

JOÃO ANTÓNIO DE AGUIAR, 25 YEARS OF URBAN DESIGN IN SANTARÉM

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Partner Institutions

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Expected Future Partner Institutions

Câmara Municipal de Santarém (CMS)

Sistema de Informação para o Património Arquitetónico (SIPA)

OBJECTIVES

Methodologically, the main objective is to identify both the development strategies and the lines of approach evident in João António de Aguiar's Urban Project, in his acting in the city of Santarém. The idea is to understand the methodological and formal characteristics of the author's work models, recognizing possible premises that define the invariants of urban design and the assumptions of the underlying architectural conception. Complementarily, aims to:

- Determine which urbanistic instruments were used to develop these Plans;
- Identify the conceptual influences that may be behind the urban intervention urban intervention instruments;
- Confront the different types of programs, their relationships and the various valences of their functions (physical and symbolic, involving environmental relations and different levels of appropriation).

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ABSTRACT + IMAGES

During the second and third quarters of the 19th century, there was a significant urban production in Portugal, which began in 1934 with the creation Planos Gerais de Urbanização (PGU). At the head of this production was João António de Aguiar (JAA), an architect with an experience resulting from his collaboration with figures such as Cristino da Silva, Donat-Alfred Agache, Étienne de Groër, Faria da Costa and Keil do Amaral.

Possessing a language of his own, although structured according to a socially hierarchical and centralist policy of the regime, this architect redesigned cities, designing cohesive urban-architectural structures based on a compositional process that made use of the primary elements of the city, as structuring components of the respective plans.

Aguiar redesigned the cities, reimagining them according to his own culture inserted in a socio-cultural context. He designed cohesive urban-architectural structures for thirty consecutive years. The understanding of his path and work for the city of Santarém, constitutes the general theme of this research. The analysis of the plans for this city seeks to identify programmatic contents, essential theoretical concepts and projective methodologies, recognizing the premises that define the invariants of the Urban Project and the assumptions of the underlying of the underlying architectural conception. Simultaneously we identify the development strategies, the lines of approach of the Urban Project and the interactions with the place are identified. The different programs are confronted in their relations, valences and functions.

The study of each case is structured in three consecutive levels: The *Typology of Growth*, the *System of Places* and the *Typology of the Route*.

Firstly, each plan is analysed individually through schematic graphic representations (when there is more than one version of the UMP for each city, they are all studied and compared to each other). Therefore, the work method adopted is the Analytical Descriptive Method, which is characterized by the identification of morphological, programmatic and typological elements that compose the JAA plans under study, allowing an investigation of the constituent parts, which makes it possible to identify the reasons, the nature and the effects of these. From this analysis is intended to obtain the essence of the plans - reference models, matrixes and invariants.

João António de Aguiar delivers the first project for the city of Santarém, in 1939, which were Bairro de São Bento, which was followed by the Urbanisation of the Ribeira de Santarém (1943), the General Plan for the circulation, expansion and defense of the Ribeira de Santarém (1945), the Antepiano Geral de Urbanização de Santarém (1947), the 1st study for the revision of the Antepiano Geral de Urbanization of Santarém (1957), the 2nd revision of the Antepiano de Urbanização de Santarém (1961), the Urban Arrangement of the Cerca de São Lázaro (1966), the Urban Arrangement of the Rua Capitão Barros e Matos Street, António Maria Baptista Avenue, Frei Luis de Sousa Street and annexed area until S. Domingos road (1967), the Domingos (1967), the Project of the Bairro da Bexiga (1968), the Detailed Plan of the Largo das Amoreiras, the detailed plan for the west side of Avenida Brasil, the detailed plan for the Avenida Brasil, the Detailed Plan of the residential nucleus of Vale de Estacas and Hospital, the Detailed plan of the area annexed to the northern limit of the Campo de Feiras, the Urban arrangement of the area north of Monte Cravo, the Urban Arrangement of the location of the Municipal Fire Brigade building of Municipal Fire Brigade of Santarém and the building for the Municipal Fire Brigade of Santarém.

