



Living in Lisbon

An Architectural View on Housing Challenges

—
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Lisbon is being ravaged by an unprecedented housing crisis. The exponential increase of prices, the combined outcome of the financialisation of housing and the lack of continued investment of public policies, means that every Portuguese person is, or knows someone who is, affected by the crisis.

There is a restless public debate, but little has been told about the buildings that will give shape to the political strategies that are being conceived and implemented. Which city do we wish to build to face the problem? What can be the role of architecture in this context?

Living in Lisbon concisely presents the conjecture and possibilities of action to think about the building of the city. The book includes an overview of the most charismatic architectures resulting from public housing policies that have been built in Lisbon over the course of 50 years of

democracy, describes the main projects that are currently on the table, presents analytical visions of the present situation and freely envisions plans for the future in the form of dialogue, essay or manifesto.

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29,7 x 21 cm, 160 pages

Softcover with dust-jacket

Ed. Marta Sequeira

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THE LISBON HOUSING LABORATORY: 50 YEARS OF CONTINGENCIES

Portas had, since 1957, been constructing at the theoretical level. In the journal *Arquitectura* he published dozens of articles focusing on the production of housing in Southern Europe, particularly in Spain and Italy, countries that, in the post-war period, sought to re-found modern architecture through an organicist realism. Those formulations were also being approached within Team X, or at the Iberian scale in the *Piccolos Congress* organised by Oriol Bohigas and Carlos de Miguel that, from 1967 onwards, had Nuno Portas as their interlocutor in Portugal.

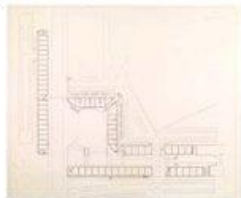
The major operations of housing promotion were on the agenda of debate, namely the INA-Casa programme in Italy, the second phase of New Towns in England, and the Toulouse-Le Mirail operation in France.

In 1965, Portas also joined the reporting committee of the Seminar on Politics and Housing, promoted by the Ministry of Public Works, whose coordination was led by Inácio Peres Fernandes. The report reflects the conscience of housing's contribution to the country's social development, and its alignment with land policy and financing. An analysis of the organic structure of the public sector was also revisited, identifying the lack of a specialised structure to face the existing problems. For the first time, the "concept of the right to housing" was put forward, to be guaranteed by the "community, under the responsibility of the state." This framework was present at the outbreak of the 1974 Revolution, and laid the foundations for the actions that were triggered throughout the housing sector, anticipating the postulates that, in 1976, were included in Article 65 of Portugal's Constitution of the Republic.

The essential issue that emerges from the report, however, corresponds to the need for combined action between the physical and economic planning sectors, considered crucial for the study of housing problems. From this premise, a broad political field of socio-economic development was introduced, capable of conducting coherent and complementary actions. The phasing of this policy began with the city-region unit, as the territorial scope to be considered, with management of mobility and the transport network a decisive pillar in the structure of urban and regional organisation. In the economic field, there was a perception that interactions within the productive sector of construction would eventually translate into an equilibrium in the circulation of capital and the movement of the domestic market,

PINK PANTHER, 1972-1979
GONÇALO BYRNE AND ANTÓNIO REIS CABRITA

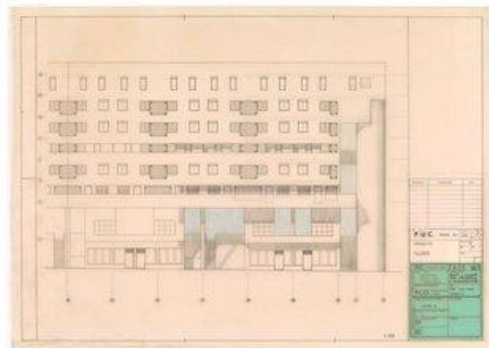
In the context of the *Fundo de Fomento da Habitação* [Housing Promotion Fund] – created in 1969 with the purpose of direct development of social housing for rent by disadvantaged social strata – Gonçalo Byrne and António Reis Cabrita designed a housing complex for the N2 area of the Chelas Urbanisation Plan. While the plan, coordinated by Francisco Silva Dias, encouraged a separation between cars and pedestrians, the project of these young architects favoured a return to the typology of the street and public square. Their desire was to realise a large-scale building (for around 2500 residents housed in 382 flats) that valued the quality of its public space and its pathways – with circulation through elevators and stairs, but also through extensive galleries and ambitious elevated passages that constituted a paradigm for collective housing models. MS



(bottom) Technical drawings, 1972-1979. China ink and pencil on tracing. (next page, top) Photography by Daniel Mathão, 2015.

