

ÉTIENNE DE GROËR:

THE DIFFERENT SCALES OF THE URBAN INTERVENTION IN LISBON TERRITORY

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Abstract

The present paper focus on the analysis of the work of the Russian architect-urbanist Étienne de Groër in the territory of Lisbon, that took place in the mid 20th century.

This paper offers a review on the ongoing research and theory developed on the work produced by Étienne de Groër in Portugal. It includes literature on Portuguese and non-Portuguese scholars. The review comprises books, papers published in international and national journals, international conferences and PhD thesis.

From the analysis of the various projects for Lisbon, it is possible to identify different scales of intervention, which are all interconnected to each other. From de Groër work it is possible to identify the reading of the city from the perspective of a metropolis, as Lisbon. Yet, a strong planning unity is therefore transversal to all the different scales: from the urban block, to the city and to the territorial scale.

De Groër proposals for Lisbon, developed between 1938 and 1948, together with other municipal architects, such as Faria da Costa, do represent interesting historical examples of 20th century urban planning. De Groër proposal plan for the Renovation of Lisbon consolidated downtown, Baixa (1948), and the Master Urban Plan for Lisbon (1938-48), which includes the location of the Cristino da Silva Project for Praça do Areeiro (1941-1956), do reflect urban examples of adapted classical urban forms for contemporary needs, which aimed to create a new urban landscape for the modern society. Moreover, while Baixa example exhibits an urban renovation within an eighteenth century consolidated urban area, the second example refers to an urban extension of the existing city. Yet, in both examples the traditional urban block constitutes the main typological element for both renovation of the historic city and also the modernization of the city.

Keywords: urban space, urban design, public space, Étienne de Groër

1. Introduction

The present paper follows with a discussion around the urban planning approach as promoted by Étienne de Groër during his 1938-1948 stay in Portugal. Such approach was based on a way of thinking and planning the city that had strong links to authors such as Ebenezer Howard, and on de Groër's experience held at the *Institut d'Urbanisme de l'Université de Paris*.

Finally, we aim to demonstrate the main principles and the theoretical models present in the different urban interventions, throughout the reading of a text handwritten by de Groër, unpublished until now. This text allows to contextualize Groër work and also the drawings and texts that accompanied his several plans. Therefore some final conclusions shall be presented and discussed.

2. The state of art

A group of Portuguese researchers that has focus their studies on the work of Groër includes, among others, Catarina Camarinhas, Margarida Souza Lôbo, Teresa Marat-Mendes and Vasco Brito. Equally relevant to the investigation of the Portuguese urban planning, during de Groër period of time, are the studies developed by Ana Tostões, Andreia Maria Bianchi Aires de Carvalho Galvão, Fernando Gonçalves, João Pedro Costa, José Manuel Fernandes, José-Augusto França, Margarida Acciaiuoli, Maria Helena Lisboa, Nuno Portas, Pedro Janarra, Rui Ramos, Vitor Matias Ferreira, among others.

Camarinhas and Brito analytical study of the Engineer Abrantes text entitled “*Elementos para o estudo do plano de urbanização da cidade de Lisboa*”¹ from 1938, provides us a scientific contribution that is expressed both in the advertisement of de Groër’s work and on the exposure of the evolution of the Portuguese urban planning during 1930’s until the master plan of 1948.

Souza Lôbo Ph.D work entitled “*Planos de urbanização: à época de Duarte Pacheco*”² from 1993, identifies a number of foreign urban planners working in Portugal during Duarte Pacheco period of time. According to Souza Lôbo, de Groër greatly influenced the Portuguese urbanism during the 1940’s, by following Howard’s urban theories³ (LÔBO, 1995).

Throughout her investigations on the work developed by the Portuguese architect and urbanist João Guilherme Faria da Costa, Marat-Mendes analysed the different urban plans for Lisbon, proposed by Faria da Costa, and that do also include in the Master Plan for Lisbon, prepared by the City Council of Lisbon, under the supervision of Étienne de Groër, between 1938 and 1948⁴.

In her detailed analysis of the Urban Plan for Restelo Marat-Mendes (MARAT-MENDES, 2005) offers an understanding of the natural existing features of the site; the global analysis of the urban plan through its contextualization within the city at different scales (from the territorial to the most local one); the identification of the Plan Principles or the ‘Ground Rules’ that have regulated the original urban plan; and finally a morphological analysis of the urban changes considering several perspectives such as the social, economical and physical ones. Other urban interventions developed by Faria da Costa and analysed by Marat-Mendes,

¹ “*Elements for the study of Lisbon urbanization plan*”.

² “*Urbanization Plans: the time of Duarte Pacheco*”.

