

The House as matrix of the Territory and Identity of 'Região do Oeste' (Western Region)

Principal Investigator / PI

António Santos Leite (FAUL)

Integrated Researchers of CIAUD

António Santos Leite (co-coordinator – FAUL); Ana Marta Feliciano (co-coordinator – FAUL); Ricardo Silva Pinto (CIAUD)

Collaborating Researchers of CIAUD

Ana Vasconcelos (FAUL/CIAUD); Císbélia Cevadinha (CIAUD)

External Researchers

César Ribeiro de Deus (CMTV); Jorge Ribeiro (FAUL); Nicole Ludovino (FAUL/MIARQ); Pedro Fagundes (FAUL/MIARQ)

Keywords

House; Manor House; Identity House; Rural Landscape;
Tourism; Eco-tourism, Wine-turismo, Região Oeste.

Partner Institutions

Centro de Investigação em Arquitetura Urbanismo e Design (CIAUD); Faculdade de Arquitetura da Universidade de Lisboa (FAUL); Camara Municipal de Torres Vedras (CMTV)

Expected Future Partner Institutions

Comunidade Intermunicipal do Oeste (CIM); Centro de Turismo do Oeste (CTO); Turismo de Portugal (TP); Camara Municipal da Lourinhã (CML); Camara Municipal de Mafra (CMM); Camara Municipal da Arruda dos Vinhos (CMAV); Camara Municipal de Sobral de Monte Agraço (CMSMA).

OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this Research Project is to analyse, systematize and interpret in a culturally integrated way the 'Houses' of 'Região do Oeste' (Western Region), these houses are understood in a broad sense, ranging from the traditional architecture of manor houses and country houses of agricultural and/or leisure production, to the new housing and tourist realities, which today increasingly justify new socio-cultural and economic opportunities for the sustainable development of a specific rural territory undergoing effective transformation.

Concretely, this Project will seek to contextualize these 'Houses', in a territorial and in an identity way, in view of its specific implantations and architectural typification. From the 'new world' that was affirmed with the liberalism of the nineteenth century to our present, the Project will seek in it to recognize the current prospects that can, not only by their architecture, but also socially and economically, qualify the territory in a sustainable way for a foreseeable future.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

Feliciano, Ana Marta; Leite, António Santos; "A Casa Senhorial Como matriz da territorialidade; a região de Torres Vedras entre o tempo Medieval e o Final do Antigo Regime"; ed. Caleidoscópio, Lisboa, 2015/2016, ISBN 978-989-658-335-4.

Leite, António Santos; "A Casa Romântica; uma Matriz para a Contemporaneidade"; ed. Caleidoscópio; Lisboa, 2014/2015, 1ª ed. 2015, ISBN 978-989-658-263-0.

Leite, António Santos Leite; "7 Casas Imaginárias – Sete Caminhos de Identidade"; ed. Caleidoscópio; Lisboa, 1ª ed. 2019, ISBN 978-989-658-571-6; DOI <http://doi.org/10.30618/978-989-658-571-6>

Leite, António Santos; "A Casa como Espaço Matriz; uma Ideia de Casa-Mundo"; cap. Livro Rv. "Artitextos; Urbanismo, Arquitectura, Design, Moda" n.º10, edição do CEFA + CIAUD; 1. Ed. 2012; ISBN 2182-5440; págs. 55-64.

Leite, António Santos; Feliciano, Ana Marta; "A Influência da Construção Imagética do Estado Novo na Territorialidade de Torres Vedras"; cap. Livro "A Língua que Habitamos; O Digital na relação com a realidade Interações entre Design, Arquitectura e Urbanismo Investigar, Divulgar, Publicar" Vol.8; ed. AEAULP, Lisboa, 2018; ISBN 978-1547025275.

