



MUNICIPIO DE ANGRA DO HEROÍSMO
Câmara Municipal de Angra do Heroísmo

Jean-Paul-L'Allier Prize for Heritage – 2024 Edition

**REHABILITATION OF THE CHURCH OF NOSSA SENHORA DA CONCEIÇÃO –
CONCEPCIONISTAS**

The Municipality of Angra do Heroísmo submits to the Jean-Paul-L'Allier Prize for Heritage the rehabilitation of the church do Nossa Senhora da Conceição – Concepcionistas.

Urban rehabilitation and revitalization are key objectives for the Municipality of Angra do Heroísmo. These objectives are being realized through a concrete set of actions, both tangible and intangible, aimed at improving urban, economic, social, cultural, heritage, environmental, and landscape conditions. The goal is to create a territory with a strengthened identity, involving local stakeholders under the direction of the Municipal Council in coordination with its technical team.

Angra do Heroísmo boasts a vast and rich historical, architectural, and cultural heritage. This heritage played a crucial role in its designation as a UNESCO World Heritage City. It should serve as a catalyst for the city's future, considering the significant potential it holds for tourism promotion and, consequently, economic development within our municipality.

In this context, urban rehabilitation is a central part of our efforts. One of the notable buildings targeted for restoration is the Church of Our Lady of Conception (also known as the Church of the Concepcionistas), which was originally part of the former Convent of the same name. Classified as a property of public interest by the Regional Council in 1980, this classification was later reaffirmed in 2004 by the Government Council, including its incorporation into the Central Zone of Angra do Heroísmo City.

This rehabilitation is integrated into the Integrated Plan for Sustainable Urban Regeneration of Angra do Heroísmo (PIRUS) for the investment period 2014-2020. The overall objective of this document is to develop an Action Plan for the city of Angra do Heroísmo during the period 2014-2020. This plan defines an integrated and operational development strategy for the territory, encompassing a specific set of tangible and intangible actions aimed at improving urban, economic, social, cultural, heritage, environmental, and landscape conditions. It aims to create a territory with a strengthened identity, greater cohesion, and the ability to attract opportunities that enhance its economic and social fabric. This plan serves as the starting point for defining the objectives to be integrated into the Azores 2020 Operational Program.

The Convent began its functions in the early 17th century, specifically in 1608. During the 18th century, as part of the Pombaline reforms, it was transformed into the Hospital of Mercy (Misericórdia) between 1834 and 1961. Although it continued to serve as a hospital until the 1970s, it fell into ruins after the earthquake of 1980 and remained so until 2023.

The rehabilitation of this historic building holds special significance for the urban recovery and enhancement of Angra do Heroísmo City.

In our days, the Church of Our Lady of Conception belongs to the Holy House of Mercy of Angra do Heroísmo. It is an association of faithful individuals with canonical and civil legal





MUNICIPIO DE ANGRA DO HEROÍSMO
Câmara Municipal de Angra do Heroísmo

personality. Additionally, it is a Private Institution of Social Solidarity and a Collective Entity of Public Utility. The resources available to this institution were insufficient to cover the costs associated with the rehabilitation of a building of historical and architectural value. Therefore, the Municipality took on the expenses for its restoration, considering the significant contribution made by this institution to the Angrense community in the areas of social solidarity, local and community development.

The construction choices followed techniques to improve the energy performance of the building in line with European objectives for climate change and sustainable development. This leads to environmental benefits, as well as promoting important social and economic benefits, through reducing energy poverty, enhancing thermal comfort, and indoor air quality.

The rehabilitation of this building is another tourist attraction, as it provides an opportunity to celebrate the city's history and share its wealth with visitors, as it is open for visitation. It also serves as a space for the community, where cultural activities such as musical and literary performances will take place.

This building is yet another testament to the past, carrying with it the history, culture, and memories of Angra.

Preserving it is a way to keep this connection with the past alive, integrating our present and future, bridging generations, and enriching the urban experience. This aspect is highly valued by the Municipality, which actively promotes the dissemination of heritage to schools through publications, games, the website <http://angrosfera.cmah.pt> and guided visits.

The candidacy is coordinated by Councilman Paulo Lima, email: angra@cmah.pt

In the link below, you will find a photographic record of the reabilitation, descriptive memorandum of the project, Integrated Plan for Sustainable Urban Regeneration of Angra do Heroísmo (PIRUS) and flyers

<https://nuvem.cmah.pt/index.php/s/MmVw9ATKqoOYRjC>

The Mayor,

José Gabriel do Álamo de Meneses

