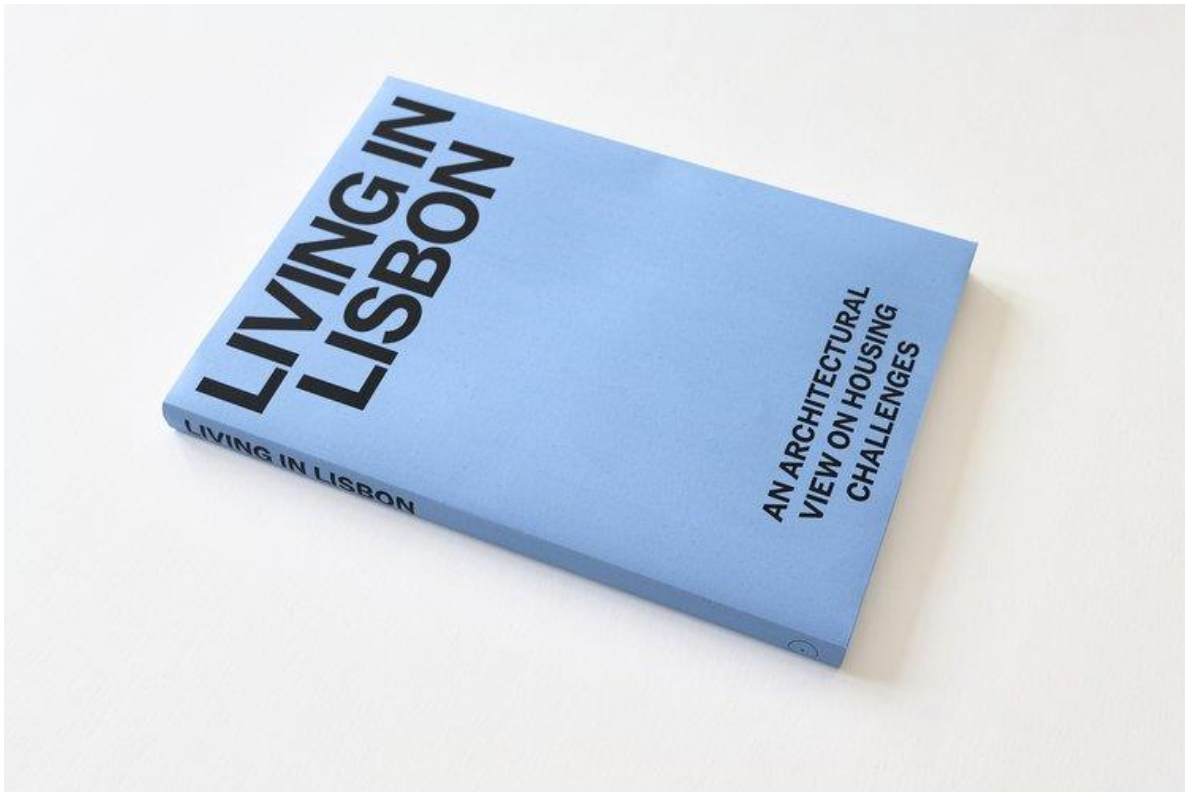


# monade

## Ibero-American Biennial of Architecture and Urbanism Award



### Living in Lisbon

The book “Living in Lisbon” was been announced as winner of the [13th BIAU Biennial of Architecture and Urbanism](#) in the ‘Publications’ category. The BIAU is organised by the Spanish Ministry of Transport, Mobility and Urban Agenda, in partnership with the Superior Council of the Spanish College of Architects and Ibero-American housing and urban planning institutions. The prize will be awarded this December in Lima, Peru, during BIAU.

“Living in Lisbon” is edited by Marta Sequeira and is co-published by Monade and CCB - Centro Cultural de Belém and Dinamia'CET ISCTE.

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*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.*

—

Edited and organised by Marta Sequeira

29,7 x 21 cm, 160 pages

# **LIVING IN LISBON**

**AN ARCHITECTURAL  
VIEW ON HOUSING  
CHALLENGES**

**LISBON IS A CITY WITH A VAST HISTORIC BACKGROUND, BUT ALSO A CITY THAT HAS BEEN TRANSFORMING AT AN ACCELERATED PACE IN RECENT YEARS. THIS MUTATION HAS RESULTED IN A METROPOLIS THAT CURRENTLY HAS AROUND THREE MILLION INHABITANTS, A VARIED ECONOMIC FABRIC – WITH STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES THAT REFLECT ITS COUNTRY – AND A RICH SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY. THE CHALLENGES CAUSED BY THIS TRANSFORMATION HAVE BEEN MULTIPLE, AND ARE EXPLORED IN THIS CONVERSATION WITH SOCIOLOGIST ANA DRAGO, ARCHITECT JOANA PESTANA LAGES – BOTH RESEARCHERS AT DINÂMIA'CET-ISCTE, CENTRE FOR SOCIOECONOMIC AND TERRITORIAL STUDIES – AND FILIPA ROSETA, ARCHITECT AND COUNCILLOR FOR HOUSING, LOCAL DEVELOPMENT AND MUNICIPAL WORKS AT LISBON CITY HALL.**