ABSTRACT + IMAGES

The Research Project, "The House as matrix of the Territory and Identity of 'Região do Oeste' (Western Region)", proposes to analyze, systematize and interpret in a culturally integrated way the existing 'Houses' in the Western Region. This reality includes, in a broad sense, the traditional architecture of manor houses and country houses of agricultural and/or leisure production, until the new houses related to tourist realities and wine production, which today justify new socio-cultural and economic opportunities for the sustainable development of a rural territory undergoing effective transformation. In fact, and it can already be anticipated by what we have investigated⁽¹⁾, these Houses, for their multiple and complementary socio-functional spheres, are indispensable references and potential hierarchical means for a consequent qualification/reclassification of the landscape and socio-cultural identity of the 'Region'⁽²⁾, a region that, despite its increasing outsourcing and its recent urban development, is still strongly marked by a rurality that his matrix identity.

In fact, the relationship that can be established between these 'Houses' and the characterization of the territory has tended symbiotically to structure his evolution. Therefore, even because of often recognised misconception, there is an urgent need to proactively understand the multiple dimensions of this relation, not only in a specific architectural point of view, but also in a social understanding, to preserve and promote, in a sustainable way these examples, because only a fair balance between identity and expectations can guarantee a consistent future, the value of its identity and its potential built heritage. Indeed, even today, with a new conscious and presence of a media discourse on preservation of a desired cultural heritage, the reality tends to show the insufficiency or inconsistency of this search, a fact which is evident from the incomprehension and accelerated degradation of these values of identity. This degradation is manifested by the effective and irreversible change of a previous way of life and by the superficiality of the proposals for the reconstruction of this 'Houses', many times limited by the immediate but sterile search for mere physical maintenance, or by tacit incomprehension of the true matrix values of this same background of identity.

In this context, the Research Project that we propose, project that partly continues our previous research synthesized in the book "The Manor House as a territoriality matrix; the region of Torres Vedras between Medieval times and the end of the Ancien Régime"⁽³⁾, will seek, as we said, to analyse, systematize and interpret in a culturally integrated way, the reality of the 'Houses' of the Western Region, focusing now on the comprehension of the later temporality that explains them in our contemporaneity. That is, this project will try to explain and contextualize these Houses in the territory and based on their identity, according to their specific implantations and architectural typification, from the 'new world' that was affirmed with the liberalism of the nineteenth century, until our present, seeking to recognise in them the new determinants and prospects that may be possible, not only for its architecture, but also socially and economically, to qualify the Region in a sustainable way for the future.

Therefore, with this Research Project we will try, programmatically, not only to understand the past of these 'Houses', to project proactively the present and the future, a process that can certainly add value to this fundamental and indispensable built heritage, envisaging for it a sustainable rehabilitation of uses, which will involve mainly mixed and complementary activities between agricultural production, new housing realities and the essential leisure activities promoted through different types of tourism (rural tourism, nature tourism, wine tourism, etc.).

In reality, even because of the physical proximity to the extensive metropolitan area of Lisbon, at this moment, the transformations and opportunities that are imposed on the 'Houses' of the Western Region and its rural territory, are certainly many and potentially requalified. However, also because of this acknowledged potential for transformation, the risks of an accelerated mischaracterisation are immense, so, only through more objective knowledge such as the one we propose to achieve, the existing synergies could be consciously enhanced, thus assuming this Research Project as a potential contribution, or rather as a real operational tool, for the promotion of a truly sustainable requalification of the territory and socio-cultural identity of its Region.

Finally, we cannot fail to mention that the present Research Project, as an identity tool for upgrading with potential cultural and socio-economic impacts, in order to be effective, must not be exclusively academic, and therefore, it must not be alienated from the living forces of the Region. In a similar way, it is important for the project to not be detached from the entities that officially manage politically and administratively this vast and potential territory. Thus, concretely, this Project gives continuity to a protocol established between the Research Centre for Architecture, Urbanism and Design (CIAUD) and the Municipality of Torres Vedras (CMTV) as well as the establishment of new official contacts to involve future support from other municipalities and other entities promoting the Economy and Tourism of the Region⁽⁴⁾.