³ Howard advocated a system of planned cities built urban centres with limited size. Nevertheless, while analyzing the Urban Plans of Coimbra and Luanda, planned by de Groër, Souza Lôbo concluded that the French town planner is closer to the French concept of the Garden Suburb than to the theory of Garden City according to Howard. Souza Lobo attributes to de Groër the title of “the eclectic town planner”, because while he was aware of the main ideas of the modern urbanism he was very selective on the required solutions LÔBO, Margarida Souza - *Planos de urbanização: a época de Duarte Pacheco*. Porto: FAUP - Faculdade de Arquitectura da Universidade do Porto, 1995.

⁴ The urban plans proposed by Faria da Costa and analysed by Marat-Mendes (2005) and that were included in the Master Plan for Lisbon (1938-1948), are the Urban Plans for Alvalade, Areeiro and Restelo.

are the Urban Plans for Areeiro (1938) and Alvalade (1945), and therefore revealing their morphological contribution for the built environment of Lisbon (MARAT-MENDES, 2007).

More recently, Marat-Mendes (MARAT-MENDES, 2009) has contributed with a more comprehensive approach to the work of Étienne de Groër, while offering a wider perspective of the different urban plans proposed by de Groër to the City of Lisbon and its environments. Nevertheless, once again it is revealed the importance of the different scales approach, as previously reflected in the work of Faria da Costa.

Also Costa (COSTA, 2002) has identified the relevance of the work of Faria da Costa on his analysis of the urban plan for Alvalade, while identifying its morphological elements and relating them to the traditional city and to the garden-city movement, as well as to the urban growth projects of Amsterdam and Siedlung in Berlin, and to the concept of neighbourhood unit.

3. The modern Lisbon

During the 'New State' regime, the Engineer Duarte Pacheco was appointed as the mayor of Lisbon City Council. Under his presidency, significant changes were achieved at the town planning policies domain, such as new legislation to ease land expropriation. Thus, facilitating the city expansion and rehabilitation, with great freedom and an opportunity on doing so in a planned manner. Also a financial relief to the Lisbon City Council was therefore achieved throughout such measure. Moreover, while the city council became responsible for the urbanizing task, the private owner acquired a greater passive role. (CML, 1952, DIAS, 1947).

It was also under the 'New State' regime that Portugal testified the contribution of several foreign planners working in different municipalities. Donat Alfred Agache, Giovanni Muzio and Étienne de Groër constitute three of those most emblematic contributions whom, between 1932 and the end of the forties, greatly marked and influenced the Portuguese urban planning.

Central to the present investigation is the work developed by de Groër⁵, its role in the modern movement, and the process of cultural influence on his theories, such as the thoughts on urban planning present in Groër projects.

De Groër has also written some significant work that contextualizes all his planning practice. Some of his relevant texts are the following ones: "De l'urbanisme en Russie" (DE GROER,

⁵ Étienne de Groër was born in Varsovia, in 1882. He attended the High School in Nice, south of France, and graduated from the Imperial Academy of Fine Arts at St. Petersburg. He worked in France where he collaborated in eighteen plans for the development and extension of cities; (as an example we have Dunkerque plans, region of Creil and region of Courneuve). He worked with the French urban planner Donat Alfred Agache in several projects, and was a lecturer at the *Institut d'Urbanisme de l'Université de Paris*, where he taught the principles of "garden city" and its application in England.

It was under the invitation of Agache that Groër started the study of urban development for the region of Lisbon, with the "*Estudo preliminar de urbanização da zona de Lisboa ao Estoril e a Cascais*" (*Preliminary study of urbanization of the area from Lisbon to Estoril and Cascais*), and the "*Plano de Urbanização da Costa do Sol*" (*Sun Coast Urban Plan*). Between 1938 and 1940 Groër served as an urban planner and technical advisor for the City Council of Lisbon. Besides the Master Plan of Urban Development for the city of Lisbon in 1948, he was also responsible for several other Urban Plans, including the Urban Plans for Abrantes, Almada, Beja, Braga, Coimbra, Évora, Sintra, and also for Luanda in Angola.

Dec. 1921); “Gratte-ciel (Le) est-il nécessaire?” (DE GROER, Fev. 1935); “Lisbonne exemple d'urbanisation au XVIII siècle” (DE GROER, mars-avril 1936); “Introdução ao Urbanismo” (DE GROER, 1945-56) versus “Introduction à l'urbanisme” (DE GROER, [s.d.]); “Le Tracé d'un Plan d'Urbanisation” (DE GROER, 1945) and “Anteprojecto de urbanização de embelezamento e de extensão da cidade de Coimbra” (DE GROER, 1948). These were the texts that have supported the present paper and investigation.

4. Étienne de Groër references and his theoretical production

While investigating de Groër's work it is essential to consider both the flow of his ideas, his project collaborators, and also his course as an urban planner. In order to do so, it is essential to consider that the intellectual training do have a significant impact on the project activity as a form of direct cultural intervention. Although the region conditioned the action of some urban planners of the time and the local constraints where they were planning, these processes of ideas transfer were based on the diffusion, but also through appropriation⁶.

