

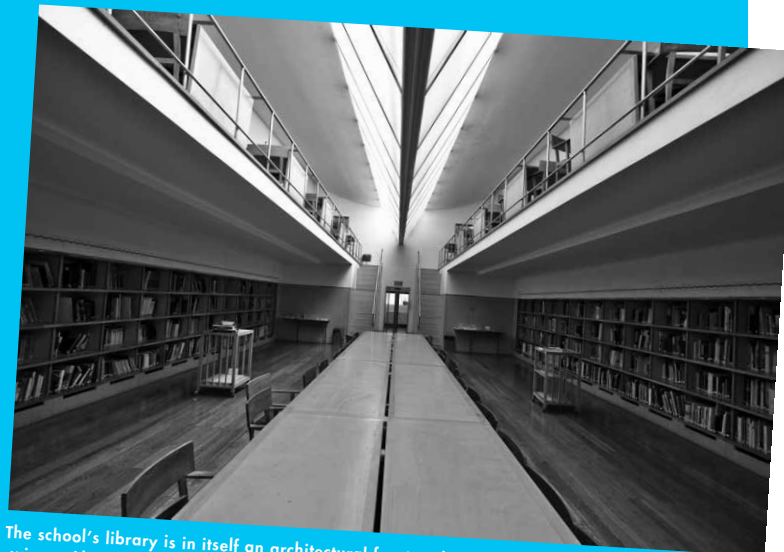
University of Porto Faculty of Architecture



Faculdade de Arquitectura da Universidade do Porto (FAUP)
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Designed by Álvaro Siza, one of the school's most famous alumni, the current home of Porto's School of Architecture was completed in 1992.
Photo Bruno Moreira



The school's library is in itself an architectural feast and an example of Pritzker prize-winner Alvaro Siza's masterful work with light and atmosphere.
Photo Bruno Moreira

Introduction

'We envisage the design studio as the place where the synthesis of all knowledge is produced'

José Miguel Rodrigues, head of programme



When was the school founded and how has it changed?

The Faculty of Architecture of the University of Porto (FAUP) was established in 1983 as one of 14 constituent faculties at the university. It has since given rise to the modernist movement known as the 'School of Porto', which has achieved nationwide and worldwide prominence. Alumni of the highest quality have proved their professional skills with unquestionable prestige in the country and abroad. Nevertheless, one of the peculiarities of the school is its ability to resist to the 'easy change' dictated by agendas outside its genetic code.

What is studying at this school all about?

Studying at FAUP means pursuing a generalist perspective of the profession as it has been understood over the course of time from Vitruvius and Alberti to our days. The profile of the school's architectural teaching does not differ so much from that which was first coined by Vitruvius: 'Let him be educated, skilful with the pencil, instructed in geometry, know much history, have followed the philosophers with attention, understand music, have some knowledge of medicine, know the opinions of the jurists and be acquainted with astronomy and the theory of evens'.

Why should students choose this particular school?

Our aim is that our students have a broad spectrum training and so the course has no

specialisations. Throughout our school's history, drawing – in all its understandings – can be considered the school's core didactical tool. Drawing of live models, drawing as freehand representation of the built environment, drawing as an analysis tool to understand a design problem, drawing as a tool to research in history and theory.

What is the teaching method?

Throughout the degree, students are strongly encouraged to consider design problems that draw relations between architecture and the city, a process that leads up to the final year design studio, which focuses on design problems in a territorial scale. As a corollary to the system, we envisage the design studio as the place where the synthesis of all knowledge is produced.

What is the most important skill to master for an architect?

Perhaps this can be described by the following maxims: 'design with thought' and 'think through design'.

Where or in what kind of jobs do your former architect students mostly end up?

Many of our students work in the field of architectural design, joining architectural offices in Portugal and all over the world, or starting small architectural ateliers. There has also been an increase in research activities and in the development of partnerships with business organisations.