(1) Here we refer specifically to the research we have already carried out in the book "A Casa Senhorial Como matriz da territorialidade; a região de Torres Vedras entre o tempo Medieval e o Final do Antigo Regime" (Feliciano/Leite, 2015/2016). Author's note.

(2) It can be recognised that there are actual common features, deeply marked by a specific rurality, in a vast region with 2486 km² and around 362 523 inhabitants (2011 census), now commonly known as the Western Region ('Região do Oeste'), which incorporates the northern part of the District of Lisbon and the southern part of the District of Leiria, being delimited to the south by the Metropolitan Area of Lisbon, to the east by the Tejo Lezíria, to the north by the Region of Leiria and to the west by the Atlantic Ocean. Author's note.

(3) Title translation: "A Casa Senhorial Como matriz da territorialidade; a região de Torres Vedras entre o tempo Medieval e o Final do Antigo Regime".

(4) Concretely: Comunidade Intermunicipal do Oeste (CIM), Centro de Turismo do Oeste (CTO), Turismo de Portugal (TP), Camara Municipal da Lourinhã (CML), Camara Municipal de Mafra (CMM), Camara Municipal da Arruda dos Vinhos (CMAV), Camara Municipal de Sobral de Monte Agraço (CMSMA). Author's note.

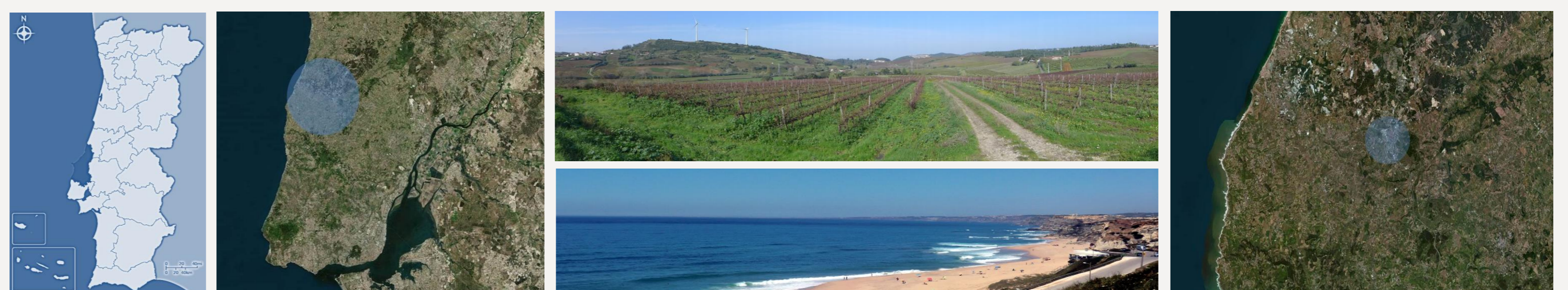


Fig. 1 Geographical frameworks of the 'Região do Oeste' (Western Region); a Region defined territorially by a soft matrix rurality that contrasts today with the new desire for its vast coastline..



Fig. 2 Frameworks of the rural territory of the 'Região do Oeste' (Western Region), where are permanencies and new socio-functional realities that interact and identically redefine the Houses of our time..

SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE FOR THE DISCIPLINE

This Research Project should build an **inquiry, systematization and original interpretation, which should help to contextualize the architectural references of the heritage of the 'Houses' that recognizably define and determine the Territory and Sociocultural Identity of the 'Região do Oeste'** (Western Region).

Concretely, this investigation will help to complement a previous study and interpretation work, summarized in the book "A Casa Senhorial como matriz da territorialidade; a Região de Torres Vedras entre o tempo Medieval e o Final do Antigo Regime", since this project will focus on the period that followed, a period that covers from the affirmation of the liberal world of the nineteenth century to our contemporaneity.