During his activity at the *Institut d'Urbanisme de l'Université de Paris*, Groër had the opportunity to relate with Berlage, Burnham, Garnier, Griffin, Howard, Stübben and Unwin, among others, which were responsible for the teacher's achievement and faculty members of the Institute. Indeed, de Groër experience at the *Institut d'Urbanisme de l'Université de Paris* guided us to investigate the major thinkers of the Western urbanism, between 1850-1930, and to examine the *Institut d'Urbanisme de l'Université de Paris*⁷.

It was during this period of time, that de Groër benefited from such cultural urban approach, including the traditionalist city planning concepts, and later explored by de Groër in the mid-20th century.

As already stated, during Groër's stay in Portugal, he worked with the Urban Plan for “Costa do Sol” and with many other general urban plans. To support the present investigation of de Groër work, it was found an original version of the de Groër text at the *Direcção Geral do*

⁶ When we compare the work produced by the modernists with the work produced by their advisors, it is possible to determine that there is a personal mark in each work, and that there is not one single performance of pure mimicry. London and Ribeiro portrays very well this aspect in their writings. According to Ribeiro, in the Brazilian case “Each borrowed element was initially mobilized within the logic of individual actors of each country. Therefore, It was not, because of the work in terms of “influences, copies or charges of the French reformers on their Brazilian counterparts. “Each borrowed element changes meaning when it crosses the Atlantic, it enters as an argument and becomes an instrument in the national debate and confrontation.” Cited by LONDON, Marcos Zanetti - *A circulação de idéias urbanísticas no meio profissional e acadêmico e a sua influência nas obras de Donat Alfred Agache e Atílio Corrêa Lima*. Rio de Janeiro: Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Faculdade de Arquitetura e Urbanismo, 2002.

⁷ The Institut d'Urbanisme de l'Université de Paris (IUUP) derived from the École des Hautes Études Urbaines (EHEU) founded in 1919, shortly before the promulgation of the Cornudet law. The Cornudet law was promulgated six months before the opening of IUUP, and required that cities with more than ten thousand inhabitants should have a plan of remodeling extension and beautification. The EHEU must have been the first experience of urban education in France. History, Architecture, Hygienist, Administrative Law, Urban Art, Economics and Social Policy were some of the courses taught at EHEU, with well known masters, such as Marcel Poëte, Léon Jaussely, Henri Prost, Jacques Gréber, Louis Bonnier, Gaston Jèze, Henri Sellier, Joseph-Barthélemy, Edouard Fuster, Desiré Pasquet, Paul Juillerat, Georges Bechmann and Willian Oualid. The work produced by these masters at the Institute and its library is therefore the great responsible for the culture of an era.

*Ordenamento do Território e Desenvolvimento Urbano*⁸ (DGOTDU), in Lisbon. This text, written in French, indicates erasures and notes, probably made by the author or his wife Gabrielle de Groër (DE GROËR, [s.d.]). We believe that this text is the predecessor of another one published by the *Boletim da Direcção Geral dos Serviços de Urbanização* (DE GROËR, 1945-56), in Portuguese language, because we compared both texts and concluded that this later one seems to be a translation of the first one⁹.

Through such text, de Groër offers an introduction to the urbanism, where he presents a brief history of the urbanism in the past and in the context of the reality of their time, focusing on the evolution of urbanism and its possibilities for the future; the need for legislation in the implementation of planning; the urban legislation as he thought it should be; the development of an urban plan of arrangement and extension - with the example of Coimbra, and in attachment the details of a regulation areas (a zoning regulation); a synthesis of a regulation on the supervision of the division of land into blocks and plots, and finally a summary of the main provisions of a construction regulation¹⁰.

The bibliography is the only element of the text that is not present in the Portuguese version, but it is extremely important because it focuses on the theoretical orientations of the planner. References like Raymond Unwin¹¹, Pierre Lavedan¹², Camillo Sitte¹³, C. B. Purdom and Ebenezer Howard make part of a bibliographic list included in the text *Introduction à l'urbanisme* written by de Groër. The work of Ed. Joyaut¹⁴ is scratched and presents a question mark “?” at its side.

It is curious the reference to Charles Benjamin Purdom¹⁵. This reference demonstrates an interdisciplinary study and indicates great interest of de Groër in such subjects.

As already argued by Sousa Lôbo, de Groër was influenced by the Howard theories (LÔBO, 1995, p. 75), but applied them selectively. Although Howard is usually recognized for the planning of the gardens cities he considered the physical characteristics of the Garden City, secondary. For Howard, the most important was the social ideals, based on the collective

⁸ General Office of Planning and Urban Development.

⁹ The French version has no images, but indicates the handwritten notes in French, for the placement of these ones. The French text contains 92 pages including index and bibliography. This text is signed in page number 81 and it is rubricated in page number 92, by the de Groër.