PAULO TORMENTA PINTO

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turning housing in a durable asset rather than a productive investment, and, as such, not significantly affecting the "balance of payments". This consolidated the idea of creating a national fund capable of catalysing the development of the construction industry in the field of housing, and coordinating the actions of the state in this area.

The institution of the Housing Promotion Fund (FFH) in May 1969 gave consistency to this intention, consolidating all the responsibilities of the Ministry of Public Works in terms of housing. This new organism had as its mission the resolution of the housing issue, especially for the classes not benefiting from current housing pension funds. In the Lisbon area, its actions had impact on the promotion of operations of great dimension, such as the Integrated Plans for Almada-Monte da Caparica, Zambujal and Setúbal, and the building of complexes included in the Chelas Urbanisation Plan. Taken together, these operations created a ring expanding the metropolitan area, defining a polycentric frame that was expected to be able to accommodate the region's increase in population and redefine new boundaries for the urban area.

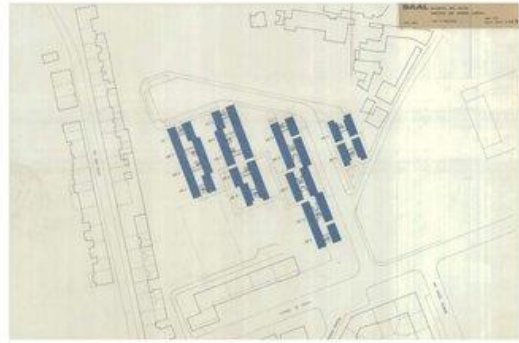
While architects planned and built the new complexes, they also accumulated a sense of self-reflection regarding the ongoing production. In projects such as the Bairro Branco in Almada, by Bartolomeu Costa Cabral and Maurício de Vasconcelos, the Alto do Zambujal, by Vítor Figueiredo, Cabral de Melo and Jorge Gil, or the Bairro da Bela Vista in Setúbal, by Charters Monteiro and José Sousa Martins, there existed the intention to work with the codes of the canonical city, recuperating the typological models of the street, the block and the square. The same happened in Chelas in the Pink Panther complex, designed by Gonçalo Byrne and António Reis Cabrita, integrating at its origin on the one hand, fundamental elements theorised by Aldo Rossi in *L'Architettura della città*, treated in accordance with an analogic process, and on the other hand, revealing the inspiration of the Sitings, studied, for example, by Tafuri in Vienna-Rossa.

Immediately after the revolution of 25th April 1974, these ideas were sublimated into the contingency programme of the SAAL (*Serviço de Apoio Ambulatório Local/Local Ambulatory Support Service*), an instrument that allowed the production of public housing to be kept active in the revolutionary period, through the involvement of the communities that were to be rehoused. This programme, developed in the context of the first three provisional governments of the democratic

QUINTA DO ALTO, 1975-1982 MANUEL MAGALHÃES

In the context of the SAAL (*Serviço de Apoio Ambulatório Local/Local Ambulatory Support Service*) – a programme of house building to address the urgent housing needs of disadvantaged populations in Portugal – Manuel Magalhães led the technical brigade that designed a complex of 152 dwellings in response to the demands of the residents of Quinta do Alto, on the edge of Bairro de Atravade. The reuse of tunnel formwork previously used during construction of Hotel Penta (a project designed by Manuel Magalhães with Frederico George) required a number of adaptations to arrive at a first project, but enabled lower costs and, above all, faster construction. Thanks to the optimisation of the building process, the speed of construction was such that although work only began in October 1981, it was eventually completed in November 1982 – ahead of other long-standing operations. MS

(foote) Photomontage, 1975-1982
(top) Distribution galleries, 1982.
© António da Silva Damásio Archive.
Handing over the keys to the residents, 1982. © INH
(next page, centre) Technical drawings, 1978. China ink and pencil on tracing paper.



