

# ICOA924: THE MANOR HOUSE IN LISBON AND RIO DE JANEIRO: INTERIOR'S ANATOMY

## Subtheme 03: Protecting and Interpreting Cultural Heritage in the Age of Digital Empowerment

**Session 1:** Relevance of Digital Tools & Technology in Documentation, Conservation and Safeguarding  
of Heritage & Community Engagement

**Location:** Silver Oak 2, India Habitat Centre

**Time:** December 13, 2017, 12:15 – 12:30

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**Abstract:** The research “The Manor House in Lisbon and in Rio de Janeiro: Interior’s Anatomy” started in 2012, promoted by Portuguese and Brazilian researchers. It resulted in a common digital platform, in order to register, study and disclose Portuguese-Brazilian heritage, in a perspective of pedagogical and informative action.

The project proposes the study of manor houses of the nobility and high bourgeoisie of the XVII, XVIII and XIX centuries, addressing various aspects of their interiors, at first in two regions of the cultural and artistic Portuguese-Brazilian world.

This study has an original character as it proposes the integrated evaluation of the spatial organization of domestic spaces, their decoration, appliances and objects, as well as the daily practices of Portuguese and Brazilian elites, in their mutual influences, in an evolutionary approach during three centuries.

The digital platform enlarges the reach of the project, allowing the sharing of information and quickly and easily disclosing the results of the research. The website contributes to the broadening of the dissemination channels of Portuguese-Brazilian heritage preservation studies, providing a detailed register of the current situation, as well as historical and documental data on the studied buildings.

The platform search method allows, through filters, the grouping of the houses by century, location, architectonic and decorative aspects, as well as search for words within the texts.

Following its own methodology, the project now presents 25 Portuguese and 16 Brazilian houses, with information about their exteriors and interiors, divided in categories (azulejos, stuccoes, decorative painting, etc.). It now introduces Goa, India, as a new investigation area, leading to original research on less studied cultural interactions within the former Portuguese Empire.

**Key words:** *digital resources, conservation, interpretation, accessibility*

In this paper we present the state of art of the study of the Brazilian houses that integrate the Project “*A Casa Senhorial: Anatomia dos interiores*”. Started in 2012 by Portuguese and Brazilian researchers, the Project focuses on the multiple aspects of the interiors of the houses of the nobility and high bourgeoisie of the capitals of the Portuguese Empire, Lisbon and Rio de Janeiro, from the seventeenth to the twentieth century.

Conducted by lauded researchers, architect Dr. Helder Carita and art historian Dr. Isabel Mendonça, the project is presently based in the Universidade Nova de Lisboa (UNL), and had the support of Fundação Ricardo Espírito Santo e Silva (FRESS), and financial support of FCT, in Portugal. In Brazil the research is being conducted by Fundação Casa de Rui Barbosa (FCRB), and has the collaboration of many institutions, such as the Universidade Federal Fluminense. The Brazilian branch has financial support of CNPq and FAPERJ. The research is inserted within the tradition of cultural studies on the circulation of models, artists and artisans between Portugal and Brazil, and has produced several studies and publications.<sup>1</sup>

As considered by Helder Carita, the manor house is more than a simple habitat; it is a «symbolical structure of representation of the power of a Family and of its hierarchy in the context of the society where it is framed. » (CARITA 2015:p.16)<sup>2</sup>.

Having a strong relation with the symbols of prestige and social hierarchies present in each age, the manor house is also, in its different forms, a testimony of the transformations that society and taste go through throughout the centuries. In its aesthetic search for beauty, it is also an affirmation of the more profound aspirations that reveal Man in the face of the World and Nature (CARITA 2015: p.16)<sup>3</sup>. Following its own methodology, the project now presents twenty-five Portuguese and seventeen Brazilian houses, with information on both exteriors and interiors, divided by categories (tiles, stuccoes, decorative painting, diverse decoration, furniture, etc.), and has introduced the region of Goa, India, as a new study area.

The project's innovation stems from having as working method the construction of a common digital platform that allows the researchers to record and publicise the study of Portuguese-Brazilian heritage, assuming a pedagogical and informative perspective.

The investigation has four lines:

1. Patrons and artists; Livingness and rituals;
2. Identification of structures and distributive programs and in-depth study of functional and symbolical terminology of each space;
3. Study of fixed ornamentation, tiles, ceilings, carvings, paintings, stuccoes, textiles, pavings, chimneys, doors and windows, integrated furniture;
4. Furniture and other equipment in their specific functions.

