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Artistic and Architectural Heritage
of the Nobility Between Old and New Regimes

Umetnostna in arhitekturna dediščina plemstva
med starimi in novimi režimi

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ZRC SAZU, Umetnostnozgodovinski inštitut Franceta Steleta
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The Restoration and Refunctionalisation of Medieval Fortified Manor Houses by the Portuguese Dictatorial Regime (1926–1974)

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Abstract:

**The Restoration and Refunctionalisation of Medieval Fortified Manor Houses
by the Portuguese Dictatorial Regime (1926–1974)**

1. 01 Original scientific article

In the Modern Age, most fortified manor houses in Portugal fell into ruin, due to the lack of dignified living conditions, the obsolescence of defensive structures, and the decline decay of aristocratic families. However, between 1933 and 1974, many ruined fortified manor houses were restored by the Portuguese dictatorial regime. The nationalist dictatorship of *Estado Novo* used heritage as an ideological instrument of propaganda. This proposal aims to analyse the context of the ideological restoration of medieval fortified manor houses by the dictatorial regime, addressing symbolisms, restoration actions, and the contextualisation of fortified manor houses in Portugal by focusing on particular case studies.

Keywords: Portugal; medieval fortified manor houses; heritage rehabilitation; *Estado Novo* dictatorship; ideological propaganda

Izvleček:

Obnova srednjeveških utrdb v času portugalskega diktatorskega režima (1926–1974)

1.01 Izvirni znanstveni članek

V novem veku je večina srednjeveških gradov na Portugalskem propadla zaradi premajhnega udobja, zastarelosti obrambnih struktur in izumiranja plemiških družin. V letih od 1933–1974 je portugalski diktatorski režim številne porušene gradove obnovil. Nacionalistična diktatura *Estado Novo* je kulturno dediščino uporabljala kot ideološki instrument propagande. Namen članka je analizirati kontekst ideološke obnove srednjeveških gradov v času diktatorskega režima, pri čemer so obravnavani simbolika, ukrepi pri obnovah in kontekstualizacija gradov na Portugalskem s poudarkom na študijah posameznih primerov

Ključne besede: Portugalska, srednjeveški gradovi, restavriranje kulturne dediščine, diktatura *Estado Novo*, ideološka propaganda

Preamble: Medieval Fortified Manor Houses in Portugal

The formation of Portugal as an independent country took place, in the first instance, with the process of territorial expansion from north to south, as the result of the Christian Reconquest of the Iberian Peninsula from the Muslims by the Christian kingdoms of the north; after that, a process of defence and consolidation was followed *vi-à-vis* the neighbouring kingdoms—first Leon, then Castile, and later Spain. Portugal's independence was achieved in 1139 by King Afonso Henriques (c.1109–1185), who while consolidating his authority in the northern and eastern frontier territories, continued the territorial expansion to the south, taking advantage of the disintegration of the Almoravid territories. The Portuguese southern frontier was then established on the line of the River Tagus, and it was only with the decadence of the Almohads, around a century later, that the Christian conquerors' advance took on a new impetus, culminating in the conquest of Silves in 1249 by King Afonso III (1210–1279), and the transfer of the Portuguese court to Lisbon in 1255. Once the Muslim lands on the western part of the Iberian Peninsula were completely conquered, it was necessary to delimit the frontier between the kingdoms of Portugal and Castile, a mission undertaken by King Dinis (1261–1325). After a short period of war with the powerful neighbouring kingdom, taking advantage of its weaknesses, the Treaty of Alcanizes was signed in 1297, defining the frontier between the two countries. The inexistence of significant landforms that could help delimit the frontier between Portugal and Castile led to the adoption of a peculiar policy of territorial organisation. Dinis used a policy of fortifying the border, where the castles became gigantic boundary stones delimiting the territory. The concept of a frontier was not a virtual line but rather a succession of points functioning as identifying elements. Whoever possessed the castle also possessed the surrounding lands and communities and, for this reason, the monarch bestowed the administration of the frontier castles as a counterweight to the homage paid to his royal authority.¹ The castles thus played a fundamental part in defining the Portuguese territory and maintaining its integrity and independence.

From the outset, the Portuguese Crown proceeded to establish lands throughout Portugal's territory, whose administration was granted to elements of the lower nobility as counterweight to the homage paid to the royal authority, thus seeking to counterbalance the power of the greater nobility. However, within a short space of time this system became problematic, with the commanders increasingly demanding more military, judicial and fiscal power, more lands and also social promotion. The construction of strong houses (*domus fortis*)² by lesser nobles was often abusive, seizing estates and seeking to ascend socially with the constitution of *honras*³ (possessions of the greater nobility).⁴

According to Mário Barroca, King Sancho I (1154–1211) proceeded to take actions to destroy the strong houses that were not authorised by the monarch, attempting to control their proliferation and its respective consequences. His son, King Afonso II (1185–1223), followed the policy of centralising power, and only when King Afonso III (1210–1279) ascended the throne was the situation controlled, through the recovery of royal possessions and the tearing down of strong houses that

¹ Gomes, "A construção das fronteiras," 370–80.

² On aristocratic residences in Portugal, see Carita, *A casa senhorial*; Silva, *Paços medievais*; Gomes, "Monarquia e território;" Barroca, "Torres;" Azevedo, *Solares Portugueses*.

³ *Honra* is a Portuguese feudal term that refers to a named set of manors and other lands.

⁴ Mattoso, *Identificação de um país*, 1: 95.

had been built unlawfully.⁵ King Dinis's actions made it possible to consolidate royal power vis-à-vis the aristocracy, abolishing the system of landholdings in favour of *julgados*, that is, independently administered villages that were more civil in character; this provided the conditions for the institution of the juridical principle of *ius crenelandi*, the right to the “crenelation” (which refers to the crowning with battlements)⁶ and the strengthening of the royal monopoly to construct fortifications, that would last until the reign of King Duarte (1392–1438). The *ius crenelandi* was reflected in tight control of the building of fortified residences; only in some particular cases was the construction of strong houses authorised by the king.⁷ While in many European countries the nobility could generally own fortifications, in Portugal the castles were exclusive to the royal domain, and their administration was carried out by captains appointed by the king. They could not carry out private residential works in these structures, which generally maintained their military profile.

Initially, the Portuguese strong houses followed the towered model from the second half of the 12th century, adopting configurations inspired by castle keeps;⁸ these tower houses were implanted predominantly in accessible places with no concerns about their defence. Mário Barroca states that in the Middle Ages it was not the towered form that gave the fortified aspect to the building, but rather the existence of battlements crowning the buildings: this led to the association of an enormous symbolic load with the battlements, considered synonymous with noble distinction. The limited dimensions and habitability of the towers evolved progressively into the emergence of residential annexes built against the towers.⁹

Custódio da Silva states that the strong symbolism and prestige associated with the Muslim *alcazars* had encouraged the Portuguese kings to adopt as privileged royal residences those that were associated with castles,¹⁰ thus reasserting their power.¹¹ The centralisation of royal power and the decline of the older aristocratic houses, exchanged for new feudal houses (as a consequence of the political juncture provoked by the independence crisis of 1383–1385),¹² set up the conditions for the construction of new royal and aristocratic manor houses (residences of the monarchy and high nobility or clergy). These new, more imposing manor houses—some of them fortified¹³—were promoted by

⁵ Barroca, “Torres,” 45–85.

