



The entrance of the Macao Portuguese School, created in the brutalist style by Raul Chorão Ramalho, arch ©Photograph by Lei Heong Jeong

Macao Magazine

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MACAO PORTUGUESE SCHOOL

At the Macao's collection of buildings from Modernism's golden age - spanning the exuberant Art Deco of the 1920s to the Corbusier inspired minimalism of the 1930s and the chunky concrete Brutalism of the 1950s and beyond - is the Portuguese School designed in 1963 by the architect Raúl Chorão Ramalho (1914-2002) (Macao Magazine, 2023). The facility's design features a clear and modern organisation of volumes arranged in a patio. In 1998, the original canteen was demolished for the school extension (Milheiro, Serrazina 2025). The design incorporates materials from the author's geographies, such as Portuguese tiles and Madeira's tapa-sóis, but it interprets local traditions with Chinese courtyards and traditional Macanese woodworks and window shutters (CURB). The school's original drawings can be viewed at the SIPA Archive at Sacavém fort, in Portugal. The archival records and objects of the architect, considered the most consistent in the second half of the Portuguese 20th century, in a total of 545 units, were handed over for archiving on 26 October 2004, 2 years after his death (Aleixo, Mestre 2022). Currently, no archival record produced by the architect has yet been digitised. In 2007, the architect Rui Leão successfully organised a petition that averted the sale of the brutalist building and its likely subsequent demolition. Thank you Rui!

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