¹⁰ This text would have been worked as an excellent manual for architects if printed in large editions in both languages (Portuguese-French), however the fact that it was only published in Portuguese in the “Bulletin of the General Office of Urban Services” (*Boletim da Direcção Geral dos Serviços de Urbanização*) it became unknown to a large number of city researchers of this period.

¹¹ Book: “Town Planning in Practice”.

¹² Book: “L’Histoire de l’Urbanisme”.

¹³ Book: *Der Städtebau nach seinen künstlerischen Grundsätzen*.

¹⁴ Book: “Traité d’Urbanisme”.

¹⁵ Book: “The Building of Satellite Towns” (*The Building of Satellite Towns: A Contribution to the Study of Town Development and Regional Planning*, J.M. Dent & Sons, London, 1925). It is good to remember or to know that C. B. Purdom is also the author of the text “The Garden City” (*The Garden City: A Study of the Development of a Modern Town*, J.M. Dent & Sons, London, 1913).

ownership of the land, where rents were paid by tenants, allowing the proffer of public works and social benefits (MARCH, Alan, 2004, p. 411). This planning operating logic is reflected in de Groër text: “Pour créer une ville, la future municipalité doit, d’après Howard, acquérir tout le territoire qui sera nécessaire à jamais propriétaire. Elle ne devra pas vendre le terrain aux habitants, mais le leur louer à long terme (90 ans, par exemple). Ceci supprimera la spéculation foncière (spéculation sur l’achat et la revente des propriétés) qui est l’origine de tous les maux.” (DE GROËR, [s.d.], p. 9)

5. The three scales of the urban intervention in Lisbon territory

We shall now focus this paper on an urban reality that took place in Portugal during the dictatorial regime of Salazar. In order to do that it will be described and analyzed different urban interventions as planned by the French-Russian architect-urbanist Étienne de Groër in the Territory of Lisbon.

These urban interventions should be read in three different scales of approach, namely:

1. The Urban Plan for Costa do Sol¹⁶, that includes nine Urban Plans for specific existing urban areas that are included in PUCS;
2. The Master Plan for the City of Lisbon¹⁷, that includes other Urban Plan for specific urban areas that are included in the PDUL;
3. The Plan for the Renovation of Lisbon consolidated downtown – (Baixa) and the layout for Praça do Areeiro¹⁸.

The Master Plan for the City of Lisbon

Ten years before the implementation of the Master Plan for Lisbon that took place in 1948, several drawings and texts were prepared in order to promote such plan. It is therefore necessary to contextualize this preparatory work that supported the implementation of the plan. Preliminary work entitled “Elements for the study of the Lisbon Urbanization Plan”¹⁹, published in 1938²⁰ and written by António Emílio Abrantes²¹, is suggested by de Groër to the Master Plan of Lisbon in 1948 as a preliminary analysis program (ABRANTES, 1938).

¹⁶ Plano de Urbanização da Costa do Sol’ (PUCS).

¹⁷ Plano Director de Urbanização de Lisboa’ (PDUL).

¹⁸ The layout for Areeiro Plan, was developed in the Urban Plan for Areeiro by the Architect Faria da Costa. This was later included in the Master Plan for Lisbon, signed by Groër, but the Project of the square was later developed by Architect Cristino da Silva.

¹⁹ Elementos para o estudo do plano de urbanização de Lisboa.

²⁰ The “The study of the Lisbon Urbanization plan” (Estudo do plano de urbanização de Lisboa) published in 1938 is today in the Archives of Arco do Cego (one of the municipal of Lisbon) but there are copies in other archives and public libraries, as in the GEO (Gabinete de Estudos Olisiponenses). The original saved in AAC, show handwritten notes/corrections in French made by the De Groër. This work was structured by written documents along with 15 plans.

The writing is divided into 6 parts: historical analysis, a study of the existing population at the time, studies of movement within the city of Lisbon, seismological studies affecting the city of Lisbon, the study of schools (The Education), and the study of public services.

During the preparatory work for the 1948 master plan, it was settled the layout of the main routes of communication, the limits of land paying attention to new buildings, was fought the private initiative (not allowing the construction of new neighbourhoods that could compromise the future urban development), and was created a fund for construction in rural lands or lands with poorly constructed homes. The whole process of urban reform is based on: simplify the process of expropriation (Law nº 28797 de 1 de July de 1938); renewal legislation of the temporary relocation (Law nº 28912 de 12 de August de 1938); and on the creation of the Section of Urban improvements (Law nº 29218 de 6 de December de 1938).

The master plan for Lisbon, of 1948, constitutes a plan that indicates a zoning plan, however with detailed plans for several areas, such as Restelo, Areeiro and Alvalade. Nevertheless, all the different areas included in such zoning plan, included a regulation list plan.

The Renovation Plan for Baixa

The ideas and the proposed legislation for Lisbon downtown (Baixa) firstly appeared in the text *“Introduction à l'urbanisme”* when de Groër created a law regulating the *“Central Commercial and Civic Zone”* of the cities. The master plan for development for the city of Lisbon in 1948 only develops and details de Groër's project intention in the text and its cartography.