⁶ Licence to crenellate means the granting of a royal licence, giving permission to the holder to build a fortification or to fortify an existing structure, such as a manor house.

⁷ Barroca, “D. Dinis,” 804–07.

⁸ Some strong houses (dating from various eras) are the tower houses of Refóios (Ponte de Lima), Dornelas (Amares), Oriz in Santa Marinha (Vila Verde), Vasconcelos in Ferreiros (Amares) and the later tower houses of Giela (Arcos de Valdevez) and Quintela in Vila Marim (Vila Real).

⁹ Barroca, “Torres,” 57–72.

¹⁰ The manor houses inside the castles of Montemor-o-Velho, Óbidos, Lamego, Alenquer, Estremoz, Coimbra and Lisbon were royal residences.

¹¹ Silva, *Paços medievais*, 25.

¹² Because the great noble families supported Castilian pretensions to the Portuguese throne, they lost their privileges to the lesser nobility that had remained on the side of the Portuguese pretender.

¹³ The royal manor house of Leiria was built by King João I (1357–1433) within the castle, showing affinities with Palatine civil architecture; the fortified manor house of the Dukes of Braganza in Guimarães, begun c.1420, shows similarities with certain French aristocratic fortified buildings (the first Duke of Braganza, promotor of the construction, was in that country as a diplomat); the fortified manor house of the Dukes of Braganza in Barcelos, built by the second Duke of Braganza, had a fortified configuration due to the symbolism, and because there was no castle in the city; the fortified manor house of Ourém, located next to the old castle, was begun c.1440 by a son of the first Duke of Braganza after returning from Italy as a diplomat (the building had affinities with some

persons directly related to the Royal House: the House of Avis, linked to the Portuguese royal dynasty, and the powerful House of Braganza.¹⁴ The reformulation or construction of some captains' houses situated inside castles was also permitted under royal license;¹⁵ very occasionally, the construction of fortified manor houses was also allowed.¹⁶

Advances provided by firearms made the battlements irrelevant and they were progressively replaced by the gigantic merlons adapted to gunpowder artillery. Useless for defence, this took away from the battlements the symbolic value intimately related to aristocratic distinction, enhanced through the *ius crenelandi*; as such, their use became more liberalised from the beginning of the 15th century, first in the residences of the high nobility, then in the lower nobility, and finally among people of wealth who did not have any aristocratic title. Due to their powerful symbolism, the surviving medieval tower houses began to be preserved, recovered and integrated into new manor houses that were added to the old towers (when these did not exist, new towers were built, copying old models).¹⁷ The use (at times whimsical) of battlements gave them the appearance of a manor house; they were also used during the Baroque period, above all in manor houses in the north of Portugal.

Ideological Instrumentalisation of Heritage by the Portuguese Dictatorial Regime

The tumultuous period of political, economic and social instability of the First Republic (1910–1926), which also resulted from World War I, culminated in the Coup d'État of 1926, which put in place an authoritarian dictatorial military model of government. The year of 1933 saw the enthronement of António de Oliveira Salazar (1889–1970), who took on leadership of the country as President of the Council of Ministers in the recently established *Estado Novo* (New State) dictatorship. The ideological programme of the new regime was developed with an axiology characterised by traditional Catholic, nationalist and colonialist conservatism. The political ideology of the *Estado Novo* attributed an important role to national monuments, which transmitted enormous symbolism related to the national identity. It was therefore in the regime's interest to exploit heritage to its own advantage.¹⁸

Reflecting the strongly nationalistic component of the *Estado Novo*, the classified medieval sets were clearly favoured by the interventions of the regime, given that they were considered witnesses of the national origins and that they translated emblematic events of the nation's history,

Italian *roccas*); the same promotor raised the fortified manor house of Porto de Mós on the old castle, which was a mixture of fortification and civil palace; the fortified manor house of Évoramonte was built by the fourth Duke of Braganza, who partially replaced the ancient keep destroyed by an earthquake in 1531.

¹⁴ The House of Braganza was founded through the marriage of a son of King João I to the daughter of Constable Nun Álvares Pereira (1360–1431), one of the persons most involved in preserving Portugal's independence.

¹⁵ For example in the castles of Valhelhas, Longroiva, Belmonte and Idanha-a-Nova.

¹⁶ For example the fortified manor houses of Alvito, Feira (Santa Maria da Feira) and Penedono, these last buildings built on the primitive castles.

¹⁷ Examples of reuse and enlargement of tower houses as residential buildings from the 15th century: the manor houses of Giela (Arcos de Valdevez), Barbosa (Penafiel), Ribafria (Sintra) and Vasconcelos in Santiago da Guarda (Ansião). Examples of the construction of new towers in manorial buildings: the manor houses of Pinheiros (Barcelos), Águias in Brota (Mora) and Carvalhal (Montemor-o-Novo), see Silva, *Paços medievais*, 168–80.

¹⁸ On the ideological instrumentalisation of national monuments for propaganda purposes by the Portuguese dictatorship, see Martins, "History, Nation and Politics," Tomé, *Património*; Neto, *Memória*; Cunha, *A Nação*.

facilitating the retention of collective ideological messages. The regime considered that medieval monuments should be easily understood by the people and immediately identified with the characters or events that they were setting out to exalt, because of which the constructed elements that obstructed or deformed this reading would have to be eliminated. The intention of returning their primitive purity to the monuments drove the realisation of architectural “reintegrations” with the sacrifice of those contributions added on down the ages, above all those that came after the 16th century, from epochs associated with periods of national decadence.

Just as it rewrote history according to its ideology, the regime also rewrote the symbolic messages transmitted by the monuments. The regime imposed its own political agenda as the driver for increasing the activity of heritage recovery, considering architectural heritage to be a fundamental element at the level of propaganda and the physical ideological support of a symbolism it intended to recover and promote. The people would acquire the message intended by the political system more easily if constantly attaching privileged historical moments to architectural monuments: the medieval military sets clearly matched the regime’s propagandistic aims, not only because of their inherent symbolism, but also because of their generally ruined state at the moment when the *Estado Novo* was created. In an interview granted to António Ferro (1895–1956), the man in charge of the regime’s propaganda service, Salazar denounced precisely the abandonment of Portugal’s monumental heritage and proclaimed the need to restore it, as a national patriotic imperative.¹⁹

In 1929, the General Bureau of National Buildings and Monuments (Direcção-Geral dos Edifícios e Monumentos Nacionais, Portuguese acronym DGEMN) was established,²⁰ which brought together the state service for building and developing public works as well as heritage works. The DGEMN was directed by Henrique Gomes da Silva (1890–1969), a military engineer appointed by the military junta that governed the country. Gomes da Silva remained in the DGEMN until his retirement in 1960, and was a constant presence during the first thirty years of the institution. He articulated the principles which would (theoretically) be followed in the DGEMN’s interventions in architectural heritage, in a communication presented in 1934 during the I Congress of the National Union; ideals of pristine reintegration of the monuments should be followed, where restored sets of buildings should be integrated in their primitive beauty, “expurgating later excrescences” and “repairing the mutilations” suffered through the actions of men or time.²¹

Gomes da Silva, reflecting a concept of intervention shared with the ideology of the *Estado Novo*, advocated restoring the pristine forms of monuments that had been ruined or transmuted over time. Considering the ruins and architectural deformations as the most visible effects of Portugal’s periods of decadence (moral, financial, political, religious, etc.) before the establishment of the *Estado Novo*, the regime’s messianic imperative as a regenerator of glories of the homeland demanded the restoration of monuments to rescue the forms that had existed in the glorious ancestral eras. As medieval castles were symbols favoured by the regime, it was inevitable that restorative interventions would be carried out with the aim of re-establishing their pristine form, as in the Middle Ages.

