

ESTATE RAUL TOJAL + MANUEL COUTINHO DE CARVALHO a preliminar overview in search for product and graphic design

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Keywords

Studio Estates / Product Design History / Graphic Design
History

Partner Institutions

Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal (BNP)

Expected Future Partner Institutions

Sistema de Informação para o Património Arquitetónico (SIPA), of
Direcção-Geral do Património Cultural, Ministério da Cultura

OBJECTIVES

This research project is aiming at short- and long-term objectives.

In the short term, the main objectives of this research are:

- (1) Preservation of memory: the conservation, cataloguing and archiving of the received estate documents, contributing to complete the historiographic picture of Architecture and Design production in Portugal in the 20th century;
 - (2) Study and support to the scientific study of the documents: research and promotion of future investigation of 20th century Architecture and Design, through the production of papers and thesis advising involving the data under analysis, as well of the application for further research projects funding.
- In the long term it is intended to develop a digital database where to introduce the processed data and make it available to the public and promote cooperation with institutions with similar objectives in order to disseminate, enhance and study the culture and memory of Architecture and Design in Portugal.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

- BARKHOFEN, Eva-Maria (2017) – *Architecture in Archives: The Collection of the Akademie der Künste*. Berlin: DOM.
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ABSTRACT + IMAGES

In 2018, Faculdade de Arquitetura da Universidade de Lisboa (FAUL) received in deposit the estate of architects Raul Tojal (1900-1969) and Manuel Coutinho de Carvalho (1922-2008), its collaborator and responsible for the continued operation of the studio after the death of its founder. This documentation comprises about 1500 projects, made between the 1920s and the 2000s. This is part of CIAUD project "Por uma Memória Arquitectónica" (PORARQ) which aims at identifying, studying, and disseminating the estates of Portuguese architects centered in Lisbon.

Although the work of this architects is esteemed to be of great relevance in the framework of Contemporary Architecture and Design culture in Portugal, the estate of RT+MCC studio is still to be studied.

Temporarily deposited in the National Library of Portugal, our current partner, these documents need urgent treatment, namely: identification, cataloguing, digitalization, description and archiving.

In the case of this estate, as with others recently received at FAUL, a lack of human means has been preventing us to make the systematic work that we are now proposing to do.

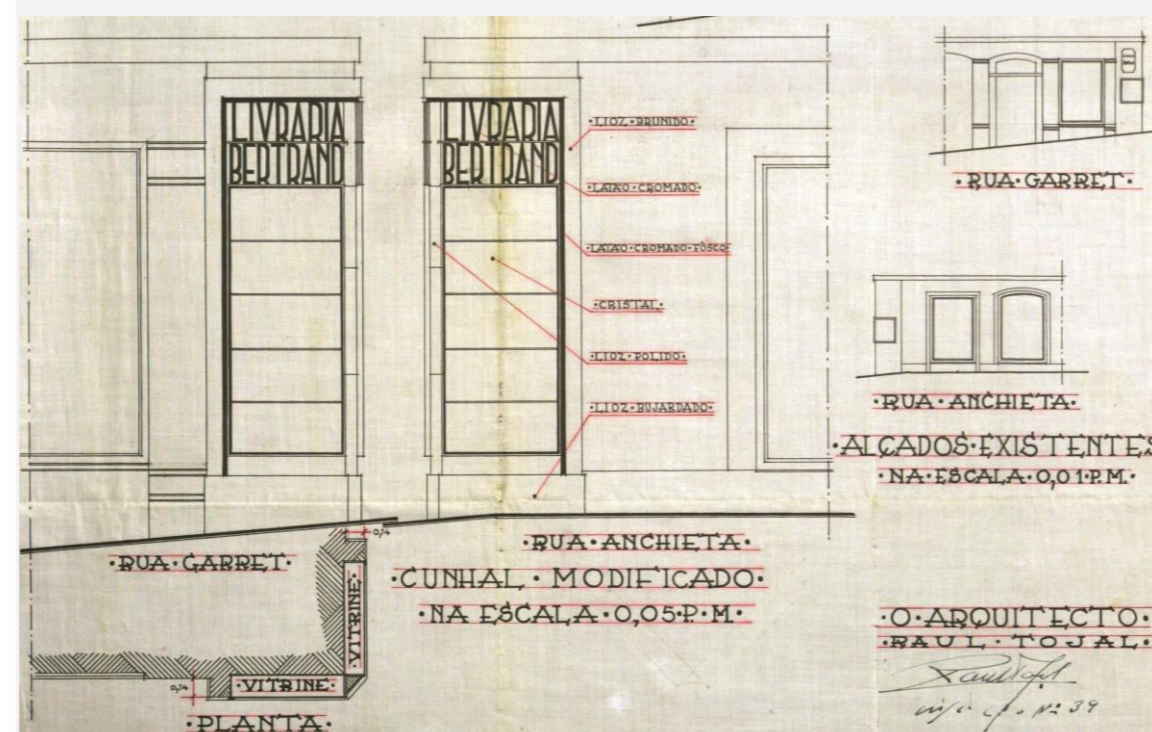
The present application aims to gather conditions to guarantee the continuity of a mission of the greatest importance, justified by the need, on the one hand, to ensure Architecture and

