



History of Portuguese Architecture

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JOELHO

07

LEARNING FROM MODERN UTOPIAS

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Exhibition

History of Portuguese

Architecture



History of Portuguese Architecture

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The subject of History of Portuguese Architecture (HAP) originated in the School of Fine Arts of Oporto, more than three decades ago, under the mastership of Professor and Architect Alexandre Alves Costa.

At the Architecture Course of FCTUC - Faculty of Sciences and Technology of the University of Coimbra, HAP has been present from the very beginning. It started in 1992-93, as a subject of the 5th year, under the same Alexandre Alves Costa, then member of the Installing Commission of the course. Other professors who have ensured the subject in the last decade were Walter Rossa and the late Paulo Varela Gomes in addition to Rui Lobo, lecturer for the past five years.

History of Portuguese Architecture, which now operates within the 4th year of the Architecture Course, has always had an essential practical component. By carrying out practical group work on concrete case studies, students are expected to learn how to investigate, how to search for and collect information and how to distinguish the various "life phases" of architectural objects, from their original structure to what still stands today. It is also intended that students learn to use contemporary means to rehearse and to display the research, placing hypotheses and illustrating more or less plausible stages of the evolution of the studied objects in time.

The themes are chosen by the groups (formed by 4 to 6 students) from an extended list previously proposed by the teachers. The study cases concern mainly Coimbra and Portugal's central region, for obvious reasons of proximity, although cases are often proposed (and accepted by the students) in other areas of the country.

Different types of work are suggested:

1. Buildings that are still in good condition but are not sufficiently documented (the case of the extraordinary and little-known chapel of the Lord of the Afflicted in Lamarosa, Coimbra);
2. Buildings that are not well documented and which, considering their imminent ruin, are on the verge of ceasing to exist (the case of Quinta da Almiara in Verride, which once belonged to the Monastery of Santa Cruz);
3. Buildings that have been much transformed and altered throughout their history (such as the Monastery of Maceira-Dão or the Fort of S. Julião da Barra near Lisbon);
4. Buildings that no longer exist.

The development of the work involves recording the current state of case-studies (photographs, freehand drawings, survey drawings), documentary research and the presentation of hypothesis of how the original building or structure would have looked like and of the various stages of its evolution over time (interpretation drawings).

These interpretation drawings should not be taken as "scientific" and flawless reconstructions of the architectural history of the studied cases. They aim to be, above all, hypotheses of reading with the limitations inherent to this type of exercises and to the learning process of the students. For "scientific" purposes it is always recommended to consult the indicated specialized bibliography.

At the end of each year, there is always an exhibition of HAP student's work at the Department, for which each group prepares a panel of 70x100 cm with a synthesis of the collected and produced material.

The www.hap.pt website was recently made public, with the essential support of architect Cátia Santos (collaborator of the course) and of software engineer David Francisco, with the aim to reveal the best works accomplished in each academic year and to create a proper legacy of the subject. The best works of 2012-13 and 2013-14 are already accessible, while the ones of the most recent years (2014-15 and 2015-16) are being prepared for the site as well a general option of texts in English. Works have been grouped by architectonic, typological and functional categories such as Coimbra's colleges, estate houses, noble tower-houses, monasteries and convents, 16th century churches, chapels, military architecture and infrastructures. New categories are in preparation: architecture of the 19th century; architecture of the 20th century; studies on the urban evolution of specific localities.

Rui Lobo
Cátia Santos

Chapel of the Lord of the Afflicted (Senhor dos Aflitos) Lamarosa, Coimbra



Frontispiece (Fig. 1) Chapel of the Lord of the Afflicted

The Chapel of the Lord of the Afflicted (*Senhor dos Aflitos*), a small temple of hexagonal plan, is a remarkable seventeenth century architectural piece. It belongs to the Lamarosa Estate (*Quinta da Lamarosa*) near the river Mondego fields, in the municipal term of Coimbra.

It features Doric corner pilasters that support an entablature, an attic and a hexagonal dome covered with tiles and topped by a stone pinnacle. Arches are inscribed in each of the sides but today only the entrance arch is open, framed by the chapel's portal.

