

Casa Das Marinhas

A pearl of Portuguese architecture

The seaside resorts of Ofir and Esposende are located north of Porto. In 2014, I visited the summer house of architect Viana De Lima (1954-1957) with a group of architects and Ana Leal, for me an unknown pearl of Portuguese architecture. Leal is the publisher of AMAG from Porto and published a book about this “manor of modern times”.



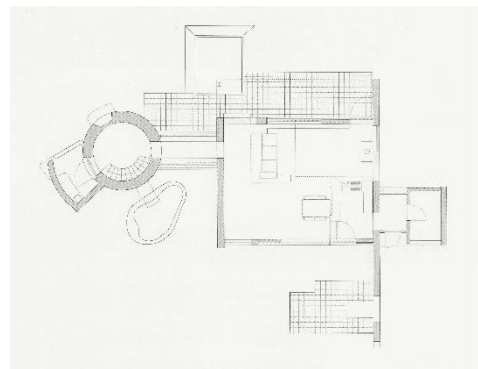
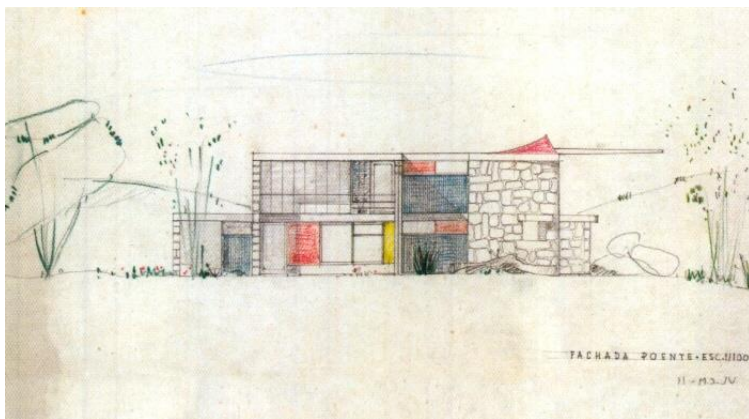
Cover book & interior photos book by Pedro Cardigo

AMAG is a dynamic company that publishes work by architects from Portugal and far beyond. AMAG 04 (2013) and AMAG 22 (2021) extensively presented the work of Belgian architect Vincent Van Duysen. Number 31 of AMAG brought the work of three offices from Flanders: Jo Taillieu Architects, Studio Jan Vermeulen and Graux & Baeyens Architects.

The publisher also started a series “Long Books Collection” in which one building is always documented; LB 20 has *Casa Das Marinhas* as its subject. Architect Viana De Lima (1913-1991) is unjustly not as well known compared to his contemporary Fernand Távora (1923-2005). Both were members of the CIAM (Congress International of Modern

Architecture) for Portugal. De Lima participated in the CIAM meetings from 1951 to 1959: Aix-en-Provence, Dubrovnik and the last meeting in Otterlo (1959) in which Peter Callebaut and Willy Van der Meeren participated for Belgium.

De Lima received various commissions from UNESCO for studies in Brazil and Morocco. He worked with Oscar Niemeyer on two projects, including the Casino of Madeira in Funchal. It is an impressive career, mainly focused on how to deal with the historical heritage. He also received commissions for missions to Mozambique from the Foundation Galouste Gulbenkian.



Drawing facade and ground floor

Viana De Lima was born in Esposende and designed his summer house there with a view of the sea, between 1954 and 1957. The author Paulo Guerreiro discusses all aspects of this project in his text. On the site was the round body of a mill to which he added a canopy for the entrance. Parts of the outer facade are plastered, others are built with granite blocks. In the granite garden wall a square opening with a fixed table underneath for eating outside, clearly a nod to what Le Corbusier devised on the waterfront in the house for his mother on Lac Lemane.

In the round volume De Lima integrated the staircase to the upper floor. The living room has a double height and connects with the other rooms within a compact floor plan.

The photos by Pedro Cardigo give a good impression of the atmosphere inside and of the very neat detailing. The positioning of the fixed wooden furniture in the white space shows the refinement with which Viana De Lima divides a space while simultaneously maintaining a fluid dimension. This summer house has been listed as a monument since 2012. The interior has been preserved intact and can also be visited.

Marc Dubois / From 2015-2022 President DOCOMOMO Belgium

www.Amag.
ISBN 978 989 35617 6 8 / 30 euros
www.amagpublisher.com
Series LONG BOOKS Collection no. 20

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photos Marc Dubois 2014



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