



Barraçgem Salazar [Pego do Altar], Photo: Foto Correia, Santiago, 1949.

Building Salazar's people: Architecture in the making of portugueseness [1932-1945]  
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# BUILDING THE NATION: ARCHITECTURE AND POLITICS

PROJECT ZARQ SYMPOSIUM **10-11 March 2025**  
Free entry

ORG. RITA ALMEIDA DE CARVALHO & MARTA PRISTA

## ICS-ULisboa

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Barragem Salazar [Pego do Altar], Photo: Foto Correia, Santiago, 1949.

The symposium «Building the Nation: Architecture and Politics» stems from and serves as the concluding event of the FCT-funded project Building Salazar's People: Architecture in the Making of Portugueseness (ZARQ).

ZARQ focused on politics and society under the Portuguese dictatorship (1932 – 1974), using buildings as historical evidence.

With nationalism at the core of the value system of interwar right-wing dictatorships, the project focused primarily on the processes through which architecture served to promote (or inculcate) new narratives of Portuguese nationalism and to bring into existence a renovated sense of national identity.

Bringing together political and cultural history, anthropology, and architecture, it examines the role of representations and their dynamic interplay with social reality. The aim was not only to offer a fresh perspective and contribution to historiographical debate, but also to engage critically with the international studies of fascism produced from a cultural perspective.

**Rita Almeida de Carvalho** is a Research Fellow at Institute of Social Sciences (University of Lisboa). She is the Principal Researcher of the FCT Project Building Salazar's people: Architecture in the making of portugueseness (1932 – 1945). Related with the topics of ZARQ, she published, among others, the article «Ideology and Architecture in the Portuguese 'Estado Novo': Cultural Innovation within a Para-Fascist State (1932 – 1945)» (*Fascism, Journal of Comparative Fascist Studies* 7 (2), 141-174).

**Marta Prista** is an Invited Assistant Professor of Anthropology at NOVA School of Social Sciences and Humanities and a Researcher at CRIA, Center for Research in Anthropology. She is the Co-Principal Investigator of ZARQ Project. Related with its topics, she recently published «Virtualities of Internal Colonization: Modernity as Heritage in-the-Making?» in the book *The Making of Identity through Rural Space: Scenarios, Experiences, and Contestations*, ed. V. Egbers and Ö. Sezer (Birkhäuser, 2024).

**Sónia Alves** is a visiting researcher at the BUILD – Department of the Built Environment, Aalborg University. Her work focuses primarily on aspects of comparative planning and urban policy and the differential impact of housing policies upon social groups and areas within cities. Major themes in her research have included analysis of the relationship between planning and housing; and between rent regulation and housing rehabilitation in Portugal and in European housing systems.

**Joana Baptista** is a Research Grant Holder for the ZARQ Project. She holds a degree in History and a postgraduate qualification in Contemporary History from FCSH NOVA in Lisbon. She is currently pursuing a master's in history education for middle and secondary school teaching at the same institution.

**Francisco Nabais** is a Research Grant Holder for the ZARQ Project. He holds a degree in History and is currently pursuing a master's in Curation and Digital Humanities. As part of his studies, he is developing a project titled «Digital Humanities and Museum Narrative: A Prototype Application for the Website of the National Museum of Resistance and Freedom».

**Catarina Chitas** collaborates with the ZARQ Project. She holds a degree in History. She is currently pursuing a master's in Contemporary History, with a thesis on 19th century Portuguese satirical press.

Financial Management  
**Telma Vinhas**

Communication  
**Margarida Bernardo**

**Antonio Cazorla-Sánchez** is a Professor in the Department of History at Trent University. Among his publications, we highlight those most directly related to the theme of the ZARQ Project: [Los pueblos de Franco: Mito e historia de la colonización agraria en España, 1939 – 1975](#) (Galaxia Gutenberg, S.L., 2024), [Franco: The Biography of the Myth](#) (Routledge, 2013), and [Fear and Progress: Ordinary Lives in Franco's Spain, 1939 – 1975](#) (Blackwell, 2009).

**Francesca Billiani** is a Professor of Italian Studies at the University of Manchester. The books she has written that intercept the topics of the symposium are: [Architecture and the Novel Under the Italian Fascist Regime and Fascist Modernism in Italy: Arts and Regimes](#) (Bloomsbury Academic, 2023) and [National Novel and New Architecture](#) (with Laura Pennacchietti, Palgrave Macmillan, 2019).

**Jean-François Lejeune** is Professor of Architecture, Urban Design, and History at the University of Miami School of Architecture, and Adjunct Professor of History at the University of Notre-Dame in Rome. Among his works, the following are particularly relevant to the study proposed by ZARQ: [Rural Utopia and Water Urbanism: The Modern Village in Franco's Spain](#) (DOM Publishers, 2021) and [Modern Architecture and the Mediterranean: Vernacular Dialogues and Contested Identities](#) (with Michelangelo Sabatino, Routledge, 2010).

**Paul Guyer** (Brown University) is the Jonathan Nelson Professor emeritus of Humanities and Philosophy at Brown and a Florence R.C. Murray Professor in the Humanities emeritus at the University of Pennsylvania. Several of his books are theoretically crucial for those who work on architecture and politics: [A Philosopher Looks at Architecture](#) (Cambridge University Press, 2021); [A History of Modern Aesthetics](#) (Cambridge University Press, 2014), and [Values of Beauty: Historical Essays in Aesthetics](#) (Cambridge University Press, 2005).

**Ana Mehnert Pascoal** holds a PhD in Art History from the University of Lisbon (2023) with a thesis on the relationship between political power and architecture during the Portuguese Estado Novo, focusing on the Palace of the National Assembly and the ministerial buildings, and present attitudes towards this heritage. She is currently an integrated researcher at DINÂMIA'CET - ISCTE IUL, collaborating in the ERC funded project ReARQ.IB.

**César Moreira** holds a PhD in Architecture from the University of Porto (2020). He is Assistant Professor at Lusíada University North (PT) and an integrated researcher at CITAD – ULisboa.

**Carlos Bárto** is a professor at Universidade Lusíada, Lisboa. His research focuses on the history of Portuguese design, particularly during the Estado Novo period (1933 – 1974), studying how design was used as a tool of political propaganda to promote the regime's values. Among his recent publications is the chapter «A 'Proper' Home: Channelling Political Value through Interior Design in a Dictatorship» (*Appropriated Interiors*, Routledge, 2021, 70-84).

**Maria Helena Maia** is a researcher at the Arnaldo Araújo Research Centre and Professor of Theory and History of Architecture at the Escola Superior Artística do Porto. She has been working in the field of the relationship between architecture and rurality, namely as PI of the projects Popular Architecture in Portugal. A Critical Look (FCT) and MODSCAPES – Modernist Reinventions of the Rural Landscape (HERA).

**Ricardo Agarez Ricardo Costa Agarez** is an architect and architectural historian, specialised in the history and theory of 19th and 20th-century cities and buildings, national and regional identities, knowledge dissemination and the circulation of forms, ideas and techniques, housing and public architecture and the architectural culture in bureaucracy. Recent work includes *Arquitetura Aqui* (ongoing), *A Construção do Algarve* (2023) and *A Habitação Apoiada em Portugal* (2020).

**Elisa Pegorin** is an architect, researcher at the Centre for the Study of Architecture and Urbanism, Faculty of Architecture, University of Porto, and Senior Fellow at Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. Her PhD (FAUP, 2019) examined architecture and political regimes in Italy and Portugal. She was a postdoctoral fellow at IUAV (Venice, 2021 – 2023) and is now a postdoc at the University of Ferrara. She authored *Modern Lisbon Map* (Blue Crow Media, 2023).

**Elisa Lopes da Silva** has dedicated her research to the history of the modern state and the intersections of agriculture, politics, and labour during the Estado Novo regime. In 2023, she began a critical history of unemployment in 20th-century Portugal, using as primary sources literature and the press. She is currently finalising *Colonising the Metropole: State, Science, and Techniques of Internal Colonisation during the Estado Nova*, a revised edition of her doctoral thesis (2020).

**Marta Macedo** (PhD History of Architecture) is a researcher at the Institute of Contemporary History, NOVA FCSH. Her work combines the methods and themes of the history of science and technology, namely its critical focus on material and knowledge practices, to examine the transformation of agrarian landscapes in Portugal and São Tomé.

