

Partilhar Memórias  
Piscina de Marés

Álvaro Siza

Sharing Memories  
Ocean Swimming Pool

1960–2021

This book gathers the contributions presented at the "Sharing Memories: Ocean Swimming Pool" webinar, which took place on the 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2021, organized by the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Porto, in partnership with the Municipal Council of Matosinhos and Casa da Arquitectura. The publication brings together the testimonies of renowned national and international authors who, with different approaches, bring us their memories, experiences and reflections for contemporary architectural design. The volume is structured into five chapters – with unavoidable overlapping and contaminations – "Context and references", "From history to memories", "Critical perspectives", "Lessons from the Pool" and "Representations of the Pool", providing renewed perspectives and readings on this landmark work of 20<sup>th</sup> century architecture.

Este livro reúne as contribuições apresentadas no encontro "Partilhar Memórias: Piscina de Marés", que ocorreu a 9 de Setembro de 2021, organizado pela Faculdade de Arquitectura da Universidade do Porto, em parceria com a Câmara Municipal de Matosinhos e a Casa da Arquitectura. A publicação reúne os testemunhos de reconhecidos autores nacionais e internacionais que, com diferentes aproximações, nos trazem as suas memórias, experiências e reflexões para o projeto arquitectónico contemporâneo. O volume estrutura-se em cinco capítulos – não estanques, com inevitáveis contaminações – "Contexto e referências", "Da história às memórias", "Perspetivas críticas", "Lições da Piscina" e "Representações da Piscina", propiciando renovadas perspetivas e leituras sobre esta obra emblemática da arquitectura do século XX.

**PARTILHAR MEMÓRIAS**  
**Álvaro Siza**  
**Piscina de Marés (1960-2021)**

**SHARING MEMORIES**  
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*Álvaro Siza*

## PRESENTATIONS

p. 6	Ocean Swimming Pool – Sharing Memories	Álvaro Siza
p. 8	Faculty of Architecture of the University of Porto	João Pedro Xavier
p. 9	Municipal Council of Matosinhos	Fernando Rocha
p. 10	Casa da Arquitectura	Nuno Sampaio
p. 12	Getty Foundation	Susan Macdonald

## INTRODUCTION

p. 14	Critical reception: Ocean Swimming Pool by Álvaro Siza	Teresa Cunha Ferreira
-------	--------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------

## CONTEXT AND REFERENCES

p. 24	The Leça Swimming Pool	Alexandre Alves Costa
p. 27	Ocean Swimming Pool – Álvaro Siza between Japanese poetry and an Atlantic <i>topos</i>	Ana Tostões
p. 32	The young man in a suit	Dominique Machabert
p. 38	The Leça Swimming Pool and the centrality of the concept of space in Architecture	Michel Toussaint
p. 40	An earthwork named “Piscina de Marés”	Nuno Grande

## FROM HISTORY TO MEMORIES

p. 50	Memories of Siza’s Ocean Pool	Brigitte Fleck
p. 54	Álvaro Siza’s Leça da Palmeira Pools	Pierluigi Nicolini
p. 56	From Memories to History	Christian Gänshirt
p. 61	The whole of Europe is behind us	Roberto Cremascoli

## CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES

- |       |                                                                     |                   |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| p. 66 | ... like a terrace onto something else ...                          | Wilfried Wang     |
| p. 70 | Ocean Swimming Pool:<br>an eidetic memory                           | Peter Testa       |
| p. 74 | Álvaro Siza. Paths, Body and Memory (2)                             | Carlos Machado    |
| p. 76 | A praise of shadows:<br>the Ocean Swimming Pool in Leça da Palmeira | Eduardo Fernandes |

## LESSONS FROM THE POOL

- |        |                                                       |                                                         |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| p. 84  | With seawater                                         | Juan Domingo Santo                                      |
| p. 91  | Álvaro Siza, Ocean Swimming Pool,<br>Leça da Palmeira | Jonathan Sergison                                       |
| p. 92  | Some thresholds                                       | Luis Martinez<br>Santa-Maria                            |
| p. 95  | (Sharing) Three memoirs of the Leça<br>Swimming Pool  | Nuno Brandão Costa                                      |
| p. 98  | The right measure                                     | Teresa Novais                                           |
| p. 101 | Diving for the first time                             | Ana Alves Costa<br>Filipa Guerreiro<br>José Cabral Dias |

## REPRESENTATIONS OF THE POOL

- |        |                                                                                |                      |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| p. 108 | A Pool on the Ocean towards the West                                           | Giovanni Chiamonte   |
| p. 112 | Something in between                                                           | Luís Martinho Urbano |
| p. 115 | Anamnesis as a particular way of experiencing time:<br>the Ocean Swimming Pool | Pedro Leão Neto      |
| p. 120 | Memories of facilitators                                                       | Joaquim Moreno       |

## APPENDIX

- |        |                            |
|--------|----------------------------|
| p. 123 | Texts in original language |
|--------|----------------------------|

The visit to the Ocean Swimming Pool is one of the most significant experiences for the students, in the learning path provided by the Design Studio of the first year of the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Porto. That moment signals the beginning of the second academic exercise, in which the students face a real context, a specific plot, a place, for the first time. This exercise is aimed at developing a spatial composition in which students are challenged to explore the physical framework far beyond its condition as a support for locating the proposal, as a device to qualify it with reciprocity; the features of the place should contribute to set up a principle to organize, limit, and establish a hierarchy and enriching the spaces.

The spatial structure to be developed may be a cafeteria, the facilities to host a sculpture or a different program. In fact, the program, which is intentionally simplified, should not play a decisive role in the design. It is rather a motto to induce the definition of interior spaces with contrasting characteristics, transition spaces with diverse qualities, as well as exterior spaces with specific spatial properties.