Relatively to the “Zona Central Comercial e Cívica” and according to de Groër, it is important to notice from the first text that only partial demolitions and perforations were allowed inside the blocks. It was necessary to sanitize without modifying the character of the neighbourhood. Groër suggested the study one urban block and one apartment to identify what should be kept and what should be demolished.

The final text of the 1948 plan, details the regulation of the different zones of Lisbon central area ("Zona Central"). This "Zona Central" corresponds to the 1758 Baixa urban area. For such area, de Groër argues that "it is forbidden the construction or installation of factories, big storehouses and heavy truck parking areas." (Lisbon Master Plan, 1948).

The "Zona Central" is divided into three sectors (A, B and C) with different legislation. In sectors A and C no residential building were allowed (except for the doorman and guards). In sector B it was allowed residential buildings, as long as they were not exclusively for residential proposes. In all the three sectors there was an exception to this regulation to hotels

The Abrantes text highlighted the importance of Rossio (D. Pedro IV square) in Lisbon the urban mesh, when he says that “the D. Pedro IV square is a stressed passing point” and points out the traffic problems at the time that would be pretext for a new project.

Is also possible to understand this phenomenon searching the newspapers of the time (CUNHA, 1934) (The Rossio will be transformed, the project will be put out to contest immediately and the tombstone on Camões death will be transferred in 1934), where architects made their comments and proposals. So is possible to observe the concern about the disruption of Rossio in Abrantes text, it is also evident confusion of the downtown. Is all a result of population growth (explained in Abrantes text) and the lack of new planning.

²¹ Abrantes was a civil engineer, responsible for the Technical Department of the City Plan and author of more than 40 plans to Lisbon.

and hostels. It is our understanding that, from this regulation, residential buildings were only allowed in the “Zona Central”. Its main character was commerce and services.

According to de Groër proposal we recognise a great sensitivity towards the place of the interventions. In the case of the “Plano Director de Lisboa, Estudo Pormenorizado da Transformação da Baixa. Saneamento dos Quarteirões e Melhoramento da Circulação”²² the proposal does not choose an intervention like clean slate, but denotes a sensitivity on their part to the mesh and pre-existing buildings. He chooses a partial demolition of 29 blocks of the Lisbon downtown (Baixa), offering a new urban design of 15 urban blocks, larger than the existing ones.

De Groër proposal for Baixa is a key examples of twentieth century planning proposal, that while proposing a renovation of an eighteenth century consolidated urban area, does reflects a redefinition of an existing urban fabric and its inherent public space. Interestingly, in Baixa, de Groër benefits the public space area, when in comparison to the public space available area either at present or in the eighteenth century. From the total area of 359886 m² of Baixa, the area taken by public space was 17% in the original plan, 33% in present time and 36% according to Groer’s proposal in 1948 (Marat-Mendes, Sampayo, Rodrigues, 2010).

Praça do Areeiro (1941-1956)

The analysis of the Praça do Areeiro (1941-1956) has to take into consideration three levels of intervention in the city. The big scale with the master plan of the city by de Groër, the neighbourhood scale, where the square is included and is equivalent to the urban planning by Faria da Costa and finally the urban square scale where the square as delineated by Architect Cristino a Silva is included.

Cristino da Silva, following the guidelines of the 1948 master plan for Lisbon, projected the Areeiro Square. Several architects have drawn however the architecture of the Areeiro plan, although respecting a very similar style in the different buildings²³.

The blocks surrounding Praça do Areeiro and Bairro de Alvalade have similar scales and present similar green areas layouts. Southeast to Praça do Areeiro the urban fabric is rather different. Here, the urban blocks are narrower and their layout is very different from those of Alvalade and Areeiro. This reflects that in this area the municipal council allowed the private sector to make the urbanization infrastructure.

Areeiro square testifies the determinant will of Duarte Pacheco, to build a symbol of power of the enormous urban modernization of the city of Lisbon. The composition of this square meant order, stability, authority and power. Praça do Areeiro acts as a monumental ending to Avenida Almirante Reis. This was the most important entry to city of Lisbon for those who

²² (“Master Plan of Lisbon, Detailed Study of downtown (Baixa) transformation. Sanitation of the Blocks and Improving of the Circulation”).

²³ The area of Avenida de Paris and Praça Pasteur was drawn by Alberto Pessoa, Chorão Ramalho, José Bastos e Lucínio Cruz while the Avenida João XXI was drawn by José Segurado, Joaquim Ferreira, Filipe de Figueiredo and Sérgio Gomes.

arrived from the north. Cristino da Silva justified the proportions of the highest building (the north tower) with its unique architecture and by the near presence of the Alameda D. Afonso Henriques. At the time, this tower was a very tall building (58,5m) and its height was only conditioned by the proximity of the nearby airport

At Praça do Areeiro one can witness similar aspects to the XVII and XVIII century's buildings and urban design traditionalist concepts. The buildings have a noble floor with balconies, a ground floor with arcades and small windows. Thus, contributing to appear similar to the classical squares characteristics. The square is presented itself in a classical form, but reinterpreted as a landscape for a modern society, being functionally modern and adapted to new uses such as the public transport and the car.