Design memory, and on the other to maximize their study and dissemination.

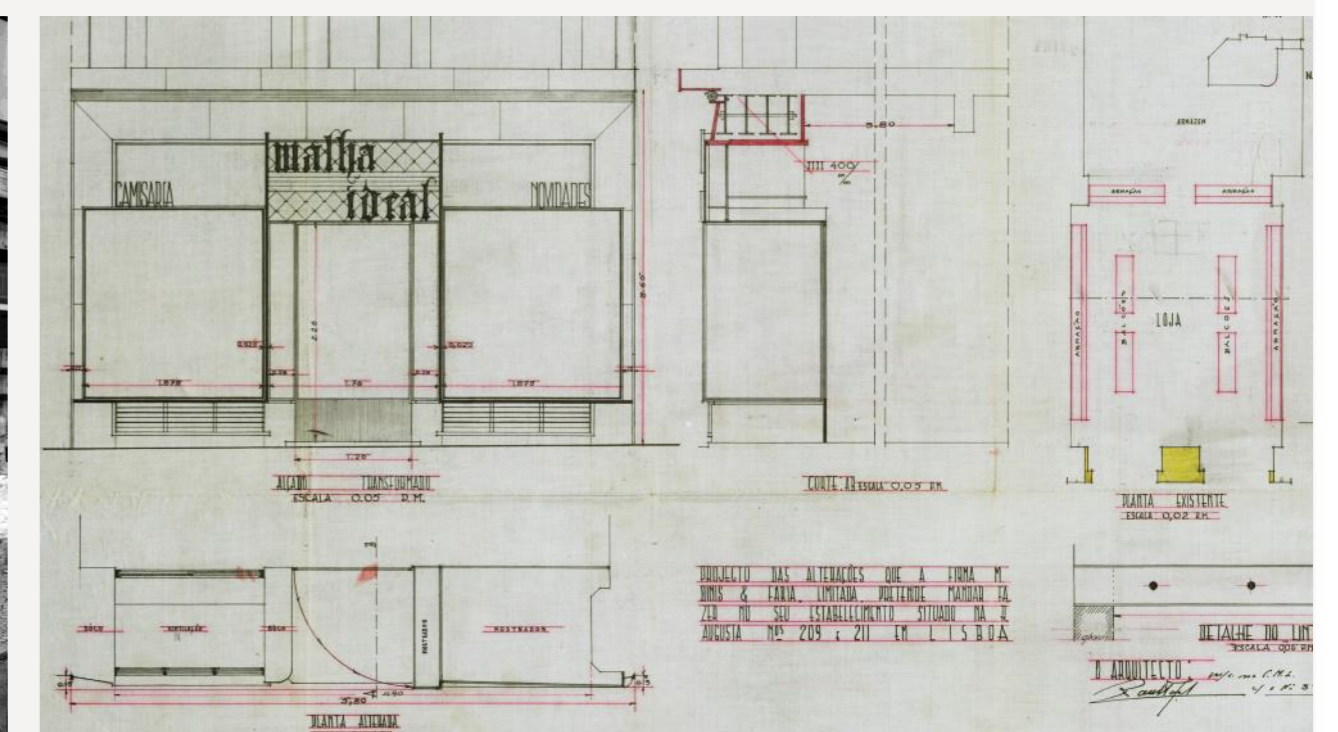
This project is characterized by a theoretical and practical approach, based on 4 essential aspects: the organization and archival treatment; the preservation and conservation of the material (in partnership with Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal); the transfer of support / digitization; the dissemination through scientific and technical research in Architecture and Design History.