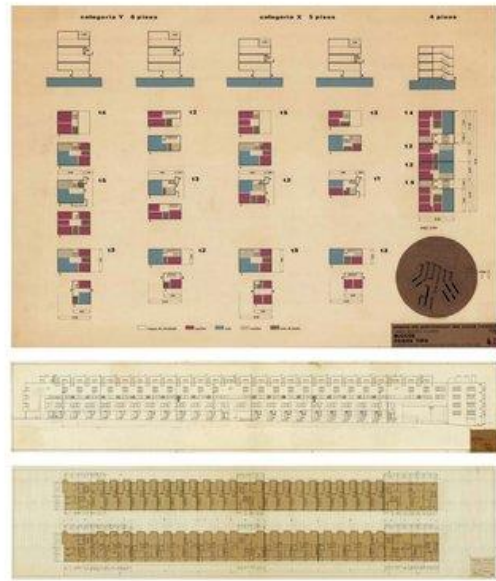
formal "austerity" and "deprivation" emerged as the possible way out, for a critical affirmation of architectural production, based on a certain demarcation from the orthodoxy of the modern movement. This tendency, "tinged with romanticism" in the work of Álvaro Siza, would be, according to Byrne, supported by a critical manipulation of the discourse of composition, or in a non-functional sense, as expressed in the architecture of Vítor Figueiredo for example, in a search for superfluous space within the rigidity of the regulated areas of housing programmes. For their pragmatic dimension and typological clarity, "plain" Mannerism and the Pompadour Enlightenment served as a referential basis for the "new architecture", thus supporting both the idea of a non-historical relation with the past as well as the conviction that the modern project lay unfinished. This theoretical framework eventually spread far beyond the housing programmes, becoming the basic discourse and concept of architectural debate formulated in Portugal in the democratic period.

The Democratic Years

Once the troubled years of the revolutionary process were over, the public housing promotion programmes were relaunched in Lisbon, from the 1980s on. The construction of housing for the middle class and the young population was also intensified at that moment through the EPUL (*Empresa Pública de Urbanização de Lisboa/Public Company for the Urbanisation of Lisbon*), that had been created in 1971 to aid municipal action through mechanisms of business management in the study and execution of urban development projects. The action of the EPUL was relevant, for example, within the frame of the Telheiras Sul Detailed Plan, resumed by Pedro Vieira de Almeida in 1974, whose intention was to establish urban continuity with the old core of that neighbourhood, located on the then northern edge of the city. Through pedestrian routes, typologies of blocks and structures of facilities and commerce inserted in the urban fabric, Telheiras Sul accommodated several typological experiments, with a recurrent use of galleries to access dwellings in articulation with the design of public space. [4] It was also through EPUL, in the 1980s, that the blocks planned in the Restelo Detailed Plan were built, following a high-density, low-rise solution designed by Nuno Teófilo Pereira's Rua da Alegria studio, involving Nuno Portas, Pedro Botelho and João Paciência. In the Pink Block in particular it was possible to test

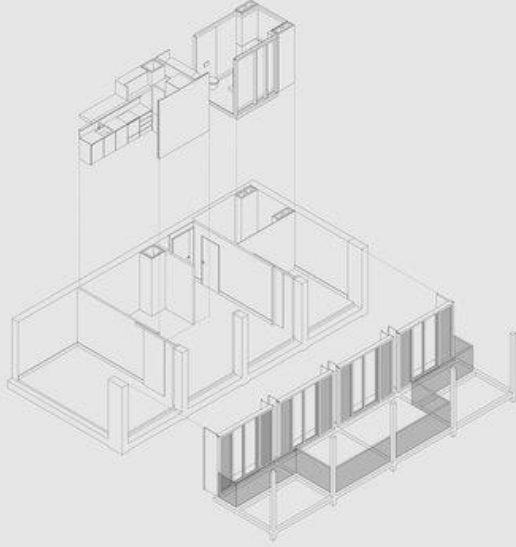
PINK BLOCK, 1984-1987 NUNO TEÓFILO PEREIRA AND PEDRO VIANA BOTELHO

This work, designed between 1970 and 1972 by Nuno Teófilo Pereira and Nuno Portas, within the context of the Restelo Area Detailed Plan, was part of an intervention promoted by the *Empresa Pública de Urbanização de Lisboa* [Public Company for the Urbanisation of Lisbon] (EPUL), whose mission was to promote municipal housing for the middle class, as a way to mitigate the perverse effects of real estate speculation. The neighbourhood constituted a laboratory for Nuno Portas to experiment with his research on matrices of land occupation based on the motto: low rise, high density – which advocated for a city dense enough to avoid the pressures of suburban expansion, whilst offering a sense of individual identity to residents and the integration of public spaces. This block is, ultimately, an exercise critical towards high-rise housing. MS



