

ARCHITECT JOSÉ VELOSO (1930–2024)

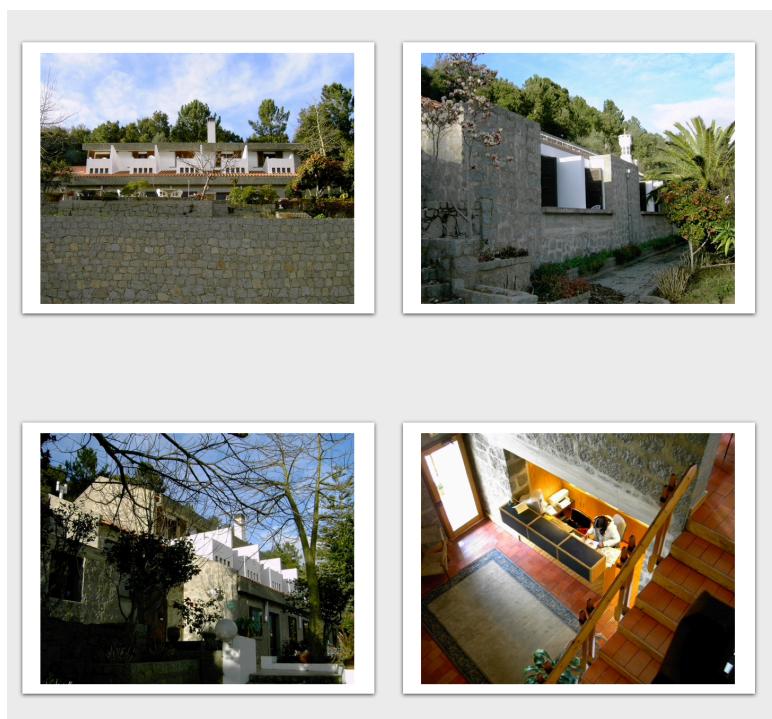


José Paulo Velho Geraldo de Albuquerque was born in Lagos on 9 June 1930. After studying architecture at the Escola Superior de Belas Artes de Lisboa, he returned to his hometown. Since 1955, he has had his own studio or collaborated with architects José Pacheco, Raul Hestnes Ferreira, Rui Paula, Jorge Cardoso da Silva, Fernando Varandas, José Lopes da Costa, Maria Francisca Balmori, Luiz Abreu and designer Manuel Dias.

Sculptors Jorge Vieira, José Santa Barbara and João Cutileiro have also contributed to his projects.

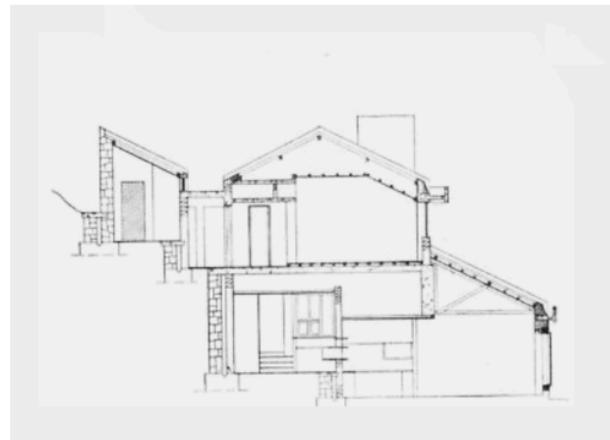
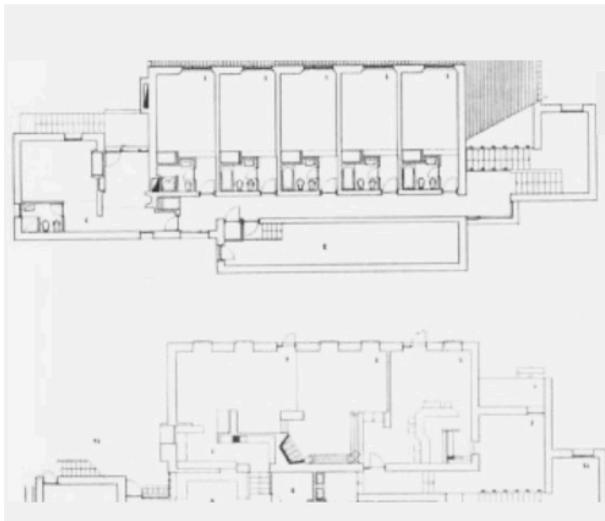
One of his projects from that period, which is included in the DOCOMOMO (Documentation and Conservation of Buildings, Sites and Neighbourhoods of the Modern Movement) inventory, is:

Inn/Hotel “Abrigo da Montanha”, in the mountains of Monchique, (1960).



This building reflects a general vision of design, taking into account the local topography and construction techniques typical of the region. At the same time, it strives for an expressive, almost sculptural appearance, through elements that are integrated into the landscape of the Serra do Algarve

The idea of the building as a refuge forms the basis for the spatial layout, which is aimed at creating an intense experience of the interior. The open façades do not serve as protection, but rather emphasise the panoramic view. This creates a balance between the openness to the landscape and the introspective atmosphere evoked by the building.



Floor plan & cross-section

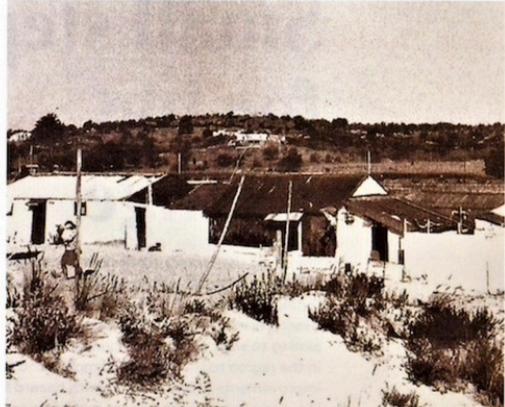
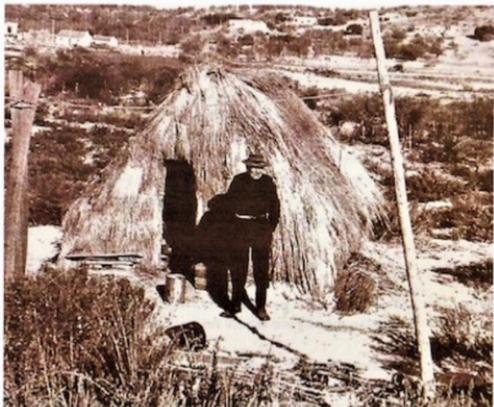
However, following recent renovations, the building has lost some of its original character. The modernisation of the facilities has clearly deviated from the original organic or conceptual principles of the design.

Architect & Activist

José Veloso was not only a respected architect, but also a socially engaged person and a staunch anti-fascist. He was politically active from a young age and fought throughout his life for a just and equal society.

In 1969, he joined the CDE movement, the democratic opposition to the dictatorship. In 1975, he was a candidate for the Constituent Assembly and later for the PCP (Communist Party of Portugal). He was a municipal councillor and alderman in Lagos between 1980

Between 1974 and 1976, he worked for the Housing Fund as coordinator of the SAAL projects (Local Mobile Support) in the Algarve. His name is inextricably linked to the iconic neighbourhood of 'Os Índios da Meia Praia', an example of participatory social housing after the Carnation Revolution.



The thatched huts in the beginning and the later huts

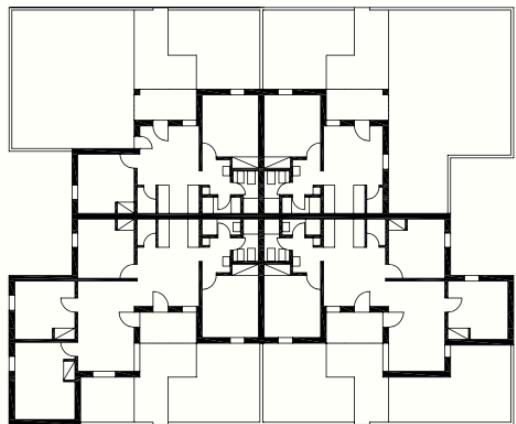
In the early 1970s, fishermen from Monte Gordo settled on Meia Praia. Their thatched huts earned them the nickname “Indians”. After the Carnation Revolution, they were finally granted the right to decent housing through the SAAL project. Veloso convinced the fishermen to build their new neighbourhood themselves, a unique example of popular participation. The 25 de Abril neighbourhood was completed in 1978 for 41 families. The process was documented in the film Índios da Meia Praia by Cunha Telles and sung about by José Afonso. To this day, this neighbourhood is a symbol of community spirit and social struggle, even though its official status is still uncertain.



SAAL project Meia Praia Duna (recent)



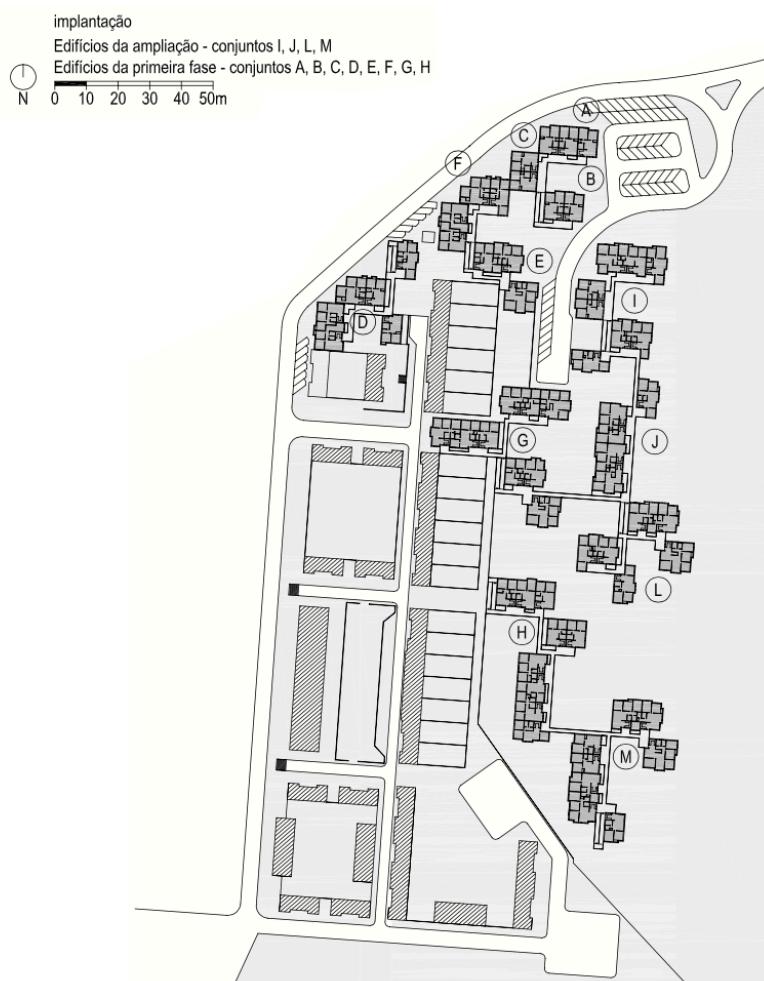
N 0 10 20 30 40 50m
implantação



grupo de fogos: planta
0 2 10m

SAAL project Meia Praia Duna: Floor plans / Urban planning situation / Photos

**SAAL project Cerca do Cimetério in Lagos (1975) for residents' association: 28 de Setembro
Project architect: José Veloso**

