

# ICOMOS

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES  
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES  
CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL DE MONUMENTOS Y SITIOS  
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ СОВЕТ ПО ВОПРОСАМ ПАМЯТНИКОВ И ДОСТОПРИМЕЧАТЕЛЬНЫХ МЕСТ

WORLD HERITAGE LIST

N° 505

## A) IDENTIFICATION

Nomination : Monastery of Santa Maria of Alcobaça

Location : Province of Alcobaça-Leiria

State Party : Portugal

Date : May 13, 1988

## B) ICOMOS RECOMMENDATION

That the proposed cultural property be included on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria I and IV.

## C) JUSTIFICATION

The founding of the monastery of Santa Maria of Alcobaça is intimately tied to the beginnings of the Portuguese monarchy. When Afonso Henriques was proclaimed King Alfonso I in 1139, he based his politic reconquest on the Crusaders -cruelly present in Lisbon in 1147- and on religious orders. Alcobaça was given to the Cistercians in recognition of the victory of Santarem (1152) with the understanding that they would colonize and work the surrounding lands. The White Monks were already well established by 1153, the year of the death of St Bernard of Clairvaux. Alcobaça was, thus, the last of the saint's "offspring" during his lifetime.

Despite an offensive led by Al-Mansoor at the end of the 12th century, the royal establishment began to prosper. In the 13th century, while the abbey church, laid out similarly to Pontigny, and beautiful monastic buildings were under construction, the abbey's intellectual and political influence had already spread throughout the western part of the Iberian peninsula. It was a center of study and religious doctrine -the kingdom's most important monastic school was there- and it enjoyed a wealthy congregation. The abbot was a powerful ecclesiastical lord whose authority extended over the fertile lands, 13 towns, 4 seaports and 2 castles. Later, from the reign of João I to that of João IV, the abbot was appointed by the king and became a member of the Council, Grand Almoner, Donee of the Crown and Lord Protector of the Border. A number of enhancements underscored the exceptional character of this royal establishment : the

Manueline sacristy of the Infante Dom Afonso, named abbot of Alcobaça in 1505, the upper cloister of João do Castilho, one of the architects of the Convent of Jeronimos of Belem (included in 1983 on the World Heritage List), the facade and main part of the baroque lodgings of Friar João Turriano (1702), and the King's Room.

The ultimate symbol of this privileged relationship with the Portuguese monarchy is found in the famous tombs of Inês de Castro and Dom Pedro (Peter I). Peter I commissioned the twin tombs after the dramatic event that would later inspire Camoëns, Velez de Guevara and so many other contemporary authors and filmmakers. There the avenging king and his murdered queen await the day of resurrection. The design of a high sarcophagus supporting the gisants watched over by angels, frequently used in the 14th century, here finds one of its most perfect artistic expressions. The stylistic quality of the sculptured ornaments, even with the restoration necessitated after Napoleon's troops mutilated them in 1810-1811, is surpassed by the compelling symbolism of the iconography which evokes human destiny, death and the Christian hope of eternal life. Built c. 1360, the tombs are the tangible sign of Peter I's mystical rehabilitation of Inês, assassinated at Coimbra on the orders of his father Alfonso IV.

ICOMOS recommends that the Monastery of Santa Maria of Alcobaça be included on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria I and IV.