The structure dates, apparently, from the third quarter of the seventeenth century but suffered major changes during the late eighteenth century, before it's (re?)institution as a chapel in 1800 (an important fact that came out from the students' research). It is therefore plausible that it was originally erected as a baldachin that would shelter a stone cross in its center. In this sense, it is also plausible that all the filled in arches were originally open – as the visit to the site suggests. The students tested this hypothesis (hypothesis a) and yet another, in which the remaining statue of the Risen Christ would be over an altar against the back wall of a primitive chapel, with all sides open except one (hypothesis b). They previously carried out a rigorous survey, which did not exist, of the chapel in its current state.

The interventions at the end of the 18th century included a new altarpiece, interior blue tile (*azulejos*) panels and the ceiling paintings, representing emblems of the Passion of Christ. The two stone crosses that flank the chapel also date back to this time.

The architect(s) and the patrons of this architectural work are unknown. The chapel can be integrated in a chain of small chapels of this type, from the XVI, XVII and XVIII centuries, which exist in Portugal (chapels of Our Lady of the Incarnation in Vila da Feira, of *S. Gonçalo* in Aveiro and of Our Lady of the Sands in S. Jacinto) and Brazil (chapels of the House of Garcia de Avila in Bahia and of *S. Gonçalo do Engenho Una* in Paraíba).

Credits:

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Tutors:

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Academic Year:

2015-2016

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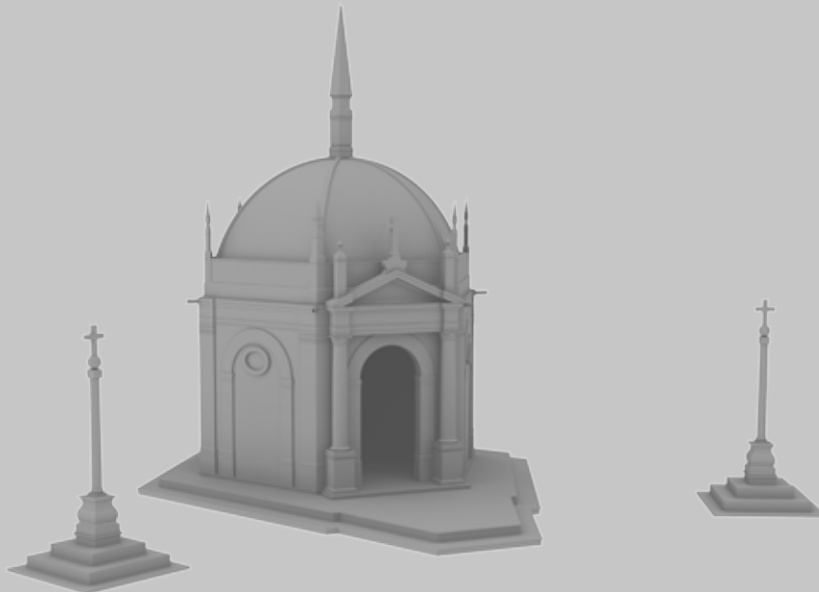