The Lisbon 1948 master plan defined the area of the Avenida Almirante Reis as CH5. This corresponded to a zone with mixed uses and a maximum height of 6 storeys. This mixed zone was defined in the master plan as being a zone for residential buildings allowing commerce and small shops in the ground floor.

The master plan legislated the need of voids inside the urban blocks, defining that construction should only be done on the perimeter of the block, wherein avoiding the inner voids in order to allow the salubrity of the neighbourhood and of the city.

The urban block was the solution found to allow the rehabilitation of the exiting areas, as in the Groër plan for Baixa, but also on new urban interventions such as in the city extension towards north, as in Areeiro.

Although the 1948 master plan wasn't officially approved by the city council, the majority of Lisbon development followed its recommendations and norms until 1970's. After that date, and mainly after 1975, these recommendations were neglected. Several constructions doubled the number of allowed storeys, as established in 1948, causing disharmony in the reading of the Av. Almirante Reis. What was built before the seventies it is in conformity with the whole unity. The Praça do Areeiro is an example of that. On the other hand, nearby, anomalous products to the plan have emerged, exactly where the urban blocks have not been totally constructed.

6. Conclusions

The analysed examples of Baixa and Areeiro are based on classical urban forms that were re-interpreted according to the contemporary needs of society. Moreover, this paper also reveals that such urban models make use of reinterpretations of traditional urban approaches, as followed by de Groër. Moreover, those approaches proved to be adequate when reconverting existing urban consolidated classical examples of XVIII century or when applied in the extension of new urban areas.

We believe that from the analysis of the urban and architectural work of de Groër it is possible to better understand the process of exchange and inclusion of foreign concepts and proposals, given what history has generally emphasized.

It was possible to verify throughout this paper, that the urban block constituted the founded solution to allow the rehabilitation of the exiting areas, as in the Groër plan for Baixa, but also on new urban interventions such as in the city extension towards north, as in Areeiro. Thus, from the outline of the 20th century urban design developed in Lisbon, under de Groër influence, provides a very different reading from the familiar story of the modernist hero – Le Corbusier – and Athens Charter. At the same time that Groër's proposal for Lisbon reveals a modern city planning, while finding new solutions for the modern society it also reveals relevant and useful ideas for the task of planning more sustainable cities today. His solutions to guarantee better conditions of salubrity and mobility constitute important lessons that should be recuperated into the debate of successful models of modern urban design.

Finally, we should like to underline that the domain of the territory throughout different scales, as followed by Groër it is rare. This was possible in Lisbon, because of the dictatorship situation, although negative from the point of view of democracy, but extremely positive as state/ power that assured the relation of the various scales, which allowed a sense of unity within the whole territory, city and its different neighbourhoods, according to a main idea of urban planning as revealed in de Groër main texts.

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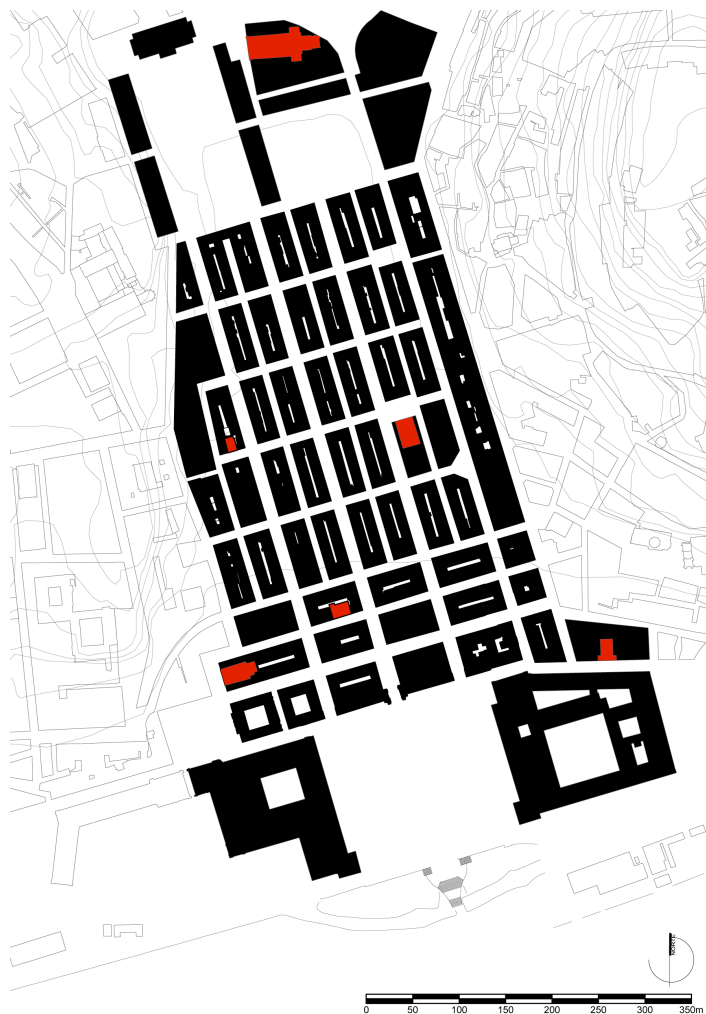