This is an urgent opportunity, since these documents require careful and timely preservation which, if not accomplished, will lead to their loss, with the consequent obliteration of cultural heritage and knowledge, which should be accessible to all. Architects and their collections, as protagonists of 20th century Portuguese Architecture and Design, a period when the professionalization of both disciplines took root and gradually intensified, are fundamental to understand the social and cultural evolution of a country that changed so much throughout this century.

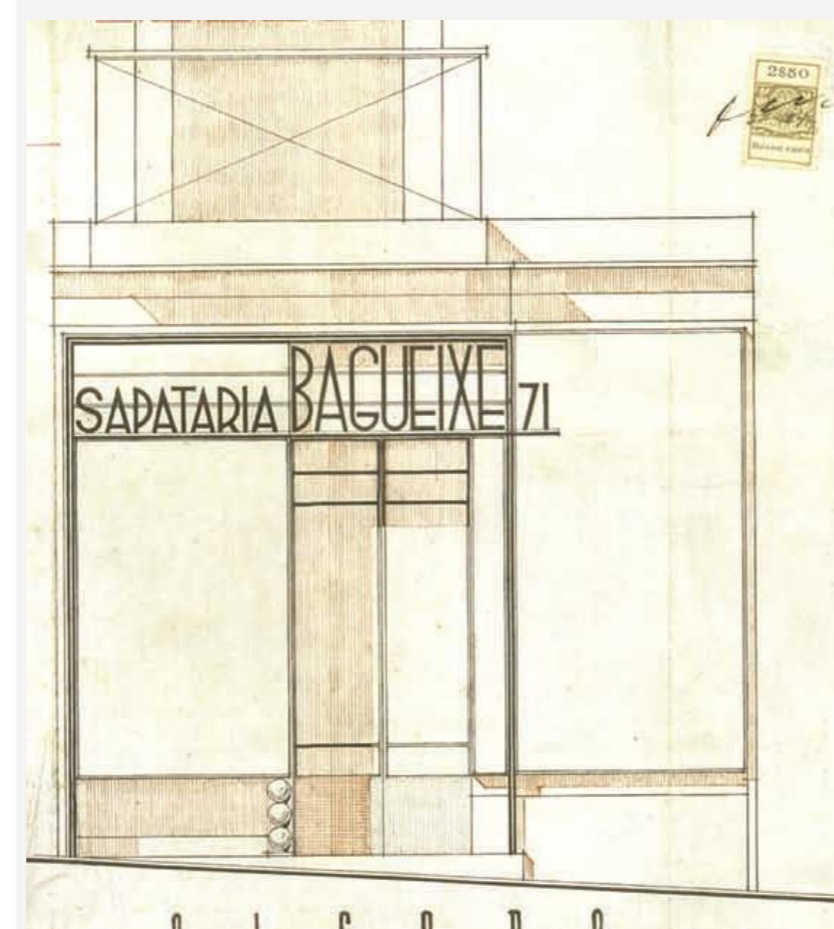
This project aims to contribute significantly to the preservation of the memory, knowledge and dissemination of 20th century Portuguese Architecture and Design, both among the academy, the architects' community, as well as the wider public, nationally and internationally.