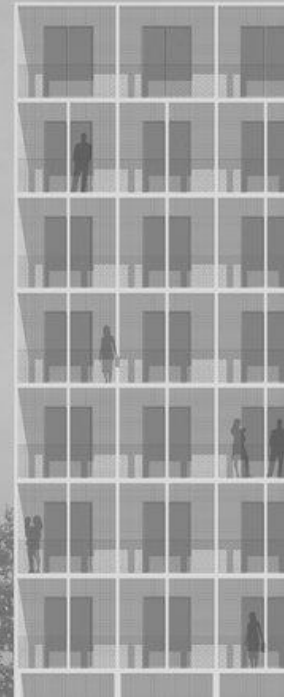
(top) Nuno Teófilo Pereira, Nuno Portas, João Paciência, Gonçalo Ribeiro Telles. Plano de Pormenor da Zona do Restelo. Housing blocks. India ink on tracing paper. Nuno Teófilo Pereira estate. © DGPC/SIPA (bottom) L'Plot EA, East elevation and plans. India ink on tracing paper. Nuno Teófilo Pereira estate. © DGPC/SIPA (previous page) Photos by Irene Buarque, 1988. Nuno Teófilo Pereira estate. © DGPC/SIPA

In an operation that implies the construction of 26,000 dwellings, by 2026, the issue of urgency and, therefore, of the use of standardised design solutions, gains new impetus, opening the way for serial modular construction. This hypothesis enables construction costs to be reduced, while at the same time increasing the sustainability and flexibility of the architectural spaces produced.



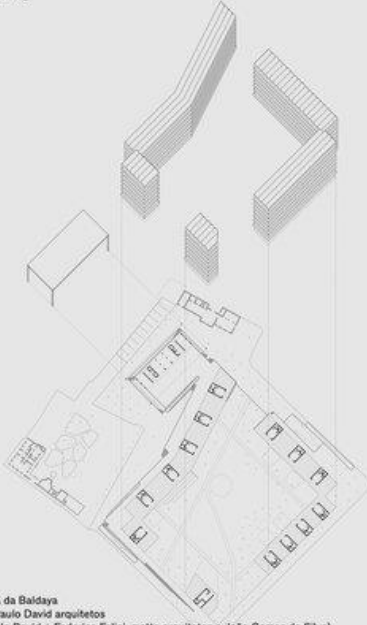
TITLE OR02, Bairro da GNR, Vale Formoso de Cima
AUTHOR(S) Inês Lobo
COMPETITION DATE 2020
GROSS FLOOR AREA 23.500 m² (17.500 m² Habitação)
NUMBER OF DWELLINGS 155
BUILDING COST 31.169.714,21 €
CLIENT Sociedade de Reabilitação Urbana (SRU)

Large-scale construction evokes the mythical work of the reconstruction of downtown Lisbon after the 1755 earthquake, whose urban plans and elevations of reconstructed streets have survived to this day. Following this logic, the elevation — or the creation of a module of a façade and its repetition in extension — can, ultimately, be the defining element of a new city.



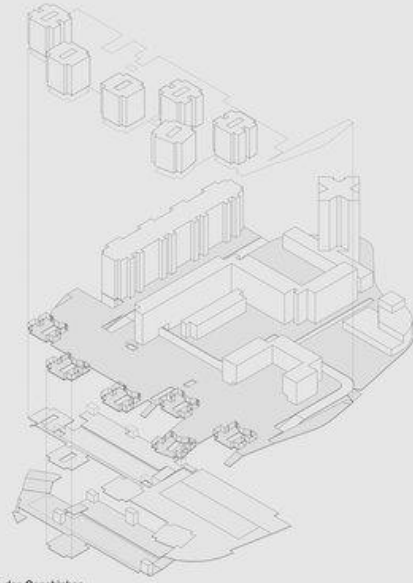
TITLE OR11, Quinta das Amendoeiras
AUTHOR(S) Appleton, Domingos e BFJ
COMPETITION DATE 2022
ÁREA BRUTA DE CONSTRUÇÃO 29.350 m²
NUMBER OF DWELLINGS 196
BUILDING COST 37.087.386,00 €
CLIENT Sociedade de Reabilitação Urbana (SRU)

Transformation can be used to confer a new centrality to the place where houses will be implemented, conferring identity to the urban complex, but also building the centre of public life for the community to which they belong.



