



COMBARRO

UN CONJUNTO HISTÓRICO SINGULAR A UNIQUE HISTORICAL SITE

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Combarro, declarado Conjunto de Interés Artístico y Pintoresco en el año 1972 constituye un singular agrupamiento urbano que alberga una de las expresiones más genuinas de la arquitectura popular gallega.

Su topónimo está relacionado con la raíz comb-, que significa hondonada, valle o inflexión de la costa, lo cual se corresponde perfectamente con su situación, al encontrarse asentada en medio de dos playas (Padrón y la antigua playa de Chousa, hoy transformada en plaza pública).

La arquitectura de Combarro se caracteriza por dos aspectos. Primero, la adaptación al medio natural optimizando los recursos, levantando las casas del conjunto histórico sobre el borde litoral granítico, dejando detrás de las edificaciones las tierras cultivables.



En segundo lugar, la disposición de las viviendas en torno a un gran eje longitudinal (las calles de San Roque y A Rúa) desde el que salen varios callejones que descienden al mar. Las casas se disponen en dos niveles de forma que todas maximizan la visión sobre la ría.

Combarro represents an original urban site, declared "Ensemble of artistic and picturesque interest" in 1972 because of its charm and harmony. It is, without any possible doubt, one of the most genuine expressions of Galician popular architecture.

Its name is related to the lexical root comb-, which means hollow, valley or flexion of the coast, because the original nucleus of the village is placed on a huge base of granite shaped as a half-moon, bent on its ends by the beaches of Padrón and Chousa (nowadays missing).

As far as architecture is concerned, the traveller that comes to Combarro must take into account a few aspects. First, the adaptation of the village to the natural environment, optimizing its resources: the houses in the historical centre were built on the granite seaboard, so that at the back they left the lands suitable for cultivation.

Secondly, the visitor must observe the disposition of the houses along a great longitudinal axis (San Roque Street, and the A Rúa (which means "the street"). From this axis, there are several alleys that descend to the beach. It is the sea that rules the life in the village, the reference point. The visitor should also remark that houses are disposed on two different levels, one of them overhanging the other so that all the dwellings have beautiful sea views of the Ria of Pontevedra.



LOS CRUCEIROS

La mayor parte de los ejemplos de Combarro son de los siglos XVIII, XIX y XX están labrados en granito y su significado está relacionado con la religiosidad popular y con ciertas creencias sobre los cruces de caminos, plazas o enclaves que fueron santificados a partir de alguna creencia pagana.

Algunos de los cruceiros de Combarro tienen una mesa-altar que los vecinos y vecinas se encargan de engalanar con flores durante las fiestas del Corpus.

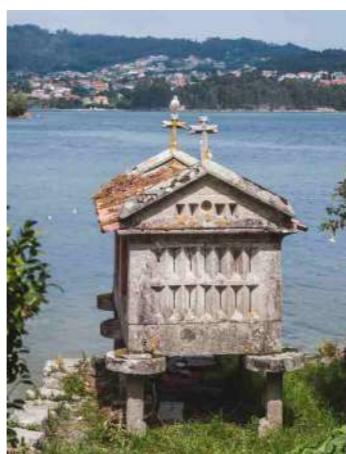
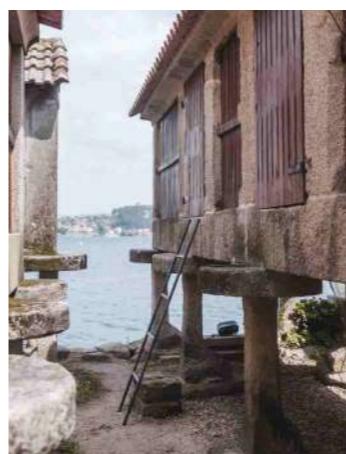


LOS CRUCEIROS

They were also built during the 18th and 19th centuries. The stone cross is a Christian symbol of protection. Anthropologists also talk about a pre-Christian cult to gods protectors of paths and crossroads. This might explain the fact that three of the seven cruceiros in Combarro show on one side of the cross the image of the Virgin of Socorro punishing and stepping on a figure representing evil. Another characteristic feature of some of the cruceiros in Combarro is the stone table placed in front of them. It is an altar-table that the neighbours usually decorate with flowers during the festivity of Corpus Christi in June, one of the most genuine celebrations in Combarro.

EL HÓRREO

Es una construcción que complementa las dependencias de la vivienda. En él se guardan y se conservan los productos agrarios, sobre todo maíz y otros cereales. Se eleva del suelo para evitar la humedad y a los roedores. En Combarro se les conoce con el nombre palleiras ya que antiguamente la cubierta solía ser de paja y el cuerpo de mimbre entretejido. En la actualidad podemos observar un total de 68 hórreos de los que 39 se encuentran literalmente sobre el borde costero, todos son de granito o mixtos (que combinan granito y madera).



EL HÓRREO

The hórreo is an adjective construction, that is, it complements the dwellings. Inside them are kept the products from the cultivated fields, generally corn, the most important cereal in this region since the 18th century. The last hórreos were made in the 20th century, and the most sumptuous and refined date back from the 18th and beginnings of the 19th centuries.

By the way, there are more than sixty, most of them on the seaboard. The seaboard is decorated with a coastal wall, the hórreos and the little vegetable gardens (eirados) where they stand. This is the most characteristic image of Combarro.



LAS CASAS MARINERAS

En Combarro se pueden diferenciar al menos tres tipos de viviendas. La casa tereña, la más elemental y pequeña que aprovecha el propio terreno de tierra o piedra como pavimento.

La casa labriega que se caracteriza por su amplitud y por tener una puerta más ancha para la entrada de los carros de vacas. El tipo de vivienda más extendido por el conjunto histórico es la casa con sobrado que cuenta con planta baja y un piso. Una escalera interior o en algunos casos exterior, permite acceder a la totalidad de la vivienda. En el bajo se almacenaban los aparejos de pesca y los útiles de labranza y muchas veces se ubicaba un lagar de piedra para hacer el vino. El balcón es un elemento relevante de la casa combarresa, se trata de una atalaya orientada al sureste, desde donde se domina visualmente el mar tan presente en la vida cotidiana.



SEAFARING HOUSES

In Combarro we can distinguish between at least three types of dwellings. The "casas terrenas" were the smallest and simplest of these dwellings, in which the earth or stone itself was used as flooring.

The "casas labriegas" were characterised by their spacious nature and these houses boasted wider doors to allow access by the ox-carts.

The most common type of dwelling in this historical complex were the "casas con sobrado", which had both a ground and an upper floor.

The whole dwelling was accessible using the indoor and sometimes the outdoor stairs.

The fishing tackle and the farm tools were stored on the ground floor and there was often a stone press, which was used to make wine.

The balcony was a relevant element of the Combarro houses; these balconies served as watchtowers, facing in a south-easterly direction, overlooking the sea that was so present in their everyday life.