**MARTA SEQUEIRA (MS)** According to data from the Portuguese Immigration and Border Service, in 2021 more than 100,000 foreign nationals lived in Lisbon (about 20% of the population), with inhabitants from 160 different countries living in the metropolitan area. How do you think this population has been absorbed and has contributed to what the city of Lisbon is today?

**FILIPA ROSETA (FR)** Multiculturalism is a positive feature of the city of Lisbon that, in fact, has forever been ingrained in its DNA. But we also have to be careful with rapid transformations, since they bring not only benefits. Culture needs time to be consolidated, if not, you run the risk of destroying identity. Recently, two phenomena have contributed to an excessively fast transformation.

There has been a very rapid gentrification of some areas of the metropolis, particularly since 2017, when the city entered the global marketplace with force. From one moment to the next, Lisbon's real estate became internationally desirable, with the consequence that its former occupants were driven to the suburbs of the city. On the other hand, in 2018, a decree was passed that made the regularisation of immigrants more flexible. Since then, there has been a boom in people entering the country, and this has brought huge challenges. These dynamics need time – to increase infrastructure and, above all, to build housing – otherwise, frictions can arise between those who are trying to establish themselves in the city and the city's former inhabitants. Not only were infrastructure and housing not built to cater for these people, but our services don't even have the capacity to deal with them: at the moment, we have 65,000 waiting to be dealt with by the Portuguese Immigration and Border Service.

**MS** But do you believe there should have been more restraint?

**FR** No, I think there should have been planning. But now that we are in this situation, we need to respond to it.

**Joana Pestana Lages (JPL)** Diversity is more interesting than multiculturalism, because it opens space for issues other than culture. Diversity is about accepting the other, of which geography is not the only contributing factor. The situation of a teacher in the USA that believes buying a flat in Lisbon is a good investment for their retirement is different from someone who comes from Guinea-Bissau or Senegal in search of a better life. The question of geographic origin must always have the social, among other factors, added to it. In itself, multiculturalism is useless – and, besides that, it should not be excused. What matters is what we do with the cultures that come to us. Right now, we are creating welcoming policies for

wealthy foreigners who come to enjoy the city and all it has to offer. But there are a great number of people who come to work in low-skilled jobs, to live in overcrowded dwellings, to not be attended to by the Immigration and Border Service. The response, for both sides, should certainly be different – because the expectations of both sides are also different – but there is one dimension that I consider profoundly unfair, because it is morally condemnable, and that is that citizenship can be bought through golden visas. It is not just a question of the Immigration and Border Service not attending to immigrants, but of it attending to some of them promptly if they are willing to buy a house worth more than 500,000 euros. Curiously, we are having this conversation in front of the Praça do Império garden in Lisbon – built in 1940 on the occasion of the grand Exhibition of the Portuguese World, in celebration of the "glories of the Empire" of the Estado Novo. It becomes inevitable to reflect on how this colonial past still translates in the way the city is lived in, and I would even say in the way the city is sometimes thought of.

**ANA DRAGO (AD)** There also exists a connection between the social origin of the foreigners and the areas of the city they have been occupying. The foreign elites reproduced what Lisbon's bourgeoisie did in the past: they occupied Avenida da Liberdade and Avenida das Novas. But they have also been moving into popular neighbourhoods, fuelling a process of transnational gentrification. In contrast, migration linked to low-paid and informal labour has been settling in the old working-class axis: Avenida Almirante Reis. But it has also been settling on the outskirts of Lisbon, and other municipalities in its metropolitan area. This process has contributed to the creation of new enclaves. I have heard it said so many times: "One day, there won't be any Portuguese people left in Lisbon." And this sentence is not said about the poor migrants, but about the rich ones. We are afraid that the renovation of Lisbon's urban fabric,

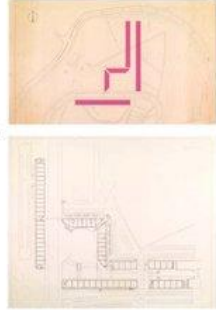


Portas had, since 1957, been constructing at the theoretical level. In the journal *Arquitetura* he published dozens of articles focusing on the production of housing in Southern Europe, particularly in Spain and Italy, countries that, in the post-war period, sought to re-found modern architecture through an organicist realism. Those formulations were also being approached within Team X, or at the Iberian scale in the *Pequenos Congressos* organised by Orló Boligias 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 1969, 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 Pires 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.

