

JAVIER CENICACELAYA

A arquitectura de
JOSÉ BAGANHA
Tradição e contemporaneidade

*José Baganha's Architecture
Tradition and Contemporaneity*

*La Arquitectura de José Baganha
Tradición y Contemporaneidad*



70

Preface

The publication of this book by architect and professor Javier Cenicacelaya is a very happy occasion for me. If there have been times during my career when luck was on my side, they were certainly rare (things were only ever achieved with a lot of effort and hard work). But I count myself truly fortunate in having had the privilege of working with Javier (I am sure that our great friendship allows me to call him by his first name). In fact, in addition to his renowned exceptional qualities as an architect and professor, Javier is a person with the highest human qualities. You could say that he is a human being with a capital "H" – his kindness and generosity know no bounds.

I owe him so much: in addition to his wisdom and the generous guidance he gave me while I was working on my doctoral degree at the Universidad del País Vasco Faculty of Architecture, he has always been a willing and faithful comrade in the causes that we embraced in the quest for a more beautiful and sustainable *civitas*.

And now he presents me with this book he decided to write about my work. I confess that I am eternally grateful but at the same time surprised, since I am well aware of the simple nature of the work I do. I have never sought fame, nor do I now. I have simply pursued my career honestly and diligently, guided by the values of the European Humanist tradition, always striving for beauty, balance and what is most suitable for each case (occasionally failing, of course), and solidity and functionality – the three Vitruvian virtues of architecture that I continue to believe are the foundation of the practice of our profession.

Some of the text and images that appear in this book were borrowed from an earlier book – *Casas com Tradição*, which we also published jointly with Caleidoscópio in 2005. The text on traditional Portuguese architecture is truly extraordinary, and Fernando Guerra's photographs are equally excellent. Many things have transpired since then – some good, some bad and some just so-so – but the work I do continues to be guided by the same goals and principles. I try to incorporate what is good by reinventing it, adapting archetypes to the changing world to help keep traditions alive – traditions that turn out to be increasingly appropriate as we confront the adversity and dangers that greed, ignorance and fanaticism cause on an increasingly more frightening scale.



JOSÉ BAGANHA & ARQUITETOS ASSOCIADOS, Lda.

Tradition and modernity are inseparable – one cannot live without the other. This fact has been forgotten or even disregarded in recent times, but it is on this relationship or reciprocity that I have based my work, and I am increasingly convinced this is where the answers lie to the questions facing humanity, perplexed by rampant globalisation and the primacy of money over human beings as the overriding factor governing all choices.

Parede, September 2014



JOSÉ BAGANHA & ARQUITECTOS ASSOCIADOS, Lda.
Rua Vigia, 301 – 2775-298 Parede, Portugal
E-mail: jbaganha@mail.telepac.pt ♦ Site: www.jbaganha.com
Tel. (+351) 218 820 740 - Telex. 968 562 299