

REMODELING

Country Homes





This old shepherds' building, situated in a beautiful spot of the Algarve, has been extended and reconstructed, preserving the typical elements of the region, and transformed into a home and a house for rural tourism.

Monte dos Mosqueiros

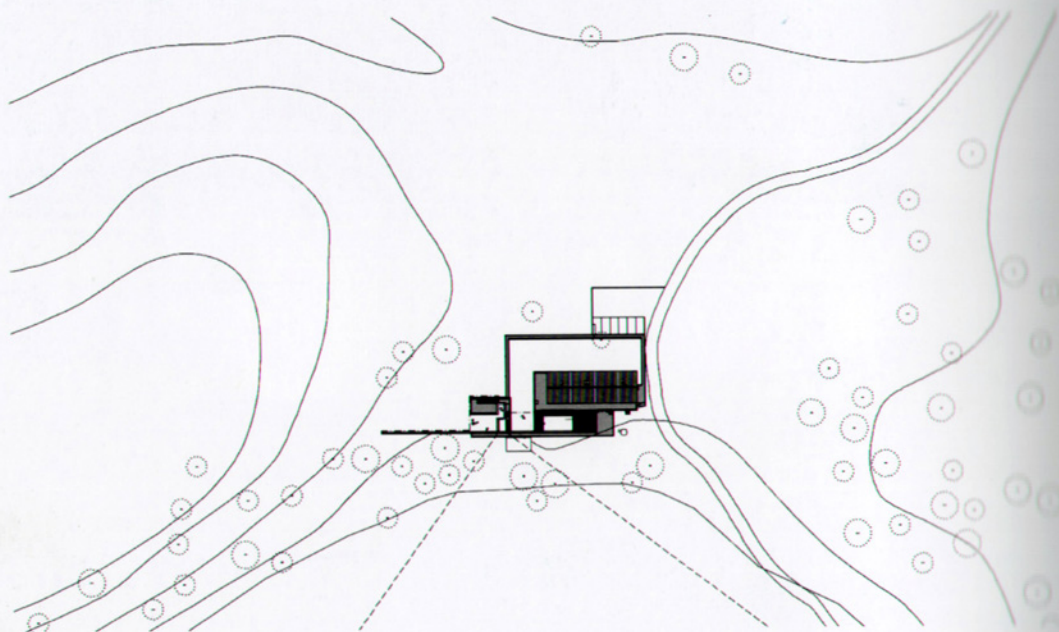
Architects: BFJ Arquitectos
Photographer © Daniel Malhão
Location: Portimão, Portugal
Completion date: 2006

The position of the old construction at the top of a small valley and its northeast orientation offer spectacular views of the Sierra de Monchique. It was an agricultural building that was used as a home by a shepherd and as a refuge for the flock. The openings are therefore positioned to offer the possibility of surveying the valley, used for crops. The restoration was considered with rural tourism in mind and included an extension that would also accommodate a home. The existing building was reconstructed preserving and enhancing its most characteristic aspects.

The extremely thick exterior walls were preserved, as well as the existing openings, which presented a highly harmonious sequence and proportion. Annexes that had been added were demolished since they were in very bad condition and detracted from the overall balance of the main construction. The natural inclination of the hillside was used as foundations for the new construction, offering support for the pool and the terrace. The extension from the excavation was the same size as the pre-existing construction. Structural reinforcements were added on the exterior walls, which



required a new structure of concrete pillars inserted into the existing wall, adhering to a crown beam. The wall was finished in brickwork to offer uniformity to the interior surface and improve the thermal insulation. Local techniques and materials were used for the surfaces, such as the whitewashed walls and ceilings, the red clay tiles for the floor and limestone from the Monchique region, which was used for a variety of finishes in the bathrooms and the kitchen.

