

Industrial Colony of Vista Alegre (1924): nationalist aesthetics in the European context (early 20th)- the influence of Raul Lino

Sofia Senos, Universidade Lusófona

Industrial Colonies are symptomatic urban study objects that allow a focused analysis, like a laboratory experience:

- By their typology: small villages built around a factory, monofunctional and monosocial, with a private promoter (paternalistic character).
- By their motivations: they reflect the prevailing thinking of the time about the working class, models of production, social organization and national identities.

Vista Alegre is a Portuguese industrial colony founded in 1824. Two-hundred years of the history of the urban ideologies: from Utopian Socialism to the Garden-City.

Raul Lino, the German-trained architect and the architect of the “Portuguese House”, introduces (1924) an “anti-urban” aesthetics with a nationalist character, influenced by the first Germany Garden-City of Hellerau (1909) and Muthesius's book “The English House” (1904).

In 1924, the workers' village was enlarged. In contrast to the initial proposes, the urban plan follows the garden-city principles: an hierarchical plan, marked by a single-family dwelling (like the country-side) with a nationalistic aesthetic, which refers, in a picturesque way, to the imaginary models of vernacular architecture.

Until now, there is not clearly and systematic evidences of the project authorship, but too many connections with Lino could be guessed.

The main goal of this thesis is to establish this connection through 4 different topics:

1. Early XX : Raul Lino in Germany (Whilmine period 1890-1918)

From the Deutscher Werkbund and the Garden City Movement (influenced by the English experiences of Ebenezer Howard, Unwin and Parker).

Study Case: Garden-City of Hellerau (1909).

2. Raul Lino (1890-1920): the construction of nationalist architectural aesthetic.

From British Ultimatum (1890) until the establishment of a dictatorship "Estado Novo" (1926)

Study Case: Workers Quarter "Lucas e Ventura" by Carlos Ramos (the important director of Porto School that worked with Raul Lino (1918-1921))

3. Vista Alegre – One-hundred years (1924): Pinto Basto Family (founders of Vista Alegre), an avant-garde family in Portugal.

Through the way that is celebrated the centenary of the Porcelain factory, understanding the context of the Portuguese economic and artistic political elites.

Study Case: Pinto Basto Family House by Raul Lino

4. Raul Lino's Architectural Language

To establish a genealogical relationship between Vista Alegre's architecture and the projects idealized and designed by Raul Lino.

Study Case: School, kindergarten and single-housing projects of Raul Lino

Understanding Lino to understand the consciousness and theorized choices that transforms Vista Alegre into a relevant urban and architectural example, which translates models of social and ideological organization.