Programme

The MA Architecture programme is characterised by its broad approach rooted in the Vitruvian idea of architecture. Despite this lack of expertise, the school follows a rather singular philosophy, that of a 'Portuguese architecture'. Fernando Távora once said, 'I am the Portuguese architecture', emphasising the attainable dimension of that idea. The school is committed to an education in which drawing is a tool for knowledge, thought and design; an education grounded on the dialectic relationship between theory, design and history.

Students of the School of Porto are especially qualified to integrate themselves into multidisciplinary project teams, and to develop architectural projects on their own.



The school is set in a green and tranquil campus.
Photo Bruno Moreira

Moreover, they acquire in-depth expertise in the areas of scientific and artistic research as well as strong knowledge in technical and construction areas.

Since 2008, with the introduction of the Bologna programme, while the bachelor's and master's programme have been integrated into a 5-year combined degree, students with a bachelor's degree from another institution may apply for entry in the fourth year of study.



The Fernando Távora Auditorium was named after one of the key figures of modern architecture in Portugal, an alumnus of the school.
Photo Bruno Moreira

Programme

Architecture

Leads to

Master of Architecture

Structure

The 2-year full-time course is divided into semesters. Students take a series of electives that develop the necessary skills to structure a project with an exceptional programme and requirements. This prepares them for the final year design studio, which entails the conception of an urban, large-scale programme which looks comprehensively at issues about city and territory organisation.

Head of programme

José Miguel Rodrigues

Mentors and lectures

Nuno Portas, Alexandre Alves Costa, Domingos Tavares, Sérgio Fernandez, Manuel Correia Fernandes, Alcino Soutinho, Pedro Ramalho, Manuel Fernandes de Sá, Manuel Mendes, Carlos Guimarães, Francisco Barata, Adalberto Dias, Carlos Prata, Teresa Fonseca, José Manuel Soares, Luís Soares Carneiro, Nuno Brandão Costa, Camilo Rebelo, João Pedro Serôdio and Filipa Guerreiro.

Notable alumni

Fernando Távora, Álvaro Siza and Eduardo Souto de Moura.

School Facts



Duration of study

2 years

Full time

Yes (40 hours a week)

Part time

Yes



Female students

55%

Male students

45%

Local students

91%

Students from abroad

9%

Yearly enrolment

TBC



Tuition fee

EUR 999 per year

Funding/scholarships

Yes



Minimum requirements for entry

Bachelor's degree in architecture

Language

English and Portuguese



Graduation rate

High

Job placement rate

92%



Memberships/affiliations

n/a

Collaborations with

Universities from Europe, Latin America, Australia, Africa and USA, as well as other Portuguese universities.

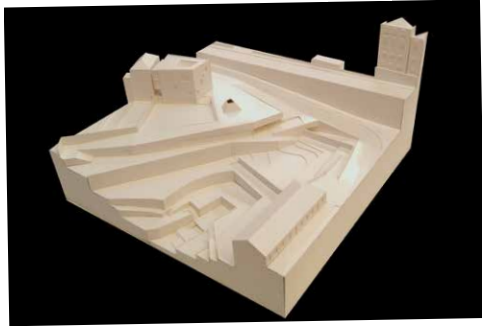
Facilities for students

Library, studios, bookshop, cafeteria, copy centre and a museum.

Student Work

Cultural Centre in Jardim das Virtudes (2012)