Fig 2. Inside view: filled in arch



Fig 3. Inside view: the Risen Christ

Fig 4. Actual chapel: perspective view



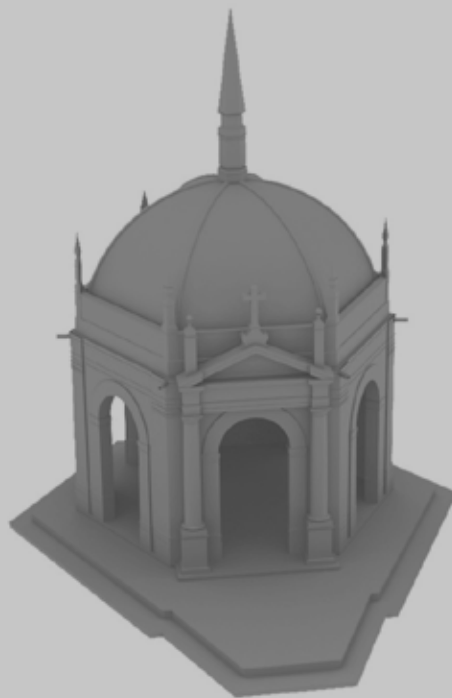
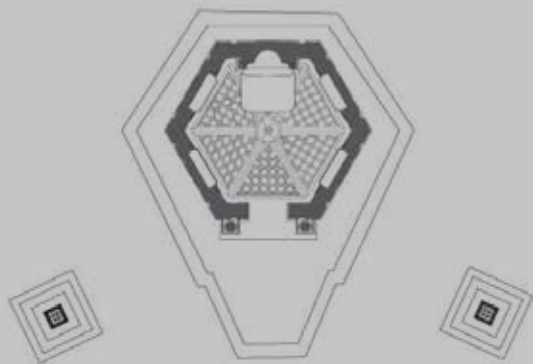
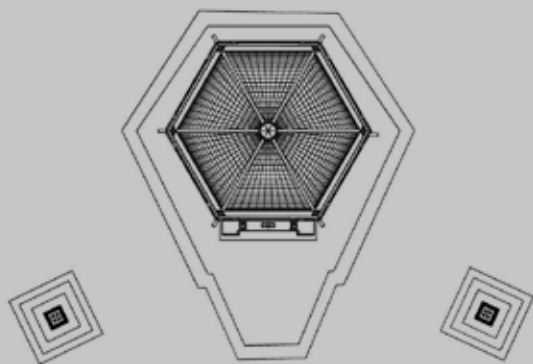


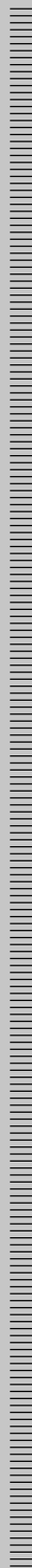
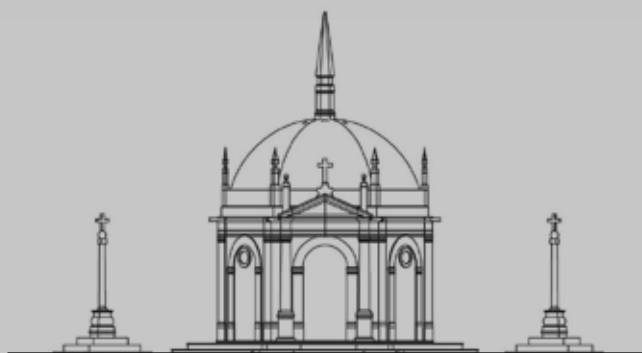
Fig 5. Original chapel: hypothesis b (perspective view)

Fig 6. Actual chapel: roof plan

Fig 7. Actual chapel: ground plan

Fig 8. Actual chapel: main elevation

Fig 9. Original chapel: hypothesis a (main elevation)



Almiara Estate Farmhouse (Quinta de Almiara) Verride, Montemor-o-Velho



Frontispiece (Fig. 1) *Quinta de Almiara*: view from the North

Located in the Lower Mondego, on the south bank of the river, in front of the village of Ereira, the “Quinta” of Almiara belonged to the Monastery of Santa Cruz de Coimbra.

The farmhouse was the headquarters of the agricultural production (mainly rice) of the surrounding lands and served as a summer retreat for the Augustinian friars. The initial nucleus appears to be from the end of the 16th century, as the date of 1580 is inscribed on one of the doors. The house was the subject of important works in the eighteenth century, when the widespread main body was built, facing north towards the river, composed of a central module, extensive wings with cells and turrets at the ends (one of them never completed). The coat of arms painted on the ceiling of the East turret room has the date of 1755.

At the rear, to the south, stands the chapel, parallel to the house’s main body. A cylindrical pigeonry rises independently to the southeast.

From 1834, with the extinction of the religious orders, the estate and the house became private property. They are currently abandoned.

The group work comprised the schematic survey of the estate’s main building, in plan and elevation, so that its spatial organization and its essential features could be registered. The hypothetical design of the main elevation over the Mondego (in case the building had been completed) was also carried out.

