



# ARCO DA PONTE



ARCO DA PONTE. 1950s  
Álvaro Amaro, João Possante, Manuel Fialho, Manuel "Barbeiro" Malveiro.  
. At the meetings organised with the community, the Arch was mentioned several times as the first slide in the village.  
Image courtesy of Álvaro Amaro

## ARCO DA PONTE

The "Arco da Ponte" was located on Rua de Olivença, contiguous to the viaduct (to the north) built in the 1930s. Located on the edge of the village, to the west, it signaled the passage from the urban to the rural, at a time of accentuated development of the territory, where the differences between one side and the other were getting more evident.

As part of the railway electrification works, in 2002, the arch of Rua de Olivença - as well as the old viaduct - which was dismantled and replaced by another, higher building, to ensure the electrification of the railway.

At the time, the local authorities - City Council and Town Council - tried, without success, to prevent the "Arco da Ponte" from being dismantled but technical conditions determined the suppression of that structure.

This intervention, much discussed at the time, gave rise to a request to REFER made by the City Council, so that all the stones would be preserved/all the stones would be numbered and kept, so that later they would be given another destination, which happened.

In order to better know its importance, claimed over the years by the population, the autarchy promoted meetings with the community. On December 19, 2017, a public session was held, with great participation, where the history of this structure was discussed, also from the point of view of the memory of the community.

With this baggage of experiences it undertook, using a group of artists, the construction - with the stones that covered the structure of masonry and concrete and that did not allow the reconstruction of the old "Arch of the Bridge" - of a Memorial that represents the connection between two spaces and two times: urban and rural, past and present. Two axes of passage in the Memory and Identity of the town of Pinhal Novo.



ARCO DA PONTE AND VIADUCT. 20th century  
Image courtesy of the Pinhal Novo Parish Council