From this last perspective, it should be noted that this project will be objectively original as an organic synthesis and identity of a territory in intense transformation, therefore its disciplinary knowledge can, theoretically and operationally, contribute to a more qualified and sustainable valorisation and intervention in a determinant built heritage.

EXPECTED ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACT

This Research Project seeks to investigate and synthesize an extremely vast and apparently diffuse cultural knowledge. By the intentional methodology proposed, and above all, the direct link that must be made both with the living forces of the Region and with the entities that manage this vast territory politically and administratively, the Project **expects to achieve a real return, since its knowledge will have to contribute, directly and indirectly, to a sustained qualification of a crucial heritage with a huge socio-economic value.**

Indeed, from the reading that should be made of the current situation and opportunities that arise in our contemporaneity, concretely this Project should help to target investment priorities and political strategies that can best enhance the rural territoriality of the Region in this new century, including the potential for integrated management of activities to be preserved and promoted, which should integrate both traditional rural activities, although necessary and sustainably updated activities, as new ways of inhabiting and enjoying tourism in the area (rural tourism, nature tourism, wine tourism, etc.).

RESEARCH PLAN AND TASKS

1. Preliminary Research:

Collection and bibliographic research, archival research, and iconographic collection of the 'Houses' and territory to be interpreted, it should be noted that the latter research will have access to and inventory of some family photographic assets, with information relevant to the inventory and dating of many missing or already very significantly altered realities.

Specifically, it should be consulted the municipal library, archives and museum, as well as the consultation of certain assets of the Central Administration will be important, in particular those listed in the 'Arquivo Histórico do Ordenamento do Território e Desenvolvimento Urbano da Direção Geral do Território' (DGT).

2. Preparation of the Inquiry Form:

Preparation of a 'Inquiry Form' to allow a rigorous and effective work of inventory and synthesis, a 'form' that should sustain further Field Work, which should specifically enable the mapping of the situations to be visited from geo-location references, georeferencing that can be partially guaranteed by the existing digital cartographies in the municipal councils (process already filed with the Municipality of Torres Vedras - CMTV).

Specifically, this 'form' should be able to record both descriptive and iconographic elements (drawn records, photographic records, etc.).

3. Consultation of Local Entities:

Process of consultation with local authorities with advice on the most relevant possible places to visit, establishment of personal contacts allowing the collection of information and the actual visit of an heritage that is mostly private.

Indeed, this process, as we have already confirmed, is procedurally assumed to be a reality of the utmost importance, since without it, and without the personal relationships inherent, it is difficult to identify an objectively restricted housing/functional heritage.

4. 1st Phase of Field Work (Experimental Phase):

This phase begins the Field Work, which should be initiated in a limited way in a restricted zoning, since the data obtained should be experimental and exemplary of the process and should therefore also allow for adjustments in the 'Inquiry Form' that was previously created.

However, at this stage in particular, a systematic survey of the type of situation should be started, involving both aerial photographs (drone photographs) and photographs at user level, or accurate records drawn up so that the different territories and dwellings visited can subsequently be identified and quantified.

5. Readjustment of the Inquiry Form/Planning of the generic Field Works:

After having tried the Field Work, a readjustment should be made to the used 'Inquiry Form', as well as more extensive planning of the generic Field Work, work that is already systematized and experienced, may then be planned and distributed, for the greater operation of the process, by more than one inquiry team.

6. 2nd Phase of Field Work (Generic Phase):

In this Phase the Field Work begins in a more extensive way, which should now cover all the selected areas and typification's, being able to participate in this process the possible inquiry teams that may exist.

Specifically, this phase of the field work should be carried out primarily by prefixed zoning, seeking to find in these typified architectural characterizations (period of construction, morphotypology, specific use, etc.), characterisations that may be taken as examples that can be compared with the realities raised in the other zonings.

