

Casa Fernando Pessoa more open and accessible

On March 1st, Casa Fernando Pessoa, at Rua Coelho da Rocha nº 16, will close its doors, reopening them later this year, more accessible to all visitors and showcasing a new museography project which will grant a wider access to the writer's estate.

During the next months, the place where Fernando Pessoa lived his last 15 years will be subject to procedures which will allow us to answer to the growing number of visitors who seek to know more about the author who became, over the last decades, a worldwide symbol of Portuguese literature.

Throughout this period, Casa Fernando Pessoa will continue its activities from different points of Lisbon. This will happen in schools, on the streets walked on by Pessoa, in the neighbourhood of Campo de Ourique and other cultural units of the EGEAC network, such as theatres and museums of the city. We will keep having our walking tours, workshops and other offers from our Educational Service, as well as some of our programming cycles, such as the *World Poetry Classes*, the *Poetry Book Fair* (in partnership with the Junta de Freguesia of Campo de Ourique), the *Living Poets Society* (in partnership with D. Maria II National Theatre), or the second edition of the international meeting *Lisbon Revisited – Days of Poetry*, in June.

Inaugurated in 1993, nowadays under the management of EGEAC, Casa Fernando Pessoa's mission is to make use of Fernando Pessoa's legacy and to serve as a place where people can meet and ponder on literary creation. As a result of a growing interest on Pessoa and striving to accompany the trends of cultural tourism, Casa Fernando Pessoa has developed new services and offers throughout the years. It is noteworthy that, over the last six years, the number of visitors more than doubled.

The new project for the building was made necessary by the volume of visitors and the diversity of the public; and created in partnership with Turismo de Portugal, to render our House even more accessible and inclusive, thus replying to a growing demand.

With the new museography project, we also intend to open Pessoa's private library (and other pieces of our collection) to an increased interaction with our visitors. Currently only available to researchers, although published online to all audiences, this collection of books is Casa Fernando Pessoa's most valuable asset and will, in the future, be showcased.

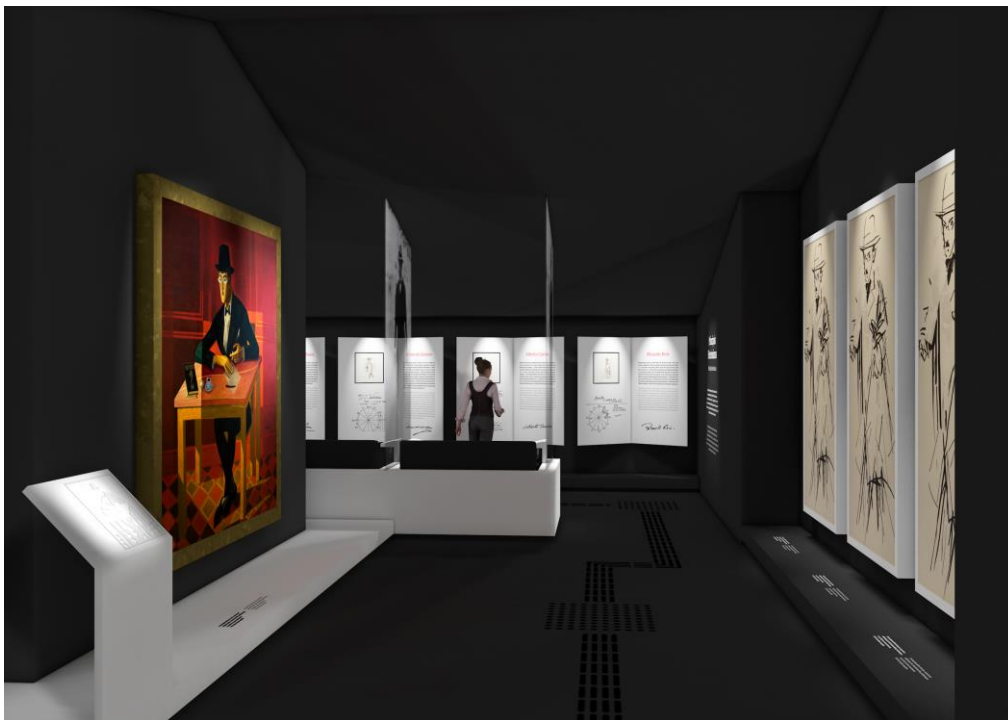
Distributed through three floors and with a considerable larger area, the new exhibition will reinforce Casa Fernando Pessoa's position on the route of Lisbon's museums, presenting itself as a literature museum dedicated to Pessoa, available to all those interested in better knowing the author and accessing a place of literature and poetry in town.

About the project:

The remodelling project of the building is signed by José Adrião Arquitectos and the museography project was executed by Gabinete de Design GBNT, from a proposal by the curator Paulo Pires do Vale. Researchers specializing in Fernando Pessoa and relatives of the writer were called upon for the conception of the information contents. The non-profit organization Acesso Cultura was our advisor in terms of accessibility issues.

The improvement of Casa Fernando Pessoa's accessibilities is one of the focal points of this project, aiming at requalifying the premises to completely fulfil all legal requirements in this area. This intervention on our premises was partly financed by the Linha de Apoio ao Turismo Acessível, from Turismo de Portugal, a program established to promote the continuous qualification and rehabilitation of public spaces with touristic relevance and the build-up of added value to Portugal's Cultural Heritage.

Museography project images by GBNT:



3rd floor - Almada - Júlio Pomar



2nd floor – Library



3rd floor – Typewriter