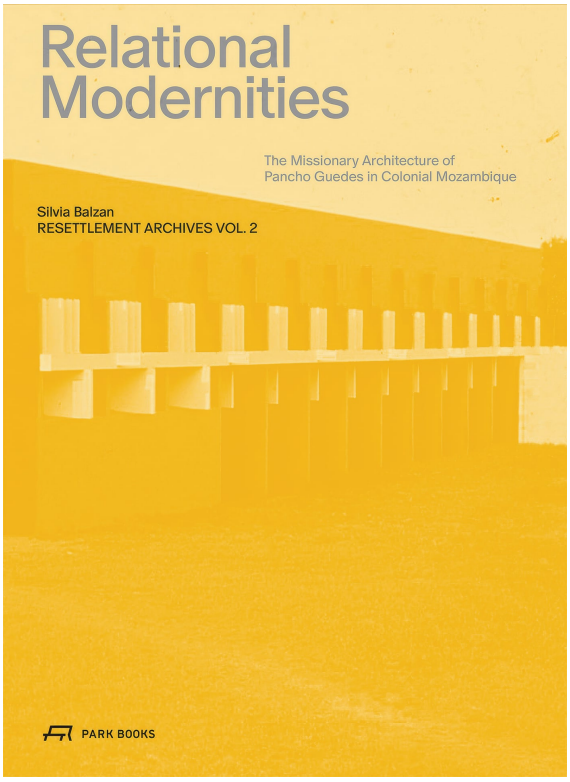
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Relational Modernities

The Missionary Architecture of Pancho Guedes in Colonial Mozambique

Silvia Balzan

Edited by Sascha Roesler

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- First book on Portuguese-born Mozambican architect Amâncio "Pancho" Guedes's (1925–2015) buildings for Swiss and British Protestant missionary societies in late-colonial Mozambique
- Demonstrates how Guedes's buildings for missionary societies played a key role in mediating between colonial power, religious concerns, and local aspirations
- Assesses the sociopolitical and cultural significance of Guedes's buildings, which continue to shape Mozambicans' everyday life to this day
- Contributes to urgent debates on the decolonisation of architectural history, colonial legacies, and their repercussions in the present

Portuguese-born Mozambican architect Amâncio "Pancho" Guedes (1925–2015) designed several hundred buildings that became icons of late-colonial African modernism. His expressive design language, the Stiloguedes, is even recognized as a distinct style in its own right.

Relational Modernities, the second volume in the *Resettlement Archives* series, focuses on Guedes's lesser-known work: the quieter, more austere buildings he designed for Swiss and British Protestant missionary societies in the then-Portuguese-ruled Mozambique: schools, student dormitories, and community centres. Architectural historian Silvia Balzan situates them within the unequal society and politics of the country in the later stages of colonial rule. She demonstrates how Guedes and the missionary societies created alliances and spaces that were inevitably intertwined with colonial structures, yet at the same time already open to a postcolonial future. As "relational modernity," Guedes's hybrid practice dissolved dichotomies between the colonisers and the colonised, the secular and the religious, Western modernity and Indigenous African culture.

Silvia Balzan re-examines Guedes's legacy beyond stylistic eccentricity or missionary charity and assesses the sociopolitical and cultural significance of the buildings themselves, which continue to shape Mozambicans' everyday lives to this day.

Silvia Balzan is an architectural historian and lecturer in architectural studies at the University of Manchester. **Sascha Roesler** is professor of architectural theory at the Academy of Architecture in Mendrisio and editor of the *Resettlement Archives* series.

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