continuum* becomes "[a] *living* machine" [Soares 2018, p. 243] that is permeable and in harmony with the context, with the environment, with the world of which we human beings, as *living* machines, are vital and dynamic engines and gears that function with other living machines. The notion of *Living* machines such as an architectural object, as Soares and Gonçalves demonstrate, is reflected upon the Chapel of Notre-Dame-du-Haut, in Ronchamp, France (1950-1955), by Le Corbusier (1887-1965), which also alludes to the [intra]dimensions of the shell as an allegorical and poetic extrapolation to this particular architectural object:

And so we have the Ronchamp Chapel. [...] One sees its exterior, but one sees it as a whole body - as an organ. But the interior body feeds off another body, folded in itself - that which is truly interior. The interior of the interior [...]. The Chapel is a Body: a centrifugal force that takes control of its organs, designing its own interiority in interiority. From non-unity as a whole to machinic unity as an engulfing whole. A part object swallowed by an internal organism. [Soares & Gonçalves 2017, pp. 96, 97]

Thus, in this article, by recognising this [intra]dimensionality of architecture and based on the most plural imagistic dimensions of the shell, we propose to question and [re]equat, in an increasingly virtualised world, the current conceptual, theoretical and practical paradigm based on which we think and design space, seeking to discuss the need to [re]anchor this space or habitat on a level of actualisation in a dynamic of flow. We want to discuss the need to [re]anchor this space or habitat in a dynamic of flow, that is, in constant transformation and interaction with our environment, with a world from which we are increasingly disconnected, as a symptom of a distance from ourselves, as individual beings of such interiority, and yet

increasingly governed by an artificial and closed vision and way of being, guided by the body-mind binomial and, externally, by the world, as if we were not part of it.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This work was supported by FCT - Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia, I.P. by project reference UIDB/04026/2020 and DOI identifier 10.54499/UIDB/04026/2020 (<https://doi.org/10.54499/UIDB/04026/2020>).

ENDNOTES

[1] Referring to the essay *Les coquillages* (1937), written by the 20th-century French poet, essayist, and critic.

[2] Referring to the book *Vues philosophiques de la gradation naturelle des forms de l'être, ou les essais de lanature qui apprend à faire l'homme* (1768), written by the 18th-century French naturalist.

[3] These two concepts refer to the research of the Portuguese architect, professor, and researcher Maria João Soares, whose reflections have been published in numerous articles, some of which were co-authored with the Portuguese architect, professor, and researcher Clara Germana Gonçalves (b. 1969).

REFERENCES

Bachelard, G. (2014). *The Poetics of Space*. New York, NY: Penguin Books. [First ed. La poétique de l'espace. Paris: Presses Universitaires de France 1958]

Charbonneaux-Lassay, L. (1940) *Le bestiaire du Christ*. Paris: Desclée de Brouwer.

Soares, M. J., Gonçalves, C. G. (2017). *At and with the Sea: Le Corbusier's Path towards a "Desiring-Machine"*. In Athens Journal of Architecture, 3(1), pp. 77-100. < <https://doi.org/10.30958/aja.3-1-5> > (accessed 20 March 2024)

Soares, M. J. (2018). *A Meta-Baroque Allegory for an Architectural Concept*. In Athens Journal of Architecture, 4(2), pp. 239-260. < <https://doi.org/10.30958/aja.4-2-5> > (accessed 20 March 2024)

Valéry, P. (1936). *Les merveilles de la mer: Les coquillages*. Paris: Plon

FIGURES

Fig. 1 - Luís Carlos Bucha, *[Intra]dimensionalities of the Body-Mind-Space Continuum*, 2024.

Marco Bovati, Anna Moro, Daniele Villa
IN-PRESENCE / THE BODY AND THE SPACE.
The role of corporeity in the era of virtualization
© PUBLICA, Alghero, 2024
ISBN: 9788899586409
Pubblicazione luglio 2024

Tutti i testi di PUBLICA sono sottoposti a double peer review.

PUBLICA
Dipartimento di Architettura, Urbanistica e Design
Università degli Studi di Sassari
WWW.PUBLICAPRESS.IT

