



Analysis of Portuguese Architectural Heritage Techniques and Protection in Maputo, Mozambique

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ABSTRACT

This article mainly analyzes the architectural heritage of Maputo, Mozambique. These include a large number of Portuguese-style buildings with period skills. Finally, the reference suggestions for protection measures are put forward.

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INTRODUCTION

Maputo is situated on a large natural bay on the Indian Ocean, near where the rivers Tembe, Mbuluzi, Matola and Infulene converge. It formerly named Lourenço Marques until 1976, is the capital of Mozambique. The city has a population of 1,088,449 (as of 2017) distributed over a land area of 347.69 km² (134.24 sq mi). The Maputo metropolitan area includes the neighbouring city of Matola, and has a total population of 2,717,437. Maputo is a port city, with an economy centered on commerce. It is also noted for its vibrant cultural scene and distinctive, eclectic architecture (Buitendach, Sarah, 2017).



Figure 1. Maputo (Image source: <https://www.blackpast.org/global-african-history/places-global-african-history/maputo-mozambique-1721/>)

LITERATURE REVIEW

The History of Maputo

Development History

The area on which Maputo stands was first settled as a fishing village by ancient Tsonga people. It was soon named Lourenço Marques, after the navigator of the same name who explored the area in 1544. The Dutch first established the settlement as a coastal trading post in 1721. After a few years the British took control of the post and transferred it to the Portuguese in 1781. African locals nicknamed the post “Xilunguine,” which meant “The white man’s place.” Portugal established a military fort at the post in 1787 and ultimately the area grew into a town. In 1898 the town became the capital of the Portuguese East Africa Colony. The Portuguese changed the town’s name from “Delagoa Bay” to “Lourenco Marques” in honor of a 16th century Portuguese trader (EVAN WADE, 2015).

In the 1870s, even before declaring the city of Maputo the capital, the Portuguese began to develop it due to its proximity to the South African gold and diamond mines. The Portuguese constructed railroad lines and roads to

bring South African minerals to the city's harbor for export. By 1900 Lourenco Marques became a primary exporter of South African goods. Agricultural products from Portuguese East Africa including cotton, cashews, sugar, copra, tea and sisal, were also transported to the city for export(EVAN WADE,2015).

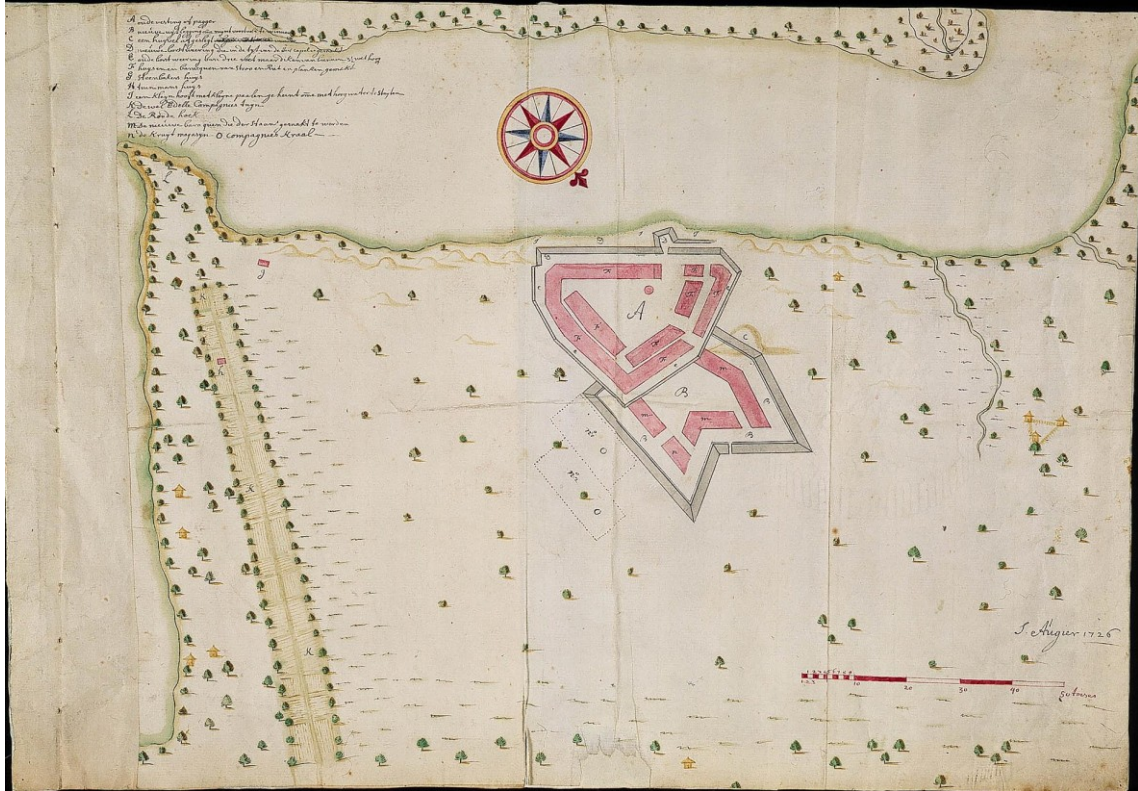


Figure 2. Plan of Fort Lydsaamheid, Built by the Dutch East India Company in 1720 (Image Source: From the Atlas of Mutual Heritage and the Nationaal Archief, the Dutch National Archives)

