Initially built in the 16th century in Regueirão dos Anjos, the modern day church dates back to 1910. It “moved” to the eastern side of Avenida Almirante Reis because plans to improve the city included the original building’s demolition in 1908. The church nevertheless maintains the ornate baroque opulence with which it was originally built.

Defined in Portugal in the 14th century during the reign of D. João II, Portuguese paving can now be found in all cities, towns and villages throughout Portugal. Its use was promoted by castle governor Lieutenant-General Eusébio during the 19th century, and it continues to be used to this day because of its technical, construction and decorative qualities.

Located between Avenida Almirante Reis and Largo do Intendente, Hotel 1908 is a huge corner building that was constructed in the Portuguese modern period. Awarded the Valmor Prize in 1908, with a plan by the architect Adães Bermudes, Hotel 1908 forms part of a group of high-yield properties built in this area by acclaimed architects.

Tiles were a common feature of buildings in Ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia, and flourished around the Mediterranean as Islam expanded. Together with other painting motifs and techniques, patterns can be found which are reminiscent of Islamic geometric designs, developed as an alternative to figurative representations.
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Until Rua da Palma was opened in 1862, this was one of Lisbon’s most important and busiest thoroughfares. This was where traders and outsiders entering and leaving the city through the “Portas da Mouraria” mingled. It is an important centre for master potters and blacksmiths and is now marked by a lively cultural diversity.

Places of worship share their function of safe spaces of welcome and reflection and have various aspects in common, such as the use of sound to summon the faithful (bells). With architecturally different forms adapted to a variety of ceremonies with their own symbolism and images, these differences arise more out of the context in which they are situated — place, period of construction, building techniques and materials available — than the religion they host.

Ornamental and drinking fountains provide people and their animals with water piped from springs. Water, which is fundamental to survival, is associated with cleanliness and symbolically with purity, as evidenced by Jewish baths, Christian baptisms, Hindu washing, Islamic ablutions or the pouring of water at Buddhist funerals. The simplest and most functional fountains resemble each other more closely and are more widespread.

Brickwork originated in the Middle East, where the oldest bricks, dated 7500 bc, were found in what is now Syria. Fired brick, as used in building work in Portugal, was found for the first time in China, and later in what is now India. In both cases the use of an easily shaped local resource (clay) spread rapidly around the Mediterranean, was continued by the Greeks and Romans and is still one of the main construction systems, with handcrafted bricks being a common feature.

In a city, areas where street trading is most prevalent become extremely important for the economic, social and cultural development of a particular way of life. This is where trading is carried on directly between merchants and customers, making them places where new products appear on a regular basis. Restaurants, bars and cafes spring up in such locations to cater for longer-term residents, making these streets genuine social spaces in urban environments.

Art Nouveau

Ornamented in Belgium in the late 19th century, this architectural style characterised by curved lines was influenced by Oriental cultures, particularly the Japanese. Its forms, which took their inspiration from nature, were brought to Europe, where their decorative elements in particular flourished. Art nouveau, also known as the “International Style”, is appreciated throughout the world for its use of a common language which is also found in handicrafts in Eurasia.

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What is your cultural heritage in Av. Almirante Reis?

This project involves a number of contributors and points of view and seeks to pool a broad range of knowledge on the cultural heritage of residents of the Avenida Almirante Reis area, and of people who spend a great deal of their time there.

Groundstigators: Aisha Shonekan, Diego Sebastian Viard, Om Gharti, Ryan Alnajjar, Samiullah Baig, Shangita Pariyan, Syed Uihaque

Partnership: