

GATED COMMUNITIES: Form and context
The experience in the County of Cascais
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Gated Communities (GC) are now a global phenomenon that arises in diverse urban and social contexts. Often associated with segregation and exclusivity. GC shows a kind of reality within the walls, far-away from the surroundings. Being understood as a complex phenomenon, which requires a multidisciplinary approach, this paper proposes a morpho-typological analysis of GC.

The paper is organized into 4 parts. The first one deals with the concept of GC. Following the definition proposed by Raposo (2002 and 2003), the Portuguese situation is discussed and the legal forms that allow its implementation are identified. The various urban experiences that gave rise to GC are also analyzed. It includes the British residential squares, in the eighteenth century, where access restrictions within the public domain (based on social segregation) were applied for the first time (Lawrence 1993), as well as the "planned romantic suburb" (Fishman 1987 and Archer 1988), developed in several Anglo-American cities from the second quarter of the 19th century. Although these housing estates were initially opened, they are deliberately segregated from the urban, through a conception of an idealized reality intended exclusively to certain social classes (Fishman 1987).

The second part introduces the subject of study and the methodological procedures applied to analyze the morphological structure. After defining the object of study, the cases studies are introduced: eight GC located in Cascais Municipality, in Lisbon Metropolitan Area: (Malveira-Guincho, Quinta Patino, Vila Poente, Vila Marisa, Villaggio Manique, Vila Estoril Golf, Encosta da Aldeia e Quinta da Penha Longa).

The third part characterizes and compares the organizational and compositional structure of the selected case studies. Diagrammatic schemes and spatial perceptions are organized to enable the comparison of situations, sometimes very different

The fourth part proposes a general characterization of GC by translating the results obtained with the systematic analysis of case studies and the identification of their morphological condition. Thus, it is possible to better understand why GC are a phenomenon of success on a global scale, explaining the configurational rules implicit in its form, that shape social reality.

Keywords: Gated Communities; Housing; Morphological Structure.

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