



Revealing the Sixteenth-Century Madre de Deus Monastery Monastic Life, Architecture and Immersive Interpretation

ARCHITECTURE (Darq)

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Research context and importance

The original spatial configuration of the sixteenth-century Madre de Deus Monastery in Lisbon, now home to the National Tile Museum, remains uncertain. Fragmentary sources and later alterations obscure **how its spaces accommodated monastic life**. This limits our understanding of the relationships between architecture, daily practices and religious life, and the interpretation of these relationships for museum audiences.

Research question

How can interdisciplinary evidence support a reconstruction hypothesis for the sixteenth-century Madre de Deus Monastery in which spatial decisions and uncertainties are explicitly linked to their sources?



Figure 1- Left: Arrival of the Relics of Saint Aute (1517–1523), MNAA. Photo: Sónia Costa, DGPC/ADF. Right: Author's photomontage incorporating the digital reconstruction hypothesis developed in her master's dissertation (2023).

From previous research to doctoral contribution

Building on the author's master's reconstruction hypothesis, the doctoral research proposes a framework linking interdisciplinary evidence, spatial interpretation and HBIM modelling. Its intended contribution is to **make reconstruction decisions traceable and open to revision**: documenting their supporting sources, assessing alternative interpretations and communicating the interpretation and its uncertainties through an augmented reality experience.

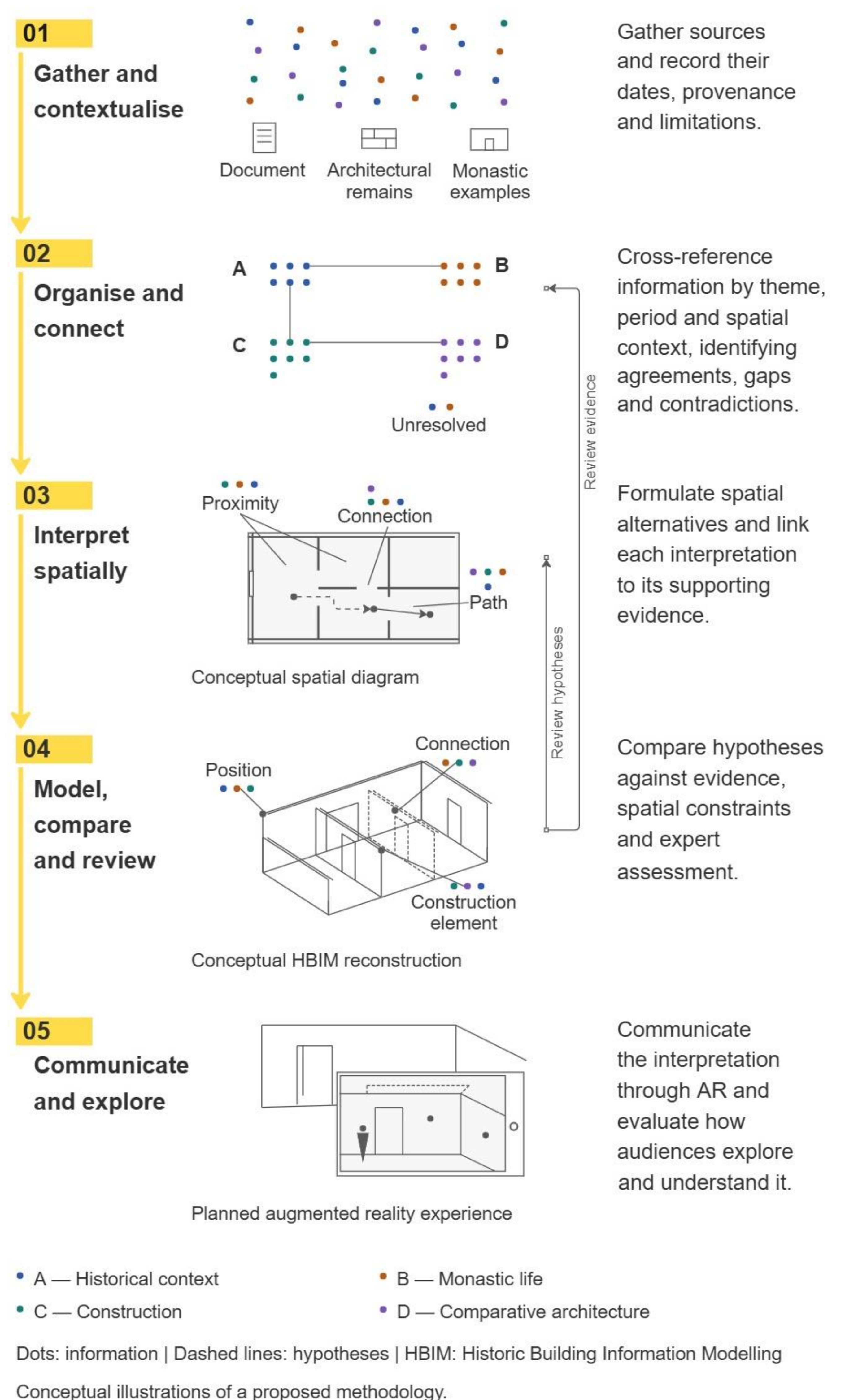
Expected contributions

- **Architectural knowledge:** A reconstruction hypothesis explaining spatial organisation and use, with its supporting evidence and unresolved questions.
- **Methodological contribution:** A documented framework for comparing and revising spatial hypotheses, designed for adaptation to buildings with incomplete records.
- **Heritage communication:** Develop an augmented reality experience that presents the architectural interpretation and its uncertainties, and evaluate how it helps diverse audiences explore and understand the monastery.

From dispersed evidence to architectural interpretation

Proposed methodology

Monastery of Madre de Deus · 16th century · Research in progress



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