

*Forty years have passed since the dream that was April...*

*The Malagueira project (1977 - ...), masterpiece of Álvaro Siza (b. 1933), is the perfect representation both of the endless potential and of the incompleteness of the project that we inherited from the Revolution.*

*A careful intervention over an extraordinary landscape, a stone's throw from the historical center of Évora, Malagueira articulated and bound together a diverse array of pre-existent structures, from the residue of its agricultural past to the surrounding illegal settlements, aiming to build a new territory for a new country. The relationship of city and landscape was reconsidered through forging an interaction between a collective spine of community space and infrastructure - the aqueduct - and a sea of housing with a common root but multiple expressions, framing a set of proposed public buildings and services that still exist only as promises.*

*A key reference for the culture of contemporary architecture worldwide, Malagueira stands as a symbol of how, through community housing, we can build better cities.*

*Drawing Matter is a family of activities that champions the belief that buildings act in concert with their surroundings and conditions, and that architecture is a body of ideas in constant reinvention. It is grounded in a collection, dating from the Renaissance to today, that takes drawings as the primary evidence of the exploration of these ideas. The archive recording Siza's design for Malagueira, part of the collection, is an illustration of this purpose.*

*Partnering with two London architecture schools - Kingston University, Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture and Sir John Cass Faculty of Art, Architecture and Design - throughout the 2014-15 school year, Drawing Matter arranged for three groups of students to undertake research trip in Malagueira. They then developed designs from the ideas present in the work and archives of Álvaro Siza, under guidance from Florian Beigel and Philip Christou, Hugh Strange and Cathy Hawley, and Pierre d'Avoine and Colette Sheddick.*

*Between the unrealised designs of Álvaro Siza and the design proposals of the students who researched and interpreted them, the exhibition envisages possible futures for Malagueira [in which the revolutionary spirit of community that first informed it is brought into present day conditions].*