Credits:

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Tutors:

Prof. Rui Lobo, Arch. Cátia Santos

Academic Year:

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Graphic elements revised by João Negrão, 2016

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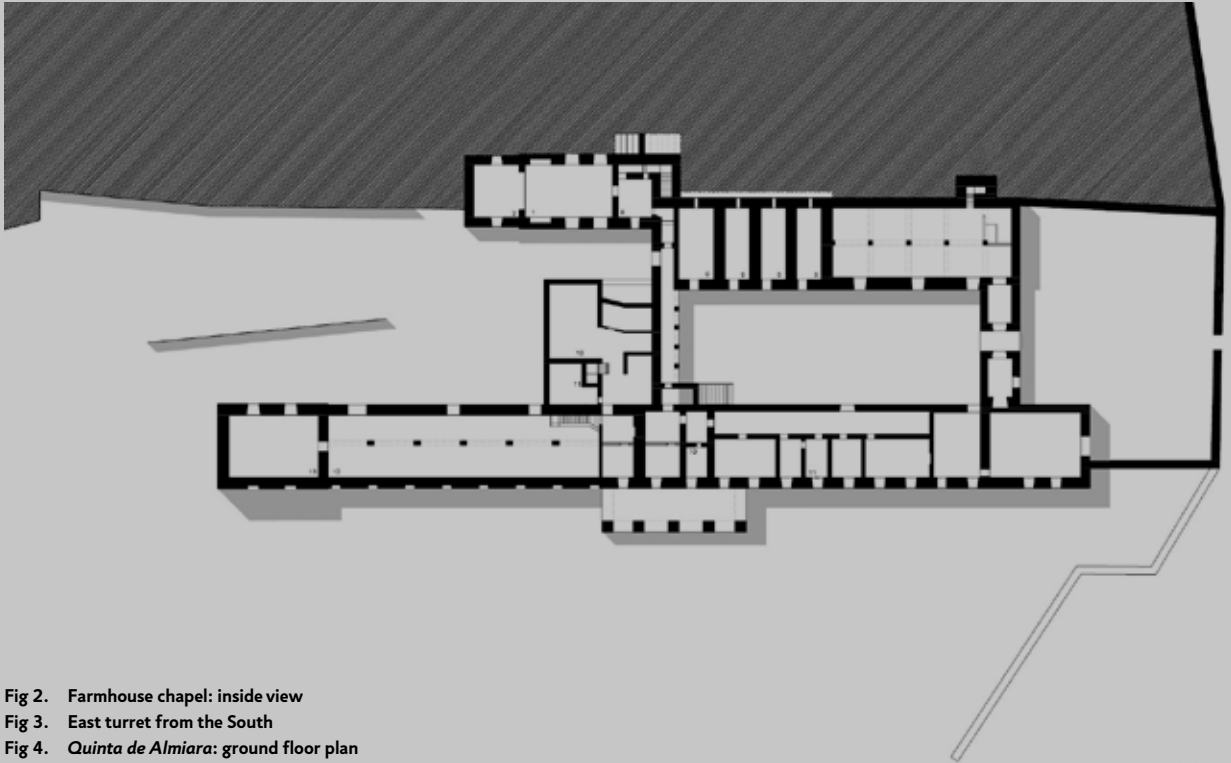