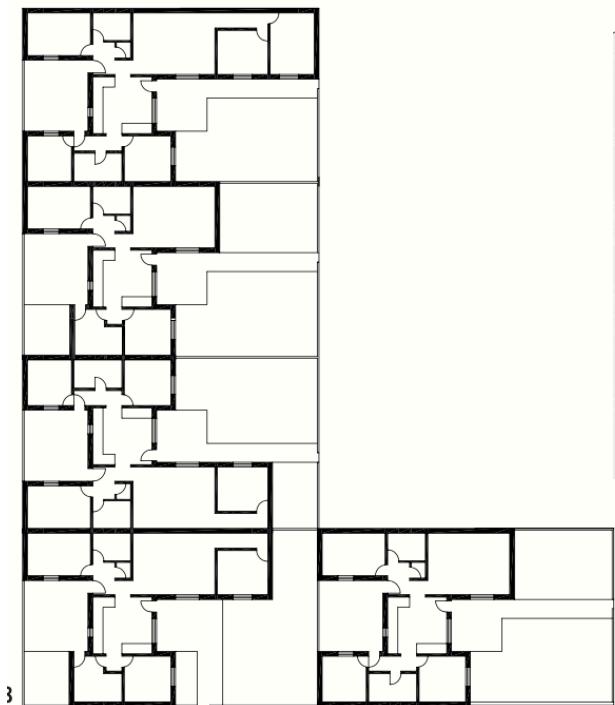


**SAAL project Espiche - Lagos (1975) for residents' association:
Liberdade
Project architect: José Veloso**

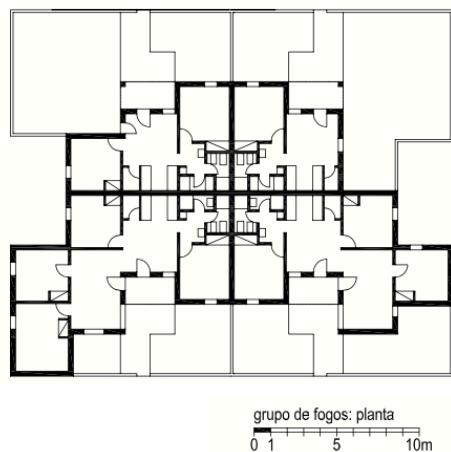


implantação
N 0 10 20 30 40 50m

planta de conjunto
0 1 5 10m



**SAAL project Meia Praia Duna - Lagos (1975) for residents' association: 1e de Maio
Project architect: José Veloso**



**SAAL project Praia da Luz - Lagos (1975) for residents' association:
11 de Marco
Project architect: José Veloso**



In addition to the SAAL projects in Lagos, José Veloso was involved as project architect in several SAAL initiatives in Aljezur, Estômbar, Portimão, Bensafrim, Silves and Vila do Bispo.

1976-2002

From 1976 to 2002, he worked through the BLOCO cooperative on public facilities and cooperative housing in the Algarve and Alentejo. He was a member of the Portuguese delegation to the congresses of the International Union of Architects (UIA), held in 1967 in Czechoslovakia and in 1972 in Bulgaria, and he published in both Portuguese and foreign trade journals. One of his completed projects from that period is:

O Lutzur (1970-1979) - Lagos

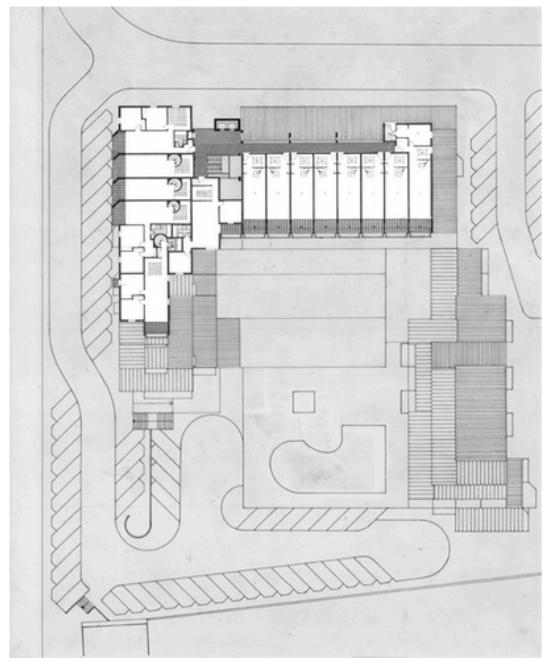
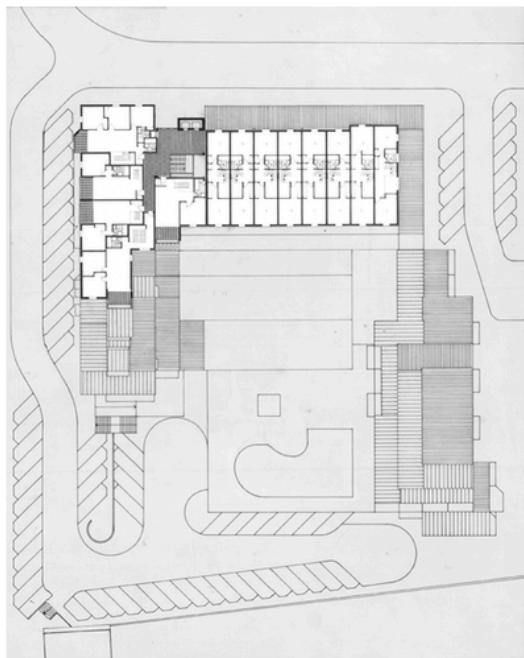
The Lutzur building is located in the village of Luz, on the west coast of the Algarve, near Lagos. At first glance, it looks like an ordinary apartment building, somewhat out of place in terms of scale in relation to its surroundings. On closer inspection, however, especially of the interior, it proves to be surprisingly rich in spatial qualities and public value

