

ALCINO CARDOSO HOUSE RENOVATION BY ÁLVARO SIZA (PT)

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The renovation of Alcino Cardoso House (first phase: 1971-1973; second phase: 1988-1991) by the Pritzker Prize winner Álvaro Siza (1933-) is a reference case-study on the way architects can reshape vernacular heritage while preserving its cultural values.

The Alcino Cardoso House was one of the first interventions in pre-existing buildings undertaken by Siza to receive national and international attention. The architectural design consisted on the conservation of vernacular farm buildings and their adaptation into a holiday home and tourist accommodation. It echoes the concerns of the critical revision of modern architecture in the Portuguese context, distinctive by a creative reinterpretation of tradition: modern principles are introduced while continuing with vernacular construction techniques and materials. This early Álvaro Siza intervention in a rural context has become a reference case-study for other School of Porto architects (such as Fernando Távora, Eduardo Souto de Moura, among others) providing lessons, on how to reconcile the legacy of the past with the contemporary needs.

Under the framework of the project *Siza ATLAS; Filling the gaps for World Heritage*, funded by the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (2021-2024), a comprehensive documentation of Siza's works included on the World Heritage Tentative List in 2017 is being implemented. Documentation methodology includes: a) literature review and archival research; b) interviews to building actors (architect, engineer, client and contractor); c) field work including observation, manual drawing and photographic campaign; d) digital documentation combining different tools: d1) photogrammetry model; d2) virtual tours through 360° photos; d3) didactic models of representative construction sections in BIM.

Detailed documentation of Alcino Cardoso house has allowed to identify remarks on best practices regarding renovation on vernacular heritage: by understanding the place before intervening and by preserving the lessons of traditional constructions (harmonious relation with the place, use of local materials and craftsmanship, preservation of natural and built elements) while providing these rural dwellings, with contemporary uses, compatible with their preservation.

ARCHITECT

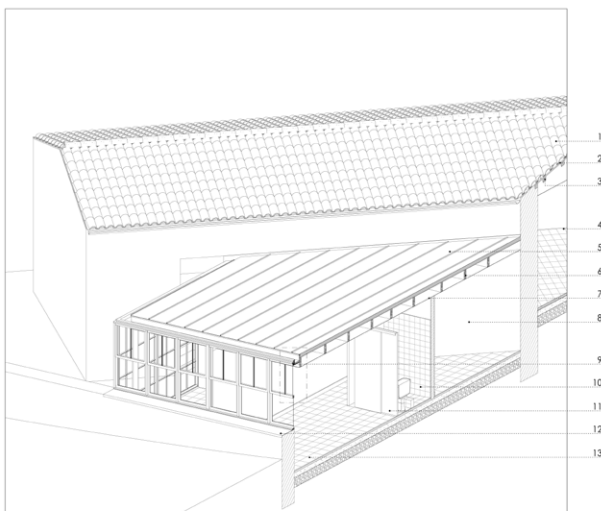
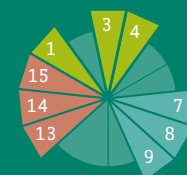
Álvaro Siza

WEB LINK

istar.iscte-iul.pt/sizaatlas/

VERSUS SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES

1. Respecting nature and landscape
3. Reducing environmental impact
4. Ensuring environmental comfort and well being
7. Transmitting and sharing building cultures
8. Encouraging creativity
9. Recognizing intangible values
13. Optimising construction efforts
14. Extending lifetime
15. Saving resources



Axonometric view and photo of the intervention

1. Roman tiles
2. thermal insulation
3. wooden beams
4. mosaic
5. zinc sheeting
6. wooden beams
7. wooden panelling
8. stone support wall
9. curtain wall
10. tiles (15x15 cm)
11. wooden draining boards
12. tin
13. cork

(credits: Soraya Genin)

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Heritage for people

*Sharing vernacular
knowledge to build
the future*





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