



The Leal Senado Housing Complex for Public Senior Staff (1962-1966)
Image displayed at MBIT, Vol. IV, (4), July of 1967

Macau: Boletim de Informação e Turismo (MBIT)

The monthly newsletter was published from March 1965, Vol. I (1) to December 1979 (an estimated 177 number issues), most available at the Arquivo Histórico Ultramarino in Lisbon (number issues until 1976). The publication commenced with a modest four-page content, however, by August 1965, it had increased to eight pages (I, 8), and by June 1968, it had grown to over twenty pages (IV, 4). This periodical has a partial registry in the Archives of Macao library catalogue and the IICT-ULisboa collective catalogue. Although both institutions lack items and information, it appears to be the successor of the "Macau: Boletim Informativo da Repartição Central dos Serviços Económicos, Secção de Propaganda e Turismo" (1953 -1957).

References

Arquivo Histórico Ultramarino (Lisbon, Portugal), MBIT Collection, (July 1967) "A building that honors the Municipality of Macao", IV (4), 3; (Mar 1968) The Macao Government is taking action to tackle the housing problem of its employees, IV (7), 8-10; Legislative Decree number 1551 of 15 September 1962.

Studies: Rodrigues, I. L. (2014). Cuando la vivienda colectiva era moderna : desde Portugal a otros países de expresión portuguesa : 1948-1974. Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya. <https://doi.org/https://dx.doi.org/10.5821/dissertation-2117-96092>; Rodrigues, I. L. (2010). "A habitação e a cidade moderna de expressão portuguesa: algumas considerações e três obras em Macau", Revista Arquitectural Macau, nº16.

THE FLORA TOWER

The conception of this housing complex occurred during the 1960s establishing a series of residential units intended to accommodate the senior municipal staff of Macao. Considering Macao's residential problem in terms of accommodation for civil servants, this building is noteworthy (MBIT, 1968, 8-10). Evidently, a pivotal action within this context was constituted by the publication of Legislative Decree number 1551 on 15 September 1962. This legal provision was followed by a series of initiatives that led to the design of public staff housing blocks.

The responsibility for the design of this 12-storey residential building, comprising 37 residences, fell to Raúl Chorão Ramalho, arch (1914-2002). The property in question constitutes a significant undertaking within Macao's urban landscape with the residential complex including four first-class, three-bedroom apartments, twenty-one second-class, three-bedroom apartments, and twelve third-class, three-bedroom apartments, in addition to the living arrangements for the doorman (Rodrigues, 2014). Apart from its design, the edifice was instrumental in ameliorating Macao's housing predicament during that period (Rodrigues, 2010). Its inauguration took place in 1967 (MBIT, 1967, 3) displaying the Portuguese architectural influence on the project by incorporating national tiles and decorative ceramic.

Keywords: Chorão Ramalho, arch., Leal Senado housing units, Macao