Fig 2. Farmhouse chapel: inside view

Fig 3. East turret from the South

Fig 4. Quinta de Almiara: ground floor plan



Alçado Norte



Alçado Norte

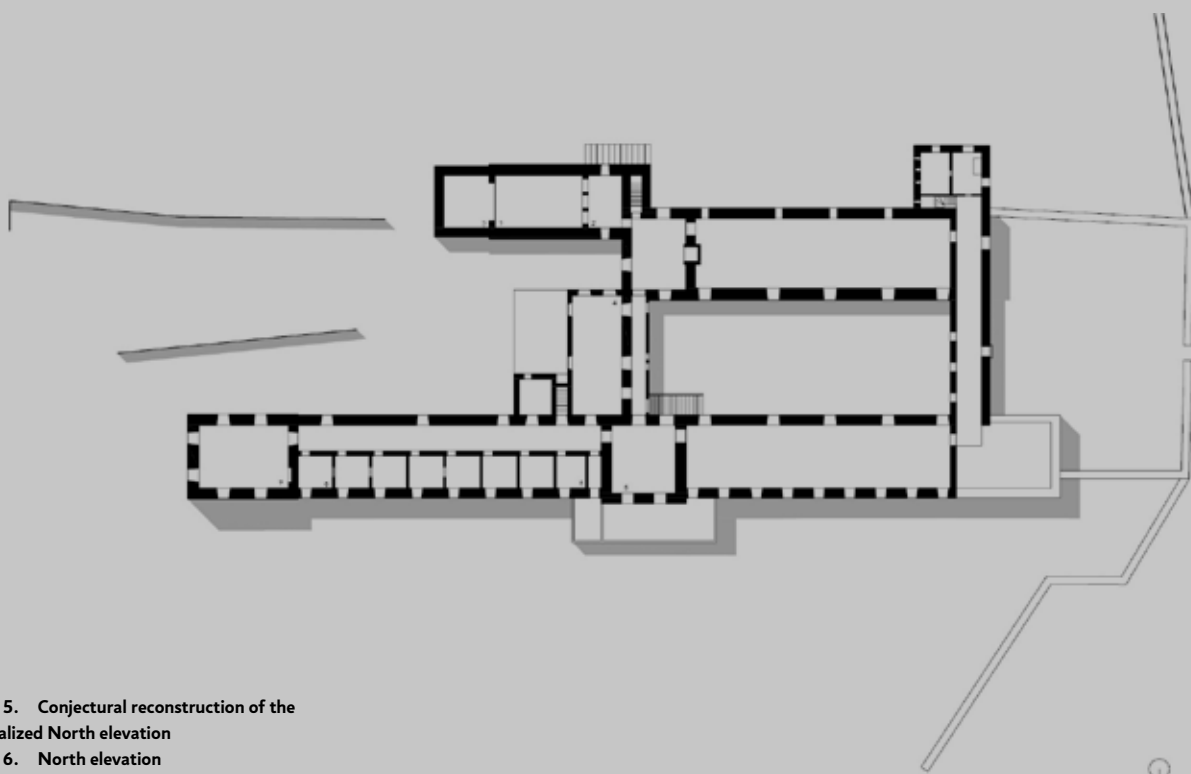


Fig 5. Conjectural reconstruction of the idealized North elevation
Fig 6. North elevation
Fig 7. Quinta de Almiara: first floor plan

Monastery of Santa Maria de Maceira Dão

Maceira-Dão, Mangualde



Frontispiece (Fig. 1) Monastery of Maceira Dão:
view from the East

In 1173, former physician Soeiro Teodoniz founded a monastery near the left bank of the Dão River, of which he was the first abbot. King D. Afonso Henriques fixed, in a document, the limits of the land and placed the community (which followed the rule of S. Benedict) under his protection.

The friars quickly adopted the Cistercian rule (ca1188) placing themselves under the monastery of Alcobaça. The building should have been modest because practically nothing remains of that time – except the base of a seigniorial tower, probably preexistent and meanwhile much altered. It was during the seventeenth century that the actual monastery was built. The new post- tridentine structure was intended to face East, since the monastic vestibule (preceded by a short set of stairs) faces that direction. However, important subsequent changes were made - the most relevant of which was the construction of the current church (in the eighteenth century) and the total reversal of the monastery's orientation.

A new survey was carried out and conjectural reconstitutions of the different monastic phases were elaborated. The work of the students sought to register the probable alterations suffered over time:

- a) The hypothetical original medieval tower;
- b) The monastery built in the early seventeenth century (around the new cloister and entrance from the East, in 1613-1628). The parallel construction of a seventeenth-century church (to substitute a previous medieval temple) was probably not accomplished but was surely programmed (the analysis of the recent PhD thesis of Ana Maria Tavares Martins, *Cistercian Monasteries in the Beiras Region*, provided a model in the church of the neighboring Monastery of S. Pedro das Águas).
- c) Later alterations to the building, including the construction of a second monastic façade along the kitchen area, to the West (c^a 1669).
- d) The assumption of a new orientation for the whole facility, with the construction of the current elliptical plan church in 1744-1779 facing the Dão valley to the West (a clearly Baroque attitude of control over the territory).

The medieval phase of the convent was skipped over in the evolution scheme due to the lack of historical elements.

