



HOSPITAL DE SANTA MARTA



Image: Rosa Reis



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FROM CONVENT TO HOSPITAL

In 1569, by request of Father António de Monserrate from the Companhia de Jesus, the King Sebastião authorized the creation of a recollection to receive maidens orphaned due to the Big Plague of Lisbon. This community was installed in an hospice built between Anunciada and Andaluz places.

After papal authorization, in 1583, a convent of Poor Clares (nuns from the Order of Saint Clare) was created invoking Santa Marta de Jesus. The founders were three nuns coming from another convent in Santarém.



Over the years, the space underwent improvements with the application of various tile panels, both in the cloister and in the church, gatehouse and chapter room.

The 1755 earthquake caused major damages to the complex, forcing the nuns to live in barracks until the completion of the reconstruction works.

With the end of the religious orders in 1834 and the extinction of the convent at the time of death of the last nun in 1887, the building passed

Central motif of the fresco in the church's former lower choir vaulted ceiling, depicting Santa Marta.

Actual chapel of Hospital de Santa Marta.

Image: Rosa Reis

to the National Treasury, having been used for various assistance functions, until it was attached to the Hospital de São José, in 1903.

Within the hospitals reorganization implemented by Curry Cabral, Enfermeiro-Mor (head of the administration board) between 1901-1910, the former convent underwent adaptation works transforming it into a modern hospital, with two new buildings and new departments.

The new hospital had electricity and a water powered lift.

Curry Cabral ended up removed from his position after the Implantation of the Republic and the new hospital was destined to be a teaching hospital.

In 1953, the medical education was transferred to the brand new Hospital de Santa Maria and Santa Marta was reinstated in Hospitais Civis de Lisboa, specializing in Cardiology and Pneumology.



Overview of the former Santa Marta de Jesus Convent's gatehouse.

Image: Rosa Reis

GATEHOUSE AND CLOISTERS

GATEHOUSE

The entrance to the religious space is made through the former gatehouse, dominated by two large tile panels from the 17th century. Attributed to Gabriel del Barco, they depict scenes from Santa Clara's life. From here we enter the cloisters.

CLOISTERS

Square in plan, the cloisters were built in the mannerist style, with tall arches and tile friezes dating from the first half of the 18th century.

Two polychrome tiled niches can be noted in this space. Dating from the 17th century, they form a tapestry pattern. At the centre of the courtyard, stands a baroque fountain, whose authorship is attributed to architect João Antunes. The tiles were restored in the early 20th century, and the cropped top half added.



Baroque fountain in the cloisters

Image: Rosa Reis

OUR LADY OF SALVATION ALTAR

In the “Heart Building”, at the end of a long corridor, stands a polychrome tile panel produced by the Fábrica do Rato, in the late 18th century. It reproduces an altar, but its shape corresponds to a fountain that existed in the former convent complex.

The central panel depicts Our Lady of Salvation and the side scenes represent the Monstrance Miracle and the Roses Miracle.

On the bottom side, it can be seen a tapestry patterned tile panel, dating from the 17th century.



On the stairway to the Medicine Infirmary there are three tiled panels, equally from the late 18th century, Although belonging to the former convent, its initial location is unknown. They were a part of another set of panels that are, nowadays, at the Museu Nacional do Azulejo.

Our Lady of Salvation Altar

Image: Rosa Reis

CHAPTER ROOM

HCL DR. ALBERTO MAC-BRIDE MUSEM

The former Chapter Room is covered in almost its entirety with pictorial tiles from the first half of the 18th century, depicting scenes from the life of Santa Clara, São Francisco de Assis, Santa Teresa de Ávila and S. João Baptista.

There are also several patterned tiles.



1

2



This space was, between 1957 and 1977, the Hospitais Civis de Lisboa Dr. Alberto Mac-Bride Museum.

Its name is an homage to a Hospital de São José surgeon, that throughout his life collected numerous objects and documents pertaining to the

History of Medicine in Portugal.

Image 1: Overview of the former Santa Marta Convent's Chapter Room

Rosa Reis

Image 2: Overview of the former Hospitais Civis de Lisboa Dr. Alberto Mac-Bride Museum

CHULC Archive

CHURCH

MAIN ALTAR AND LOWER CHOIR

The mannerist style church, with one nave, has intercommunicating side chapels and a detached main altar. The construction of the latter started in 1612 and was funded by Helena de Sousa and her husband, Diogo Lopes de Lima (King Sebastião's steward and *sumilher*), killed at the Alcácer Quibir Battle.

As patrons, the chapel's crypt was reserved for their grave. Besides, Helena de Sousa also payed for the lifelong privilege of having a passage built between the chapel and her house, to be used '*whenever she had devotion*'.

In the side chapels and lower choir (where nowadays functions the Hospital's chapel), and other spaces, several tapestry patterned tile panels, dating from the 17th century can be seen.

The main chapel was altered several times, specifically in the 18th century when a baroque gilded carved altarpiece was installed. This was given to Santo António do Estoril Church, early in the 20th century, when Santa Marta church was adapted to other functions.



Memorial Stone at the Main Altar.

Next page: Custódio Cabeça, Francisco Gentil, Francisco Pulido Valente, Carlos George and António Egas Moniz.

Images: CHULC Archive

HOSPITAL ESCOLAR DE LISBOA (1910-1953)

The Hospital de Santa Marta was created in the framework of Lisbon's medical assistance reorganization implemented by José Curry Cabral. His intention was to transfer to the new space the Hospital do Desterro's patients. Shortly before the Implantation of the Republic, that objective was abandoned, and the Hospital de Santa Marta was destined to be a teaching hospital, under the dependence of the Faculdade de Medicina de Lisboa at Campo Sant'Ana. Those functions transitioned to the brand new Hospital de Santa Maria in 1953.



In the list of prominent figures of the medical teaching are Custódio Cabeça e Francisco Gentil. In the Internal Medicine stand out the names of Francisco Pulido Valente e Carlos George. Among other medical specialties here developed, takes point the Neurosurgery, with António Egas Moniz. In 1923 he developed the use of contrast in Radiology, performing the 1st worldwide Cerebral Angiography. In 1949 he received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for the discovery of the therapeutic value of leucotomy in certain psychoses.

Hospital de Santa Marta

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Informations and bookings:

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