



## TECHNOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF PORTUGUESE MASONRY REHABILITATION PRACTICES ON HERITAGE BUILDINGS

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### Abstract

The rehabilitation of buildings, specially heritage buildings, is an important aspect in the safeguard and upgrading of local environment. However, the contribution of this segment to the total construction market in Portugal is not significant when compared to the other countries of the European Union.

A case study consisting of 57 heritage projects submitted to a government department responsible for the approval and listing of these buildings allows to identify the different technological aspects of intervention in heritage buildings, namely on masonry walls. The results presented in this paper shows that the technologies used in heritage buildings are frequently similar to those adopted in new buildings, which seems to be inconsistent with a conservation technique that safeguards the built heritage.

### Key Words

Masonry, rehabilitation, heritage, technologies

### 1 Introduction

The preservation and safeguard of existing old buildings and other buildings of cultural value should be considered of a national concern. Conservation techniques that restores their materials and components and use the technologies of the time of construction should be adopted as far as technically feasible. However, the ageing and degradation of some materials and components added to the need to make spatial and functional alterations may imply the use of varying technologies and working practices. The built heritage sub-segment and the whole R & M (rehabilitation and maintenance) construction segment contributed in the last years with a very low share to the total Portuguese construction market. However, this pattern will be changing in the years ahead not only in the refurbishment of old buildings but also in the operations of urban renewal and in civil engineering works. With regard to the refurbishment of old buildings, there is a need to set up policy measures that promote an efficient

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