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Tutors:

Prof. Rui Lobo, Arch. Cátia Marques

Academic Year:

2014-2015

Bibliography:

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- Martins, Ana Maria Tavares, *Mosteiros Cistercienses na Região das Beiras: um percurso entre a arquitetura e a história*, Viseu, Quartz, 2012.
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Fig 2. Remains of the seigneurial tower

Fig 3. Baroque church: façade (facing West)

Fig 4. Cloister

Fig 5. Pinnacle with date (1668)





Fig 6. Situation in the 12th century: the original tower

Fig 7. Situation in 1628 (plus church, probably not built)

Fig 8. Situation in 1669 (with second monastic façade facing West; plus church, probably not built)

Fig 9. Situation in 1779 (with the completed Baroque church, facing West)

Fortress of S. Julião da Barra

Oeiras



Frontispiece (Fig. 1) Fortress of S. Julião:
Southwest bastion and sentry

The Fortress of *S. Julião* (or *S. Gião*) da Barra, on the mouth of the Tagus River near Lisbon, is a remarkable work of Portuguese military architecture. It was designed by Miguel de Arruda, "Master of the fortifications of the Kingdom, places of beyond and India", and represents the full assertion of the polygonal bastion system in Portugal, after the decisive experience of Mazagão in Morocco, directed by Benedetto de Ravenna and in which Miguel de Arruda had participated. The construction began in 1553 and was resumed in 1559 (after the death of King D. João III), receiving a decisive impulse in the regency of Cardinal D. Henrique and during the reign of D. Sebastião. In 1580, when the combined Spanish forces of the Duke of Alba and of the Marquis of Santa Cruz entered Portugal, it was already operational.

The original construction was, however, quite modified over the centuries. In the period of Spanish domination the low bastions and the terrace on the sea side were added. With the restoration of Portugal's independence the two land bastions and the moat were greatly reformulated and enlarged. In the period of the Marquis of Pombal the lighthouse tower was added, among other works.

The original fortification displayed five bastions, three positioned against the sea and two other over land, in what appears to have been a replica of the *Fortezza da Basso* of Florence, designed by Antonio da Sangallo, in 1534. The recent publication of the Atlas of the Marquis of Heliche, kept in the *Krigsarkivert* of Stockholm and containing a plan of the fortress (at the cistern level) drawn by Italian Leonardo di Ferrari before the Philippine alterations, provided a fundamental contribution to the knowledge of what might have been the original fortress. Another plan (apparently of the same hand) of the fortress' esplanade level, is also in circulation.

The students' work consisted in the hypothetical reconstruction of the original fortress design, through a 3D representation based upon the aforementioned couple of plans, on other more recent graphic representations (which were already known) and on current data of the fortress.

Credits:

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Tutors:

Prof. Rui Lobo, Archs. Cátia Santos and Cátia Marques

Academic Year:

2015-2016

Bibliography:

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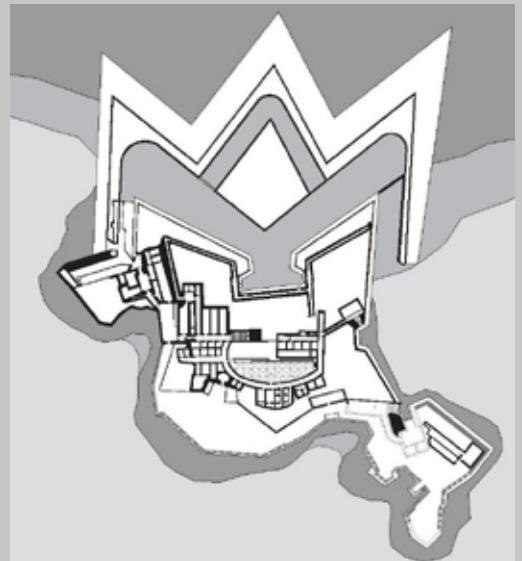


Fig 2. Door of the Cardinals ca.1575

Fig 3. Cistern ca.1560-70

Fig 4. Plan of the fortress (Atlas of the Marquis of Heliche, *Krigsarkivert*, Stockholm)

Fig 5. Plan of the fortress (according to a drawing of 1829)



Fig 6. Hypothetical original fortress: plan (top level)



Fig 7. Hypothetical original fortress: plan (sea esplanade level)



Fig 8. Hypothetical original fortress: plan (cistern level)

Fig 9. Hypothetical original fortress: perspective view from the West



Fig 10. Hypothetical original fortress: perspective view from the North



Ferrand Pimentel d'Almeida House

Coimbra



Frontispiece (Fig. 1) Ferrand Pimentel
d'Almeida House: street façade

The house of Professor Ferrand Pimentel D'Almeida (1885-1962) was built in the second or third decade of the 20th century in one of Coimbra's new expansion areas, over the hills. The house is today on sale, having suffered the unfortunate demolition of most of its interior walls and detailing.

