

MONTE DA HERDADE DO REGO

Vila Boim, Elvas - Portugal

The series of buildings normally comprising the main house, houses for permanent or temporary farm employees and the annexes for storing equipment and sometimes cattle, feed, etc., is called a *monte* in Southern Portugal, and especially in the Alentejo region.

The *monte* of this property, the Herdade do Rego, was quite run-down when the current owners bought it and decided to renovate it.

The type of construction, using lath-and-plaster walls and half-pipe roof tiles laid on timber beams, very characteristic of the region, could be made out in the structures that remained.

The solid architecture of the old house still displayed its durability and blended with the land so successfully that they seemed to merge. The impression they gave was that one could not exist without the other.

Old and new were integrated using the same architectural approach, the same typology, making the best use of the building and provide it with the utmost comfort and solidity.

“(...) Baganha has consolidated an existing building, restoring it and adding a new building as an extension. He has followed the traditional techniques used for the existing house, and has made every effort to ensure that the new building provides the utmost comfort. (...) added a wine vault, built in a style similar to others in the region: magnificent brick vaulting gives one a sense of being in a timeless wine cellar, as if it had always been there. Only the newness of the walls and vaults reveal that it cannot have been built all that long ago(…)” – *Javier Cenicacelaya*

Attached images, credits: FG+SG Fotografia de Arquitectura