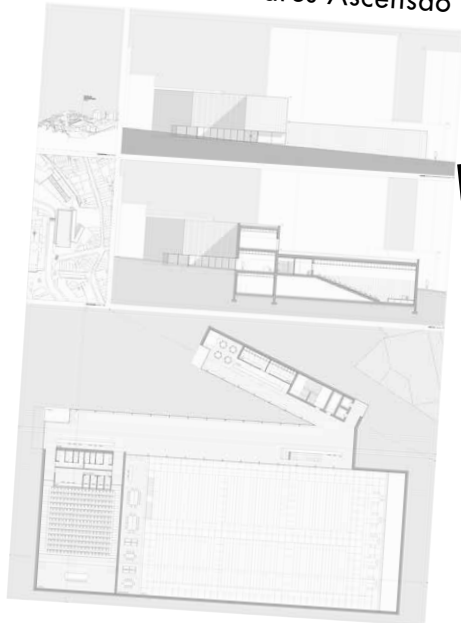
By Bruno Filipe Oliveira Vieira Meleiro



This project consists of a cultural centre for the University of Porto which is implanted in the earth of the city, near important buildings such as a central hospital and the court of justice. The exercise involved an architectural and morphological analysis and reflection, in order to support a project response based on the relationship between the proposed building, and the pre-existent architecture and urban spaces.

Documentation Centre in Trindade (2012)

By Francisco Tavares Ascensão



Including an auditorium and two exhibition rooms, this project for a documentation centre of the former Trindade railway station in Porto, is rooted in a significant programmatic and contextual complexity, which implied a reflection and project response that involved the network of relationships that architecture establishes with the territory and the city.

Parametric Dome (2012)

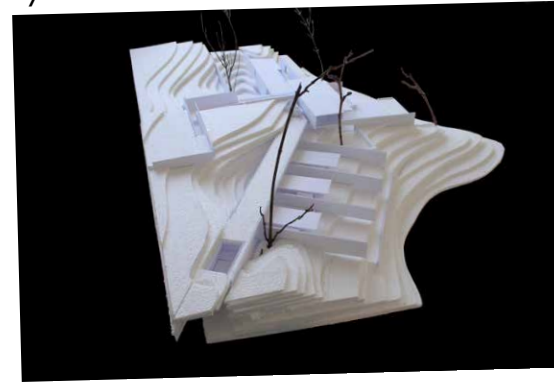
By MA student group



This was a collaborative final assignment in constructive geometry where the students are challenged to design and fabricate a dome structure. By using computational design tools, this project explores the geometric differentiation of the building components in order to achieve a customised natural lighting system and a more efficient structural solution. The design was selected among different early group proposals and was then further refined and built by the entire class, using cardboard.

Three Art Students Residence (2012)

By Catarina Melo Coelho Ferreira

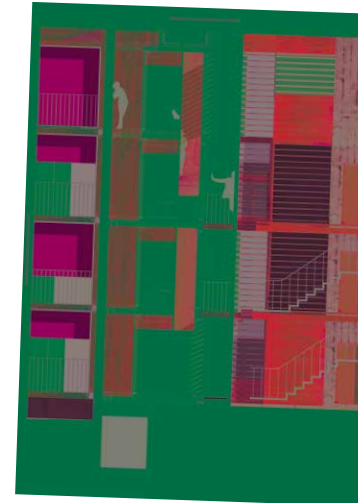


This project comprehended the design and development of a residence for three art students, reflecting the importance of living together, while keeping personal routines and individuality. The exercise behind the project aimed to foster reflection on the different ways of appropriation, and the expression of each student's original and personal perspective and approach.

Photo José Cabral Dias

Collective Housing in Porto (2012)

By Gustavo Nuno Nogueira Fernandes



Under the general theme of collective housing and the city as a framework, this project saw the development of a housing programme inserted in a degraded area in the city of Porto, where urban revitalisation is a priority, which relied on typological and construction experimentation.

Mall in Matosinhos (2012)

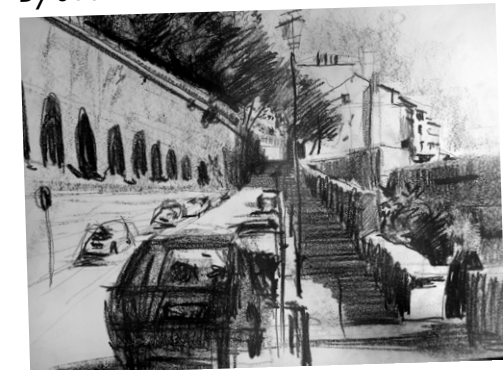
By José Daniel Vieira Soares



This project is a proposal for a new public park and the creation or reestablishment of old connections in Santa Cruz do Bispo, Matosinhos, Porto. It includes the rehabilitation of a shopping centre's parking lot, and most importantly, the connection between the park and a new multifunctional space through the mall.