It has a conservative external image, with a covered veranda along the rear eastern façade and over the building's southeast angle. The blue tile (*azulejo*) panels that cover the veranda's walls (dating from 1933) refer to localities and regions in Portugal dear to the owner's family: Póvoa de Varzim, the Mondego and the Douro Rivers, Alenquer.

It is not clear who the Architect was and what was the date of the construction. A reference to the authorship of Augusto Silva Pinto (1865-1938) appears in a text by Anacleto and Policarpo, However, information given by the actual proprietors indicates the possible authorship of Raúl Lino (1879-1974), the famous Portuguese architect trained in the German arts and crafts tradition. Apparently Lino (who is the architect of other contemporary houses in Coimbra) may have abandoned the work after an argument with the original proprietor.

An external set of stairs was added to the north side of the house in 1935, as is documented by the licensing process file in the municipal archives.

The students' task was to elaborate a survey of the actual building and to produce drawings relating to the original elevations without the lateral added stairs. They also drew the different floor plans, with the original inner wall division that can still be inferred from today's interior open space.

They were also able to establish some proximity with Raúl Lino's house designs in such features like the covered stairway entrance and the relation between the entrance hall and the house's main inner staircase. A good example is the "House in an Oporto suburb", which Lino published in his 1933 book *Casas Portuguesas* («Portuguese Houses»).

Credits:

Henrique Pereira, Joana Mendes, Luís Sil Almeida, Marta Lourenço,
Pedro Lopes

Tutors:

Prof. Rui Lobo, Arch. Cátia Marques

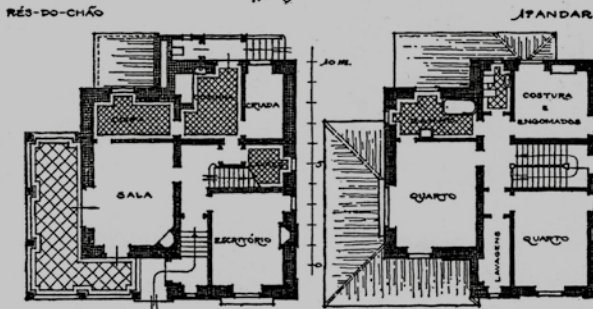
Academic Year:

2014-2015

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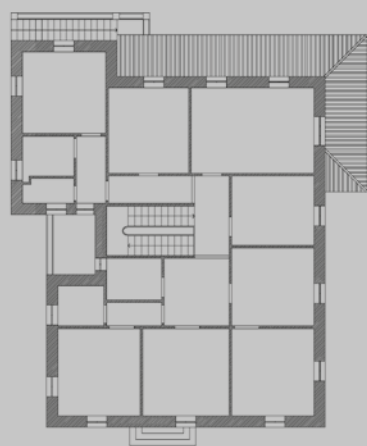
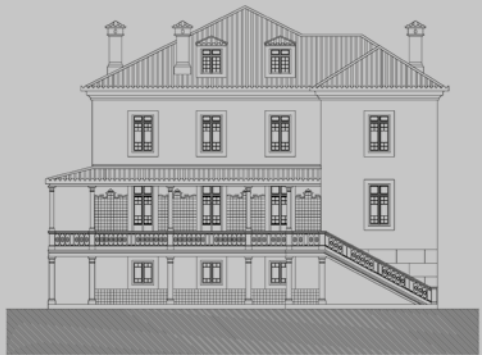
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Fig 2. View of the house from the southeast
 Fig 3. Raúl Lino: "a house in an Oporto suburb", 1933
 Fig 4. Interior view



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Figs 5.6.7.8. Hypothetical North, West (main), South and East original elevations, before the addition of the exterior stairs to the northern side of the house.

Figs 9.10. Hypothetical plans of the main and upper floors, before the demolition of most of the inner walls.

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