¹⁹ Ferro, *Salazar*, 123–24.

²⁰ Decree-Law nr. 16791 of April 30, 1929. On heritage legislation, the functional organisation of Portuguese heritage institutions and their actions during the dictatorial regime, see Neto, *Memória*, 203–80. See also Custódio, *100 anos*; Rodrigues, “A Direcção-Geral.”

²¹ Silva, “Monumentos Nacionais,” 56–57.

In 1936, Salazar delivered a speech during the inauguration of the exposition held to commemorate the “10th Year of the National Revolution”. It was markedly propagandistic, entitled *Era of Restoration, Era of Aggrandizement*. Interventions made on national monuments by the DGEMN were extolled, justifying the application of the motto “material restoration, moral restoration, national restoration”—formulated in 1940 during the speech inaugurating the Public Library and District Archive of Braga, installed in the recently restored old Archiepiscopal Palace of Braga.²²

In 1938 Salazar decided to celebrate the Double Centenary of the Foundation and the Restoration of Portugal’s Independence, associating the regime with the two glorious historical events and mythifying the *Estado Novo* and its leader.²³ Through precepts established by Salazar, it was decided to grant greater funding to restore the most emblematic sets of monuments related to these two memorable moments of the national historical centenary, preparing them for the magnificent festive programme. Among the monuments chosen for the restoration work to be carried out by the DGEMN was the Fortified Manor House of the Dukes of Braganza, in Guimarães, the city considered to be the cradle of Portuguese nationality.

In order to distribute the ideological message more effectively, it was decided that the monuments should recover the supposed pristine physiognomy they would have had when the events being celebrated took place. In other words, the guidelines issued presupposed that the monuments undergoing interventions should take on a purified medieval aspect, facilitating their identification by the people with the alleged “glorious Past” generally located in the Middle Ages or beginning of the Modern Age. The visual impact was decisive in the options to intervene: during the beginning of Gomes da Silva’s mandate, the use of new technologies and materials was often rejected, preference being given to the use of ancestral technologies that would ensure greater legitimacy; later on, however, the advantages of reinforced concrete (durability, resistance to stress and ease of use) and steel as elements for structural reinforcement were recognised. Little by little their use was increased from the mid-1930s, although in a dissimulated way, in order to maintain the archaic appearance.

The Restoration of Medieval Fortified Manor Houses as Ideological Propaganda in Europe

The restoration and reconstruction—or even reinvention—of medieval fortifications (including fortified manor houses) for propaganda purposes was an old practice that gained new impetus with the advent of Romanticism and 19th-century nationalism. The restoration/reconstruction works were paradigmatic, ideologically motivated by Germanic castellated palaces during the 19th century. For example, the Rhine Valley region, considered a symbol of pan-German unity against foreign invaders at the time, motivated the reconstruction of medieval fortifications, which were associated with homeland defence and the medieval roots of the German nation.²⁴ The restoration works carried out on the ruined Stolzenfels Castle by Johann Claudius von Lassaulx (1781–1848), Karl Friedrich Schinkel (1781–1841) and Friedrich August Stüler (1800–1865) from 1834 onwards can be considered a typical example of such heritage interventions.

²² Salazar, “Era de restauração,” 2: 145–49.

²³ Salazar, “Comemorações Centenárias,” 3: 41–58.

²⁴ On the nationalist mythification of the Rhine region, the reconstruction of Rhenish castles and their symbolism, see, among others, Taylor, *The Castles*. On heritage interventions in German-influenced regions, see also Liessem, “Castles of the 19th Century;” Zeune, “The Perception;” Rathke, *Preußische Burgenromantik*.

In the Swabian enclave, which was reintegrated into Prussia in 1851, Hohenzollern Castle (Hechingen) was restored between 1851 and 1867, led by Friedrich August Stüler, as a way of affirming the Prussian Hohenzollern dynasty. In Eisenach (Thuringia), Wartburg Castle was rebuilt by Josef Maria Hugo von Ritgen (1811–1889) between 1838 and 1890 due to its various literary and symbolic connotations. It was one of the main sites of German poetry and, in 1207, it was used for the legendary Sängerkrieg—a competition of minstrels that would influence Wagner to write the famous opera *Tannhäuser und der Sängerkrieg auf Wartburg* (*Tannhäuser and the Minnesängers' Contest at Wartburg*). Saint Elizabeth of Hungary (1207–1231) also lived and died in this castle, and Martin Luther (1483–1546) transcribed the New Testament into German there. In addition, in 1817, during the celebration of victory over the Napoleonic army, a significant appeal for German unity was made from this castle.

As a way of proclaiming German dominance over East Prussia, a territory that came under Prussian rule after the first partition of Poland in 1772, the former Ordensburg Marienburg (Malbork), built by the Teutonic Order—of Germanic origin—in the Middle Ages, underwent several restoration works²⁵ from 1882 to 1922 under Conrad Steinbrecht (1849–1923) and Bernard Schmid (1872–1947). While Ordensburg Marienburg marked the eastern edge of the German Empire, Hohkönigsburg²⁶ (Orschwiller), located in the former French territory of Alsace, marked its western edge and was restored between 1900 and 1908 under the direction of Bodo Ebhardt (1865–1945).

There were other notable reconstructions of castellated palaces of symbolic importance to the sovereigns of several countries. For example, to declare possession of the border territories of South Tyrol, Austro-Hungarian Emperor Franz Joseph I (1830–1916) ordered the restoration of the Castle of Runkelstein²⁷ (Bozen/Bolzano), which was carried out between 1884 and 1888 under Friedrich Wilhelm von Schmidt (1825–1891), and the claim of Austro-Hungarian possession over the territories of Bohemia resulted in the restoration of the Castle of Karlstein²⁸ (Karlštejn) between 1870 and 1899, led by Friedrich Wilhelm von Schmidt and Josef Mocker (1835–1899).

In France, the Castle of Pierrefonds was rebuilt between 1857 and 1885 under Eugène Viollet-le-Duc (1814–1879), Maurice-Augustin-Gabriel Ouradou (1822–1884) and Jean Juste Lisch (1828–1910). This fortified manor house was to serve as the summer residence of Emperor Napoleon III (1808–1873), who needed to be recognised as the ruler of France.

