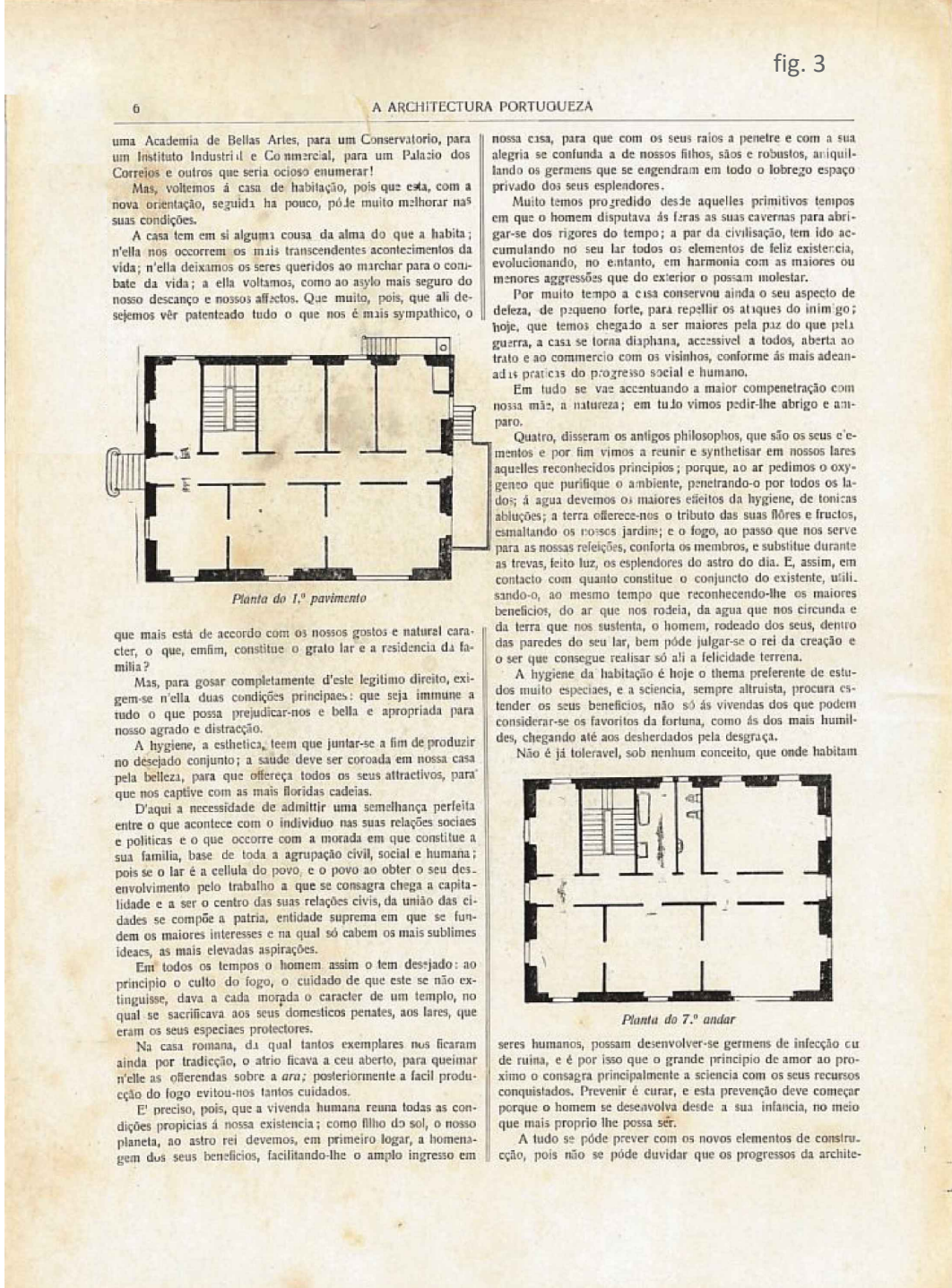
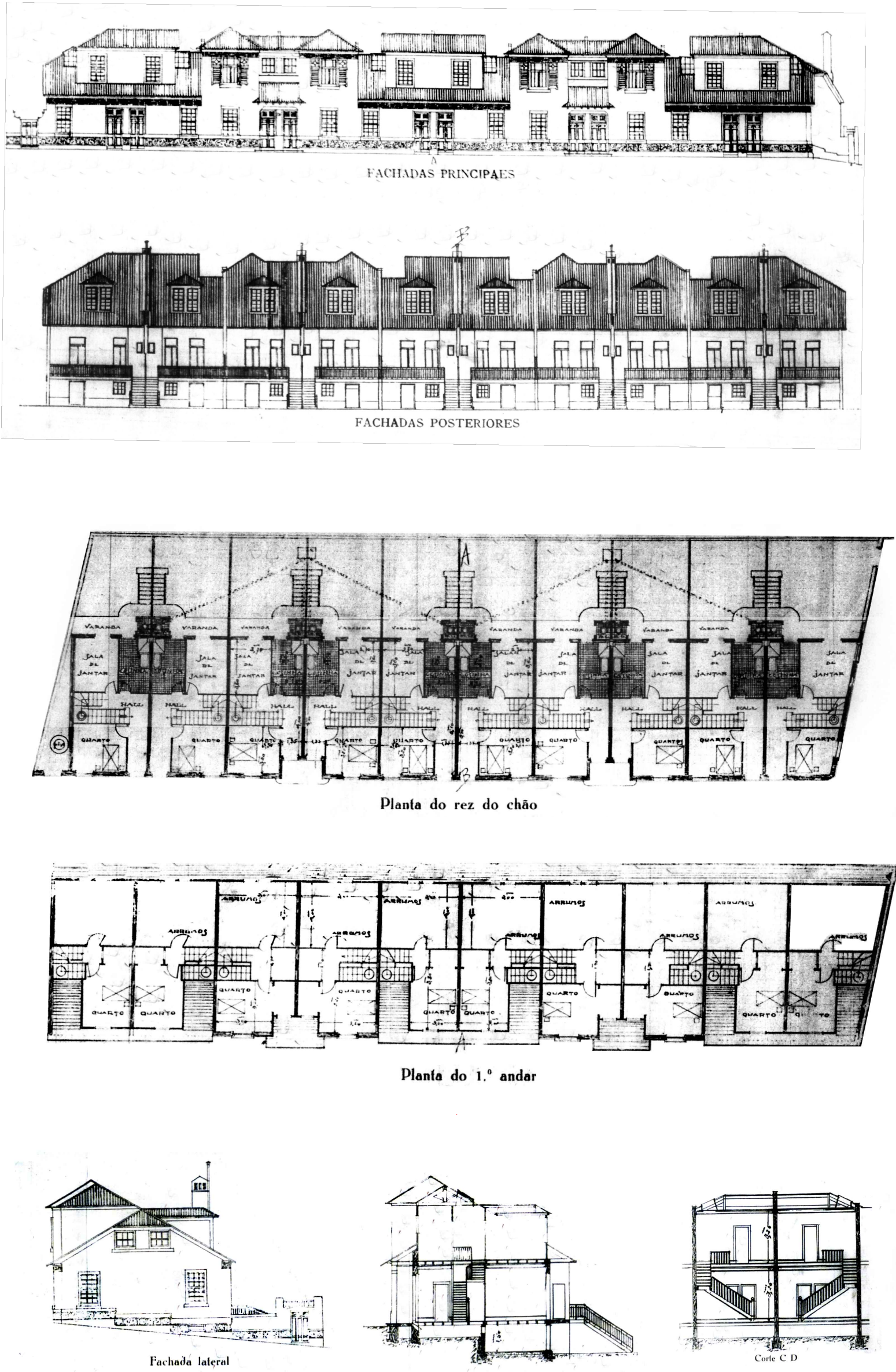


