

# Portuguese Colonial Architectural Archives at the Arquivo Histórico Ultramarino

## mid 19<sup>th</sup> century to 1975

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The Arquivo Histórico Ultramarino holds several archives kept by the Portuguese Colonial Public Works Services seated in Lisbon and related with Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, São Tomé and Príncipe, Mozambique, India, Macao and East Timor. The main creators of these archival records were different departments of the Ministério das Colónias / Ministério do Ultramar (1911-1975) and its predecessor, the Secretaria de Estado dos Negócios da Marinha e do Ultramar (1835-1910). The functions of these departments, variable along time included: the administration and, in certain periods, the direct study, construction and maintenance of public buildings and infrastructures; the management of the Mail and Telegraph; the production of statistics, geological and mines studies; the set up of settlements; the support to scientific explorations and to colonial exhibits.

The Arquivo Histórico Ultramarino hosted two research projects on this archival shared heritage: ‘The Colonial Urbanization Offices’ and ‘Coast to Coast’, funded by the Portuguese Foundation to Science and Technology.

Both projects covered a timeline from 1870 to 1975 and enabled the processing of c. 412 linear meters of records and c. 18.000 archival descriptions available at <http://ahu.dglab.gov.pt>.

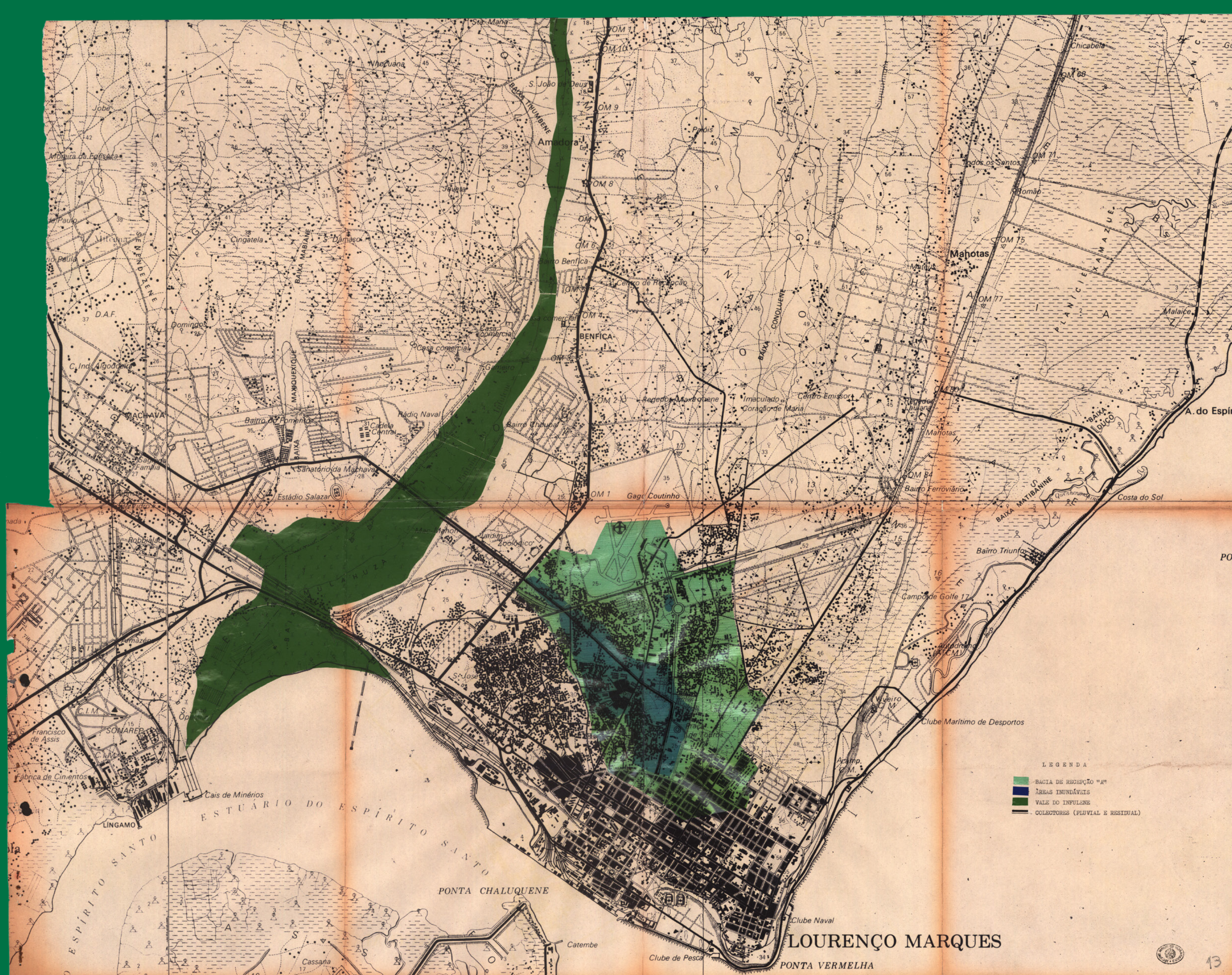
Among the textual documents there are: architectural and engineering projects, building standards and procedures, correspondence (official letters, telegrams, letters), copybooks, reports, accounting documents, statistics, tender files, material and equipment contracts, personnel files, newspaper clippings, catalogues and technical editions.

Graphic documents comprise: architectural and engineer’s drawings, cartography, charts, and photography.

These records regard mainly: railway lines, stations and buildings, ports, lighthouses, bridges, viaducts, tunnels, roads and hydraulic works such as dams, floodgates, water supply and other basic sanitation facilities; urbanization matters; civil and military public buildings such as housing, post offices, customs, hospitals, schools, prisons, military barracks and fortresses.



Angola, Port of Lobito, 1973  
PT, AHU, AGU/PG 2469



Mozambique, Lourenço Marques / Maputo sanitation plan, 1972  
PT, AHU, IPAD 14265