7. Synthesis and systematization of the collected data:

After the Field Work, the data collected will be systematized, systematization that should be done according to different criteria of seriation and analysis (territorial zonings, uses, morphotypologies, etc.).

Therefore, at this stage of the procedure, the data should be reordered in such a way as to search for constants and reference elements which, of course, can be taken as examples in relation to the search objectives of the Research Project.

8. Discussion and interpretation of results/Synthesis of results:

Synthesised and analysed the results obtained, after summarising and analysing the results obtained, a preliminary discussion takes place between the members of the Research Group, discussion which should be complemented by information from the Preliminary Research (1.), after which the final documents of the Research Project will be defined, documents that could be developed either along different lines of research or according to the specific interests and conclusions of the researchers involved.

However, despite this possibility of multiple research paths, the present Research Project and its Principal Investigator undertake to present in a Book a Synthesis of the work undertaken, and also undertake to organise the documentation collected as an Annex, documentation that should be fully available, but due to its private nature, on a partially restricted Thematic Digital Website.

9. Publication and Dissemination of Results:

Closed the process of interpretation and synthesis of the Research Project, the results obtained shall then be published and disseminated, process that should concretely take place either with the publication of at least one summary book and the execution of an open access dissemination site, or with participation and publication in scientific congresses, seminars and journals, as well as a more accessible dissemination, which will take place predominantly with local and regional authorities.

Months	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1. Preliminary Research:	●																	
2. Preparation of the Inquiry Form:		●																
3. Consultation of Local Entities:			●															
4. 1st Phase of Field Work (Experimental Phase):				●														
5. Readj. of the Inquiry Form/Planning of the generic Field Works:					●													
6. 2nd Phase of Field Work (Generic Phase):						●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
7. Synthesis and systematization of the collected data:										●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
8. Discussion and interpretation of results/Synthesis of results:																		
9. Publication and Dissemination of Results:																		

Fig. 3 Provisional Calendar of the Research Project (18 months, including only partially the time of publication and dissemination of the results obtained - 9.).

EXPECTED SCIENTIFIC RESULTS

As a result of the Research Project, a **Synthesis Book (1 unit.)** is expected to reveal the main work done, highlighting an interpretation of the existing one and a prospective of future development; therefore, there will be a prospective of paths that may serve as recommendations for the future of the 'Houses' that we propose to study for its patrimonial valuation and for the sustainable qualification of the territory that serves as its support.

In addition to this book, a **Complementary Document (1 unit.)** should also be prepared, which should organize as an Annex the collected documentation, documentation that should also be fully available in a **Thematic Digital Website (1 unit.)**.

It should also be noted that inserted in this project are planned to present and publish **two articles (2 unit.) Internationally referenced (Web of Science (ISI)/Scopus)** and **three articles (3 unit.) in national publications with scientific arbitration**, dissemination which should be complemented by **five communications (5 unit.)** to be promoted at these scientific meetings.

Finally, it should be noted that, in addition to the work described, the project should support and contextualize at least **two master's research (2 unit.) (FAUL/MIARQ)** already in development.

BUDGET: € 7.500,00

For the execution of this project the following expenditure is budgeted:

- 1. Transportation of the Research Team (1500€):** Transportation that are essential for the completion of the two phases of the Field Work.
- 2. IT equipment (2500€):** purchase of hardware (laptop) and acquisition of a drone for aerial survey.
- 3. Analogue and Computer Consumables (500€):** various consumables.
- 4. Elaboration and Publication of the Synthesis Book (3000€):** graphic services of pagination and composition and partial expenses of the publication of the book to be edited.
- 5. Thematic Digital Website (750€):** elaboration of a digital platform that partially supports the dissemination of the elements developed in the Research Project.
- 6. Other expenditure (€250):** other minor expenditure.

In addition, it is noted that the estimated budget presented may be increased if objective economic support from the official bodies that may be part of the project is achieved.