

CA²RE+



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ATLAS OF ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN IN BUILT HERITAGE: CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE SCHOOL OF PORTO

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The Design Driven research (DDr) project “Atlas of Architectural Design in Built Heritage: Contributions from the School of Porto” (H-ATLAS.Porto) aims to introduce new insights on interventions in the built heritage carried out by architects of the so-called “School of Porto” (Fernando Távora, Álvaro Siza, Eduardo Souto Moura, among others), who left an important legacy and pedagogy in architectural heritage intervention. New perspective is allowed by documenting the whole process (before, during, after) and not only the final result, as it is common practice in specialist publications. However, as Carlo Scarpa states “the ‘final solution’ is as important as the ‘critical points’ that are resolved in the design process and in the building site”¹.

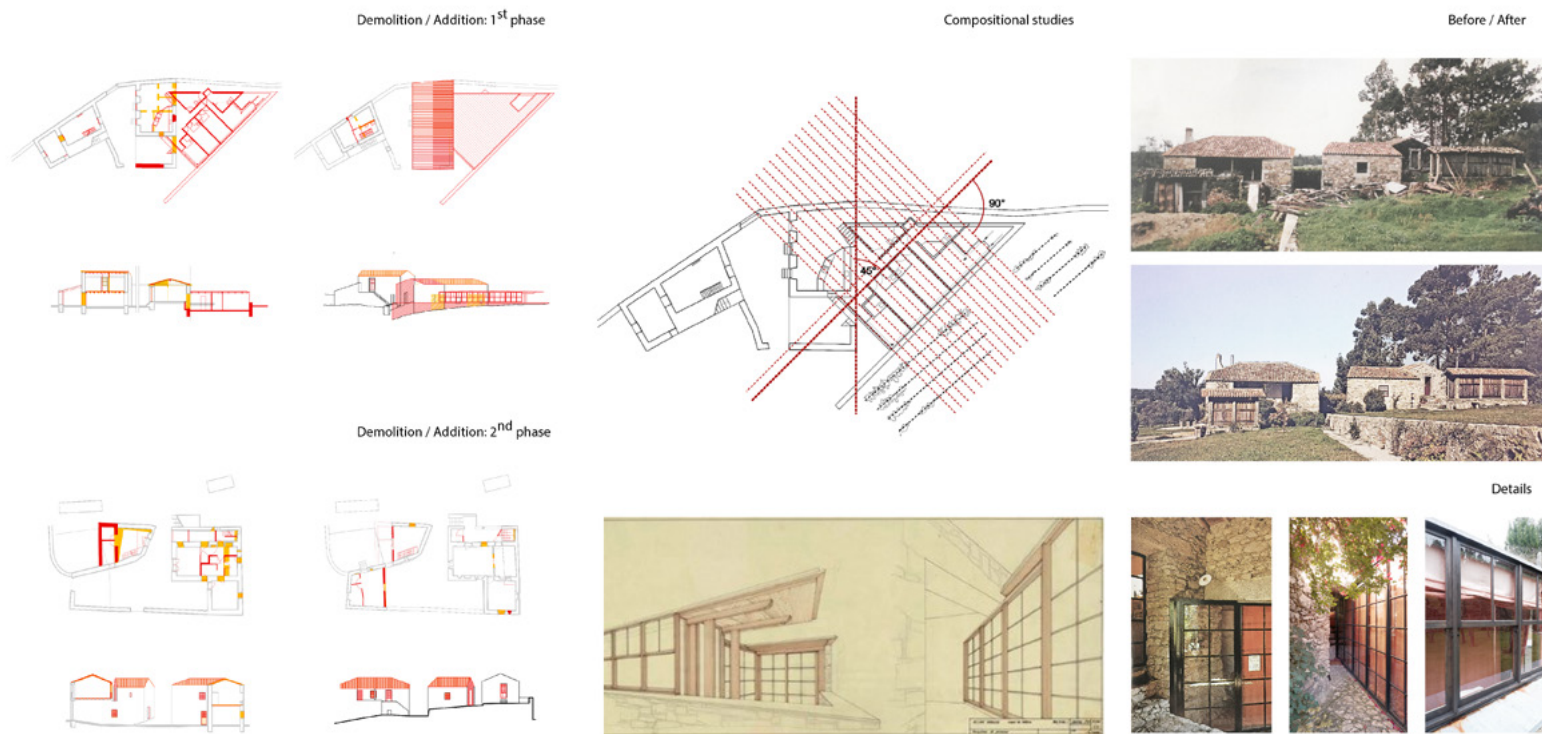


FIGURE 1. Alvaro Siza, Alcino Cardoso House, 1971, drawings by Eleonora Fantini

The novel approach proposed in this research project is supported on crossed methodology based on the analysis of information currently scattered across public and private archives, on *in situ* observation and on the collection of oral memories at risk of being lost. Adopting drawing as a research tool, graphic contents are produced, including reds and yellows (essential for any deep understanding and communication of the transformations effectively carried out on the pre-existence), interpretative schemes of the construction phases and of the compositional and geometric principles in the relationship between new and old, and even of the analysis of constructive details.

