

USEFUL TO THE WORLD

Alberto Ferlenga, *Università Iuav di Venezia*

Architecture today needs to rediscover its reasons. And this need, in a moment of epochal transition such as the one we are going through, in which what is at stake is no longer a superficial embellishment action but facing a dramatic environmental crisis, takes on particular importance.

Today, on cities and territories, the terrain where the architect's action usually takes place, the effects of an accelerated climate change, an unprecedented environmental collapse and a social crisis are all the more severe the further away we get from the economic centers of the world; and it is for these reasons that new solutions must be tested. Moving, therefore, even not physically but only through the topics addressed, from the usual places of work or training does not only mean, for architecture teachers and students, practicing a useful experience by carrying out a service role that brings them a little closer than usual to a condition of necessity that their work risks losing. It also means leaving the sphere of the relative certainties that Europe, the university or the profession can give, to measure themselves with the needs expressed by those areas of the earth where everything is more extreme and, therefore, everything appears with greater clarity. Where cities do not seem to offer any hope of life or form, walls and separations multiply more and more every day, wars become endemic as famines and thirst, and traditions of life and settlement seem to have lost any sense facing the enormity of the problems.