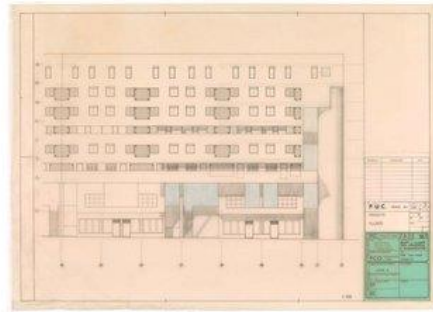
The essential issue that emerges from the report, however, corresponds to the need for combined action between the physical and economic planning sectors, considered crucial for the study of housing problems. From this premise, a broad political field of socio-economic development was introduced, capable 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 R2 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

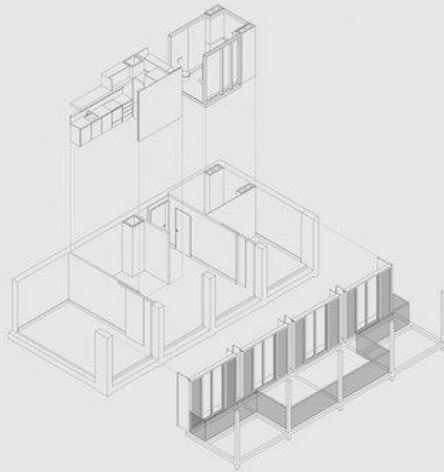


(bottom) Technical drawings, 1972-1979. China ink and pencil on tracing. (next page, top) Photography by Daniel Mathão, 2015.



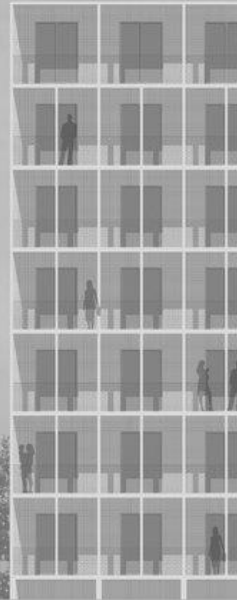


In an operation that implies the construction of 26,000 dwellings, by 2026, the issue of urgency and, therefore, of the use of standardised design solutions, gains new impetus, opening the way for serial modular construction. This hypothesis enables construction costs to be reduced, while at the same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



**TITLE** OR02, Bairro da GNR, Vale Formoso de Cima  
**AUTHORS** Inês Lobo  
**COMPETITION DATE** 2020  
**GROSS FLOOR AREA** 23,500 m<sup>2</sup> (17,500 m<sup>2</sup> 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  
**AUTHORS** Appleton Domingos e BFJ  
**COMPETITION DATE** 2022  
**ÁREA BRUTA DE CONSTRUÇÃO** 29,350 m<sup>2</sup>  
**NUMBER OF DWELLINGS** 106  
**BUILDING COST** 37,047,386,00 €  
**CLIENT** Sociedade de Reabilitação Urbana (SRU)

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 (FPH) 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.

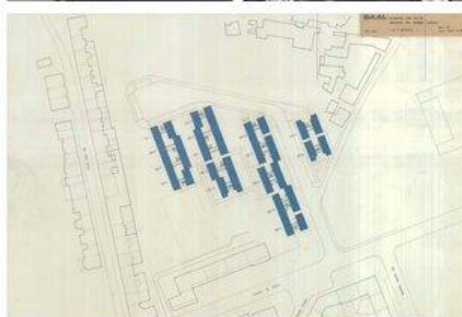
While architects planned and built the new complexes, they also accumulated a sense of self-reflection regarding the ongoing production. In projects such as the Bairro Branco in Almada, by Bartolomeu Costa Cabral and Maurício de Vasconcelos, the Alto do Zambujal, by Vítor Figueiredo, Cabral de Mello 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 *Siedlungs*, studied, for example, by Tafuri in *Vienna Rossa*.

Immediately after the revolution of 25th April 1974, these ideas were sublimated into the contingency of 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 Alvalade. 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

(Footer) 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.



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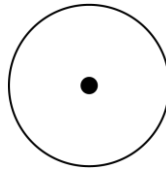
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