Designed in the 1970s by José Veloso, an architect from Lagos with a strong social conscience, the building was intended as a political statement: an alternative to commercial tourist construction. Veloso wanted to create a community that was integrated into the local context and that counterbalanced the economic interests that threatened to dominate the urban fabric.

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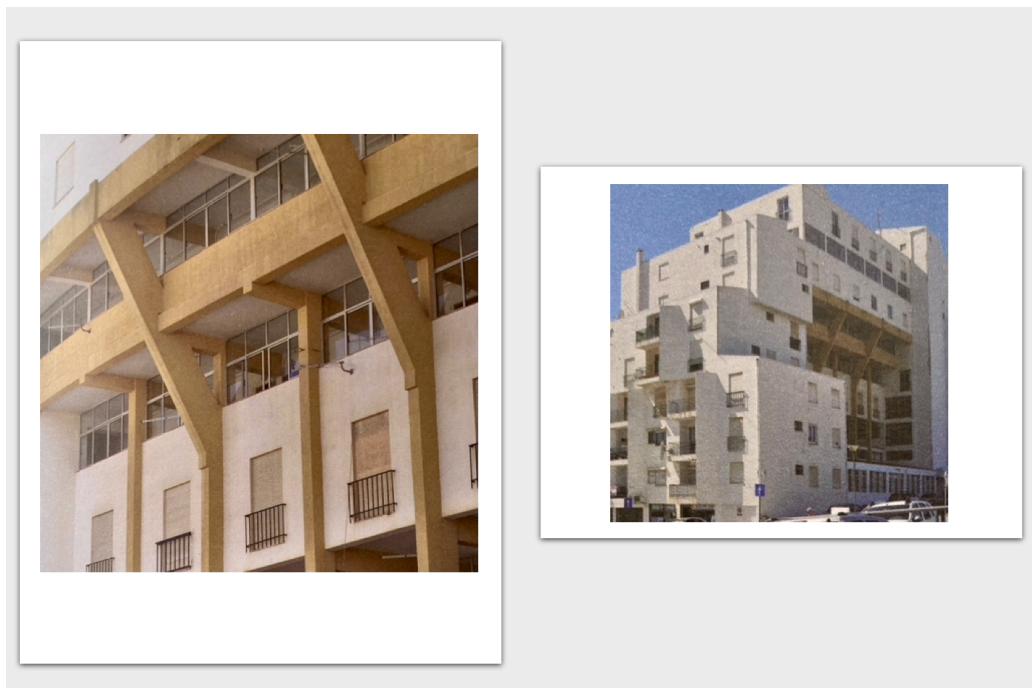