Urban Space Drawing (2012)

By João António Freitas Costa



This project includes one of several sketches of a pre-selected urban path, in which knowledge and recognition of spaces and urban architectural typologies is encouraged. The graphic recording is developed from general to specific principles, promoting observation and representation of sensitive values such as light and colour.

Alumnus

Name Nuno Brandão Costa
Residence Porto, Portugal
Year of birth 1970
Year of graduation 1994
Current job Founder of Nuno Brandão Costa Architects, lecturer
Website nunobrandaoacosta.com

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Current Students



'Future students can expect to be immersed in a long tradition of Portuguese architecture substantially developed by the Porto school in the 20th century, and springing from the country's social changes, instead of imported images and references.'
 Hugo Ferreira



'My project teacher from the first year, architect Manuel Botelho, used to say, that an architect should never forget to live in order to be able to create architecture capable of being a support for life. These words of advice accompanied through these years.'
 Maria Teresa Almeida



'I chose FAUP because it is known as the best architecture school of our country, and one of the best in the world. The national and international success of the school's alumni struck me as a sign of the superiority of its teaching methods.'
 Maria João André



'We are taught to design as an art craft. The degree draws a strong emphasis on certain skills like sketching, refined drawing and a clear way of observing our surroundings, which are the project forces, when the design process comes.'
 João Francisco Sousa



'At FAUP, we are able to participate in the continued pursuit for an architecture that, through its description and harmony, is able to respond to a place in which culture, territory and landscape are constantly changing without being attached to possible languages, historicism or nostalgia.'
 Marisa Oliveira



'The Serralves Museum of Contemporary Art is my favourite hang-out, with its gardens and two buildings designed by two generations of the school's alumni – Marques da Silva and Álvaro Siza. The museum hosts many temporary exhibitions and is a great space to study.'
 Bruno Meleiro

City Life

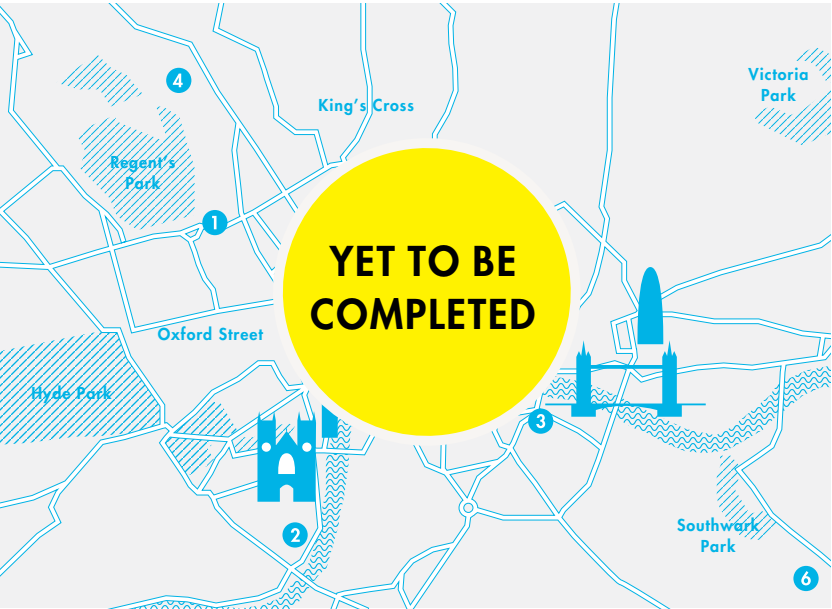
Porto is located in the north of Portugal, on the north bank of the river Douro. It is the second largest city in the country, and affords temperate climate. The historical richness of the city is accounted for in the labyrinth of narrow and rough streets of the medieval times and in its monuments. In 1996, UNESCO considered Porto a 'World Heritage Site'. This decision was largely influenced by the undeniable historical and architectural richness, by the beauty of the city and the urban and social renovation it is constantly going through, especially in the oldest areas. The cultural and social vitality of the city is

also proven by its several universities, art academies, conservatories, museums and art galleries.