Livraria Bertrand, Lisboa, 1938. Building permit, Arquivo Municipal de Lisboa; Photo Horácio Novais, Arquivo de Arte FCG



Camisaria Malha Ideal, Lisboa, 1937. Building permit, Arquivo Municipal de Lisboa



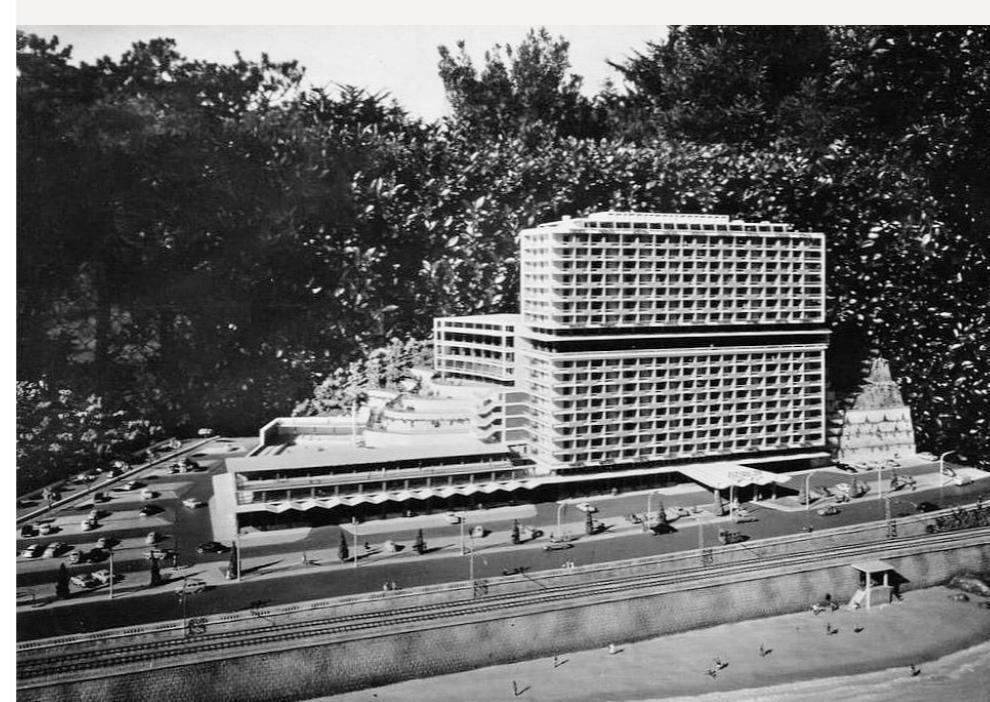
Sapataria Bagueixe / Sapataria A Elite, Lisboa, 1940. Building permits, Arquivo Municipal de Lisboa. Façade Lettering, Letreiro GaleriaCollection



Swimming pool and restaurante Concha, Praia das Maças, 1955. Arquivo Municipal de Lisboa



Hotel Embaixador, Lisbon, Study drawing, José Espinho, 1955. Photo Horácio Novais. Estate Fábrica Oiaio, Museu de Cerâmica, Sacavém.



Hotel Estoril-Sol, Cascais (proj. 1961; inaug. 1965). Model, boîte, guest room. Photos Horácio Novais, Arquivo de Arte Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian



SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE FOR THE DISCIPLINE

This estate is a privileged source for obtaining new and relevant information for ongoing research in the fields interior design, furniture design, and graphic design associated with architecture. Complementing the sources already explored by historiography, it will allow us to identify dates, authors, descriptions and author's justifications, both for projects already known, and for many others, whether built or not. This data and its interpretation will allow us to support a panoramic view of the production of this studio, integrating it in the framework of architecture and design in Portugal in the 20th century. At a higher level, it will allow us to highlight the importance of disciplines that are often less valued (interiors, furniture, graphic design), both in historiographical readings and in professional and academic practices, although they have long been a considerable part of the work of design professionals, and ultimately are a key realm for collective everyday life.

