

Guided Tours

WWW.EAAE2018PORTO.ARQ.UP.PT

1 – Porto: Baroque to Contemporary: Clerics + Casa da Música

There is a unique Baroque Porto, like that of the Tower of Clerics, with its more than 250 years of history, an undeniably ex-libris of the city, but also that of the most spectacular monuments which are nowadays fundamental references for contemporary architecture, like Casa da Música. The architectural complex of Clerics, considered a National Monument since 1910, is one of the main points of interest for its Tower, Museum and Church, and a must-see location for all those who visit the city of Porto. The tower, dominating the entire urban landscape of Porto, dates back to the year 1753 and was built at the request of the Brotherhood of Clerics by the Italian architect Nicolau Nasoni. The Church and the Tower are adjoined to the House of the Brotherhood, which since 2014, after it became a museum, is open to the public.

Located at Boavista, Casa da Música is a major concert hall space built as part of Porto's project for European Culture Capital in 2001 designed by Rem Koolhaas and has become a positive encounter of two different models of the city, between the old and the new Porto. Defined both visually and spatially by its faceted exterior, the Casa da Música invigorates the traditional concert hall with its daring interior forms and innovative use of materials. Wave-like corrugated glass is used in both the 1300 seat grand auditorium and its smaller 350 seat counterpart. Material transparency allows for each space to reveal its contents to the city, making visible an array of performances and cultural events.

2 – Porto Historic Centre: UNESCO World Heritage Site

The Historic Centre of Porto, the oldest area of the city, classified as World Heritage by UNESCO since 1996, has many of the city's most widely recognized buildings, such as Sé do Porto (the Cathedral), São Bento Railway Station, Palácio da Bolsa and Praça da Ribeira, among many others, including the Porto Wine Lodges.

Dating back to mediaeval times, and despite all the changes over the years, the Historic Centre of Porto maintains its unique urban characteristics, which are different from other European cities.

This classified area includes the part of the city that was set within the old Fernandina Wall, the residential centre of the city dating back to the 14th century (from 1301 to 1400), and which was used as a military protection of the city, covering an area of 90 hectares. Unesco's Nomination Committee considered that the site was "of outstanding universal value as the urban fabric and its many historic buildings bear remarkable testimony to the development over the past thousand years".

Sponsored by

3 – Álvaro Siza: Life and Work in Matosinhos

This tour proposes a visit to a set of unique and emblematic works of the architect Álvaro Siza, one of the world's most prestigious architects, awarded with the Pritzker Prize in 1992.

The Leça Swimming Pool complex consists of changing rooms, a café and two swimming pools, one for adults and one for children. It is located between the Atlantic Ocean and the access road that follows the coastline, but positioned almost completely out of sight. The pools have been recognized as an important moment in architecture because of Siza's incredible tact in reconciling his own design with the principles of the changing ocean tide.

The tour ends with the visit at Quinta de Conceição Swimming Pool commissioned in 1965 to Álvaro Siza by the City Council of Matosinhos, as part of the renovation project of Quinta da Conceição Municipal Park. This project, alongside with the Boa Nova Tea House and Leça Swimming Pool complex, is another example of Siza's masterly and sensitive integration of architecture into the surrounding landscape.

4 – SAAL's operations in Porto: S. Victor Social Housing and Bouça Housing Complex

Born out of the Portuguese revolution of 25 April 1974, SAAL – the Serviço Ambulatório de Apoio Local (Local Ambulatory Support Service) – was one of the most compelling processes in twentieth century architecture. It was a pioneering experiment in Europe, setting up technical teams (known as brigades) led by architects who, in collaboration with the local communities, tried to address the urgent housing needs of the underprivileged communities across the country. Álvaro Siza worked for SAAL between 1973 and 1977, and during this time designed two housing projects in Porto: Bouça (1977/2006) and the São Victor row houses (1974-1977).

The SAAL S. Victor Social Housing is part of a greater planning intervention intended to renovate a densely packed neighborhood in the historical center of the city, the row of twelve houses fills the small site, adapting itself to the locale and offering an alternative for tabula rasa approaches to urban renovation.

The Bouça collective housing is located in a central area of Porto, the articulation between patios, galleries and staircases, shows the sharing that goes on in this community without ever giving up a domestic scale. The apartments with a duplex typology were crafted to detail this way surpassing size constraints. Restored and completed in 2006, the neighbourhood of Bouça is today an example of the process of "gentrification" of the city but also an example of resilience of the author-architect.

Sponsored by

5 – Casa da Arquitectura – Portuguese Centre for Architecture

The Casa da Arquitectura is a non-profit cultural entity established in 2007 in the city of Matosinhos, Portugal. In November 2017, officially opened the doors of its new premises. The new space occupies part of the block of the Real Vinícola, a group of buildings restored by the Municipality of Matosinhos with a project by the architect Guilherme Machado Vaz, with an area of about 5 thousand m².

Casa da Arquitectura is the only non-profit cultural entity in the national territory exclusively dedicated to Architecture by bringing together, in a single space, an archive and an exhibition area. Its archives currently include over 500 models, panels, drawings, serigraphs, DVDs, books and other materials of the collections and estates of several architects, including Álvaro Siza, João Álvaro Rocha, Paulo Mendes da Rocha, Fernando Távora and Souto de Moura, among others. A small part of Souto Moura's vast collection in Casa's care will be available to visit in the Archive during the opening days. The activities span several different areas: Tours; Itineraries; Open House Porto, Archive; Educational Service; Publications; Loja da Casa.

Quinta do Vallado Wine Hotel

EXCURSION PROGRAMME

In the region of Douro Vineyard, famous for its Port Wine, with an astonishing and unique landscape, the Quinta do Vallado Wine Hotel is an overwhelming shale construction, designed by architect Francisco Vieira de Campos, teacher at FAUP.

The intervention provides for the maintenance of the existing buildings, complemented by the restructuring necessary for the construction of new buildings: a warehouse for barrels and a new reception, reconciling the need for the expansion of the existing winery with proper integration into natural landscape.

The unification of all these purposes needed great technical precision and resulted in great simplicity, both in the use of material and in the creation of forms. This assured minimal impact to the landscape but the same economy of means was used to create very seductive spaces.