Lourenco Marques was a racially segregated city. The Portuguese lived in a plush affluent all-white area nicknamed “Cement City.” Residents in Cement City enjoyed public gardens, parks, paved sidewalks, marble-faced public buildings, and wide boulevard avenues. Africans were required to live in the “canico” or “reed-built” shantytowns on the black side of town. The canico received few city resources. This racial segregation reminded blacks of their inferior status in the Portuguese world(EVAN WADE,2015).

Blacks found various ways to resist the racial policies of the Portuguese. In the early 1800s the Shangana people attacked Lourenco Marques and sacked the city garrison. In the 1940s high school students led a local rebellion in the city. Due to the strength of Portugal's International and State Defense Police, many anti-colonial protests such as this one in the capital were violently crushed. The strong Portuguese military presence around Lourenco Marques meant that as late as the 1970s Mozambique's most successful anti-colonial organization, Frelimo, was forced to organize in the rural areas of the colonial North and the neighboring non-Portuguese territories. It was unable to operate near the colonial capital. Ironically, it was this sense of invulnerability that

persuaded the Portuguese to hold on to the colony a decade and a half after surrounding African nations gained their independence (EVAN WADE, 2015).



Figure 3. Lourenço Marques, c. 1905 (Image Source: Published by D. Spanos, P.O. Box 434, Lourenço Marques)

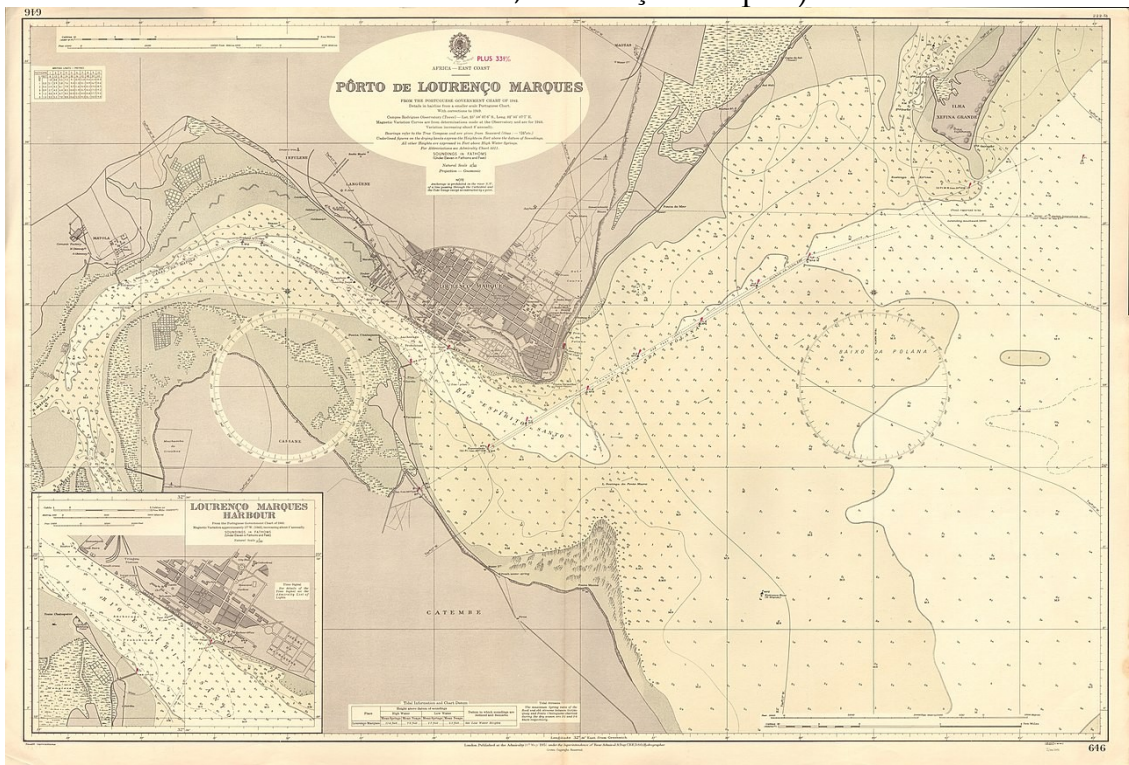


Figure 4. 1951 Nautical Chart of the Port of Lourenço Marques (Image Source: A.DAY)

