

- **12902 | João Álvaro Rocha: the import of precise simplicity**

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This investigation aims at recognizing the underlining architectural premises that inform João Álvaro Rocha's design process, associated to housing, namely his built proposals for Programa Especial de Realojamento (PER) in Matosinhos and Maia. Additionally, the access to primary sources in João Álvaro Rocha's office archive, formed a substantial motivation and the basis for this in-depth study, opening the possibility of understanding through a thorough examination the core principles of his design process.

The main goal of the present paper is to interpret the value of simplicity as an architectural notion, a tool, in Álvaro Rocha's work. From rapid sketches or technical drawings to finished buildings, the architecture of Álvaro Rocha holds a comprehensible and unitary significance that conveys his work to the eloquence of simplicity – the search for the essential. This is the combined result of rigour and precision as a language, within a pragmatic, but also intuitive, design process, that eliminates the superfluous in order to underline the essence and identity of each architectural element.

The formal and conceptual clarity of Álvaro Rocha's work helps us to understand the importance of a specific design vocabulary that aims at reduction, precision and clarity of space, form and materiality. Furthermore, these characteristics are important to understand and portray Portuguese contemporary architecture itself.

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