O Lutzur (1970-1979) - Lagos



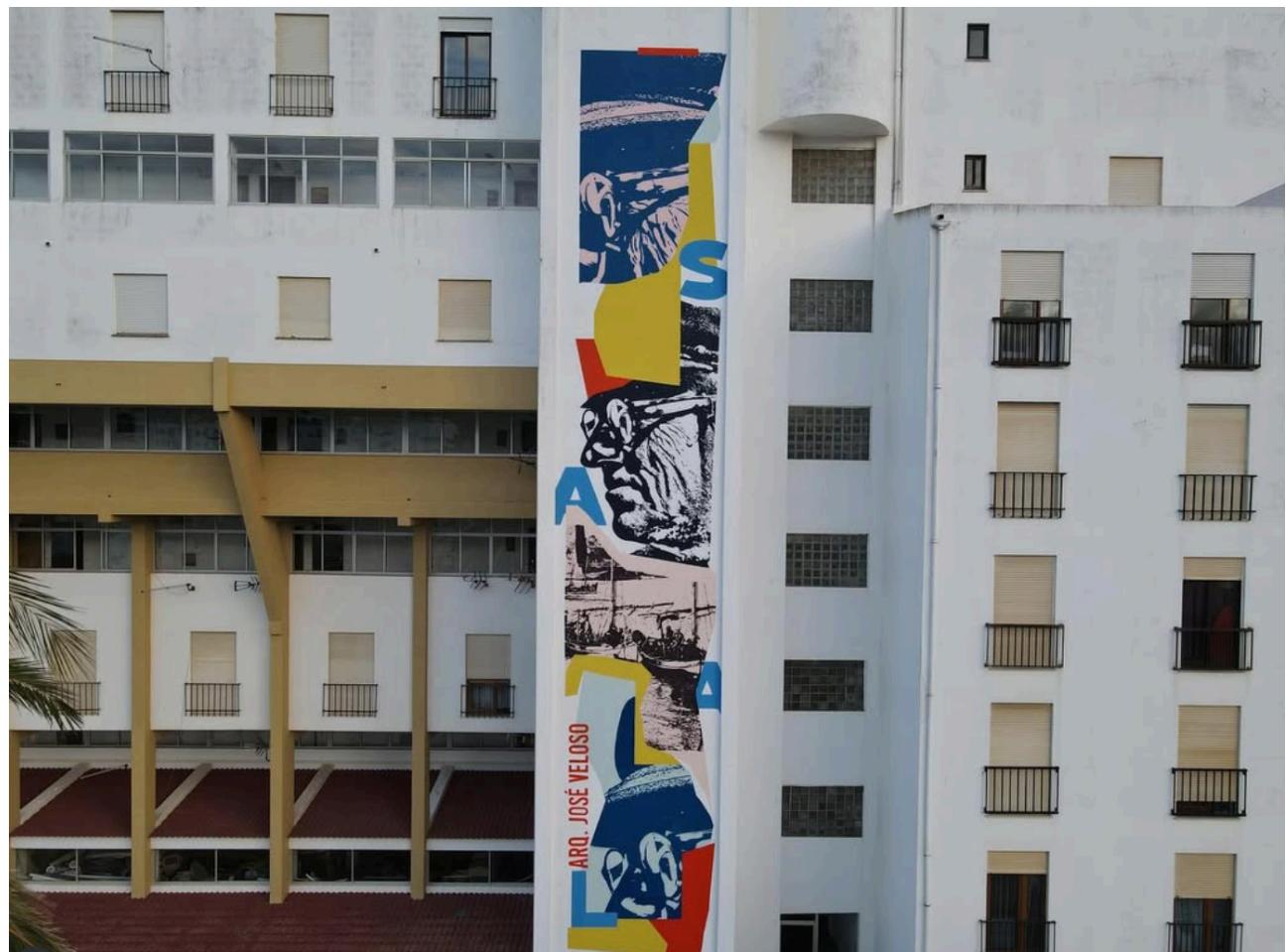
6th and 7th floors Luztur

Luztur was conceived as an open community, with homes, commercial spaces, meeting places, inner streets and patios spread over different levels. Although the building is large-scale for Luz and therefore controversial in appearance, it was built with modest means and simple forms. Over the years, many changes have been made that have partly overshadowed its original qualities, but the essence remains: a lively, social and spatially rich building.



Luztur - Lagos

Luztur is an invitation to look at architecture differently: beyond the purely visual, towards everyday use, community and the designer's ethical commitment.



Tribute to architect José Veloso on the Luztur building

After 2002

In 2002, he resumed his private practice in Faro. He gained recognition for various housing projects and several works were included in national overview studies, books, magazines and heritage list