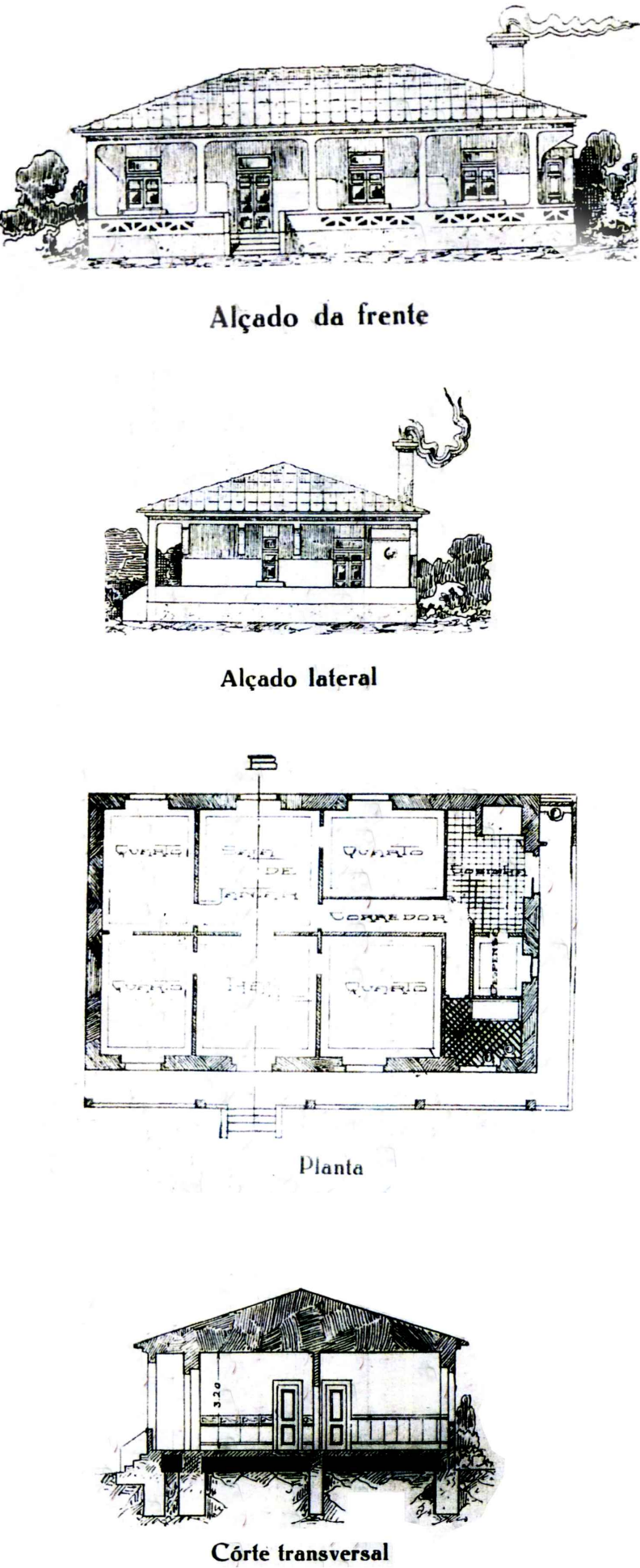
Project of a group of ten dwellings  
Architect José Ferreira Penêda

