

REHABILITATION AND EXPANSION OF THE FORMER *D. JOÃO DE CASTRO* HIGH SCHOOL 2007-2008, Lisboa – Portugal

Client Parque Escolar (State corporation)

Engineering Betar (structures), JOULE - Projectos, Estudos e Coordenação (electrics), José Galvão Teles (mechanics), Augusto Teixeira (gas), GR - Estudos, Projectos e Consultoria (water and sewage), Natural Works - Consultants (energy, thermal and acoustics), Marta Byrne (landscape)

Photography João Morgado

The rehabilitation and expansion of the *D. João de Castro* secondary school included the adaptation of the existing structure (the former *D. João de Castro* high school dates back to 1949) to a new programmatic and functional profile, implying sharing its facilities with the Vocational Training Center Electronics Industry (CINEL).

D. João de Castro high school original design dates back to *Estado Novo*, particularly evident in the traditional historicist vocabulary: sloping roof in ceramic tile, eaves in tile along the cornice, trims in carved stone in the main volume's openings; stone foundation at the noble entrance; shield with the Portuguese symbols inherited from the Discoveries period, in its turn affixed to the pediment over the same entrance.

The pre-existing three-storey building sought to resolve the terrain's steep slope topography, in which the first floor is partially buried. On this floor are the two original recreational areas (reflecting the separation between male and female wings), several common spaces, such as social rooms, cafeterias and kitchen, and secretarial and support areas. The spaces corresponding to the canteen, changing rooms and storage rooms are located at the west end of the building under the gym, located on the second floor. In addition to this, the second floor also contains classrooms, laboratories, amphitheatres, library, area exhibition and meeting and teacher rooms. The third floor reflects the same organisation as the second one, bringing together similar functions.

The intervention sought to maintain the identity of the preexistent building, where the pedagogical activities of the secondary school are in part kept and to create a system of buildings juxtaposed to the existing one to accommodate the new features. The new building containing the set of laboratories locates to the north of the main body of the former high school sharing the original circulation spaces that are, in their turn, expanded. This junction gives rise to a central void with a triple ceiling height similar to an interior patio with indirect natural light (through a skylight on the roof). The new building establishes a new urban boundary, emphasised by a new principal public access through a square at the same level of *Jau* street and the neighbouring secondary school (*Rainha D. Amélia*). The preexisting gap between the 2nd floor and the street is no longer an obstacle, protecting the new recreational spaces, cafeteria and other social areas. Finally, the pavilion for sports activities juxtaposes to the body of the old gymnasium. It allows the practice of various approved sports, available to the out-of-school community as well.