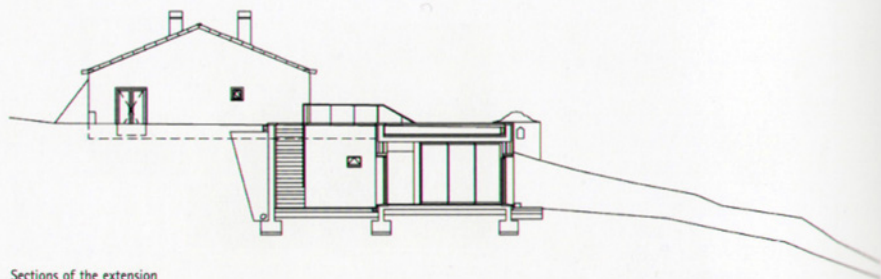
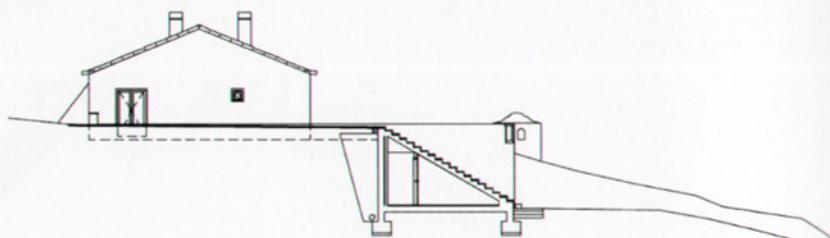
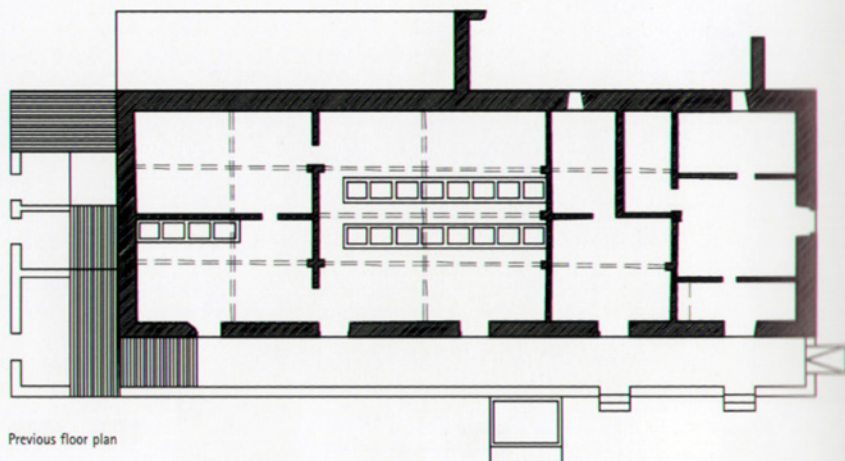


Situation plan



Front elevation



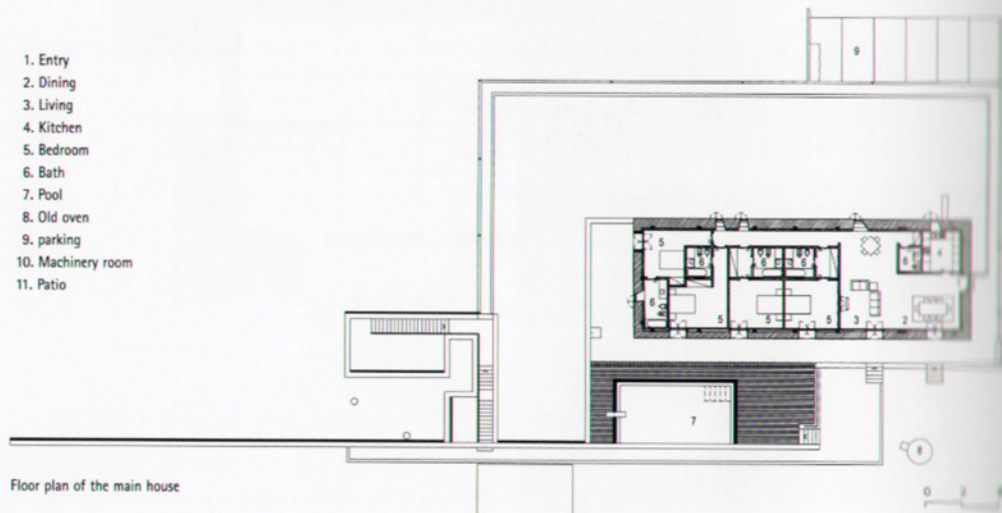




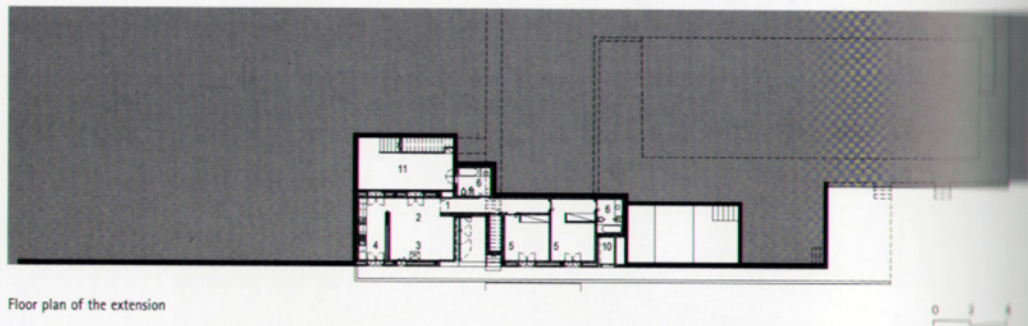
The house can be accessed via the stairs, which connect the interior with the exterior crossing the different levels of the land, or through the southeast facing interior courtyard.



1. Entry
2. Dining
3. Living
4. Kitchen
5. Bedroom
6. Bath
7. Pool
8. Old oven
9. parking
10. Machinery room
11. Patio



Floor plan of the main house



Floor plan of the extension