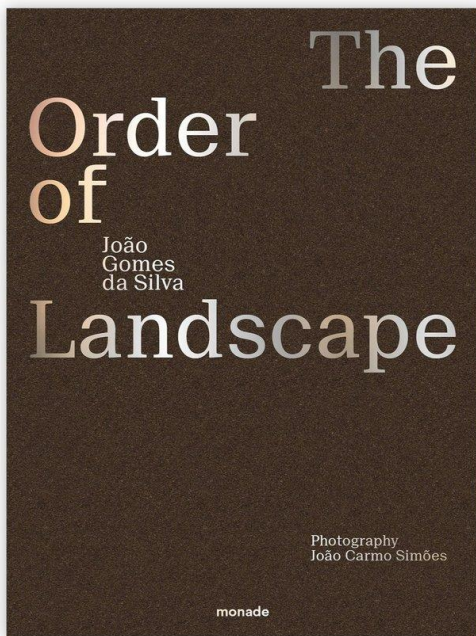
TITLE Quinta da Baldaya
AUTHOR(S) Paulo David arquitetos
 (equipa: Paulo David + Federica Felici, motte arquitetos e João Gomes da Silva)
COMPETITION DATE 2023
GROSS FLOOR AREA 54.057 m²
NUMBER OF DWELLINGS 266
BUILDING COST 43.579.000 €
CLIENT Instituto da Habitação e da Reabilitação Urbana (IHRU)

Near socially problematic areas, the construction of new housing is a privileged opportunity to give new directions to complex places. Through the creation of new public spaces, interventions can not only provide housing for future residents, but also improve the quality of life for those who already live there.



TITLE Quinta das Conchinhas
AUTHOR(S) Inês Lobo, Ricardo Bak Gordon, Ricardo Carvalho
COMPETITION DATE 2023
GROSS FLOOR AREA 25.904 m² (16.717 m² habitação)
NUMBER OF DWELLINGS 168
BUILDING COST 33.500.000 €
CLIENT Instituto da Habitação e da Reabilitação Urbana (IHRU)

Suggested Books



The Order of Landscape / João Gomes da Silva

The Order of Landscape presents a powerful insight into the work of a forefront figure in contemporary landscape architecture, João Gomes da Silva. Through an extensive duotone photo essay by João Carmo Simões, a collection of texts and a set of plans, the book unveils this seminal body of work.

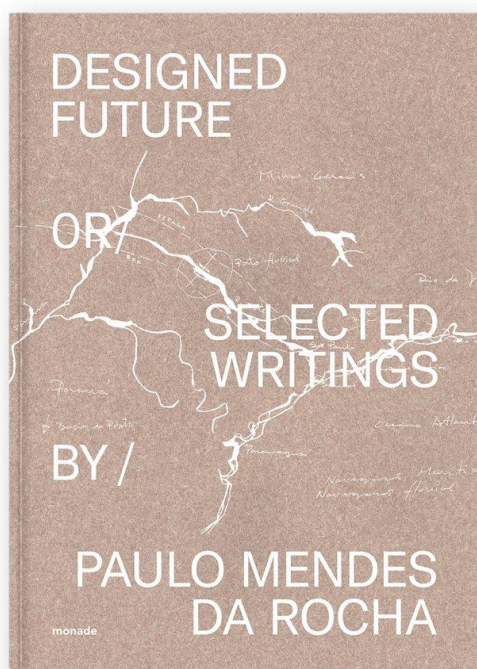
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FEP / Viana de Lima

A groundbreaking work of modernity in Porto, the FEP faculty building is a hidden architectural masterpiece, designed by Alfredo Viana de Lima in the 1960s. Through photographs especially taken by João Carmo Simões and edited drawings, this book shows why the project has been, a silent reference for generations of Portuguese architects.

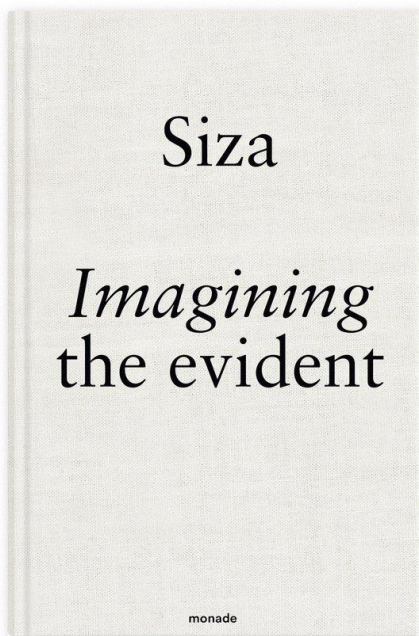
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Designed Future / Paulo Mendes da Rocha

As the most complete collection of essays, interviews and lectures, this book is an in-depth view of the journey and particular thinking of one of the most contemporary architects, the Brazilian modern master, Paulo Mendes da Rocha (1928-2021).