Interestingly, the king's consort, Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha (1819–1861), married to the British Queen Victoria (1819–1901), and his right-hand cousin, Ferdinand II of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha (1816–1885), married to the Portuguese Queen Maria II (1819–1853), carried out work on pre-existing buildings, transforming them into castellated palaces. In addition to the cultural issues associated with Romanticism and the influences coming from Ferdinand and Albert's Germanic family, the argument for emphasising their royal houses in the eyes of their subjects was also evident in the choice of the architectural language for their palaces, alluding to medieval castles.²⁹

²⁵ Between 1817 and 1855, at the behest of Frederick William III (1770–1840) of Prussia, reconstruction was carried out by Karl August Gersdorff (1788–1855), under the supervision of Karl Schinkel.

²⁶ Today, it is known as the Castle of Haut-Koenigsbourg.

²⁷ It is also called the Castle of Roncolo.

²⁸ It is now known as Hrad Karlštejn.

²⁹ Santos, *O castelo português*, 173–92.

In the 20th century, several medieval fortifications were restored following nationalist ideological assumptions. For example, Ferdinando Forlati (1882–1975) restored the Castle of Gorizia between 1934 and 1937, which had been extensively damaged by bombing during the World War I; the decision to restore it was therefore also an ideological affirmation of territorial possession and national reconstruction. At the time, Italy was under the fascist dictatorship of Benito Mussolini (1883–1945), whose authoritarian regime was nationalist and imperialist in nature. In this sense, and as was the case with other nationalist dictatorial regimes, architectural heritage was seen as a privileged medium for ideological propaganda. Restorative interventions were therefore seen as an effective means of disseminating propaganda messages directly from the regime to the people.³⁰

During the Mussolini regime, interventions were in fact carried out on several castles, such as the Castle of Gradara, under Umberto Zanvettori (†1928), in the 1920s; the Castle of Monte in Andria, under the direction of Quintino Quagliati (1869–1932) in 1928; or the New Castle in Naples, also called Maschio Angioino, under Gino Chierici (1877–1961) and Giorgio Rosi (1904–1974), in the late 1930s. However, medieval castles were not the main focus of the restorations promoted by the Italian dictatorial regime: the interest was mainly centred on the monuments of Classical Antiquity from the Roman imperial period, of which the regime considered itself the heir.

In Spain, which was under the nationalist dictatorships of Miguel Primo de Rivera (1870–1930) from 1923 to 1930 and Francisco Franco (1892–1975) from 1939 to 1978, the propagandistic nature attributed to architectural heritage also motivated heritage interventions on Spanish monuments.³¹ Medieval castles did not have as strong a connotation in Spain as they did in Portugal, but several interventions occurred, such as the Castle of Loarre, restored between 1930 and 1950; the Castle of Coca, restored between 1956 and 1958; or the Castle of Mota, in Medina del Campo, restored from 1942. Looking at the catalogue of the 1958 exhibition in Madrid dedicated to monumental restorations from the 1940s and 1950s, one can clearly see that fewer castles were the subject of intervention than religious monuments, for instance.³²

Restoration of Medieval Fortified Manor Houses by the Estado Novo

In the first years of the DGEMN, the procedures and actions begun in previous decades during the First Republic were continued in various monuments, including the palace of the Castle of Leiria, the keep of the Castle of the Feira, and the Fortified Manor House of the Dukes of Braganza, in Barcelos.³³ All of them continued the prerogatives with which they had previously been linked: essentially interventions to consolidate, repair and restore as and when needed, with rebuilding both sporadically and in specific situations, through anastylosis or the incorporation of new elements,

³⁰ On heritage interventions during the Mussolini regime, see, among others, Arthurs, “The Excavatory Intervention;” Bellini, “Note sul restauro;” Lamberini, *Teorie e storia*.

³¹ See, for instance, Chapapría and Pinazo, *Bajo*; Chapapría, *La conservación*; Díez, *Historia*.

³² Ministerio de Fomento, *Veinte años*.

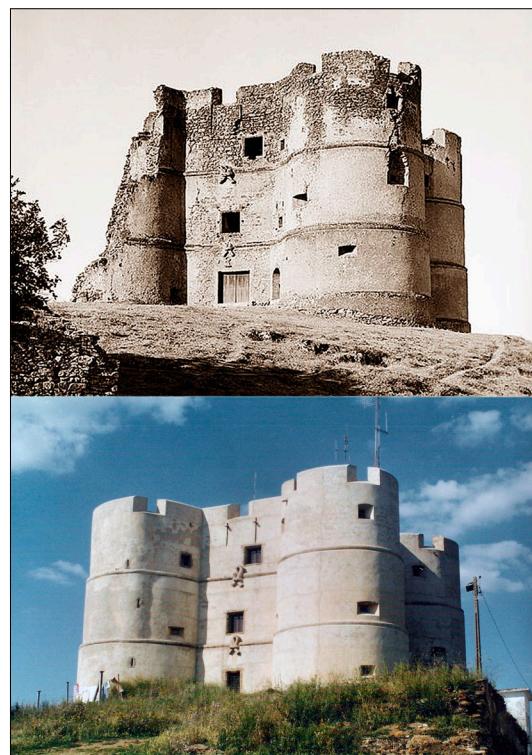
³³ The primary sources of the interventions carried out by DGEMN can now be consulted online, through the following website <http://www.monumentos.gov.pt>. However, the 131 issues of the *Boletim da DGEMN*, published between 1935 and 1990, are also a valuable source of information to understand the DGEMN’s policies and proceedings regarding its interventions in Portuguese national monuments and, in this case, the restoration and rehabilitation of fortified manor houses. The analysis of these primary sources made it possible to systematise the actions of the DGEMN during the *Estado Novo* period, as described below.

generally made of differentiated materials such as cement. The ruins were stabilised in order to make possible the global perception of these structures, and at the same time increasing the picturesque sense of landscape associated with the ancient archaeological vestiges, as poetic witnesses of the “glorious Past”³⁴

However, the gradual instrumentalisation of the monuments and the increasing spending in public works by the DGEMN gave rise to a growing number of interventions: from the most common to the less usual, the operations were distributed among: structural consolidation, often with the shoring up of buildings with unstable structures, followed by their reconstruction using the same materials and, in some cases, introducing hidden concrete reinforcements; removal of rubble and debris in order to lower the ground to its original level; demolition of structures considered to be spurious, frequently of elements dating from eras later than the Middle Ages; repair and partial replacement of demolished architectural structures, preferably by anastylosis, making use of the materials available; recomposition of architectural elements by formal and constructive analogy; and finally, the broadest reconstruction.³⁵

The excavations made it possible to discover foundations, but also to recover the original building materials of fallen structures, in order to rebuild them by means of anastylosis, or find other materials which due to their patina could be incorporated into the reconstructions with less of a visual impact than new materials. The intention of preserving the marks of time on the materials was a constant preoccupation: as well bestowing an abstract sense of authenticity on the buildings that underwent interventions, the materials with their natural patina made possible to harmonise picturesque values associated with the environment in which they were found; but they also showed the robustness and Spartan sobriety demanded from medieval structures that continued to resist the struggle against time and people.