Throughout its lively and picturesque neighbourhoods, namely Baixa, Ribeira and Foz, the Cidade Invicta (Untouched City) boasts a myriad of scenic cafes, modern bars and clubs, and restaurants that serve the delicious local food. For all this, it is the breathtaking views of the city, the river and the sea and the rough friendliness of its inhabitants that give Porto its characteristic personality.



Panoramic view of the city overlooking the river Douro, with the Arrábida bridge on the background.
Photo Bruno Moreira



- Porto**
- 1 FAUP
 - 2 Serralves Museum of Contemporary Art
 - 3 Casa da Música
 - 4 Miguel Bombarda Galleries
 - 5 Clérigos Church
 - 6 Ribeira

City Facts

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Serralves Museum of Contemporary Art 2
Designed by Álvaro Siza and inaugurated in 1999, this museum is entirely dedicated to the contemporary art and improves significantly the artistic programmes of the Fundação de Serralves.
serralves.pt

Casa da Música 3
Designed by Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas, Casa da Música was conceived as the major symbol of 2001 Porto Cultural Capital of Europe and it is the first new building in Portugal to be entirely dedicated to music.
casadamusica.com

Miguel Bombarda Galleries 4
Miguel Bombarda street has now become an obligatory meeting point in the city, with its many art galleries, street entertainment, cafes, restaurants, bookstores, retro-cool furniture stores and vintage shops.



How to get around
The University of Porto is distributed by two poles, one located in the northern part of the city, and another to the south. Porto's School of Architecture is located in the latter, on the grounds of an old farmhouse on a hillside facing the river Douro, and taking advantage of exceptional geographical conditions. This location in a strategic area of the city, relatively close to the city centre, but also close to the main cultural facilities recently built – Serralves Museum and Casa da Música – is well served in terms of transport, with buses stopping in Campo Alegre

Clérigos Church 5
Designed by Italian baroque architect Nicolau Nasoni, whose work can be seen in numerous other locations throughout the city, this church is one of Porto's landmark and atop its tower visitors afford a 360-degree view of the city.

Ribeira 6
This is one of the favourite neighbourhoods of the city for tourists and locals alike, but it is commonly said that it is better enjoyed from Gaia, the city south of Douro, from where it can be observed.

Piolho
An important landmark for the academic life of the city, this 104-year-old cafe comes alive in the evenings with students enjoying a beer and the locals' beloved tremoços (lupines).
cafepiolho.com

São Bento Train Station
Another city landmark is this rail terminal. Its entrance hall, adorned with exquisite, hand-painted Portuguese tiles that tell the story of the city, is known as Porto's 'visits room'.

Mercado do Bolhão
There is no better place to get a feel of the city, its history and the history of its people than this food market in Baixa, currently under renovation.



street, very close to the school, and Casa da Música metro station just a 15-minute walk away.
The city's two main train stations are São Bento and Campanhã. All northern rail lines depart from the first, while intercity trains to the south leave from the latter. Porto's Metro is a quick and comfortable transport to some areas within and outside of the city, with buses being the most flexible and comprehensive transport in the city. Sã Carneiro, Porto's airport, is located about 15 km from the city centre and can easily be reached by metro, bus or car.

- Arranging housing**
Average
- Housing support by school**
Yes
- Cost of room in the city**
EUR 150 to 250 per month
- Cost of campus housing**
EUR 135 per month