With the visit to the Ocean Swimming Pool, we seek to motivate the students for the debate on the different binomials that the proposals should explore: repetition and exception, continuity and finish, mass and void, solid volumes and light surfaces, horizontal and vertical, light and shadow, openness and limits, natural and artificial, enclosed spaces and movement along pathways, among other similar basic resources for Architecture, the so-called *twin-phenomena*.<sup>2</sup>

The visit to the Ocean Swimming Pool is preceded by the visit to Quinta da Conceição and, therefore, many of the topics under debate acquire a plurality of perspectives, which also happens as a result of the opposed approaches they both show. The difference in understanding and (re)designing the topography might be the most evident one, but in both cases we are interested in recognizing the timelessness principles and devices for the spatial definition.

The gathering at the entrance of the Ocean Swimming Pool is by itself a moment of a particular impact. The perception of the building as a whole provides the opportunity to question the idea that a building is a finite object, placed over a platform. At that moment, the the roof plays the role of an elevation. Thereby, the first contact with the architectural form is given by the pathway descending to the entrance, a motto to show the void as an essential matter of architecture.

<sup>1</sup> The participation in the webinar resulted from a joint reflection in the teaching context of Projecto I in the Integrated Master in Architecture of the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Porto (FAUP) that we have shared since 2006. The course was

then coordinated by the Professors Manuel Botelho and José Manuel Soares. As part of this experience, a study visit with students to the Ocean Swimming Pool became part of the program on a regular basis.

<sup>2</sup> EYCK, Aldo Van. "The child, the city and the artist: an essay on architecture", [1962]. Amsterdam, Sun, 2008.

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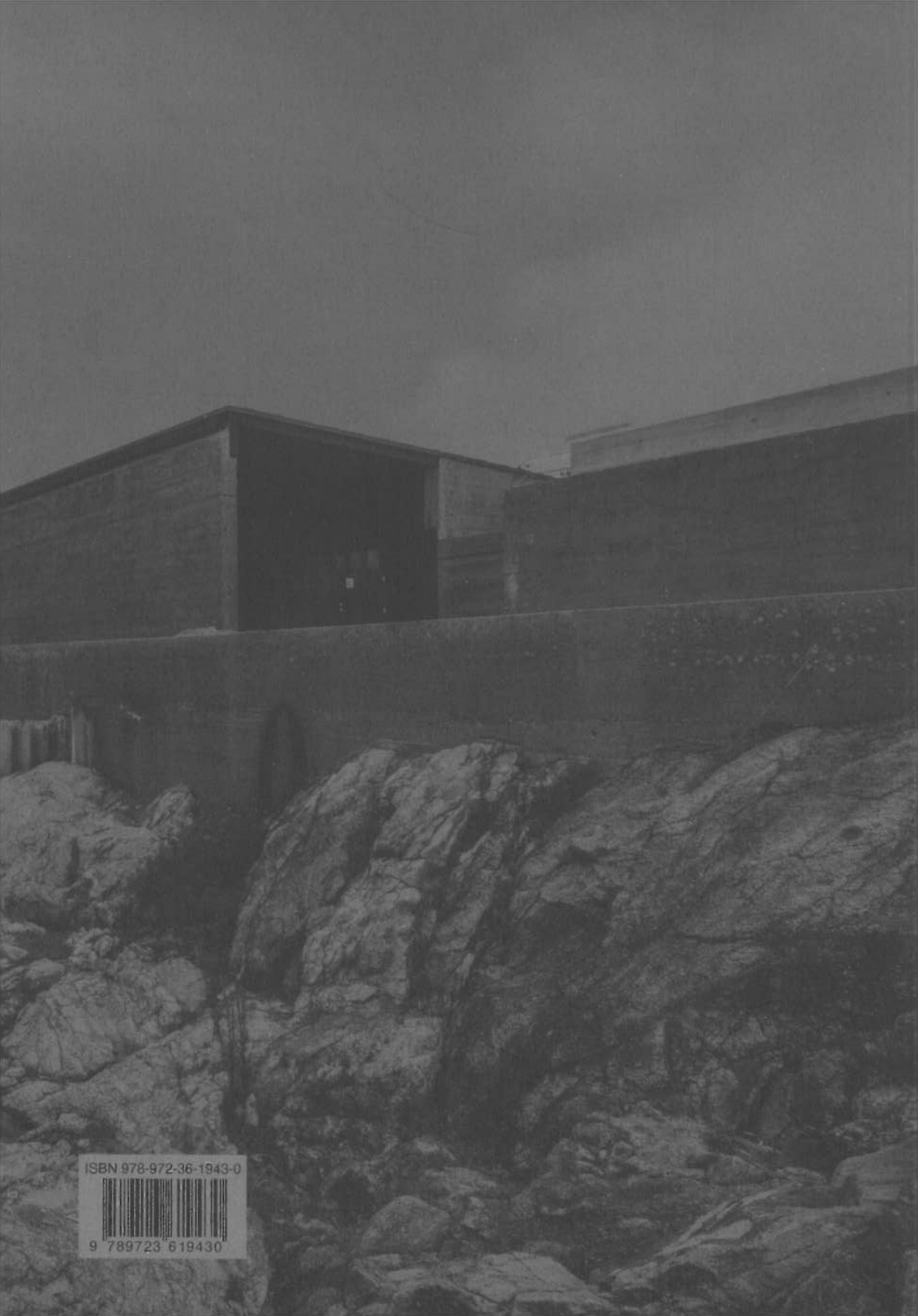


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