

The Modernist City

Coordinated by **David Viana**

The tour will be in *Foco*, the *Boavista* Residential Complex in Porto, where the author of the project, Agostinho Ricca (1915-2010), structured the urban layout based on the principles of the Modernist City.

This project, placed alongside the *Boavista* Avenue, was developed during the 1960s and finished in the 1970s. The residential and office buildings are complemented with some urban equipment such as a cinema, a hotel and a church (*Igreja de Nossa Senhora da Boavista*).

Traditional elements of urban form, such as closed blocks and ‘corridor’ streets weren’t integrated in this project. Instead, the author explored modern planning ideas such as isolated collective residential buildings, placed perpendicular to the street. The organization of the Complex includes generous green spaces, with trees and vegetation that sets the framework for the collective and public activities from those living there or working at the offices or at the commercial galleries.

The public space was used as a key element to assemble not only urban/social interaction, but also to establish a logical relation between the different urban facilities – the Cinema, the Hotel (with swimming pool), the Church, etc. The public space configuration separates functional sectors, as the ones designated to parking, and the areas for residents enjoying the open space and nature. Another important role related to the green elements, and to the commercial galleries, is the scale transition between the massive residential buildings and the rest of the complex.



Figure 1. Foco