The interventions in the fortified manor houses of Leiria, Porto de Mós, Évoramonte and Flor da Rosa (in Crato) presented additional challenges, since they were complex sets whose structures were partially demolished. The partial reconstruction of the fortifications of Évoramonte (figs. 1-2)



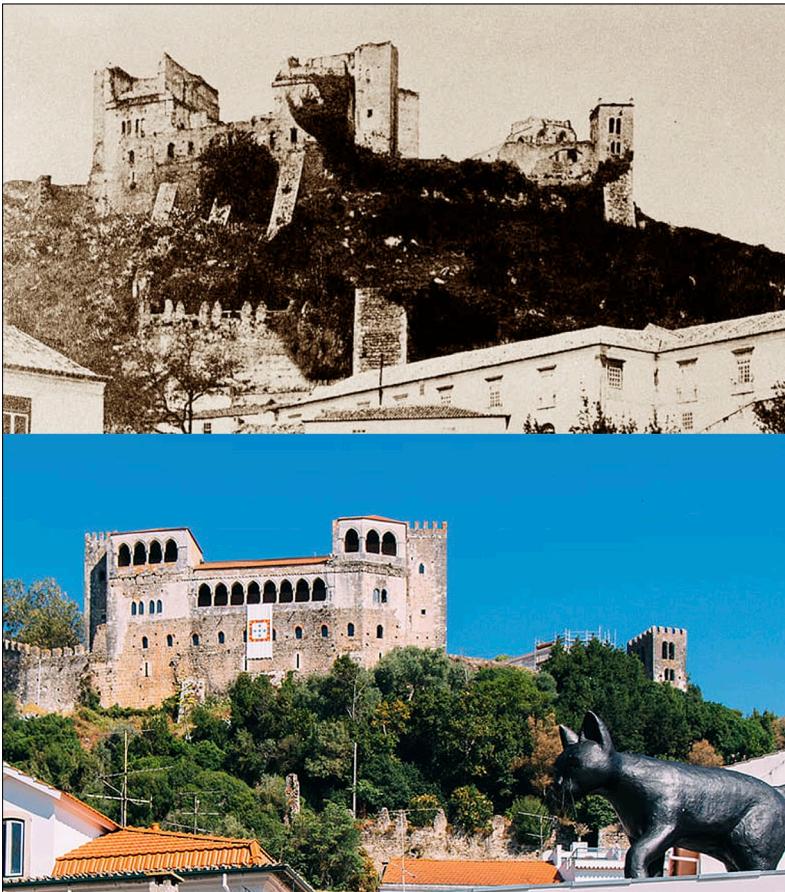
1. Fortified manor house of Évoramonte,
before and after the restoration works
(© Direção-Geral do Património Cultural - SIPA
(above); photo: Joaquim Rodrigues dos Santos (below))

³⁴ On the restoration of medieval castles during the *Estado Novo* dictatorship in Portugal, see Santos, “Anamnesis;” Correia, *Castelos*; Fernandes, “La restauración.”

³⁵ Miguel Tomé mentioned very well, although briefly, the *modus operandi* of the DGEMN in the medieval fortifications in the 1930s to 1950s, whose reference should be consulted, Tomé, *Património*, 59–70. See also Santos, *Anamnesis*, 1: 395–435.



2. Empty hall of the fortified manor house of Évoramonte, after the restoration
(photo: Joaquim Rodrigues dos Santos)



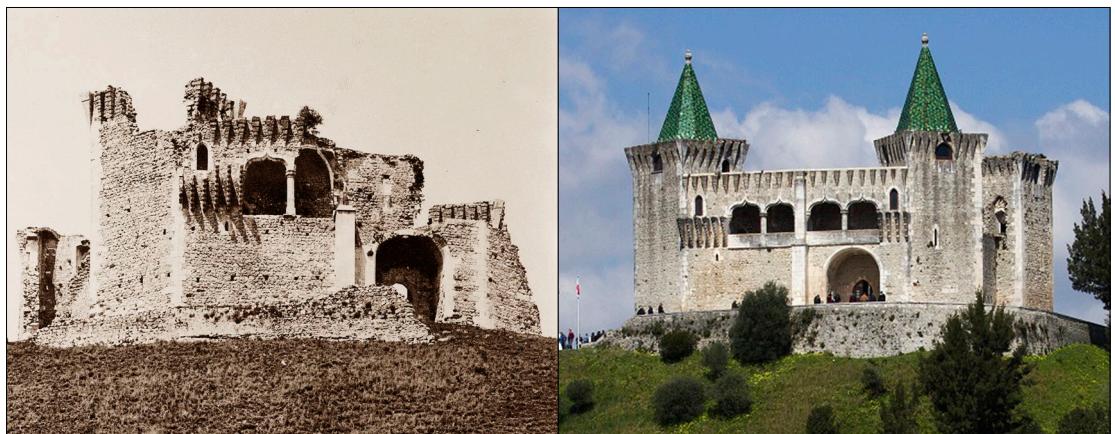
3. Royal manor house inside the Castle of Leiria, before and after the restoration works
(© Direção-Geral do Património Cultural - SIPA
(above); photo: Joaquim Rodrigues dos Santos (below)).

and Flor da Rosa, although extensive in character, was carried out through the formal analogous recourse to the symmetry of the buildings, supported by analysis of architectural vestiges and historiographical and castellological data.

The means used in the Évoramonte and Crato interventions were not, despite everything, applicable to the Leiria (figs. 3–4) and Porto de Mós (fig. 5) fortified manor houses, the extent of



*4. Rear façade of the royal manor house inside the Castle of Leiria, after the restoration works
© Joaquim Rodrigues dos Santos*



*5. Fortified manor house of Porto de Mós, before and after the restoration works
© Direção-Geral do Património Cultural - SIPA (left); photo: Joaquim Rodrigues dos Santos (right))*

whose ruin was greater. In addition to this, as singular structures in Portugal, they made formal analogies with other similar structures to be impossible. Although architectural and archaeological vestiges still existing would allow a specific reconstruction by anastylosis or the reproduction of certain elements, the remaining archaeological evidence and the inexistence of iconographical documentation rendered the data that would make possible a global reconstruction insufficient. For this reason, any reconstruction would have to possess a strong inventive component, a practice that the DGEMN condemned, in the belief that it falsified the values associated with the monuments. Those structures with the possibility of being reconstructed by anastylosis or formal reproduction were partially rebuilt, like certain outside walls, inner walls, staircases and floors.

However, the main façades of both fortified manor houses constitute powerful iconic images, dominating the respective urban sets where they were found. Furthermore, as they were largely constituted by galleries, the façades could be easily reproduced from a single arch. The DGEMN technicians reconstructed the galleries with arches, reproducing the existing vestiges quite simply, completing the remaining parietal elements on the basis of formal and constructive deduction based on the actual reconstructed gallery and on remaining vestiges.



