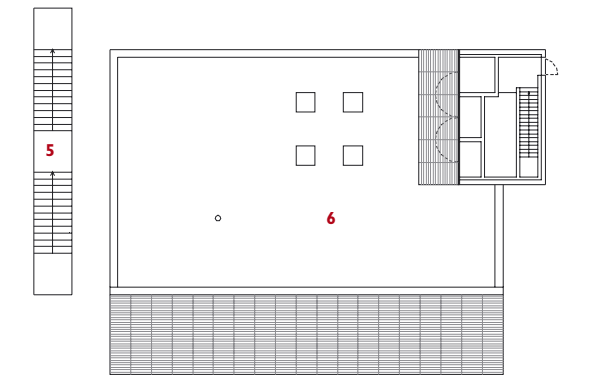
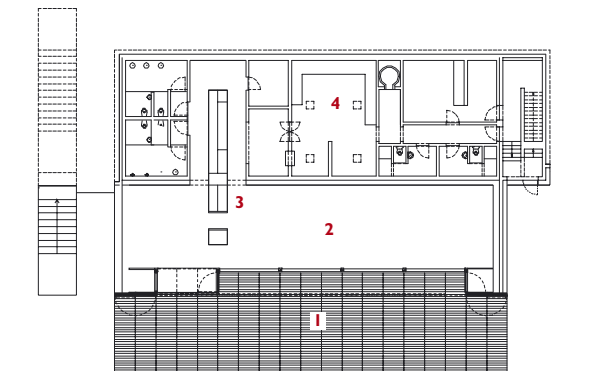




**HIGHLY COMMENDED**  
**RESTAURANT, BRUFE, PORTUGAL**  
 ARCHITECTS  
**ANTÓNIO PORTUGAL & MANUEL**  
**MARIA REIS**



roof level plan



restaurant level plan (scale approx 1:500)



Graduates of Porto's architectural school and in practice in the city since 1990, António Portugal & Manuel Maria Reis are in the vanguard of an emerging generation of Portuguese architects. Their modest, tactful work epitomises what critics and curators describe as 'critical scarcity', making use of limited budgets, materials and construction techniques in a way that responds imaginatively to the Portuguese condition. Their sensitive remodelling of the historic Casa da Cerca into a library and archive (AR July 2004) helped an antiquated structure

make the challenging transition from decaying relic to working public building.

There is a strongly enigmatic and understated quality to their approach, epitomised by this project for a restaurant near the village of Brufe, in Portugal's rugged far north. Utterly simple in conception and execution, the building is an almost imperceptible horizontal blip in the landscape, its long, low slung volume echoing the forms of the granite terraces on which it is poised. Much of its bulk is, in fact, excavated into the hillside, so that the roof becomes part of the

terrain, a grass-covered plateau edged with a minimal upstand to prevent mishaps. From this vantage point, diners descend a set of external stairs cut into the hill to another terrace that thrusts out from the box of the restaurant.

Dining takes place in a large, airy room illuminated by a long slash of picture window glazing, while the cooking and serving end of things is kept well out of sight in the buried rear of the building. Rough horizontal planks of timber are employed to clad both lower terrace and box, giving it a rustic, barn-like character that echoes

the vernacular architecture of the surrounding farm buildings.

The judges were intrigued by the project, whose presentation embodied the sparse, enigmatic quality of its architecture. They were especially impressed by how the building related to its setting, deferring to the landscape but celebrating it, and the way the simple materials were combined with a restrained formal language to achieve powerful effects.

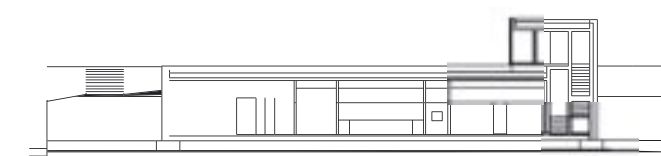
CATHERINE SLESSOR

**Architects**  
 António Portugal & Manuel Maria Reis, Porto  
 with Paulo Freitas  
**Photographs**  
 Luís Ferreira Alves

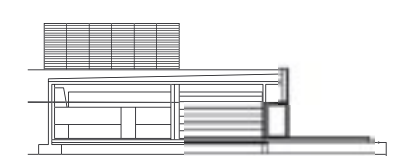
## DINING TERRACE

**This restaurant in Portugal's rugged north responds to and celebrates its wild setting.**

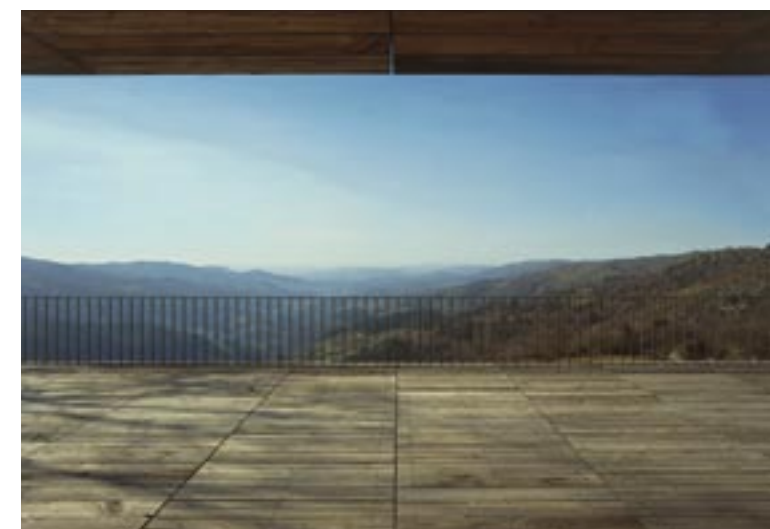
1 Embedded in hillside, roof becomes viewing plateau.  
 2 Rough timber cladding alludes to farm buildings.  
 3,4,5 The main terrace has breathtaking vistas.  
 6 The new restaurant is poised on granite terraces.



long section



cross section



- 1 terrace
- 2 restaurant dining room
- 3 servery
- 4 kitchen
- 5 external staircase
- 6 roof