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**Tomar  
Environmental  
Monitoring  
Interpretation  
Offices  
Portugal**



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## Tomar Environmental Monitoring Interpretation Offices Portugal

Since the last decade of the xx century, it as been usual, especially in the old Europe, the comission of projects demanding the conservation and conversion of constructions from a recent and distant past and from the most diverse typologies, and cultural matrices. This preservation syndrome, sometimes leads to a overvaluation of the building structures. Age is not a warranty of architectural quality, on the contrary it is a natural process of selection. *Sometimes the preservation of the architecture we possess, can be, the worst manner of Destruction.*

The Project is a reconversion of a former rundown infrastructure that plays a relevant role in the social and urban context of the city of Tomar, although without any particular architectural interest.

The building has been subjected to several attachments and changes over the years, finding itself threatened by some decadence and inadequate for the intended use. Eventhough the building it's protected under historic-preservation ordinances.

The new program comprises two distinct areas: a public area for exhibitions, meetings and cafeteria and a private area consisting of Lecture rooms and accommodation for invited artists.

Confronted with the regulation plans, the design maintains the entire external perimeter construction, while its rundown interior is totally scooped out.

Due to the functional program, the new construction establishes itself as the anatomy of the existing building. A new architectural body that runs troughout the available space.

The private areas are volumetrically defined within the structure and optimized for inhabitability. The Social life, exhibitions and meetings take place in the interstitial space around the new structure, and are characterized and organized by the programmatic events defined by the enclosed spaces.

The existing building aquires a new interior reading, being reconfigured and transformed in a unitarian and hermetic space. For the organism that contaminates the interior it was created and developed a kind of skin. A materiality intended to be abstract and simultaneously expressionistic.

An organism capable of producing space, instaled in a shell that was progressively deflated and then insulated with a new and strange form of life.

E M B A I X A D A

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