

PROMONTORIO

XEROX CENTRE

LISBON, PORTUGAL

2001–1996

An open atrium building
for the head office
of the tech printing corporation

The building was designed based on a first-prize entry in a shortlisted competition held by Xerox for its corporate headquarters in Portugal. Given the site's location at a busy traffic intersection, the building was devised in a U-shape, with two parallel wings of offices, connected by a third block of services (auditorium, showroom, canteen, etc.) and set around a large and enclosed void. With 800 sq. m and five floors, the monumentality of this atrium caters not only to circulation and reception but also meets the less evident need for silence and contemplation within what is a large corporation. However, and notwithstanding the growing privatisation of the public realm, the eminently civic character of this atrium also allows it to function as a space for events, open to the city. The compositional system of both the exterior and interior façades is based on a construction module that endorses the idea of heavyweight tectonics, within which a representational skeleton of prefabricated concrete panels visually holds the more fragile elements — glass and, alternatively, wood or zinc. Drawing on the classical theme of the post-and-lintel, the representational transposition of the load permeates the building, its concrete skeleton resting on a heavy granite plinth with a pronounced stereotomy.



Location: Avenida Infante Dom Henrique, Lisbon, Portugal

Client: Xerox Portugal, SA

Scope of services: Architecture

Project brief: Offices and dispatch and warehouse facilities

Plot area: 8,880 sq. m

Gross floor area: 24,800 sq. m

Construction cost: EUR 750.00 per sq. m

Total construction cost: EUR 9.5m

Project status: 1996 (concept design) – 2001 (built)

Photography: Rui Morais de Sousa, Augusto Alves da Silva and Fernando Guerra

