

HOUSE IN LAGO

THE FIRST RECORDS OF LAGO APPEAR IN THE 13TH CENTURY. HOWEVER, ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS DEVELOPED IN THE 80S SHOW DIFFERENT SETTLEMENT PERIODS IN THIS TERRITORY, REVEALING A PARTICULAR TYPE OF PROTO-HISTORIC "CASTRO" SETTLEMENT. THE NAME OF THIS PARISH OF AMARES MIRRORS ITS MAIN TERRITORIAL CHARACTERISTICS: A VALLEY WHERE ITS RUGGED NATURE DELIMITED BY THE CONFLUENCE OF TWO RIVERS, CÁVADO AND HOMEM, LEADS TO A SWAMP - FRUITFUL LAND THAT CHARACTERISES THE RURAL NUCLEUS WHERE THE BUILDING TO BE REHABILITATED IS INSERTED.

THE HOUSE WITH A GABLE ROOF IN THE MINHO REGION IS NO LONGER IN ITS ORIGINAL STATE. OVER THE YEARS, CONSECUTIVE WORKS AND ADAPTATIONS, AS WELL AS THE CONSEQUENCES OF PROPERTY DIVISION MADE THIS PLOT OF LAND UNINHABITABLE. ONCE AGAIN, THE "CHAMELEON" HOUSE OFFERS ITS GROSS STRUCTURE SO THAT INSIDE SOMETHING NEW ARISES.

THE NEED TO COMPLY WITH THE FUNCTIONAL ORGANISATION CHART AND PROVIDE THIS STRUCTURE WITH COMFORT REQUIRES THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A NEW THIN AND LIGHT LAYER, WITHOUT BEING IN CONTACT WITH THE STRUCTURE SO IT CAN BREATHE. IT ONLY CREATES THE NECESSARY FRAME BOUNDING THE NEW SPACES.

THE INTERVENTION REPRESENTS A REINTERPRETATION OF THE RAW INTERIOR SPACE, STRIPPED OF ORNAMENT, WHERE THE THICK GRANITE WALL - OLD FAÇADE IN CONTACT WITH THE ONCE ABSORBED TRADITIONAL BALCONY - ASSUMES AN INEVITABLE PRESENCE IN THE DEFINITION OF THE HABITABLE SPACE. ITS CENTRALITY DEFINES AND ENFORCES THE ASSUMED CROSSING POINTS. ON THE LOWER STOREY WE WITNESS THE MYSTERIOUS CROSSING BETWEEN THE ENTRANCE AND THE DOUBLE-HEIGHT KITCHEN AND LIVING ROOM, ANNOUNCING THE ACCESS TO THE MOST INTIMATE AREA OF THE HOUSE ON THE UPPER STOREY. IF THE KITCHEN IS A SPACE CONFINED TO ITS FUNCTION, THE LIVING ROOM IS FREE TO UNDERTAKE NEW FUNCTIONALITIES, WHERE THE STAIRCASE - BESIDES ITS INHERENT FUNCTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY - OFFERS ITS STEPS SO WE CAN COMFORTABLY SIT ON THEM.

THE PROJECT, WHICH IS VERY BASIC, IS ORGANISED ACCORDING TO THE RHYTHM AND INTENSITY OF THE LIGHT PASSING THROUGH THE EXISTING OPENINGS OF THE PERIPHERAL WALLS, ENSURING LIGHTING AND VENTILATION TO ALL LIVING SPACES OF THE HOUSE.

THE LIMITED RESOURCES REQUIRE RAW FINISHES, GIVING THE STRUCTURAL MATERIALS A FINAL FINISH. THE CONSTANT RESPECT FOR ITS PRE-EXISTENCE AND IDENTITY REFLECT AN IMPORTANT TECTONIC INTERPRETATION. THE FLOOR OF THE "SHOP" - ONCE A DIRT FLOOR - MATERIALISES IN A CONTINUOUS CONCRETE SURFACE, AND THE WOOD FLOORS AND BADLY DAMAGED WOODWORK YIELD TO NEW WOODS, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THEIR SENSORY POSSIBILITIES.