EXPECTED ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACT

As in previous work experiences in this field (MARTINS 2001; MARTINS 2015), we know that the results of this project will (re)valorize a part of the designed and built heritage that in general is despised by the historiography of architecture and design, by heritage policies, by the economic fabric (i.e. commerce, especially the Horeca channel; the industries of the construction sector, especially furniture) that, with few exceptions, systematically invest in the fast obsolescence of built solutions and in the uncritical and recurrent renovation, without paying attention to the cultural value of the pre-existences or to the importance of preserving collective memories (be they of a spatial, visual or affective nature) or, even, the sustainability of such attitude. This project will be another contribution for us to consider the recognition, appreciation, protection, conservation and restoration, as well as dissemination of present values, in a more informed, detailed and conscious way.

RESEARCH PLAN AND TASKS

CONTEXT AND JUSTIFICATION

The activity of RT+MCC studio has been little considered, if not ignored, by Architecture and Design historiography (BECKER, TOSTÕES, 1997), kept in the shadow of those who have been rightly valued as leading characters of Portuguese Architecture. Raul Tojal, who graduated in 1926 at the Lisbon School of Fine Arts, was close to the first moderns: Cristino da Silva (1896-1976), Pardal Monteiro (1897-1957), Carlos Ramos (1897-1969), Cottinelli Telmo (1897-1948), Cassiano Branco (1897-1970), Jorge Segurado (1898-1990). Carvalho attended that same school at the same time as Teotónio Pereira (1922-2016), Manuel Tainha (1922-2012) and Palma de Melo (1922-2003), who would be responsible for the revision of the modern, after WWII. However, what is known of the activity of RT+MCC makes clear their contribution to the shaping of daily life in Portugal. Largely due to the family connection to an important construction company - owned by the patriarch Joaquim F. Tojal, continued by Diamantino Tojal (1897-1958) - they had an extensive production of urban buildings for multi-family housing. Commercial facilities are another type of the utmost importance in the work of these authors: stores in downtown Lisbon (as early as the 1920s), some of the best known and most striking cafes of Lisbon's life (some of which still survive today). But also the hotel industry, with buildings that were important for the surge of tourism in Portugal during the second half of the 20th century (in Estoril, Sintra, Lisbon, and Algarve, among others). These last two types of works do have the greatest relevance for the History of Design in Portugal, since they were total design projects, comprising space definition, architectural detailing and cladding, fixed fittings and furniture; but also signage and corporate graphic identity (logos, symbols and signs applied on façades and in an extensive array of complementary products). It is precisely because of these aspects that this study deserves now a particular opportunity, since there are two ongoing research projects for doctoral thesis in Design under the guidance of João Paulo Martins, PI of this project, that touch on these fields: Rita Múrias: "Luzes da Cidade: Design na Paisagem Urbana. Memória gráfica de Lisboa no século XX"; Nuno Caniça: "Concept Hotel-Rooms. Design para mobiliário de hotelaria: um regresso ao futuro".

With a broader strategic sense, the history of interior Design, of furniture, of graphics associated with architecture and the city has been of particular interest to the research group DHisto (CIAUD Design nucleus), whose focus of interest is everyday life, as demonstrated by the production of its researchers (see in particular the research projects "Modern Furniture" and "Modern Furniture II", coordinated by the PI). On the other hand, Joana Bastos Malheiro, as coordinator and active member of PORARQ (CIAUD Architecture nucleus) has been working systematically on the preservation and knowledge associated with the estates of architectural studios of "the last generations of paper", within the group "Arquiteturas Lusófonas". This very direct connection to the multidisciplinary but specific interests of the group of researchers involved in this proposal, to the work already done and to the experience accumulated with it, but also to the ongoing research, allows us to claim that this embryo-project will have immediate results. First of all, by the possibility of identifying and studying in detail a series of architecture and design projects that will have special relevance for the two theses mentioned above. On the other hand, the recognition of the entire breadth, diversity, and depth of documentation in this collection will allow us to open new paths of investigation for the various research groups.

