

ALPH: EPUL ASSESSING LISBON PUBLIC HOUSING: EPUL

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Partner Institutions

Expected Future Partner Institutions

Arquivo Municipal de Lisboa

Câmara Municipal de Lisboa

Gebalis

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the research are:

- i. to create a digital inventory of all EPUL (traditional and *EPUL Jovem*) developments, by year of construction, identifying its main characteristics;
- ii. to categorize the programmatic and typological models that were proposed and build in the 40 years that EPUL was operational;
- iii. to understand and register the programmatic and typological evolution of the built dwellings in 40 years and understand the differences between the traditional segment and *EPUL Jovem*;
- iv. to collect and present innovative knowledge regarding public housing promotion in Lisbon from 1972 to 2012, to better comprehend the different moments (what was most valued and the design characteristics) and to inform present and future public developments.

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ABSTRACT + IMAGES

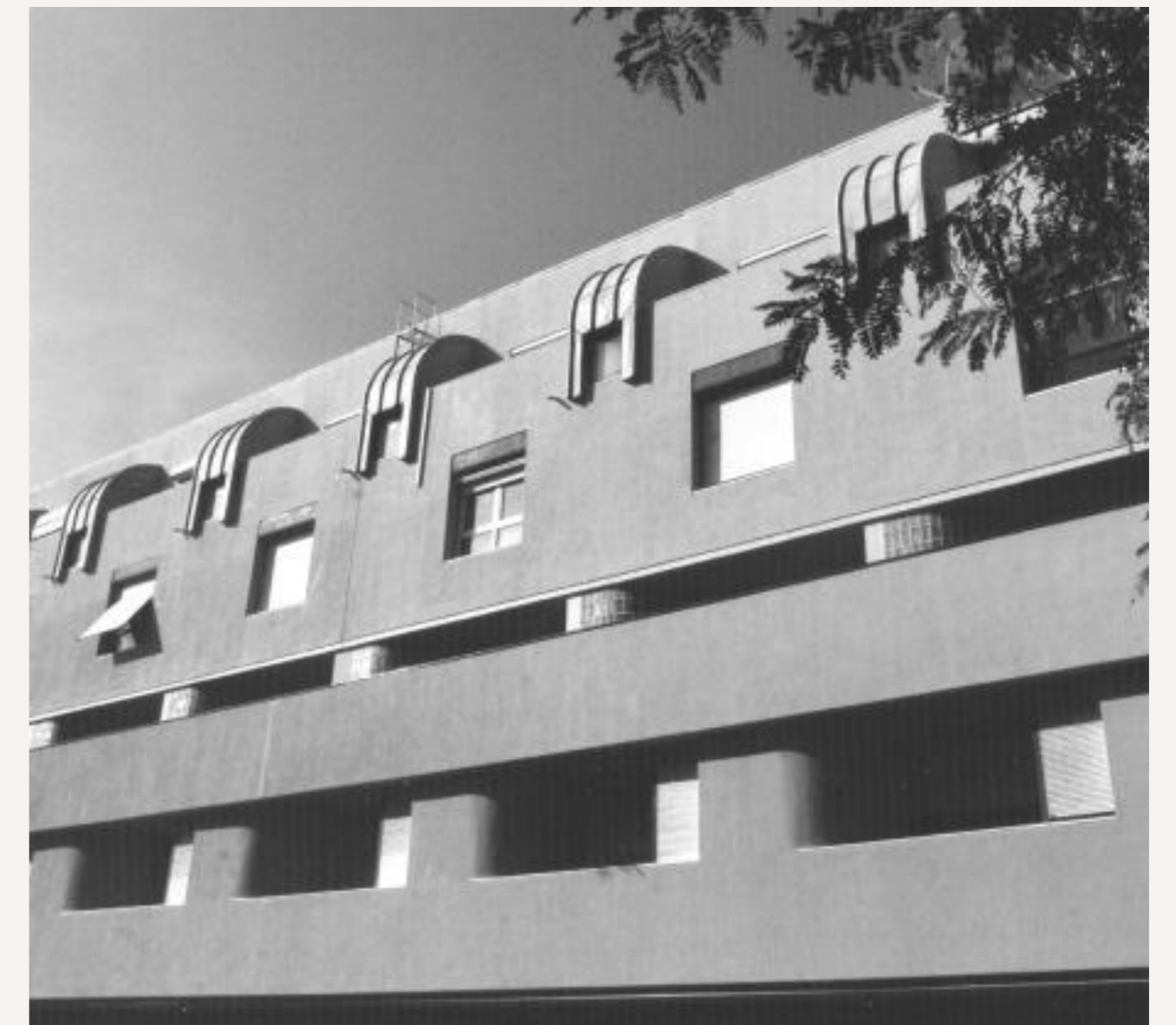
In its 40 years of activity (1972-2012), the Empresa Pública de Urbanização de Lisboa (EPUL) was responsible for the urbanization, construction, and commercial promotion of several housing developments in the city of Lisbon, having created housing programs for two different sectors: the traditional (Sousa, 2011) and the EPUL Jovem (created in 1996 to provide affordable and new housing to young adults up to 40 years old searching for their first home in the city centre). Apart from these two segments, EPUL also produced dwellings for rehousing (PER program) and developed urban rehabilitation, both in a smaller scale.

