

Texugueira House

Leiria, Portugal

Its shape stretches on the ground, unfolding from a wall that supports three volumes. Each one has a different scale, offering a different experience, resulting in a dynamic and playful composition.

The first volume is empty at the ground level, providing a covered area for leisure or parking, facing the main entrance to the house, in between a game of pillars.

A painting/music studio is located at the upper level, with a small terrace that opens over the landscape and natural light.

In the central volume there are the main entrance and the social area of the dwelling, including the living room, with a large window over the green surroundings, and the kitchen connecting with the barbecue area and the garden.

The third volume contains the private area, with two bedrooms on the ground floor, which are directly connected with the contiguous garden spaces, and with a suite with balcony on the upper floor.

The dwelling is organized along a closed path that crosses the three volumes, accompanying the linear outer wall leaning against the terrain.

The spaces between the volumes are shaped as small gardens or living areas, in close dialogue with the house and the rural landscape of Texugueira.

Contaminar Arquitectos – arch. Joel Esperança, arch. Ruben Vaz, designer Romeu Sousa

Collaboration: Frederico Louçano, Margarida Carrilho, Hugo Rainho

Typology: 4 rooms

Construction area: 233 m²

Dates: 2011 / 2013

Photography: Fernando Guerra FG+SG architecture photography







CONTAMINAR ARQUITECTOS is an office founded in 2005 in Leiria – Portugal, by the architects **Joel Esperança** and **Ruben Vaz**, together with product and interiors designer **Romeu Sousa**. The team is multidisciplinary and the developed projects cover diverse scales. A significant part of their studio's work explores the numerous possibilities of contemporary dwelling, single family or collective, presenting different projects built in this field.

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Joel Esperança (b. 1980, Leiria) graduated in architecture from the Escola Universitária das Artes de Coimbra (ARCA-EUAC). Between 2003 and 2004 he collaborated with arch. Joaquim Duarte, and between 2004 and 2005 with the Architecture Department of ARCA-EUAC. In 2005 he founded the studio Contaminar Arquitectos with **Ruben Vaz** and **Romeu Sousa**. Currently, he is a doctoral student in architecture at Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura da Universidad de Sevilla in Spain, developing research under the theme of the importance of the architectural heritage in the UNESCO's creative cities Network, and their relationship with tourism.

Ruben Vaz (b. 1980, Coimbra) graduated in architecture from the Escola Universitária das Artes de Coimbra (ARCA-EUAC). Between 2003 and 2004 he collaborated with arch. José Bento, at Figueira da Foz. In 2005 he founded the studio Contaminar Arquitectos with **Joel Esperança** and **Romeu Sousa**. During 2013 he concluded his MA in Architecture at ARCA-EUAC and is, currently, doctoral student in architecture at Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura da Universidad de Sevilla in Spain.

Romeu Sousa (b. 1975, Leiria) graduated in product design from the Escola Universitária das Artes de Coimbra (ARCA-EUAC / 2004) and post-graduated in Building and Environment Energy Efficiency from Universidade Lusíada de Lisboa (2006). Romeu Sousa initiated his professional activity in 1996 at GECO, injection mould factory; as a designer he collaborated with arch. Pedro Mendonça (2001); with the studio Diagonal as product and landscape designer (2002); with Hipotenusa (2003) and with Futi (2004-06) as product design manager. In 2005 he founded the studio Contaminar Arquitectos with **Joel Esperança** and **Ruben Vaz**.

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