



## **Small Scale Neighborhoods in Portugal: Public Developments from 2nd Post-War to the 1974 Revolution**

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Between the Second World War and 1974' Portuguese Revolution, public housing developed by the Federação das Caixas de Previdência created numerous small and medium scale neighborhoods, disseminated by the Portuguese territory, in the main cities as well as in small towns and villages.

This paper proposes to examine some of these works and to identify in them different attitudes referring to urban concepts, space and form. Coimbra, Peniche, Covilhã and Bragança are medium and small cities which are distant from the main urban centers and present diverse scenarios for this analysis. The latter two are especially isolated, located at mountainous regions far from the more developed Portuguese littoral, and at the time were even more segregated, due to the lack of quality roadways. The four small scale neighborhoods, which will be the focus of the presentation, constitute just a part of the more than 150 plans accomplished. They encapsulate, however, a range of different approaches to urban space concepts and of the diverse kinds of urban fabric generated. These neighborhood plans summarize as well urban space evolution from the late 1940's to the early 1970's, during various stages of the Estado Novo regime, since the moment when it began to develop collective housing. The Federação das Caixas de Previdência (1946-1972) was a public office created with the aim to plan and implement the new promoted urban areas and to design the buildings. For that, it was organized in a regional basis and employed or contracted numerous well known Portuguese architects. These architects had the opportunity to conceive the plans attending to their individual concerns and convictions, balancing between conventional city, modernist practice, 'regionalist' options and most innovative experiences. João Andresen, Raul Rodrigues Lima, Fernando Távora, Vítor Figueiredo, Nuno Teotónio Pereira and Bartolomeu Costa Cabral, among many others, were authors of some of these neighborhoods, showing remarkably different urban design solutions. By the analysis of the four case studies presented in this paper, it is possible to recognize not only the authors' diverse influences and perspectives, but also a mutual critical sense that is revealed, inclusively, in the way the various phases of the urban fabric are assembled or juxtaposed.

**KEY WORDS:** Public housing, small scale plans, Portugal, 20th century.