The ALPHA: EPUL Project 's object of study is the EPUL's production for the traditional and young adults' segments, focusing on new constructions. The scope of the research is the collection and analysis of the proposed and built housing programs of the 38 traditional and 11 EPUL Jovem developments, some of which were awarded the Valmor award, the Lisbon Municipality Architecture Award.

The present application aims at building an inventory of the production of EPUL, focusing solely on the housing developments promoted and marketed by this public institution, identifying the urban areas that were developed, characterizing the buildings and dwellings and determining housing programs' features. This inventory will allow for the understanding of the evolution of publicly promoted housing and its programmatic models, categorizing programmatic and typological models per development and year/decade.

The research comprises 4 phases: a) data collection, which encompasses the organization of information regarding built developments, identifying the year and urban area, number of dwellings and promoted typologies; b) data treatment, which relates to the redrawing of dwelling types per development; c) data reading and analysis, which refers to the analysis of the previously compiled information, categorizing the programmatic models and characterizing them; d) and lastly, the final report and dissemination through scientific production of innovative knowledge.

The importance of this research lies in the fact that EPUL, since its foundation, was responsible for the promotion of a great part of the housing developments in the city of Lisbon and up until now no significant research and registry has been made of the dwelling types, typologies and program models that were built and marketed. Moreover, from 2021, the EU's Resilience and Recovery Plan (RRP) provides incentive for new public housing to address housing shortage nationwide, and although Lisbon's municipality appears to have shifted focus to provide affordable housing through accessible rent (rather than acquisition), it is considered paramount to understand the EPUL's programmatic and typological offer in order to better program and build for the present and future, thus informing political powers, promoters and architects.



SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE FOR THE DISCIPLINE

The relevance of this research lies in the accomplishment of a digital inventory of publicly built and promoted housing, for the traditional and young adults' sectors, as an historical registry of EPUL's production. The innovative and most relevant aspect of the study is the collection and presentation of a typological and programmatic map of EPUL's developments, which allows for the identification of housing characteristics and features through times (in the 40 years of EPUL) and the analysis of this evolution, as well as the identification of potential differences between the traditional sector and *EPUL Jovem*.

The data collected is essential to comprehend Portuguese collective urban housing architecture from the 1970's until today.

This study's relevance reaches the disciplines of Architecture, Urbanism and Architecture History.

EXPECTED ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACT

The results of this project are expected to have a significant impact on the knowledge of built and marketed housing programs and typologies which can be essential as a basis for the conception and development of future publicly funded urban collective housing, having thus both economic and social effects. The recognition of the importance of publicly funded housing and the study of the housing program, should also have a substantial impact in the further development of this type of housing and on the public opinion of such undertakings.

It is also expected that the present study constitutes a basis for future research on the adequacy of the identified EPUL built programs and typologies and an assessment of user satisfaction, in the search for greater adequacy of future developments (publicly funded or otherwise), again fulfilling the commitment of significant economic and social impact.

Project ALPHA: EPUL is aligned with the UN 2030 Agenda goals, namely goal 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities. By proposing to produce an inventory of marketed publicly funded housing Project ALPHA: EPUL allows for the knowledge of what has been built and lived-in which can be viewed as a scientific foundation for new developments in the search for a more sustainable and participatory planning, while also acknowledging the cultural and social heritage of the EPUL developments. By fulfilling the UN's 2030 Agenda goal 11, Project ALPHA: EPUL also addresses the New European Bauhaus Initiative and its objectives, in the quest for sustainability of inhabited spaces.