The Antepiano Geral de Urbanização de Santarém, delivered in 1947 and in force between 1948-1993, is based on the 1945 Plano Geral de Circulação, Expansão e Defesa da Ribeira de Santarém 1945 and lists the following main objectives: (1) to guide the town's development; (2) to solve inter and intra-urban and intra-urban communications, which were extremely difficult to establish, using narrow, winding narrow and winding streets, with widths between 2 and 6 meters, in the historical nucleus; (3) to create a Civic Center (4) to develop a new Feira Field, since the existing one is no longer viable, due to its location and capacity (5) to extend the pre-existing companion area to the new expansion areas (6) create a sports area; (7) provide the city with open spaces; (8) and define the historic area of the city.

The Faculty of Architecture (FA-UL) now has access to the entire collection of João António de Aguiar. It is now available to the Archives of Architecture, Urbanism and Design - ARCH/IVES. In this sense, the study of the Urban Practice of this architect for Santarém seems to us a singular opportunity to identify possible operative methods and specific strategies, including basic principles of intervention at the various scales that confer unique architectural identities to his work, and simultaneously, singular architectural identities to his work and, a possible set of recognizable and constant invariants and constant, that allow the evaluation of a possible duplicity of approaches, in the perspective of the conceptual coherence of the conceptual coherence of the Architecture practiced.



SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE FOR THE DISCIPLINE

Inserting itself in a broader spectrum of the historiography of modern Portuguese architecture under the and under the Estado Novo regime, this research will contribute to the understanding of the understanding of the city produced and redesigned in this period. Thus, we hope to advance the knowledge about the basic conditions for reasonable intervention and in a logic of urban continuity, of the future actors in these urban fabrics.

EXPECTED ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACT

The expansion of the particularities of the Portuguese city and of João António de Aguiar, will seek to preserve the memory bringing benefits to the municipality of Santarém and to the study of the design of the Portuguese city in the 20th century. The promotion of a shared culture and the preservation of a common image, based on a scientific study to identify the essential characteristics, is an asset of great importance for social and economic cohesion.

RESEARCH PLAN AND TASKS

The reading key that will serve as a guide for the analysis of the subject under study: The Architecture of the City, as the physical expression of a complex discourse, precise and destined to endure as a permanent testimony of Man's way of inhabiting and of his cultural and socioeconomic patterns.

In terms of organization, we seek, in a first phase, to understand the context in which Aguiar developed his activity for the city of Santarém. In a second phase, we try to identify the case studies, on which we will identify the methodological and formal characteristics common to the different plans, and interpret the urban "codes" and the instrumental framework used (the practice of urban design, building and its associated systems).

This organization will allow, in a third phase, to establish comparative readings between the different Plans object of study, involving the methodological references, the objectives and the programmatic and conceptual contents of each one.

The dimension of Aguiar's work imposes on us the elaboration of an inventory in order to be able to apprehend it more easily. Therefore, all documents referring to JAA activity in Santarém will be inventoried, digitalized and treated.

In the analysis of the case studies, the general idea is to identify programmatic contents, essential concepts and projective methodologies, recognizing the premises that define the invariants of the Urban Project and the assumptions of the underlying architectural conception. Simultaneously the development strategies, the lines of approach of the Urban Project and the interactions with the place are identified, confronting the different programs in their relations, valences and functions. The studies of each case are structured in three consecutive levels: The Typology of Growth, the System of Places and the Typology of the Route. First each plan is analyzed individually through schematic graphic representations (all versions of the PGU, for example, are studied and compared to each other).

The methodology to be developed involves, thus, the morphological analysis of the Plans and the study of the typologies, in a structure in several levels that seeks to highlight the patterns referring to the components, elementary and structuring, of the urban form. That is, an analysis is developed from the relations established between the urban morphology and the built typology that allows us to identify the construction elements of the city.

This type-morphological approach to the city is developed by Saverio Muratori in several studies on the built environment of Italian cities. Gianfranco Caniggia, his disciple, extended the concept to the Architecture of the city. The analysis of the city, can thus derive from the division of urban form in its structuring spatial units which, resorting to the structure of Tricart, we subdivide by three scales:

- The scale of the street, as the smallest structuring unit to possess its own form, of sectorial dimension. Within this scale there are several morphological elements, such as the facades, the street furniture and the trees. The articulation of the elements belonging to this scale has a direct influence on the scale of the neighborhood;

- The neighborhood scale integrates a composition structure by primary elements of the city - such as streets and squares - defined by areas of morphological homogeneity. That is, areas where there is a simultaneous articulation of morphological elements of sectorial dimension and intermediate level devices with common characteristics;

- The city scale represents the territorial dimension of the composition established between neighborhoods and the other structuring elements of the city (major road infrastructures, large green areas and even the physical structure of the landscape).