6. Fortified manor house the Dukes of Braganza in Guimarães, before and after the restoration works
(© Direção-Geral do Património Cultural - SIPA (left); Joaquim Rodrigues dos Santos (right))



7. Hall of the fortified manor house of the Dukes of Braganza in Guimarães, after furnished by the Commission for the Acquisition of Furniture (photo: Joaquim Rodrigues dos Santos)

The importance of the façades that dominated the cities would drive the exceptionality of specific creative reconstructions. The most visible example is that of the spirelets above the lateral towers of the gallery of the fortified manor house of Porto de Mós: accepting the specificity of the fortification that lacks similarities with other Portuguese buildings, the reconstruction was based on presuppositions based on eventual Italian influences in order to reconstruct the roofs (using reinforced concrete), without clear evidence about the slopes or the original materials. The notable iconic evidence of the main façades, which motivated their exceptional reconstruction, is obvious when the remaining façades are observed which, considered to have no iconic importance, underwent far lesser reconstructions and remained with the image of a consolidated ruin.

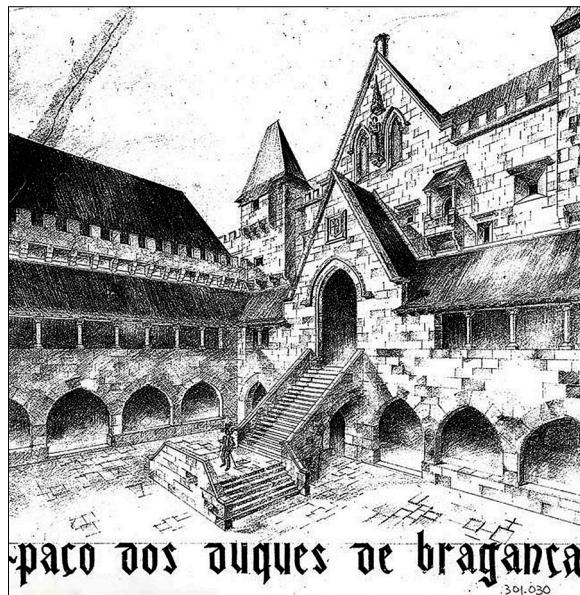
The recovery of idealised stylistic models was only carried out in very specific interventions made in structures endowed with a strong symbolic character, which for this reason granted the intervention a sense of exceptionality. The most paradigmatic example was that carried out in the Fortified Manor House of the Dukes of Braganza, in Guimarães (figs. 6–7). The DGEMN's intervention, which would continue until the 1960s, begun under the direction of Rogério Azevedo (1898–1983) in 1936, later becoming part of the programme outlined for Guimarães in the context of the celebrations of the double centenary in 1940. The aim of the ambitious operation was to recover one of the emblematic seats of the House of Braganza, located in the city considered to be the cradle

of the Portuguese nation. The building, in complete ruins, would be restored and converted into the presidential residence, demonstrating the importance of Guimarães for the nationalist ideology of the *Estado Novo*: the Portuguese President's Palace in the north of the country would be located in the cradle-city of the nation, where the first Portuguese king was born.

For this reason, the intervention could not be limited to the mere recovery of the pristine form of the manor house, which in addition to being impossible due to the scant philological bases, would not be constituted as an official residence worthy of the President of the Portuguese Republic. In these circumstances, along with the arguments directly associated with heritage values, functional values would have to exist (official residence with conditions of habitability and modern comfort) and symbolic values (of representativity). Rogério de Azevedo, from philological studies based on prospections made in the building and in historical documentation, and in the formal and functional analysis comparing similar buildings, placed the construction of the manor house in the 15th century, based on influences typologically affiliated to Italy, with French and Catalan contributions: however, according to Custódio da Silva, the main influences were in fact essentially French, though they underwent a process of insertion into the Portuguese reality.³⁶

Bearing in mind the assumptions that he had made about the manor house in Guimarães, Rogério de Azevedo created a supposed historical reality based on his personal convictions supported on the analysis made in conjunction with the new functions he wished to attribute to the manor house (fig. 8). The guidelines with which he directed the intervention were intended on the one hand to valorise the historical characteristics of the building, achieving a presumed pristine stylistic unity, and on the other hand, to respond to the new pretensions, seeking to harmonise the architecture of the Past with the demands of the Present. The circumstances linked Rogério de Azevedo's action in the Guimarães manor house to Viollet-le-Duc's thinking for the intervention in the fortified manor house of Pierrefonds.³⁷

Rogério de Azevedo was not concerned with the rigour of the physical construction in its plenitude, but rather with the memorial reconstruction of a symbolic medieval edifice. New demands drove the somehow whimsical improvement of the building, which did however maintain its would-be medieval character. Such a fact resulted in the alteration of the integrity of the monument through



8. Drawing by Rogério de Azevedo for the restoration of the fortified manor house of the Dukes of Braganza in Guimarães (© Direção-Geral do Património Cultural – SIPA)

³⁶ Silva, *Paços Medievais*, 139–41. See also Azevedo, *O Paço*.

³⁷ Brito, "Alguns vetores," 74–87. See also Brito, "Metamorfoses."

the mutilation and distortion of its history and architecture. It received a form that in some respects it had never possessed, forced on it by the Italian influence attributed by Rogério de Azevedo. The errors were articulated by Custódio da Silva, mainly about the courtyard surrounded by galleries, the enormous central staircase, the various functional changes and the symmetry that had been imposed.³⁸

Refunctionalisation of Medieval Fortified Manor Houses

The provision of conditions suitable for the recently restored medieval Fortified Manor House of the Dukes of Braganza, in Guimarães, to receive a very highly placed official led to the creation of a Commission for the Acquisition of Furniture, charged with furnishing the manor house according to a stereotyped, almost museological taste (fig. 9).³⁹ However, the President of the Portuguese Republic, Óscar Carmona (1869–1951), refused to exchange the cosmopolitan life of the current capital for provincial life of the first Portuguese capital; thus, instead of taking up residence in the medieval manor house of Guimarães, he preferred to remain in the Palace of Belém, which in addition had more amenities (and a privileged view of the River Tagus). This came to create a dilemma for the regime: what to do with a monument that has been restored and appropriately furnished, on which they spent so many funds and which in the end would not be put to any use?

The problems related to the possible fate of the Fortified Manor House of the Dukes of Braganza (or even before, the manor house of Castle of Leiria), once the restoration had been completed, gave rise to the debate on its maintenance, given that it was regular use that would assure its conservation. Initially, a castle was restored “to be a castle”, and being its own museum involved housing collections of weapons or assets related to ways of life associated with the fortifications (of the military, the aristocrats or the nearby communities). If some broader fortified structures (captain houses of castles, fortified manor houses) had the capacity to receive significant museum nuclei, in the generality of medieval military sets the exhibitions were reduced, consisting of simple collections with a military or ethnographical theme installed in the keeps that were greater in size than the other towers—in 1936, after its restoration, a museum nucleus had already been installed in the keep of the Castle of Braganza, originally a fortified manor house.