**Sérgio Dias Silva** is an architect and researcher, with a PhD Thesis on the Affordable Houses Programme of the Estado Novo (2023). His research focuses on the development of modern architecture in Portugal, particularly in housing. He was member of the Mapping Public Housing research project, funded by FCT (2016 – 2019) and author of several publications on the topic of state-subsidized housing architecture and policies in the 20th century.

**Virgílio Borges Pereira** is Professor of Sociology at the University of Porto. His research combines sociological, historical and ethnographic approaches, focusing on the production of socio-cultural inequalities, in close dialogue with the sociological legacy of Pierre Bourdieu. He has written on the constitution of social spaces, symbolisation, territorial stigmatisation, social housing and the construction industry.

## 10 MAR

09.40-10.00	Opening Remarks <b>Presentation of Project ZARQ</b> Rita Almeida de Carvalho (ICS – ULisboa, ZARQ PI)
10.00-11.00	<b>Architecture, Politics, and Style: Some Concepts and Some Cases</b> Paul Guyer (Brown University)
11.00-11.20	Coffee break
11.20-11.40	<b>Salazar's ideal-type village: Mapping the Salazar Dam construction site</b> Francisco Nabais and Catarina Chitas (ICS – Ullisboa, ZARQ Team)
11.40-12.00	<b>Building Salazar's Dam: labouring between rock fills and rice paddies</b> Marta Prista (CRIA – NOVA FCSH, ZARQ Co-PI) & Joana Baptista (ICS – ULisboa, ZARQ Team)
12.00-12.20	<b>Hydroelectric power stations in Portugal: The engineers and the architectural problems</b> César Machado Moreira (CITAD – ULisboa)
12.20-13.00	Discussion
13.00-14.30	Lunch
14.30-14.50	<b>Historical perspectives on housing policy and planning</b> Sónia Alves (ICS – ULisboa)
14.50-15.10	<b>Little Boxes and More: The Architecture of the Estado Novo's Affordable Houses Programme (1933–1974)</b> Sérgio Dias Silva (CEAU – FAUP)
15.10-15.30	<b>The Housing Question, the «Affordable Houses» Programme and the "Estado Novo" regime: implications of a study on the Porto neighbourhood of Amial</b> Virgílio Borges Pereira (CEAU – FAUP)
15.30-16.00	Discussion
16.00-16.30	Coffee break
16.30-17.30	<b>Rural Poetics, New Nature, and Modernity: The Pueblos de Colonización, 1939–1971</b> Jean-François Lejeune (University of Miami / University of Notre-Dame)

## 11 MAR

10.00-11.00	<b>Arte di Stato and the Art of Building: Architectural Functions in Fascist Italy</b> Francesca Billiani (Manchester University)
11.00-11.20	Coffee break
11.20-11.40	<b>The reorganisation of labour through the lens of architecture: The workers' holiday camps of the Opera Nazionale Dopolavoro (OND) and the Fundação Nacional para a Alegria no Trabalho (FNAT)</b> Elisa Pegorin (CEAU-FAUP)
11.40-12.00	<b>Architecture and the Regime in Portugal: From Rhetoric to Reality</b> Ricardo Agarez (ISCTE-IUL)
12.00-12.20	<b>The Palace of the National Assembly: Power and Identity in the Portuguese Estado Novo</b> Ana Mehnert Pascoal (ISCTE-IUL)
12.20-12.40	<b>Mountain-Plain, Gloomy-Joyful, Boy-Girl: Speculating on geography, ethnography, gender and furniture design in an authoritarian regime</b> Carlos Bártolo (FAA/CITAD - ULusíada de Lisboa)
12.40-13.00	Discussion
13.00-14.30	Lunch
14.30-14.50	<b>Stories of Poverty and Hope: Internal Colonisation in 20th Century Europe</b> Helena Maia (CEAA-ESAP)
14.50-15.10	<b>Gender and the Couple: Colonization, Architecture, and Labour</b> Elisa Lopes da Silva (IHC – NOVA FCSH)
15.10-15.30	<b>Women Builders of My Country: Labour, Gender, and Technology in Fascist Portugal</b> Marta Macedo (IHC – NOVA FCSH)
15.30-16.00	Discussion
16.00-16.30	Coffee break
16.30-17.30	<b>Straight lines, crooked policies: the history of Franco's model villages</b> Antonio Cazorla-Sanchez (Trent University, Toronto)



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