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<sup>1</sup>As the international luso-brazilian seminars on artists and artisans of the North of Portugal, 2006 to 2008, and on house museums promoted from 2012 to 2016. PessoaAna, RangelAparecida. 2012.*IV Encontro Luso-Brasileiro de Museus Casas*. Rio de Janeiro: FCRB.

<sup>2</sup>Carita Helder. 2015. *A Casa Senhorial em Portugal. Modelos, tipologias, programas interiores e equipamentos*. Alfragide: Leya. ISBN: 978-989-660-393-9.

<sup>3</sup> Op. Cit.

This study proposes the unprecedented evaluation, in an integrated form, of the spatial organization of domestic spaces, their decoration, their equipments and objects, and the daily practices of the Portuguese and Brazilian elites and their mutual influences. The collaboration of different specialists allows the comparative study of Portuguese and Brazilian houses, tracing the evolution of spatial, decorative and taste patterns over three centuries.

The sharing of information in the digital platform broadens the reach of the Project, quickly spreading the results by providing easy access to them through the World Wide Web. The website also contributes to the promotion and conservation of Portuguese-Brazilian built heritage, making available the detailed record of the current situation of the studied buildings, as well as historical and documental information.

For the website, a database was created with templates to receive texts and images of each building, containing tabs for each aspect addressed:

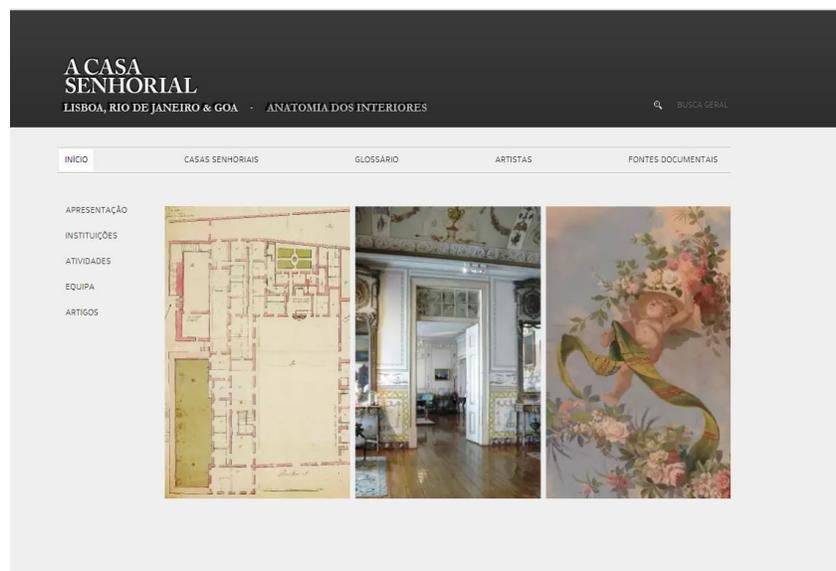
Presentation

Interior program

Different wall, floor and ceiling coverings, such as tiles, decorative paintings, stuccoes, etc.

Furnishing,

The site is currently in the URL <[www.casaruiarbarbosa.gov.br/acasasenhorial](http://www.casaruiarbarbosa.gov.br/acasasenhorial)> (Figure 1).



*Fig.1– Website front page. [www.casaruiarbarbosa.gov.br/acasasenhorial](http://www.casaruiarbarbosa.gov.br/acasasenhorial)*

The research comprehends detailed photographic surveys of exteriors and interiors, to be added to each tab in their respective categories (tiles, stuccoes, decorative painting etc.); elaboration of architectonic plans of each pavement, using AutoCAD, and the collection of plans, drawings, and ancient photographs of each building; in parallel, analytical and descriptive texts are elaborated for the various fields defined in the inventory files. At the same time, bibliographical and documental research are carried out in various public and private archives and libraries, as well as master and PhD thesis and dissertations, monographs and articles.

The study of the construction and present configuration of the Rui Barbosa house, protected by SPHAN<sup>4</sup> as an example of neoclassic architecture”, motivated three strands of the research. The biographical study of the merchants responsible for the architectonic and decorative configurations of the houses; the organization of a corpus of manor houses in the nineteenth century, and the study of aesthetical patterns proposed by the French Architect Grandjean de Montigny<sup>5</sup> and his pupils, and the patterns currently adopted in the city.

The project also promotes international scientific meetings, having started with Lisbon (2014), followed by Rio de Janeiro (2015), Oporto (2016) and Pelotas – RS (2017).

