

Casa do Médico de S. Rafael Doctors' Home and Care Facility at Sines – Portugal (2008)

This Architectural Project that the *SRS Ordem dos Médicos* (Portuguese College of Physicians) sponsored and commissioned, comprehends the renovation and extension of two 2 storey-building as a Home and Care Facility for Physicians at Sines (a small coastline village 160Kms south of Lisbon)

This town-social equipment has a 2 fold purpose consisting of a residencial area for senior people as well as allocating services supporting it's members (College of Physicians) on their social and professional events and meetings, including restaurant, large rooms, library and high-tech computer equipment working areas

This facility combines 2 buildings connected by a closed-built bridge at the 1st floor level. This bridge allows the quarter to regain the existing pedestrian way, improving circulation in the community and the enjoyment of its yards.

The older building (the old S. Rafael Farmhouse) had it's façades and exterior volumetry rebuilt and a full interior renovation work to serve the new function. Basically this building encloses the mentioned rooms for social recreation and professional meetings, library, reception and direction offices, lunch area and exterior balcony towards the sea.

The new residencial wing stands on a different design concept with a contemporary outlook still inspired in the traditional archtypes of the region. This block accommodates 20 bedrooms that vary in area according to different sorts of lodging (ex: permanent or occasional) plus a parking area for 15 vehicles on the basement.

The access to the rooms re-creates the traditional street of the *Alentejo* region and is topped by a "conservatory-type" glassed roof. The eastern extremity of this block is closed by a quiet and shady in-wall garden, so precious during warm summer climature.