

Notes on Infrastructure:

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The first two encounters of the GLOSAR series turned their focus toward infrastructural critique. This focus was deliberately chosen. Infrastructures are not merely the technical systems that sustain our cities, nor just the material conditions that allow for the circulation of bodies, goods, and data. Infrastructures shape affects, regulate lives, and structure the visible and the invisible — defining the contours of what may become possible, livable, and nameable.

Feminist and decolonial approaches inform an infrastructural critique that does more than diagnose dysfunction or point to the unseen. It

invites us to understand infrastructures as structures of power and care, inscribed with relations of gender, race, class, and history. Inês Moreira and Elke Krasny, in the first two masterclasses of the series, proposed that to care for infrastructures is also to care for the epistemologies and bodies they sustain — or displace. It means understanding that what sustains life is not neutral — and that there are infrastructures of oppression just as much as there are infrastructures of resistance.

In this context, glossing can be understood as an infrastructural practice of language. A practice that excavates, annotates, and troubles what is taken for granted. If language is also an infrastructure — composed of grammars, sanctioned vocabularies, regimes of translation and silence — then to gloss is to rework its underlying structure. It is to operate at the margins of discourse — like one who repairs, reconfigures, or obstructs a dominant flow. Glossing, then, is not merely commenting; it is an intervention into the grounds of what language makes possible.

Casa de Chá da Boa Nova, architect Álvaro Siza Vieira.





