

ALGARVE LANDSCAPE FOLLOWING “GLOBAL” TRENDS AND ITS NEGATIVE EFFECTS

Ana Duarte Rodrigues

(Centro Interuniversitário de História das Ciências e Tecnologia – UL)

Resumo/Abstract

Global Environment approach neglects not only the human scale but also the landscape scale because its biophysical conditions differ so much sometimes even in a distance of some miles. Landscape is one of humankind more precious heritage in the sense that it is not only to be seen but to inhabit. Over recent decades, Algarvean landscapes in southern Portugal have undergone significant changes and local practices gave way to global knowledge which revealed to have a negative effect on landscape sustainability.

The risk of desertification and the continuous creation of tropical paradises with lawns and palm trees and golf camps turned this area into a risky one in terms of medium-term sustainability. Despite this, there is little agreement on action measures to guarantee landscape sustainability and identity.

On one side the lack of sustainability and heritage identity of Algarvean gardens and designed landscape in evidence of touristic influence and appropriation of foreign models which are ecologically inadequate to the place. On the other side there is a group of people associated in the Mediterranean Garden Society who fights back this predominant trend with the creation of Mediterranean gardens. They use Mediterranean species which need much less water and resist better to draught in summer times; incorporate components and art of gardens traditionally located in the Iberian Peninsula and promote an ecological design with the goal of preserving the Mediterranean garden design. As most of the members of this Mediterranean Garden Society are English living in Algarve, there are certain doubts on the character of their garden design, although they are certainly much more sustainable than the English landscape gardens created in Algarve also due to a strong English cultural framework fed by English owners and English tourists. We believe the solution can only come from a deeper understanding of landscape perception and provide another visual model to replace the green lawns that are totally unsustainable in southern Iberian Peninsula and a heritage outrage. It is our goal to contribute to science enhancing the knowledge landscape designers, gardeners and amateurs are providing while rediscovering traditional and more sustainable solutions in Algarve.

CV

Ana Duarte Rodrigues is a researcher fellow of the Secção Autónoma de História e Filosofia das Ciências of the Faculdade de Ciências of the University of Lisboa and an associated researcher of the Centro Interuniversitário de História das Ciências e da Tecnologia. She has received her BA (2002) in Art History, Master (2005) and PhD (2009) in Art History of Early Modern period from the Faculty of Humanities and social Sciences of the New University of Lisbon. She is the editor of *Gardens and Landscapes of Portugal* journal and coordinates the *Collection of Gardens and Landscape Studies*. She published 17 books/catalogues/journals as author, coauthor and editor and published 40 articles or book chapters in specialized volumes. Her academic research focuses on Gardens and Landscape Studies and is especially interested in the circulation

of knowledge, art and ideas and how they have contributed to the wellbeing of citizens in the past, and even more, what is the action we can take in that direction to promote the wellbeing of citizens in the present and in the future.

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<http://www.degois.pt/visualizador/curriculum.jsp?key=4914428480620174>