In the development of an analysis methodology, we had in mind Aldo Rossi who, following the interpretative tradition of Urban Geography led by Poëte, Tricard and Lavedan, establishes connections between the different realizations of the Architecture of the City, assuming that its space always passes from Architecture to architectural objects and their articulations and spatial relations. Architecture is thus understood as the key to reading the city and its spatial structure. Architectural conception is, by nature, essentially formal, dealing simultaneously with the composition of the different built facts and the connections that exist between them and the very places they define.

The working method adopted is the Analytic Descriptive one, which is characterized by the identification of the morphological, programmatic and typological elements that compose João António de Aguiar's plans under study, allowing an investigation of the constituent parts, which makes it possible to identify their reasons, nature and effects. From this analysis it is intended to obtain the essence of the plans - reference models, matrices and invariants. The documents and archives of Architecture have, in potential, a substantial relevance as a support to administrative, technical and scientific actions related to the architectural activity, but also as an object of cultural fruition and basis for processes of production of individual and community identities.

This project is structured in 5 phases, each one integrating a task:

TASK 1 – This task focuses on the organization of the JAA – Santarém collection. The practical work will begin with the recognition and exploratory listing of all the projects, as well as, gathering a set of relevant basic information (project designation, dates, location, commissioner, etc.);

TASK 2 –The main objective of this task is to prepare the estates so they can be handled and digitized;

TASK 3 – The main objective of this task is to catalogue the architectural collections;

TASK 4 – This task focuses on the digitalization of the architectural estate. The task of digitalizing is of key importance for the preservations of the original documents and also for the sharing of information by ARCH/VES. The methodological approach to this task will include the following steps: digitalization of the drawings collected on the selected projects; definition of types of drawing, scales of drawings and graphic expression;

TASK 5 – The main objective of this task is to develop descriptions for each project and design. This task will provide a new in-depth understanding of the projects composing each collection, in their different architectural scales: urban scale, building scale, design integration and the technical and tectonic features of each project.

According to the information revealed throughout this research process, it is accepted that some of the following research phases may also be considered within the scope of this embryo project: identification of information gaps; research of complementary documentation (licensing files, photographic files, company archives); attraction of institutional partners and preparation of applications for funding research projects at national and European level.

EXPECTED SCIENTIFIC RESULTS

The expected results are as follows: the study of João António de Aguiar work, for the city of Santarém, from 1938 to 1974. The research scope is:

1 - The preparation of a monographic book on the evolution of the city of Santarém during the Estado Novo period, with a focus on the work of the Architect João António Aguiar. Integrated with the book, it will be an Exhibition for the dissemination of the records and information collected. Inclusion of the information collected in lectures and classes on City Design and Urbanism. Conducting workshops taking the work of Architect João António Aguiar as the main conceptual reference, proposing iterations from his work.

2 - Integration of the results (biography, architectural work and images of the most significant projects) in ARCH/VES Website, providing public and open access to the principal outputs of the research project at an international level. The implementation process of this platform will also enable the opening of these collections to be studied by Master's and PhD students.

3 - Productions of Papers to be published in indexed publications.

BUDGET: € 7.484,94

The expenses of this Embryo Project will focus on the dissemination of its results, both in the publication of a book and the preparation of an exhibition. So, the budget was structured in:

Graphic Elements - 3000 euros will be set aside for printing the book and 1000 euros for printing panels for the exhibition.

Equipment - An amount of 2320,27 euros is also requested for the acquisition of one MacBook Pro 13", 24 GB unify memory and 512GB SSD storage. It is also required an HDD External WESTERN DIGITAL Elements SE Portable disk (2Tb – USB 3.0) that costs 79,99 euros.

Software - It is essential for the treatment of the images and drawings that make up this collection to acquire an Adobe license, which allows you to work with all their Apps - Photoshop, InDesign, etc.. This license has a total cost of 90,39 euros and will be subscribed for 12 months, which will make a total of 1084,68 euros. These four expenses make a final/total cost of 7484,94 euros.