December 1926  
Nº 12



Project of an Economic House for S. Martinho do Porto  
Civil engineer António Birne Pereira

October 1928  
Nº 10



#### 1920's Economic Housing

At the beginning of the 20th century, in Portugal, there was a problem: the shortage of economic houses. The urban increasing population due to the rural exodus of those who were heading into the cities in search of work provided by industrialization, resulted in a housing crisis. Architects soon started to develop solutions to solve this problem informed by doctors' knowledge on medical care and wellbeing, promoting better living conditions through hygienic measures that will configure the domestic interior space. Furthermore, architects also developed a broader debate on health promotion by sharing the knowledge gained in international congresses and in the articles published in architecture and construction magazines (*Construção Moderna* 1900-1919, *Anuário* 1905-1911, *Architectura Portuguesa* 1908-1929), where the class gained awareness of the rising problem of urban hygiene and housing, which the state responded with a program on economic housing (Decreto de Lei nº 4:137 de 25 de Abril da Presidência do Ministério, 1918). In 1918, the First Republic issued the Decree No. 4137, promoting the construction of social neighborhoods, in a context of great economic, political and social difficulties due to Portugal's participation in World War I. In this very year the economic housing projects began: the *Bairro da Ajuda* in Lisbon and the *Arrábida* neighborhood in Oporto, followed by the neighborhood of the *Arco do Cego*, Lisbon. However, the construction of these neighborhoods will only be concluded in the *Estado Novo* period.

During the 1920's, the program of economic housing plays a decisive role in the planning and construction of the city. A special concern on beauty was also expressed in the design of the buildings façades as it was aimed to create an identity and to avoid the "depressing typical character of working districts, constituted by monotonous alignments of uniform and unadorned houses" (Pereira, 1994, p.522). These issues are closely related to the social role of the architect in the process of transformation of the city itself.

#### A Architectura Portuguesa

With the aim to respond to this problem of the working classes, architects develop proposals and discuss the topic on the magazine *Architectura Portuguesa* (1908-1929, 1st series). Since the architect's social responsibility is reflected in their proposals, the study of the social housing published in this magazine contributes to establish an understanding on the positioning of the recent professional class, ruled by ethical values and principles which stand for the promotion of well-being and comfortable housing.

The analysis of the works published in the magazine *Architectura Portuguesa*, enhanced by the possibility of provided by the RIC database, will contribute to the ongoing research which aims to address the topic of the professional ethics of the architects by understanding their social responsibility when addressing the housing needs of the emerging working class in the 1920's.

The RIC (*Revistas de Ideias e Cultura - Magazines of Ideas and Culture*) website <http://www.ric.slnhi.pt/>

The study of twentieth-century Portuguese architecture magazines can shed some light on the modern ideas that shaped the socio-cultural atmosphere of an era. Filled with opinion articles on issues such as architecture, construction, arts, history, materials, engineering, cultural events, artists, in Portugal and abroad, the study of such records are extremely important when studying the past.

The RIC (*Revistas de Ideias e Cultura - Magazines of Ideas and Culture*) is a website that provides access to the collections of the past century Portuguese history's most representative cultural and political movements' magazines. Acknowledged as an important source for research, and recognising the relevance of architecture for society, the team has embraced this cultural area to explore concepts, understand modern perceptions and expressions of the art of design and building in architecture periodical publications. Following the on-going work with *A Construção Moderna*, the next magazine to be studied is *Architectura Portuguesa*. Published between January, 1908 and December, 1929, in a total of 114 issues, the editorial clearly expresses its objectives: "to provide a service in line with the technological progress of architecture through the dissemination of articles on the housing hygiene, supports in the new materials and construction techniques, as well as the new electrical equipment and modern furniture, besides aiming also to promote the smaller arts such as joinery, locksmithing and sculpture". This statement clearly supports its study for the referred on-going research.

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