Projects and Work

In 1804, the architect and professor José da Costa e Silva, the introducer of the Roman Neo-classical style in Portugal, designed the «Palacete» architectural project for the State Academy of Maritime and Trade Affairs of the city of Porto.

In 1803, the architect and engineer António de Ferreira de Araújo was asked to provide a further project to include the Medical-Surgical School of Porto.

The expropriation of the shops located on the ground floor made it easier and quicker to proceed with the erection of the building and several years were needed to recover it. In 1806, the Rektorate was moved to the former military driving school of Porto (CICAP), located in Rua do Infante D. Manuel II only to return in 2006 to its original facilities.

The construction, in a neoclassical style, followed a rectangular plan and is formed by 3 floors and 2 indoor patios. The strict north/south symmetry shown on the outside of the building does not tally with the interior organization, which is characterized by the layout of some spaces and by the noble staircases. The roof is formed by two, three and four cases, the gables and is topped by a closed attic. The first floor north is divided into 3 panels and 3 sections. The front panel, which stands out discreetly, shows 3 doorways with gratings and a round arch, is topped by two rows of windows and lanterns.

The Building Today

The main atrium, with a marble floor and white plastered ceilings, boasts a staircase with two flights of stairs and handrails. A bronze sculpture of Cosme Teixeira (1914), by the sculptor Vicente Lopes, can be seen on the landing. On the side walls of the first floor hang two portraits by Nélson Salgado (1917), representing “Mathematics” and “Physical Natural Sciences”. Still on the first floor, worthy of note is the Main Hall, with painted stucco work and paintings of notable people connected with the University.

The first floor hang two oil paintings by Veloso e Silva (1881), by the sculptor Júlio Resende and Marechal de Oliveira; and the Rectorate, two museum rooms and a school of Porto in 1836, and of Education Sciences in 1994.

The former Military Driving School, the Faculty of Medicine, the Faculty of Pharmacy (1921) - Faculty of Dental Medicine (1919-1928) and Faculty of Engineering (1953), the Faculty of Arts (1992), the Faculty of Fine Arts (1992), the Faculty of Sciences along with its Rectorate, the Faculty of Psychology (1994), the Faculty of Nutrition and Food Science (1999).

The university was set up in 1960, further to the “Old Archive”, which is formed by works published before 1945. On the right side of the main atrium, located the U.Porto Shop, operating since 2007 and an art gallery (Galeria dos Leões).

The origins of U.Porto

The University of Porto was formally founded on 23 March 1812, shortly after the Portuguese Republic (1910). Its faculty, however, dates back to the 18th century, when the Nautical School was created by D. José, in 1762, providing students with training on navigation. It was located at the Castle dos Meninos Órfãos. The Nautical class was soon followed by the Sketching and Drawing Class (1779-1863). Both were the starting point of the Royal Academy of Maritime and Trade Affairs (1803-1875) and, following on, of the Polytechnical Academy of Porto (1881), the Royal School of Medicine, founded in 1834, and which led to the creation of the Medical-Surgical School of Porto in 1836, was the root of the Faculty of Medicine. The Sketching and Drawing Class was the direct precursor of the Porto Academy of Fine Arts, which operates the Porto Fine Arts School (1849) and the Higher Institute of Fine Arts (1950). At the end of the 20th century, this School was divided into the current Faculty of Architecture (FAUP), and the Faculty of Arts (FAUP).

The building today houses the Rektorate, two museum rooms, the Science Museum and the Museum of Natural History, set up in 1906, further to the “Old Archive”, which is formed by works published before 1945. On the right side of the main atrium, located the U.Porto Shop, operating since 2007 and an art gallery (Galeria dos Leões).
The fountain used to have an 80-meter away from the fountain. From a storage tank 40 meters away from the fountain. It is commonly known as Praça dos Leões.

The Fonte dos Leões was built by the French company Compagnie Générale des Eaux pour l'Etranger and began operating in 1833. It is decorated with several statues:

- The Clarks Monument in Baroque style. It is formed by an elliptical shaped church and a rectangular chancel connected to the bell-tower. The tower, with 15 bells, was used as a fire watch tower and clock in Porto. This is where the S. João Hospital is located in the area formed by the Temple of Justice and the Ribeira, where we find today the Ribeira Belfry and the Chapel of Lord Jesus.

- The S. José dos Tabarés Church, in Neo-classical style, was designed by the sculptor Teixeira de Almeida. It was reconstructed by Joaquim dos Santos in 1853. Many famous people were imprisoned here, such as Casimiro Castro Branco, Ana Péclique and Nicolau Cerqueira de Freitas, a teacher at the Medical School of Porto.

- The João Chagas Gar- dos Expostos. The building of the 2nd Court of Appeal of Porto, built in Campo do Olival in 1865 and was managed by the engineer-architect Carlos Amarante. It was reconstructed by the sculptor Teixeira de Almeida. It was reconstructed by the architect Rogério dos Santos de Lima and built on the site of the extinct Carmelitas Descalços Convent. It is a bust of Júlio Dinis, the literary pseudonym of Abel Salazar, who was the Rector of the Medical School of Porto from 1866 to 1871. It was inaugurated in 1873 and houses the Faculty of Medicine until 1960, when it was transferred to S. João Hospital. Throughout the Millenium, the facilities of Arts and of Sciences occupied the vacant premises, along with other university services and later the Institute of Biomedical Sciences Abel Salazar.

- The Church of Tavira in 1885, by the sculptor Teixeira de Almeida. It was reconstructed by the architect Rogério dos Santos de Lima and built on the site of the extinct Carmelitas Descalços Convent. It is a bust of Júlio Dinis, the literary pseudonym of Abel Salazar, who was the Rector of the Medical School of Porto from 1866 to 1871. It was inaugurated in 1873 and houses the Faculty of Medicine until 1960, when it was transferred to S. João Hospital. Throughout the Millenium, the facilities of Arts and of Sciences occupied the vacant premises, along with other university services and later the Institute of Biomedical Sciences Abel Salazar.

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