RESEARCH PLAN AND TASKS

Presently, the housing problem – housing shortage in the main Portuguese urban centres is again a very discussed issue. Public entities, like IHRU and municipalities, are creating new housing programs and developments to address the lack of urban dwellings. In Lisbon, following the extinction of EPUL in 2012 but only in recent years, was the PRA-Programa de Renda Acessível (Accessible Rent Program) created and several buildings and developments are being built in various parts of the city. This new wave of publicly funded housing addresses the scope of the Recovery and Resilience Plan, namely investment programs RE-C02-i01 e RE-C02-i05 ([Programa de Apoio ao Acesso à Habitação](#) e [Parque Público de Habitação a Custos Acessíveis](#)).

All this new planning would benefit from a collection of what was built previously by EPUL, in Lisbon.

Project ALPHA: EPUL will be developed within CIAUD's Research Group LabiArq, to which all the researchers belong to. The researchers' previous works, ongoing investigations and professional practices are considered important contributions to the field of Housing, which are paramount to the development of the proposed embryo-project. Moreover, the realization of the project is expected to contribute to further the researchers' future studies and contribute to the professional practice of other Architects, as a foundation for future planning.

The digital inventory has, hence, great relevance to further scientific knowledge and research, to the architectural activity (professional practice) as an historical foundation, and to architecture historians as an innovative archive.

The research encompasses 4 phases that correspond to different tasks:

Phase 1 – Data Collection

TASK 1 – Research, collection and organization of information regarding built developments which materializes in the compilation of lists of all EPUL's built developments – traditional sector developments and buildings' list and EPUL Jovem developments and buildings' list – which gathers relevant basic information (project designation, location, date, architect, number of dwellings and typologies, among other pertinent data). This task will also comprehend the technical visit to all of the EPUL residential developments considered in the project. A photographic registry of the current condition of the case studies will be undertaken.

Phase 2 – Data Treatment

TASK 2 – Redrawing of dwelling types per development, so that all plan records can be presented at the same scale and with the same graphic pattern and quality. This task is very important to ensure the comparability between case studies and thus guarantee the correct reading and analysis of the next phase.

Phase 3 – Data Reading and Analysis

TASK 3 – Analysis of the previously compiled information, categorizing the programmatic models and characterizing them. This reading and analysis will comprise: a) urban solution and relationships with the surroundings; b) typological and morphological features of the buildings; c) typologies, functional programme and spatial disposition of the different apartments of each case study; d) space syntax analysis of the main apartment solutions in each of the case studies; e) analysis of the transformation and evolution of each of the previous items throughout the 40 years of EPUL's housing production.

Phase 4 – Final Report and Dissemination

TASK 4 – Building the digital means to display and access the produced information and data, as an urban, morphological, typological and programmatic map of all EPUL's marketed housing developments.

The dissemination of the Embryo Project will be realized through the production of papers to be submitted to international conferences and to scientific journals. The knowledge generated will also be disseminated through the teaching of classes both at the Masters and at the PhD Course levels. Finally, a one-day seminar will be held in order to discuss the findings of the project with invited researchers within the field of housing architecture.

Although these are the expected phases and tasks it is possible that complementary tasks can be revealed as necessary as the project progresses, especially in relation to the collection of available data which can also be influenced by the expected partner institutions' participation. The preparation of applications for funding for further research is also considered as a likely scope of the present project.

EXPECTED SCIENTIFIC RESULTS

The expected results relate to the treatment and redraw of data regarding the built dwellings, that will compose the digital inventory. It is thus expected that the dissemination of the research will be achieved in the following:

- Creation of a digital platform that contains all the information regarding the traditional and EPUL Jovem built developments, that can be researched by different users that need to access information concerning the different developments: year of construction, architects, built typologies and housing program;
- Production of papers to be published in indexed publications or in international conferences proceedings;
- Organization of a Seminar themed EPUL Public Housing: 1972-2012;
- Preparation of a book containing the collected and analysed data regarding EPUL developments (traditional and Jovem) to be published afterwards.

Moreover, it can be expected that the project can serve as a basis for further scientific researches and Master or PhD thesis.

BUDGET: € 7.499,75,00

Human Resources - The funding granted will be allocated to the hiring of two research scholarship holders – a PhD holder researcher and a PhD student researcher, for a combined duration of 5 to 7 months. The monthly cost of each scholarship is 1686,00€ (PhD holder, for 3 months) and 1144,64€ (PhD student, for 2 months in exclusivity or 4 months half-time), in a total cost of 7347,28 euros. These hired researchers will focus mainly on the execution of task 1 and 2, even though assistance can be requested for the completion of other phases and tasks.

Equipment – A total amount of 152,47€ is also requested for the acquisition of a portable scanner Iris Book 3 (102,48€) and one external disk HDD VERBATIM Store 'n' Go 2.5" - 1TB (49,99€).

No further costs or expenses are expected.