



Aerial view of Lisbon, in front of the river (APL photo)



Scene in 2005 (APL photo)



Scene in 2010 (photo by Bruno Soares)



Praça do Comércio, 2008 (Google photo)

At the beginning of the 20th century, the Praça do Comércio was acknowledged as the area depicting Portugal's Political Power and its Colonial Empire.

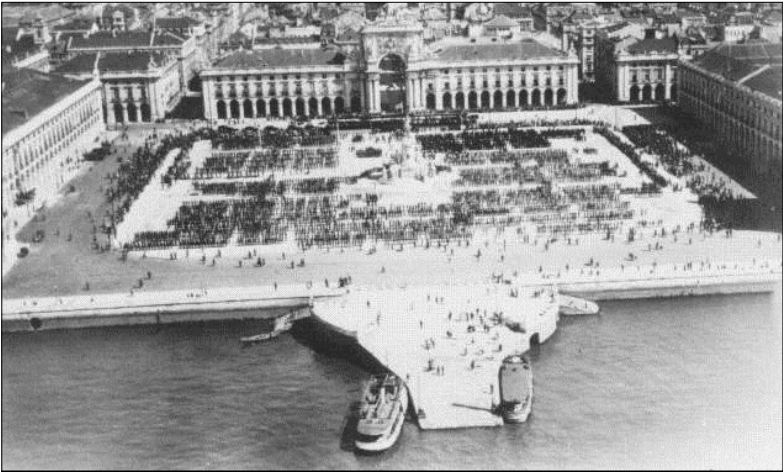
Nonetheless, beginning in the 1960s, when governmental and financial services started migrating away from the riverside Baixa district to other parts of the city, the traditional city centre went into decline and became especially noticeable in the Praça do Comércio's downfall as a functional and symbolic seat of Political Power.

Throughout the second half of the 20th century, the Praça do Comércio/Terreiro do Paço progressively lost its status as a symbolic and functional landmark in Lisbon life. So, by the beginning of the 1990s, a big car park took up much of the square, which meanwhile became a major road hub for access to the city centre and connecting Lisbon's east and west sides.

The issue raised at the beginning of the project was to synchronise anew the Praça's unique and symbolic features, and the modern ways in which the city is used and enjoyed.

In this regard, the undertaking had two important components: (i) a project to renovate and reclassify the open space; (ii) a Programme to reuse buildings, bearing in mind new uses for areas left vacant by the departure of several ministries.

- Five aims stood out in the open space project:
- To highlight and value the square's dimensions - an area of almost 36,000 m2 - while preserving the cluster of monumental buildings' visual and scenic unity;
  - To restore the square's pivotal link with the River and revalue the Cais das Colunas as a focal and distinguishing feature of the 1758 project;
  - To extend the pedestrian area to afford pedestrians widespread mobility and wide-ranging uses;
  - To rearrange and limit vehicular traffic by giving public transport priority;
  - To minimise the risks of flooding.



Military parade in the square, thirties (CML photo)



Scene in 1972 (photo by Bruno Soares)



Scene in 2017 (photo by Sara Constança)



Rua da Alfândega



After



Rua do Arsenal



After



Before

Terreiro do Paço / Praça do Comércio



After



Before

Terreiro do Paço / Praça do Comércio



After