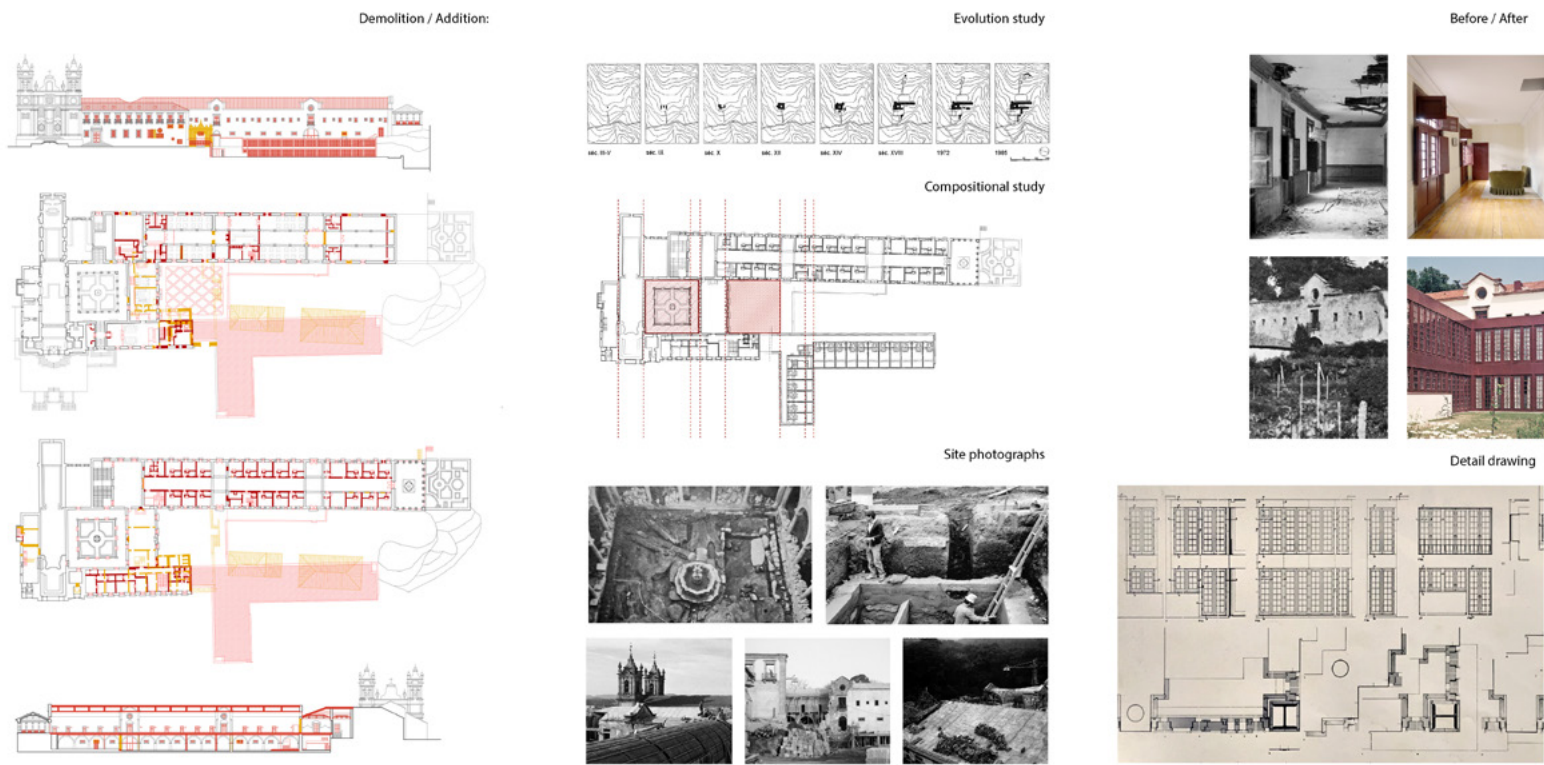


FIGURE 2. Fernando Távora, Santa Marinha da Costa, Pousada 1972–1985, drawings by Eleonora Fantini

proposes a case-by-case approach, where each object constitutes a specific circumstance and starting point which may not be subject to generalisation. This inductive methodology incorporates the individual study of each design and construction process through a simultaneously chronological and general-to-detail sequence visual narrative: map location, images before intervention (historic images, photographs, drawings, surveys), drawings before intervention, design sketches, design and/or construction report extracts, demolition/additional drawings (red/yellow), construction site photographs, as well as built drawings, photographic reportage of interior and exterior (including plans with the location of photographic catches), architectural details complemented with photographic illustrations, comparative photographs of before and after, image credits and a selected bibliography.