Driven by influences deriving from Spain, the conceptualisation of rehabilitation of monuments for luxury hotel units was recovered in the second quarter of the 20th century, bringing together the supposed formal safeguarding of the monumental structure and the cultural tourism industry, with their respective financial benefits.⁴⁰ The Spanish policy of rehabilitating architectural monuments to function as hotels⁴¹ had a strong impact on the upper echelons of the *Estado Novo* and on various sectors of Portuguese society, with successive requirements for adapting

³⁸ Silva, *Paços Medievais*, 141–44.

³⁹ PC-40, Cx. 622, pt. 7, Arquivo Salazar, Criação de uma Administração Geral do Mobiliário Nacional (1954), Arquivo Nacional da Torre do Tombo. See also Martins, ed., *Mobiliário*.

⁴⁰ After the restoration of the Paço dos Alcaides, inside the Castle of Óbidos, the DGEMN bulletin mentions that “[...] at a certain moment, when the works in the citadel were almost at their final stage, an idea occurred to take advantage of this remarkable building (previously doomed to remain empty and useless until it could be transformed into a regional museum or other similar establishment) to install an ‘luxury hotel’ that would attract a great number of national and foreign visitors [...]” (Castro, “Antes da restauração,” 21.)

⁴¹ On the rehabilitation of Spanish castles to function as hotels, see Núñez-Herrador and Espinosa, “Los castillos.”

9. Military museum nucleus inside the keep of the Castle of Braganza (photo: Joaquim Rodrigues dos Santos)



monuments to these functions. More than economic interests, the requests frequently constituted a way of guaranteeing state support for carrying out restorative interventions and to guarantee their maintenance through constant use of these monuments adapted for use as hotels.

Another important factor emerged when António Ferro (1895–1956), director of the National Propaganda Secretariat, decided in the 1930s that internal tourism would be an important factor in stimulating knowledge of the country, promoting patriotic values at the heart of Portuguese society.⁴² In this context, the first Pousadas de Portugal⁴³ were created in 1939, by the initiative of António Ferro and Duarte Pacheco (1900–1943), Minister of Public Works and Communications. The medieval fortified manor houses, whose original function had long since been lost, were the first considered for the installation of *pousadas*,⁴⁴ with the works remaining under the control of the DGEMN. The inauguration of the Pousada do Castelo in 1950, located in the captain house inside the Castle of Óbidos, emerged precisely from the need to find a use for the numerous monuments restored by the DGEMN through the functional installation of luxury hotels that would assure the maintenance through functional usage and the creation of economic values.⁴⁵ The growing importance of quality tourism installed in privileged places was thus taken on board, at the same time as the luxury hotels in historical monuments were used as political instruments to house high foreign dignitaries.

The Paço dos Alcaides, located inside the Castle of Óbidos (fig. 10), was found in an advanced state of ruin, although walls remained in two of its wings. The manor house would be configured in four wings around a central patio, supported outside on the castle walls. As it had done with other castles, the DGEMN decided on the reconstruction of this captain house within the possible limits, following increasingly cautious lines of action. For this reason the intervention only involved the

⁴² On the *Estado Novo*'s ideological discourse about the Portuguese culture, see Melo, *Salazarismo*; Leal, *Etnografias portuguesas*; Ó, *Os anos de Ferro*.

⁴³ Pousadas de Portugal is a chain of luxury, traditional or historical hotels in Portugal.

⁴⁴ A *pousada* means a luxury hotel in Portuguese.

⁴⁵ Lobo, *Pousadas de Portugal*, 115. Susana Lobo's work is fundamental to understanding the rehabilitation of Portuguese monuments to remodel them for luxury hotels. See also Barreto, "Pousadas de Portugal."

two remaining ruined wings, respecting the remaining vestiges and in some cases demonstrating synchrony with the philosophical precepts of restoration: for example, on reconstructing the stone frames of the Manueline windows on the upper floor of the courtyard, it was decided to opt to follow stylised lines inspired directly by the Manueline style, instead of mimicking it.

The adaptation of the Paço dos Alcaides (fig. 11) began in 1948 under the direction of João Vaz Martins (1910–1988), and was considered a conservative intervention that attempted to respect the monument as a spiritual element and bearer of native values, reflecting the ideology that evoked the exaltation of the nation. A specific work of reintegration and consolidation of the built structures was carried out, and was reduced to the adaptation of a mere rational organisation of the spaces resulting from the compartmentalization produced by the restoration. The monumental integrity of the castle took precedence over the functional aspect, thus the projects to adapt the castle to function as a hotel were no more than simple actions of interior decoration, intended to recreate historicist atmospheres with revivalist furniture and décor.⁴⁶

However, the luxury hotel did introduce a new use for the ancient medieval fortification that compelled alterations and readjustments due to the new needs. Among those that were indispensable for fitting out a luxury hotel were the redefinition of areas (services, sanitary installations, bedrooms), the infrastructure networks (sanitation, electricity, telecommunications), high requirements for habitability (comfort, hygiene, salubriousness, safety, aesthetics), leisure sectors (lounges, games rooms, bar, swimming pool), accessibility (for the disabled, lifts) and other concepts that did not exist in medieval fortifications.

In the last years of the *Estado Novo*, another rehabilitation was undertaken in a fortified manor house with the aim of transforming it into a touristic luxury hotel. In 1970, the Pousada Santa Isabel was inaugurated in Estremoz, included in an ancient royal medieval manor house that King João V (1689–1750) had ordered to be rebuilt in the 18th century, inside the Castle of Estremoz. The project, drawn up by Rui Ângelo do Couto (1917–1998), followed the line of intervention of the Óbidos luxury hotel, trying to harmonise the hotel programme respectfully with the pre-existing



10. Paço dos Alcaides inside the Castle of Óbidos,
before and after the restoration works
(© Direção-Geral do Património Cultural - SIPA (above);
photo: Joaquim Rodrigues dos Santos (below))

⁴⁶ Fernandes, “Pousadas de Portugal.”



11. Hall of the Pousada do Castelo, in the Paço dos Alcaides, inside the Castle of Óbidos (photo: Joaquim Rodrigues dos Santos)

monument so that this could maintain the architectural characteristics and symbolical values associated with them. The atmosphere recreated in the luxury hotel, by valuing the ancient architecture and the decoration with its markedly historicist character, sought to involve the tourists in a memorial aura of the Past that it set out to evoke.

Aftermath: Contemporary Uses of Fortified Manor Houses

The heritage intervention practices regarding medieval fortifications undertaken by the *Estado Novo* regime were generally accepted and defended by most of the personalities associated with the dictatorship. The censorship that prevailed in the media precluded gauging the sensitivity of the general public to the interventions carried out on architectural heritage. However, the population appeared to accept these interventions, because the monuments could partially recover from their decay, or, at least, people silently ignored them.