Fig. 1
Actual Plan for the downtown (Baixa)

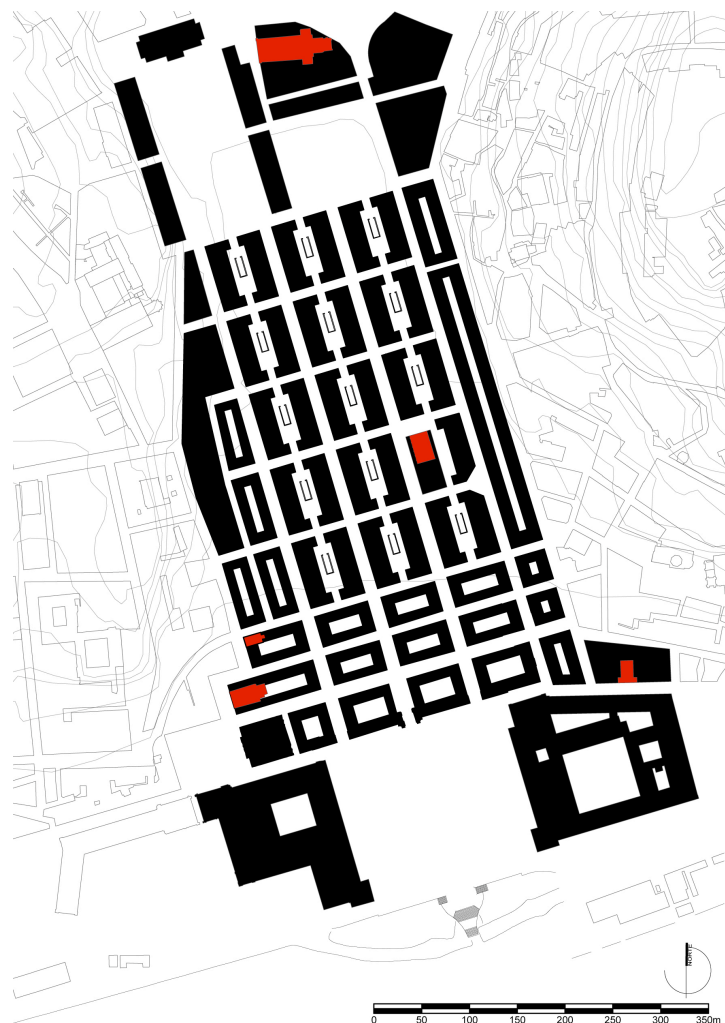


Fig. 2
Proposal Plan for downtown Baixa according to Étienne de Groër.

Hypothetical proposal according to the following source:
 [Plano Director de Lisboa (detalhe)] [Material cartográfico]
 AUTOR(ES): Étienne de Groër
 ESCALA: -
 PUBLICAÇÃO: 27.09.1948
 DESCR. FÍSICA: esboços, dim.: 420 larg. x 325 alt. e 400 larg. x 500 alt., lápis de cor sobre papel colado em cartão
 NOTAS: in TOSTÕES, A. & ROSSA, W. (2009) Lisboa 1758 : O plano da baixa hoje. IN CML (Ed.) ROSSA, Walter ed. Lisboa, Câmara Municipal de Lisboa, Pelouro de Urbanismo e Reabilitação Urbana e o Pelouro de Cultura, Educação e Juventude, pp. 168-169.
 COTA (do arquivo): -
 ARQUIVO: CML/AML