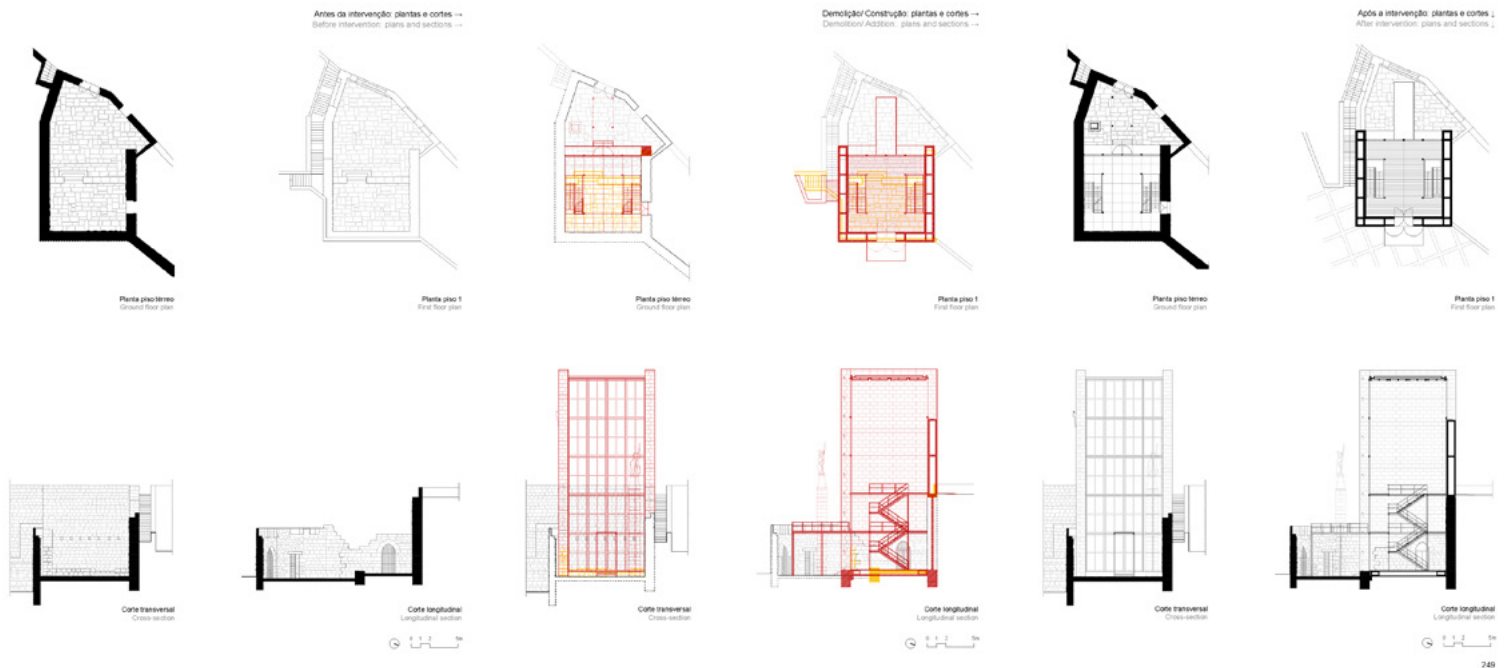


FIGURE 3. Fernando Távora, Old City Council (Casa dos 24), 1995–2004, drawings before, demolition/addition and as built, drawings by Eleonora Fantini

This DDr project deploys the production of drawings (with predefined and normalised Autocad layers) of the architectural works i) before intervention, ii) demolitions/additions (red/yellow) and iii) as built, which are executed with the same layout (selected plan(s), section(s) and elevation(s) according to each case), so that they may easily be compared and thereby provide a direct architectural comprehension of the intervention.

In this way, this research project proposes drawing as an essential tool for DDr - “*Drawing is the desire of intelligence*”² – allowing for observation, interpretation and communication of architectural artefacts. This research approach as already been experimented in Master and Doctoral Thesis^{3,4}

- 2 Siza, Álvaro (1995), “Construir uma Casa”. In LLANO, Pedro e CASTANHEIRA, Carlos (eds.). *Obras e Projectos*. Centro Galego de Arte Contemporânea / Electa Espanha, p. 61.
- 3 Fantini, Eleonora (2021), “Património storico e progetto nell’architettura portoghese. Riflessi della cultura italiana nell’opera di Távora, Soutinho e Siza.”, Phd Thesis (supervisors: A. Ugolini, A. Esposito, T. Cunha Ferreira), Università di Bologna; ORDOÑEZ-CASTANON.
- 4 David, Fernando Távora (2022), “La modernidad enraizada: innovación e contibuidade como estrategias de la intervencion en la arquitectura tradicional.”, Phd Thesis (supervisors: S. Santi ago-Baetia, T. Cunha Ferreira), University of Pais Basco.

as well as in the preparation of books and other dissemination outputs which, within the motto “Learning by (doing) drawing!”, can provide insights for teaching and practice on contemporary intervention in the built heritage.

This DDr Project is thus designed as both a tool kit to assist students and practitioners and an overarching narrative, capturing trends and positioning this body of work within the wider culture of architecture and heritage intervention.

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