

The 19th century and the urban transformation of Porto – from bourgeoisie to labour areas

Coordinated by **Jorge Ricardo Pinto**

Fed by the Port wine business with Northern Europe, Porto enriched tremendously in the eighteenth century. Churches and palaces were built, houses were furnished and altarpieces gilded up, streets and squares were opened, and the entire urban area of Porto was revolutionised, both inside and outside its walls. The Nordic influence, especially of the large British community who controlled the wine business, is encrusted in the alignments and façades, in the urban expansion and in the weaving of the mesh, organised from long and narrow lots, in a radial plan that sprouted from the fourteenth-century wall, the fixation line from which the inner fringe belt of Porto was organised.

The first half of the nineteenth was a period of constructive calmness, made of invasions (the French invasions) and internal intrigues, conflicts (civil war) and cholera epidemics. However, from the 40s of the nineteenth century, Porto rose obsessively upon the word 'Progress', in iron and glass, thus structuring a city made of multiple morphologic patterns and a complex social geography that distinguished the poor interiors from the external elegance of the city blocks/quarters; the productive east from the consumerist west part of the city; the former centre from the urban expansion of the second half of the eighteenth century and of the entire nineteenth century.

The visit 'The 19th century and the urban transformation of Porto - from bourgeoisie to labour areas' shall cross much of this expansion area of the city, the 'Portuguese Manchester' as it was known by the time, seeking to understand and demonstrate the relationship between the constructive fabric and the city's social organisation, within the urban plan, regarding the form and use of the land.



Figure 1. The 1892 plan



Figure 2. Praça Almeida Garret