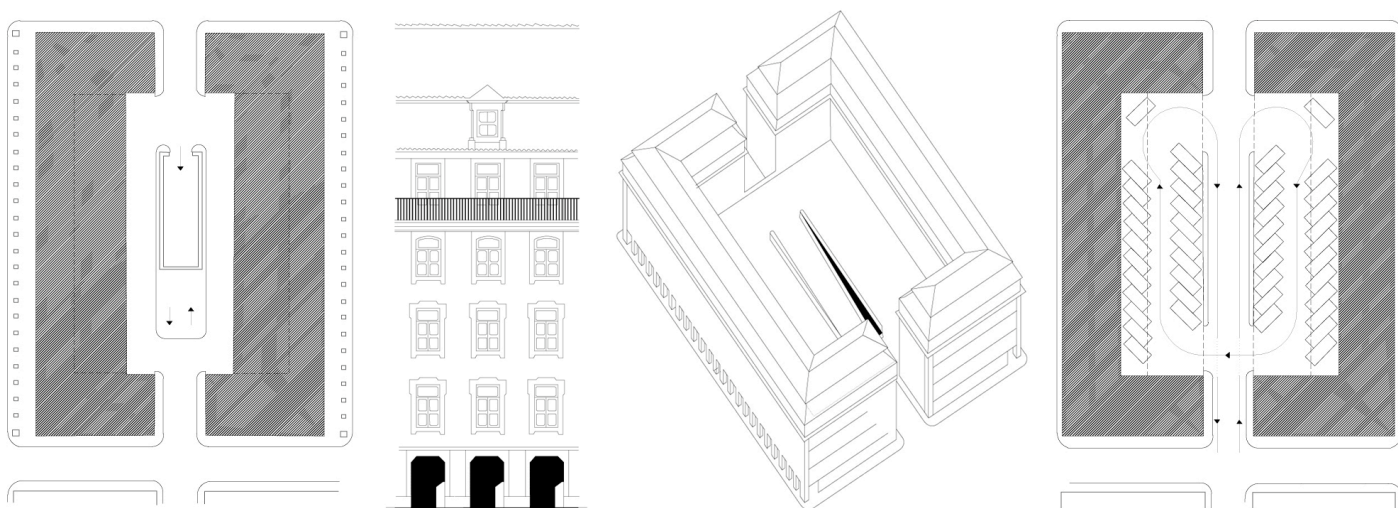


Fig. 3
Proposal details for the Master Plan of Lisbon according to Étienne de Groër.

Hypothetical proposal according to the following source:

[Étienne de Groër, Plano Director de Lisboa, Estudo Pormenorizado da Transformação da Baixa. Saneamento dos Quarteirões e Melhoramento da Circulação] [Material cartográfico]

AUTOR(ES): Étienne de Groër

ESCALA: -

PUBLICAÇÃO: 27.09.1948.

DESCR. FÍSICA: -

NOTAS: in TOSTÕES, A. & ROSSA, W. (2009) Lisboa 1758 : O plano da baixa hoje. IN CML (Ed.) ROSSA, Walter ed. Lisboa, Câmara Municipal de Lisboa, Pelouro de Urbanismo e Reabilitação Urbana e o Pelouro de Cultura, Educação e Juventude.

COTA (do arquivo): -

ARQUIVO: Colecção Particular

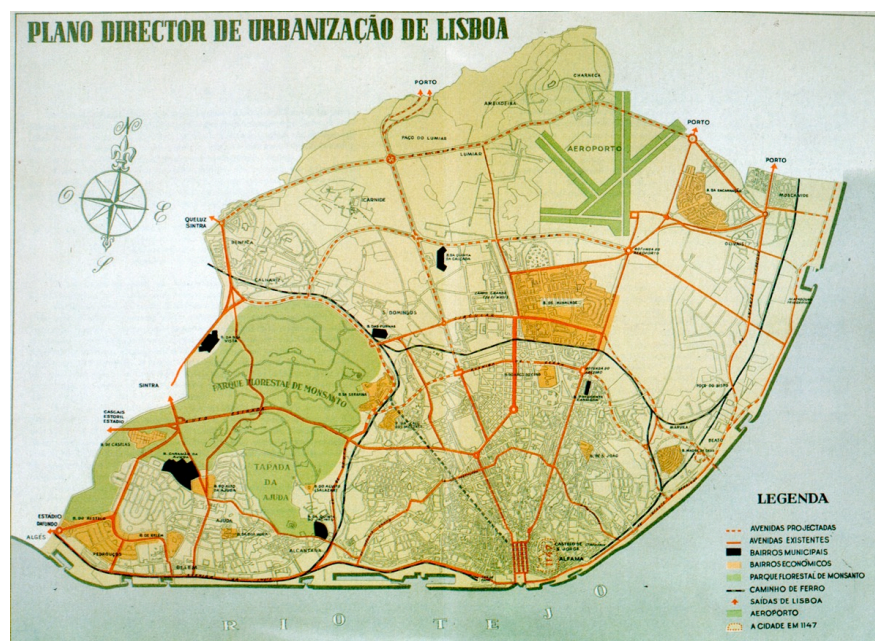


Fig. 4
Master Plan of Lisbon in 1948

[Plano Director de Urbanização de Lisboa (detalhes)]
[Material cartográfico]

AUTOR(ES): Étienne de Groër.

ESCALA: -

PUBLICAÇÃO: 1947

DESCR. FÍSICA: 1 planta : color, 34 x 49 cm

NOTAS: -

COTA (do arquivo): DP 1272 CMLEO

ARQUIVO: GEO - Gabinete de Estudos Olissiponenses

Notes: Figures 1, 2 and 3 by the paper authors. Figure 4 courtesy of Gabinete de Estudos Olissiponenses.

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