



A PORTUGUESE HOUSE

Our main goal is to reconcile the individual need of privacy with the collective necessities of the community. The proposed typology comes from the traditional portuguese house: one storey pitched roof building. But beyond this archetypal image an innovative reinterpretation of existing housing modes in Azenha emerges. The traditional portuguese house adapts to the specific needs of modern society. We believe that the idea of house in a place like Azenha has to be tightly connected to productive activities. At the same time the rapidly and unpredictably changing needs of such a small community can be met only through buildings resulting adaptable in their configuration and flexible in their uses. A family house that can become a co-housing space, a tourist residence, a senior residence or a working place through simple actions.

In order to reach this adaptability, the house services and facilities are designed as an autonomous core that could adapt to different layouts of the living spaces, whose divisions are realized with light prefabricated movable systems. Differently from what happens in the existing houses, the layout is not rigidly normalized by standards but founded on the idea of variety of spaces.

Micro-actions on existing houses and shared outer open spaces promote a redesign of the urban environment, which can be activated even with the actual scarce resources, keeping the consolidated image of this small place.

The use of colours, economical and traditional materials and recognizable elements like the tall chimneys help the construction of a shared community identity.

The same principles guide the design of those facilities which will contribute to the sustainable development of Azenha: multipurpose spaces, adaptable to different common uses, from production to social and cultural activities. The architecture of these spaces is nothing but an enlargement of the house, making them something similar to big houses for the whole community.