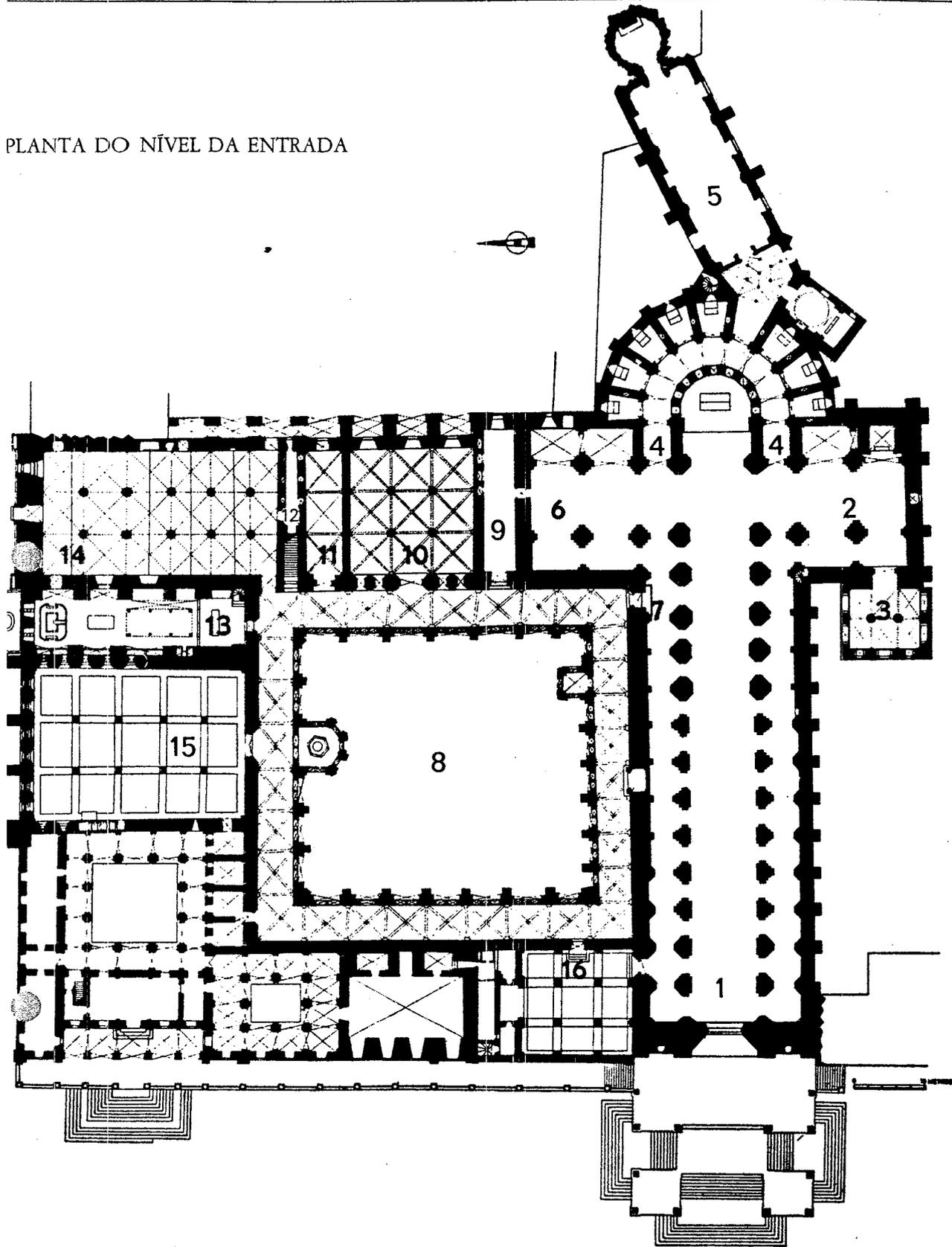
- Criterion I. By virtue of its magnificent dimensions, the clarity of the architectural style, the beauty of the material used and the care with which it was built, the Cistercian abbey of Alcobaça is a masterpiece of Gothic Cistercian art. It bears witness to the spread of an aesthetic style that developed in Burgundy at the time of St Bernard and to the survival of the ascetic ideal which characterized the order's early establishments like Fontenay (included in 1981 on the World Heritage List).

The tombs of Dom Pedro and Doña Inês de Castro are among the most beautiful of Gothic funerary sculptures.

- Criterion IV. The Abbey of Alcobaça is an outstanding example of a great Cistercian establishment with a unique infrastructure of hydraulic systems and functional buildings. Deservedly renowned, the 18th-century kitchen adds to the interest of the group of monastic buildings from the medieval period (cloister and lavabo, chapter room, parlor, dormitory, the monks' room and the refectory).

ICOMOS, April 1989

PLANTA DO NÍVEL DA ENTRADA



- |                                 |                                     |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 — IGREJA                      | 9 — ANTIGA SACRISTIA/TESOURO        |
| 2 — BRAÇO SUL DO TRANSEPTO      | 10 — SALA DA CAPÍTULO               |
| 3 — PANTEÃO REAL                | 11 — PARLATÓRIO                     |
| 4 — DEAMBULATÓRIO               | 12 — ESCADA DE ACESSO AO DORMITÓRIO |
| 5 — SACRISTIA MANUELINA         | 13 — COZINHA                        |
| 6 — BRAÇO NORTE DO TRANSEPTO    | 14 — SALA DOS MONGES                |
| 7 — PORTA DE ACESSO AO CLAUSTRO | 15 — REFEITÓRIO                     |
| 8 — CLAUSTRO D. DINIS           | 16 — SALA DOS REIS                  |