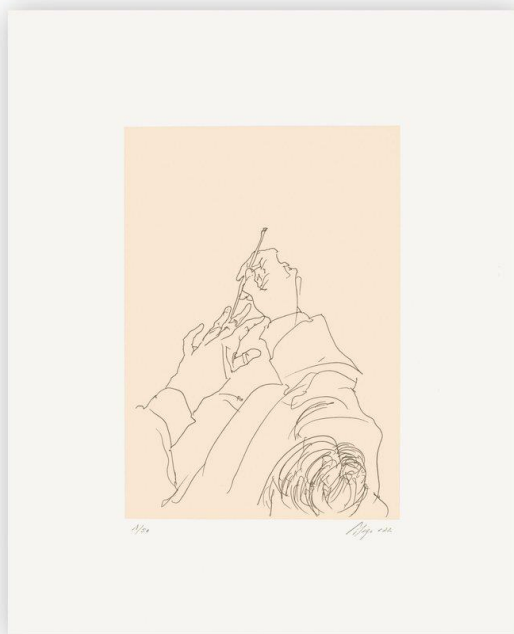
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Imagining the Evident / Álvaro Siza

The referential book by Álvaro Siza on his own work, for the first time in English. Describing some of his projects, his expectations and struggles, references and decisions, this book is a fundamental contribution to the understanding of Álvaro Siza's architectural thinking.

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A Dangerous Game / Álvaro Siza

Silkscreen by Álvaro Siza

Signed and Numbered by the Author

Limited Edition of 50

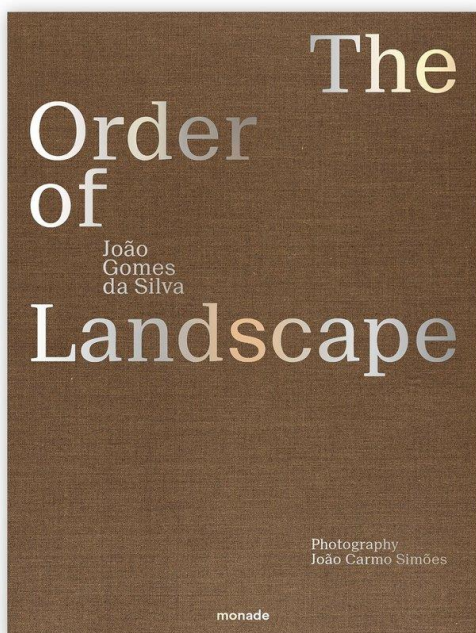
There is a game in which the player places an open palm and splayed fingers on a table, then, using a penknife, stabs back and forth between the gaps, faster and faster. A dangerous game. Such is Architecture.

Paper size: 470 x 390 mm / Image size: 290 x 210 mm

Signed and numbered in front.

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300 gms

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The Order of Landscape / Special Edition

**Special Edition, Signed and numbered
Linen cover**

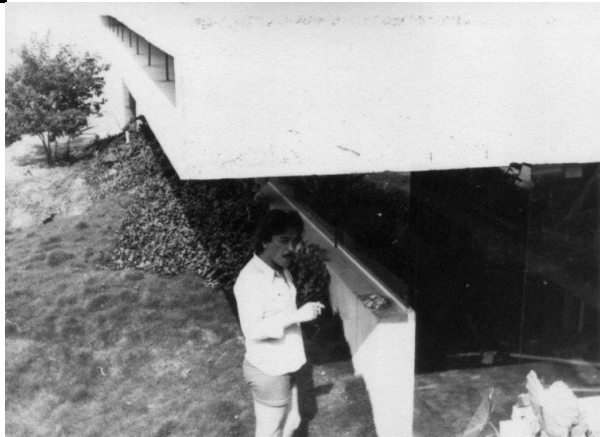
Beginning in 1987, with Álvaro Siza in the Malagueira plan, Gomes da Silva's career has decisively marked Portuguese contemporary architecture. From Serralves Museum Garden to Madeira's Seafront Promenade and Lisbon's riverfront, his particular conception of new grounds proposes a formality without formalisms and a naturalness without naturalisms.

News



Book launch of "The Order of Landscape", Lisboa

Book launches in Lisbon and São Paulo: "Designed Future / Paulo Mendes da Rocha"

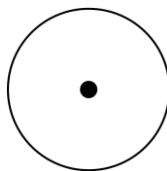


"Architecture. A Dangerous Game" by Álvaro Siza

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