The preliminar prospection of buildings to constitute the Brazilian group verified that in spite of the architectonic preservation actions started by Serviço do Patrimônio Histórico e Artístico Nacional (SPHAN) in 1938, there is a reduced number of preserved houses in Rio de Janeiro and, even so, in general the buildings suffered many interventions.

One of the reasons of this situation is the succession of urban reforms that radically hit the historical centre of the city: the opening of the Central Avenue and later of the President Vargas Avenue, as well as the demolitions of the Castle Hill, cradle of the city, and of the Santo Antonio Hill, which caused the almost complete disappearance of the older buildings.

Besides the difficulties, the study of the elite houses of Rio de Janeiro sought the buildings that still had enough physical integrity to allow the direct analysis of their spatial division, decorative aspects and original furniture. These requirements pointed to the universe of classified and protected buildings, in the federal, state and city levels, even though this was not an indispensable condition.

In the temporal line, the starting point was the capital of the colony and seat of the vice kingdom of Brazil in 1763, and the beginning of the twentieth century, when deep urban reforms took place.



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<sup>4</sup>The Portuguese Royal Family left Lisbon to Rio de Janeiro in 1808, due to the country’s invasion by Napoleon. The Royal Court stayed in the tropical city until 1821.

<sup>5</sup>Serviço do Patrimônio Histórico e Artístico Nacional, public agency created on January 13, 1937 to protect national heritage, now named Instituto do Patrimônio Histórico e Artístico Nacional.

Fig.2– Rui Barbosa House – Main bedroom. Photograph by the authors

Having as reference the different socioeconomic contexts, the preliminary analysis also considered the different architectonic typologies, programs, and patterns of plot occupation, ambience and decorative aspects, as well as the different profiles of the elite groups in each period.

Among urban and suburban buildings, we have one-storey houses and “*sobrados*” in the old city centre, built in the alignment of the streets; manor houses, mansions and small palaces in the middle of large plots of the urban neighbourhoods; and in the city surroundings, “*chácaras*” and “*quintas*” with large gardens and small scale agriculture. The manor houses of farms and sugar cane plantations from the rural parishes of the eighteenth century are also part of the sampling.

As second stage of the research, we introduced buildings of the nearby regions that maintained close cultural, political and economic bonds with Rio de Janeiro, as Niterói, Juiz de Fora and Vassouras.

The proprietors are from the elite estate – the ‘nobility of the land’, clergy dignitaries, court and governmental officials, royalty, aristocracy, rich businessmen, capitalists and entrepreneurs -, present in each period of political and administrative organization of Rio de Janeiro.

The houses studied up to now are the following:

Eighteenth century houses.

Engenho da Taquara

Engenho do Capão do Bispo

Engenho do Viegas

These houses are part of a small group of five remaining manor houses of ancient sugar cane plantations in the immediate neighborhood of Rio de Janeiro. They are now in urban area, devoid of the surrounding area of cultivation. The buildings are in ruinous state, but there is enough documentation to allow digital reconstitution.

Nineteenth – twentieth century’s houses

Casa de Rui Barbosa

Palacete São Cornélio

Both houses are representative of the suburban “*chacara*” typology in the nineteenth century. Situated in large plots in the vicinity of the old centre, they bear neoclassical elements in the façades and traditional distribution. The Rui Barbosa house is now a house museum in well preserved state (Fig.2), while the São Cornélio palace suffered many modifications and is now half ruined. The mural paintings and stuccoes can be studied through digital reconstitution, as they are now incomplete. The two houses are representative of the way of life of rich bourgeois families in the second half of the nineteenth century.

Palácio do Catete

Palacete Barão de São Clemente

These houses were the urban residences of the Clemente Pinto Family in Rio de Janeiro. The first one was built by Antonio Clemente Pinto, Barão de Nova Friburgo, early coffee planter and said to be the largest Brazilian fortune in the middle of the nineteenth century. The Palácio do Catete was considered the best house of the city, more luxurious than the Imperial Palace itself. The house is well preserved and now serves as Republic Museum, as it was used as official residence of Brazilian presidents before the country’s capital was moved to Brasília. The house of the second Antonio Clemente Pinto suffered many modifications to be used as a school, and is now in ruinous state.

Palacete Guinle de Paula Machado  
Palácio Laranjeiras  
Chácara do Chalet – Nova Friburgo – RJ

These houses belonged to members of the Guinle Family, important investors of the turn of the century, whose major enterprise was the Port of Santos, embarkment point of most of the coffee production. They have been carefully preserved and are an important testimony of early twentieth century interiors.

