

## Between tradition and innovation – The reconstruction of the area to the east of the Baixa de Lisboa Plan after the 1755 Lisbon Earthquake

### Summary

It was intended to study the process of reconstruction carried out after the earthquake of 1755 in the area of the city of Lisbon limited to the west by Rua da Madalena, to the east by Rua da Padaria and Calçada do Correio, to the south by Rua da Alfândega and to the north by Largo do Caldas, Chão do Loureiro and Rua de São Mamede. It is an area with particular urban characteristics, whose urban mesh clearly distinguishes itself from the orthogonal layout of Baixa, reconstructed according to the Plan of 1758, and the organic mesh of the 1755 old city that is still conserved today hardly unchanged.

These characteristics related to the omission that the instructions of the 1758 Plan make of this area, the difference of treatment established by the Law of May 12th 1758 for the area covered by the Plan and the area where only repair and improvement of the streets was envisaged, the variety of existing proposals for the reconstruction of this area that already trace the general urban structure later built, raised doubts about how did the process of reconstruction of this area happen, what was the solution established for its reconstruction in the context of the reconstruction of the city and how did it evolve until it was built. Could those questions be related to the permanence and articulation between the old and the new, based on a compromise between the remains of the old city and the new architecture, that is, between urban and pre-earthquake practices - Tradition - and the new Plan - Innovation?

The questions that arise regarding the process of reconstruction of this area characterize it as a singular case in the context of the reconstruction of the city carried out after the earthquake of 1755 and therefore very pertinent as object of study, namely from the point of view of the knowledge of the post-earthquake behaviour of the peripheral areas of Baixa.

### Keywords

Lisbon reconstruction, 1755 earthquake, 1758 Plan.



*Framing and marking of the study area in the aerial view of downtown.*



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