Mozambique received its independence in 1974, partly because a military coup in Portugal put in power a government that was unwilling to continue to

fight there or in other Portuguese colonies in Africa. With independence the country renamed its capital "Maputo," in honor of a local chief. Upon independence many white residents fled and blacks relocated to the former "Cement City." (EVAN WADE,2015)

Today Maputo manufactures shoes, tobacco, aluminum and rubber. It is the home of numerous cultural institutions, including the University of Eduardo Mondlane, the Natural History Museum, and the Museum of the Revolution. The city is organized into seven townships and sixty-three neighborhoods. An elected city council consisting of a president and fifteen councilors govern the city(EVAN WADE,2015).

METHODOLOGY

This paper analyzes and expands by examining historical archives.

RESULT

Maputo Architecture

Architecture

Maputo has many landmarks including Independencia Square, City Hall, Maputo Fortress, Central Market, Tonduru Gardens and Maputo Railway Station. Maputo had always been the center of attention during its formative years and this strong artistic spirit was responsible for attracting some of the world's most forward architects at the turn of the 20th century. The city is home to masterpieces of building work by Pancho Guedes, Herbert Baker and Thomas Honney amongst others. The earliest architectural efforts around the city focused on classical European designs such as the Central Train Station (CFM) designed by architects Alfredo Augusto Lisboa de Lima, Mario Veiga and Ferreira da Costa and built between 1913 and 1916 (sometimes mistaken with the work of Gustav Eiffel), and the Hotel Polana designed by Herbert Baker.

As the 1960s and 1970s approached, Maputo was yet again at the center of a new wave of architectural influences made most popular by Pancho Guedes. The designs of the 1960s and 1970s were characterized by modernist movements of clean, straight and functional structures. However, prominent architects such as Pancho Guedes fused this with local art schemes giving the city's buildings a unique Mozambican theme. As a result, most of the properties erected during the second construction boom take on these styling cues.



Figure 5. Other Portuguese Architecture



Figure 6. The Hotel Polana (Image Source: F Mira)

DISCUSSION

In recent years the influx of capital into the real estate sector from local and international investors has resulted in the demolition of many historically significant buildings. Single homes along Av. Julius Nyerere, Av. 24 de Julho and Av. Mao Tse Tung have been torn down and high rise residential apartments built in their place. The difficulty in legally expanding the city coupled with a

limited heritage building protection framework have been the main impediments. The local government, the City Council of Maputo has been unable to bring order to the situation. Additionally, many acacia trees that once lined the footpaths and gave the city its distinct identity have also been removed for unclear reasons. The process gains momentum usually in the winter months between June and August under the guise of pruning overgrown trees. Without proper supervision the pruning work is excessive and destructive leading to the eventual loss of the tree.



Figure 7. Architectural Heritage in Maputo (Image Source: F Mira)



Figure 8. Architectural heritage in Maputo (Image source: F Mira)



Figure 9. Architectural Heritage in Maputo (Image Source: F Mira)

Historical and cultural heritage is a non-renewable and irreplaceable precious resource. In order to bring new life and sustainable inheritance to more historical and cultural blocks, and let the people living in them have a sense of gain, it is necessary to unify cultural protection, economic development, people's livelihood security, and the living environment. A misunderstanding in the past was "breaking the old and building the new", that is, the complete dismantling of ancient sites and buildings and then rebuilding them. The renovation actually weakens, cuts, and cuts off the long history and original features of the place. Real Realities cannot be demolished and "fake antiques" built. No forced demolition or relocation of aboriginal residents from their original places. It is necessary to create conditions for residents to enjoy modern life, to satisfy the people's yearning for a better life in the old city, to form a reasonable population structure, and to enhance the vitality of the neighborhood. Finely carry out projects such as pattern protection, cultural relic restoration, space darning, people's livelihood supplement, environmental improvement, and ecological restoration. It is suggested to preserve the historical and cultural blocks as completely as possible, transform them into museums, or give full play to their original functions to achieve the unification of cultural benefits, economic benefits and social benefits.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Through a comparative study, it is found that the buildings of Mozambique Island show a remarkable Portuguese architectural style. The preserved buildings are not only the heritage of Mozambique, but also the heritage of the whole world. For this beautiful island in the Indian Ocean, the current situation can be improved in several ways: applying more funds from international organizations or non-profit organizations; improving transportation and enhancing the reception capacity of tourism and vacations; and cooperating with enterprises for conservation development. Different departments should

carry out more protection of cultural heritage, fully analyze the elements of buildings, and prescribe the right medicine in order to achieve better sustainable development.

FURTHER STUDY

In the future, we can cooperate with universities and enterprises to carry out big data methods to improve the sustainable development of cultural heritage protection.

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