Quinta da Boa Vista  
Casa da Marquesa de Santos  
Palácio Imperial  
Palacete Laguna

This group of houses is related to the Portuguese Royal Family and the Brazilian Imperial Family. They suffered many modifications, and changes of use. The digital reconstitution of former configurations is possible through the large documentation, especially pictorial and photographic.

Solar do Jambeiro – Niterói - RJ  
Villa Ferreira Lage – Juiz de Fora - MG  
Casa da Hera - Vassouras – RJ

These three houses are located in cities very close to Rio de Janeiro, and the influence of the capital city can be easily detected. They were built in the second half of nineteenth century by families of rich merchants, coffee plantation owners and capitalists. They are now house museums and are in good state of preservation.

The website is currently being reformulated, to include new study areas within the former Portuguese Empire. Manor houses from Goa, Belém do Pará and Pelotas will be available in the next months, broadening the site's reach. The information collected up to now allows comparative studies on programs, decorative uses and patterns, materials, tastes and domestic habits on the two sides of the Atlantic, making clearer the circulation of models in the Portuguese world.

## **Bibliography**

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Pessoa Ana, Rangel Aparecida. 2012. *IV Encontro Luso-Brasileiro de Museus Casas*. Rio de Janeiro: FCRB..

## **Figures and Tables**

*Fig.1– Website frontpage.* [www.casaruibarbosa.gov.br/acasasenhorial](http://www.casaruibarbosa.gov.br/acasasenhorial)

# ICOA924: LA MANOR HOUSE À LISBONNE ET À RIO DE JANEIRO: UNE ANATOMIE DE L'INTÉRIEUR

## **Sous-thème 03: Protéger et interpréter le patrimoine culturel à l'ère de l'autonomisation numérique**

**Session 1:** Pertinence des outils numériques et de la technologie dans la documentation, la conservation et la sauvegarde du patrimoine et l'engagement communautaire

**Lieu:** Silver Oak 2, India Habitat Centre

**Date et heure:** 13 Décembre, 2017, 12:15 – 12:30

**Auteur:** Ana Maria Pessoa dos Santos et Ana Lucia Vieira dos Santos

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**Résumé:** La recherche, «Manor House à Lisbonne et à Rio de Janeiro : une anatomie de l'intérieur» a commencé en 2012, initiée par des chercheurs portugais et brésiliens. Elle a donné lieu à une plate-forme numérique commune pour enregistrer, étudier et mettre en valeur l'héritage portugais-brésilien, dans une perspective d'action pédagogique et instructive. Le projet propose l'étude des manoirs de la noblesse et de la haute bourgeoisie des XVIIe, XVIIIe et XIXe siècles, abordant les aspects divers de leurs intérieurs, d'abord dans deux régions culturelle et artistique du monde portugais-brésilien. L'originalité de cette étude tient du fait qu'elle propose l'évaluation de l'organisation spatiale des espaces pour les domestiques, sa décoration, ses appareils et ses objets, en lien avec les pratiques quotidiennes des élites portugaises et brésiliennes, dans leurs influences mutuelles, sur une période de trois siècles.

La plate-forme numérique étend la portée de la recherche, permettant le partage des informations rapidement et la consultation des résultats de la recherche. Le site Web contribue à l'élargissement des réseaux d'échanges de la recherche en conservation du patrimoine d'origine portugaise et brésilienne en proposant un portrait détaillé de la situation actuelle, aussi bien que des données historiques et documentaires sur les constructions étudiées.

La méthode de recherche de la plate-forme permet, par des filtres, le regroupement de maisons selon les siècles, l'emplacement, les aspects architectoniques et décoratifs, aussi bien que par des mots-clés dans les textes.

En utilisant sa propre méthodologie, le projet présente maintenant 25 maisons portugaises et 16 maisons brésiliennes, avec des informations sur leur architecture extérieure et leurs intérieurs, divisées en catégories (les azulejos, les stucs, la peinture décorative, etc).

Following its own methodology, the project now presents 25 Portuguese and 16 Brazilian houses, with information about their exteriors and interiors, divided in categories (azulejos, stuccoes, decorative painting, etc.). La recherche se dirige maintenant vers Goa, Inde, comme un nouveau domaine d'investigation, ce qui mènera à une investigation inédite sur les interactions culturelles moins étudiées de l'ancien Empire portugais.

***Mots-clés:*** *ressources numériques, conservation, interprétation, accès*