

Book of Abstracts

the time ^{of} streets

INCISIONS
OVERLAPS
AND
RHYTHMS

TITLE

City Street 5

The time of streets:

incisions, overlaps and rhythms

Book of Abstracts

EDITION

Alessia Allegri

Christine Mady

Francesca Dal Cin

João Silva Leite

Luis Miguel Ginja

Sérgio Barreiros Proença

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Elisabete Rolo

Lisboa, October 2022

Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian

Lisboa, 12, 13, 14 October 2022

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The project of “Rua do Loureiro”:
the boundaries between the properties
belonging to the monastery and the ones
of the city. Author (2019)

About the urban and architectural *ennoblement* of the city: Designing the *Rua do Loureiro* in Porto

Ângela Brandão Moreira
Faculdade de Arquitectura da Universidade do Porto (FAUP)
angela_moreiraf@hotmail.com

Maria José Casanova
FAUP, Centro de Estudos de Arquitectura e Urbanismo (CEAU)
mjcnova@arq.up.pt

Carla Garrido de Oliveira
FAUP, CEAU
up240950@g.uporto.pt

Abstract

The heritage valuation of urban processes –their parcelary and allotment structure, typological, formal and constructive aspects– in the metamorphosis of cities is the underlying problem under discussion in this paper.

The opening of *Rua das Flores* in 1521 by D. Manuel I, connecting *Largo do Convento de S. Domingos* with *Porta de Carros*, followed his foundation of the *Mosteiro de S. Bento da Avé Maria* in 1518, both works in order to *ennoble* the city. Taking the same idea, the Benedicte nuns organised the space in front of their church, *ennobling* it by designing *Rua do Loureiro*. Replacing the old and by them occupied *Rua de Carros* –also leading to relocate *Porta de Carros*–, the nuns profited from one of their land parcels, allotting *grounds* –considering principles of measurement and modulation– and establishing volumetric and constructive rules to private buildings in their new southern front of the *Terreiro*.

By identifying and drawing overlapped transformation layers in time, we developed a backwards process that, at some point, allows us a plausible onwards reconstitution of the urban and architectural design process, namely three main moments of urban transformation of *Rua do Loureiro* over five centuries: mid-16th, second half of 18th and early 20th centuries. Impressively, the matrix initially established prevails on the southern front of the street, despite the profound transformations inherent to the replacement of the monastery by the central railway station. [1488].

Keywords

Porto; *Mosteiro de S. Bento da Avé Maria*; *Rua do Loureiro*;
16th century urbanisation and city transformation;
monumental vs common architecture.