

ALADDIN AND THE MARVELOUS LAMP

About Eduardo Souto de Moura's lamp for FERRAM

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Eduardo Souto de Moura is internationally recognized as one of the best architects of this new millennium that has just begun.

And he is devising, drawing and building a wonderful lamp. And it is my turn to do the exercise of writing about this lamp based on pure imagination, without knowing anything about it. Although I know everything, almost everything, about Eduardo Souto de Moura for whom I have a deep admiration. I do know that it will be (everything he makes or touches is), a wonderful lamp, like Aladdin's lamp.

Is it possible to write about that wonderful lamp without knowing it when I myself am making another lamp for FERRAM, the same producer, and I want it to be wonderful too?

Will it be possible to guess the keys to your project when I often use many of those same keys for mine?

Is it possible to discover, without knowing them, the concrete data about a new work by an architect whose ingredients one knows and admires, and with whom one usually composes his Architecture?

Of course it will be possible. And I am going to dare to delimit the territory in which I believe Eduardo Souto de Moura's lamp will move. I am sure it will be a LOGICAL, SIMPLE AND RATIONAL lamp.

It will be a LOGICAL lamp, as logical is the best architecture of its author.

It will be a SIMPLE lamp, easy to understand, as all his best works are simple in the deepest sense.

It will be a RATIONAL lamp, capable of being manufactured without problems, as rational is all the architecture of our architect.

Of course, all the best contemporary Portuguese architecture has always been LOGICAL and SIMPLE and RATIONAL. From Tavora's to Siza's, from Souto de Moura's to Aires Mateus'.

It will be a lamp that will have a certain aroma of MIES, as much of Eduardo Souto de Moura's architecture has always had.

It will be a lamp made with RICH materials. Eduardo Souto de Moura is an architect who knows how to use like no one else the best materials, and he puts them in value.

It will be a lamp that will have something of SWITZERLAND about it, not only because of its perfection but also because its author has been a teacher there, in Lausanne, for a long time.

A walk with Eduardo Souto de Moura through the streets of LAUSANNE comes to mind. I was finishing my teaching at the EPFL and he was starting it. I was trying to pass on to him my experiences at that wonderful School of Architecture. Shortly after we started our walk, we saw a cigarette butt on the neat pavement of the Swiss city. "From a Spaniard," I said. "From a Portuguese," he said. And we walked on. Up ahead, the empty, crumpled pack of Ducados appeared on the ground. "I told you it was from a Spaniard". And he corrected me: "Didn't you know that Ducados is the most smoked cigarette in Portugal? And we both laughed.

It will be an **INGENIOUS** lamp with a brilliant idea still capable of surprising us.

It will be an **ELEGANT** lamp, with the extreme elegance that Eduardo Souto de Moura displays in all his works and that is a trademark of the house.

It will be an **INTELLIGENT** lamp. With the intelligence that is the heritage of the best Architecture capable of remaining in Time and of summoning Beauty.

Souto de Moura has done so in all his works. His works are not only capable of remaining in Time and of summoning Beauty, but they already belong to the History of Architecture. From the house of Moledo (A sublime horizontal plane) to the Braga Stadium (A grandiose hand that catches the air). From the courtyard houses in Matosinhos (An impeccable structure of order), to the Porto Subway (With accurate holes in the roof for the light to pass through). From the pierced box of Cascais to the delicate trihedron of the Church of Mercy.

And now, here, with this wonderful lamp. **LOGICAL, SIMPLE AND RATIONAL. MIESIAN, SWISS AND RICH. INGENIOUS, ELEGANT AND INTELLIGENT.** This is the lamp and the Architecture of Eduardo Souto de Moura. A marvelous architect always capable of performing in each work the miracle of Aladdin.