Yet among some cultural elites, there were more or less veiled criticisms of the reintegrations carried out during the DGEMN's first phase: for example, Raul Lino da Silva (1879–1974), a senior technician at the DGEMN, implicitly criticised the principles set out by Gomes da Silva in 1941 by vehemently condemning the theories of stylistic unity preconized by Viollet-le-Duc.⁴⁷ Later, when the regime's censorship briefly eased due to the elections for the Presidency of the Portuguese Republic in 1949, Deputy Manuel Mendes (1906–1969), following a rally in support of the opposition's presidential candidate, ironized about the DGEMN's interventions on medieval fortifications. Here Mendes drew a parallel between the DGEMN's operations to replace battlements in medieval fortifications and “composing battlements in castles like teeth in dentures”⁴⁸ The art historian Adriano de Gusmão (1908–1989) also criticised the DGEMN's work, saying that it often employed principles of stylistic unity or, in some cases, inventive principles.⁴⁹

⁴⁷ Lino, “A propósito.”

⁴⁸ Mendes, “Explicações necessárias,” 1.

⁴⁹ Gusmão, “Ainda o Restauro,” 1, 6.

Gomes da Silva felt the criticisms and strongly contested them, arguing that the DGEMN did not follow the criteria proposed by Viollet-le-Duc, since it was not possible to impose a single criterion for the reintegration of architectural monuments; even so, the criteria followed by the DGEMN for restorative interventions aimed to reintegrate architectural monuments into their original beauty, cleaning them of excrescences with no artistic value that had been added, while also seeking to repair the mutilations suffered over time by human or natural actions. The example Gomes da Silva chose to illustrate the DGEMN's action was the Castle of Saint George (*Castelo de São Jorge*) in Lisbon: more than "a constructive toy or a new building", Gomes da Silva repeatedly stated that the castle had always been there, but submerged by other built structures, so the DGEMN's intervention had essentially been to clear the medieval castle by demolishing the parasitic structures with no artistic value.⁵⁰

At the end of the 1940s, the departure of Baltazar da Silva Castro (1891–1967), a senior technician at the DGEMN and the main executor of Gomes da Silva's ideas, and the replacement of Gomes da Silva by José Pena Pereira da Silva (b.1906) as the DGEMN's head, opened up possibilities for new ideas and procedures. This was visible particularly in the renewal of the technical staff and the progressive adoption of lines of action closer to the criteria set internationally for safeguarding heritage—namely, in the International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites, generally known as the Venice Charter (1964).

The fall of the *Estado Novo* in 1974, with the consequent shift to a democratic regime, led to less effective action by the governmental institutions during the post-revolutionary period. While they attempted to manage the adaptation of the government structures inherited from the previous regime to connect them to the democratic reality, there was also an attempt to resolve serious social situations. The difficulties were reflected in cultural policies, which before the framework of the institutional crisis and the consequent priorities that were established, gave rise to a period of indecisiveness. The change of mentality and ideas in the realm of heritage inevitably had repercussions in the entities responsible for Portuguese heritage policies.

The opening up of heritage policies to Portuguese society favoured a multiplication of safeguarding actions carried out on the one hand by different civic associations, mainly in local or regional initiatives, and on the other hand, through private operators who through the later management of the heritage that underwent interventions added greatly to the commercialisation of cultural heritage as a source for generating financial dividends, though not always having the main objective of preserving it.

The rehabilitation of monuments to function as hotels, which since the creation of the National Tourism Company (Portuguese acronym: ENATUR), in 1976, had increased significantly, is illustrative. ENATUR was charged with managing state-owned properties linked to the luxury hotel industry; in 2003 around half of its capital was privatised, with the commercial exploitation being handed over to the Pestana Pousadas Group. The new interventions in fortified manor houses involved a presumably respectful matching of the pre-existing ones to the new hotel functions, attempting to harmonise the demands of the hotels with veneration for the architectural monument. Nevertheless, alterations were frequently made in the structure of the buildings with the intention of meeting the actual demands of the new hotel function, with the demolition of interior halls that were then reconstructed differently, or the programmatic attribution of functions that

⁵⁰ Silva, "A reintegração;" Silva, "Com a obra realizada." See also Direcção-Geral, *Obras em Monumentos Nacionais*.

did not blend respectfully with the characteristics of the monument, giving rise to misrepresentations in its reading.⁵¹

But the cultural aspect has also achieved increasing preponderance, with various fortified manor houses and captains' houses inside castles rehabilitated for museum or multicultural functions driven by the municipalities. In these cases, freer from private commercial constraints, the new functions sought to adapt to the pre-existing buildings, with the introduction of assumedly new and often reversible structures. Reference should also be made to the minimalist requalification programmes,⁵² which consist of the consolidation of the remaining structures of the medieval manor houses (often just ruins) and the provision of conditions for visitors, with the introduction of illumination, guard rails, paving, etc., having it in mind to valorise the monuments.⁵³

⁵¹ Lobo, *Pousadas*, 93–152.

⁵² Santos, *Anamnesis*, 1: 395–435.

⁵³ This essay was developed within a contract funded by the FCT – Foundation for the Science and the Technology, under the Decree Law nº. 57/2016 and the Law nº. 57/2017; it also had the FCT support through the ARTIS-IHA-FLUL (ref. UIDB/04189/2020).

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Obnova srednjeveških utrdb v času portugalskega diktatorskega režima (1926–1974)

Povzetek

V primerjavi z drugimi evropskimi deželami je bila gradnja gradov na Portugalskem v srednjem veku povsem odvisna od portugalskih vladarjev. Vsi portugalski gradovi so bili kraljeva last, grajske poveljnike pa sta imenovala kralj osebno ali oseba s kraljevimi pooblastili, ki je pred tem vladarju morala priseči zvestobo. Brez dovoljenja kralja tako ni bilo mogoče zgraditi nobene utrdbe: prepovedana je bila celo gradnja dvorcev in palač z obzidjem ali drugimi obrambnimi elementi, četudi bi bili ti zgolj dekorativne narave. Večina gradov na Portugalskem je pripadala najvišjemu plemstvu, ki je bilo navadno sorodstveno povezano s portugalsko kraljevo družino. Skoraj vsi gradovi so sčasoma propadli, ker so bili neudobni za bivanje in od renesanse dalje premalo razkošni za potrebe portugalskega plemstva, s pojavom artilerijske in novega strelnega orožja so obrambne strukture gradov zastarele, nekateri pa so propadli tudi zaradi izumrtja nekaterih plemiških družin. Kljub temu je diktatorski režim, ki je bil na Portugalskem na oblasti v letih od 1926 do 1974, mnoge porušene gradove v času od tridesetih do šestdesetih let prejšnjega stoletja obnovil. Nacionalistično in konservativno naravnana diktatorska oblast *Estado Novo* je portugalsko kulturno dediščino izkoristila kot instrument ideološke propagande, vanjo pa je vključila tudi nekdanje gradove. Za vse posege v portugalsko nepremično kulturno dediščino je bila zadolžena državna ustanova Direcção-Geral dos Edifícios e Monumentos Nacional (DGEMN). Namen tega članka je analizirati obnovo srednjeveških portugalskih gradov v ideološkem kontekstu v času diktatorskega režima. V ta namen bodo obravnavani simbolika, obnova z ukrepi DGEMN in umeščanje gradov v portugalski kontekst s poudarkom na izbranih študijah primerov.