TASK 1 – Survey

Based on an existing preliminary listing that only records a generic designation of each project of the studio, the practical work of this task will begin with the recognition and exploratory listing of all the projects actually documented in the RT+MCC estate, identifying and gathering a set of relevant basic information: project designation, functional typology, chronology / time frame, location, commissioner(s).

TASK 2 – Physical preparation

The main objective of this task is to prepare the documents so that they can be handled, stored, digitized and photographed. The methodological approach to this task will include the following steps: disinfestation; removal of extraneous materials; unfolding and flatten papers wherever possible without causing damage to the folds. This task will provide the possibility for the collection to be appropriately stored and digitalized, with the proper handling procedures of working with document archives.

TASK 3 – Cataloguing

The main objective of this task is to catalogue the existing documents using a system already in use by some of the Portuguese archives so that, in the future, our information can be articulated with their databases. The methodological approach to this task will be made accordingly with the instructions from International Council on Archives, Section on Architectural Records (BARKHOFEN, 2017), and carried out with the advice of technicians from the National Library of Portugal, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation's Archive and Library, and the Sistema de Informação para o Património Arquitetónico (SIPA) of the Direção-Geral do Património Cultural. This task will provide the future possibility for a centralized data base with information from a number of repositories, providing a more sustainable future for the Design and Architectural Archives.

TASK 4 – Digitalizing

The main objective of this task is to digitalize the estate RT+MCC. The task of digitalizing is of key importance for the preservation of the original documents and also for the sharing of information. The methodological approach to this task will include the following steps: selection of the more significant projects for the ongoing researches; selection of the more significant documents of those projects for the ongoing researches; digitalization of the documents selected.

TASK 5 - Project description

The main objective of this task is to develop descriptions for each project. This task will provide a new in-depth understanding of the projects, in their different scales and various disciplinary perspectives (namely, interior architecture, product / furniture design, graphic design). According to the information revealed throughout the careful analysis and interpretation of the selected documentation, it is accepted that the scope of this embryo project will also include cross-referencing with known material available in other archives; identification of information gaps; research of complementary documentation (namely official building permits, photographic archives, and company archives).

TASK 6 - Applications

Search for institutional partners and preparation of applications for funding research projects at national and European level.

EXPECTED SCIENTIFIC RESULTS

Previous experience in the study of several estates of Architecture and Design studios allows us to anticipate that we will identify unpublished materials, not found in other sources, of great relevance for the construction of a broad perspective on their production, allowing its fully integration in the panorama of the history of these disciplines. We expect it to have technical drawings (general and detail); survey drawings; sketches and study drawings; preliminary phases of the projects; projects that have not been carried out; projects with authorship not previously attributed / recognized; photographs (scale models, work in progress, furniture...); official reports; letters; materials and product catalogues; legislation; unpublished information about the projects of the studio (location; commissioners; project phases and their dates; other authors, collaborators, and artists; technicians and companies involved). Information of this type will be of the greatest relevance for the ongoing investigations, complementing known data and supporting the proposed historiographical readings.

BUDGET: € 7.497,08

HUMAN RESOURCES

1 fulltime grant (FCT: BI2), during 6 months, in order to actively participate in all the tasks of E_RT/MCC: 7452,18 euros
The work of the grant recipient researcher, duly accompanied by CIAUD researchers, will allow the collection of information that will be incorporated into personal and/or collective investigations underway and to be developed.

EQUIPMENT

HDD USB 3.0 1 TB 2,5 Western Digital Elements portable external disk: 44,90 euros
No other costs are expected, since there are FA technical spaces and equipment allocated to activities of this nature that, for the moment, are not being used due to lack of human resources.