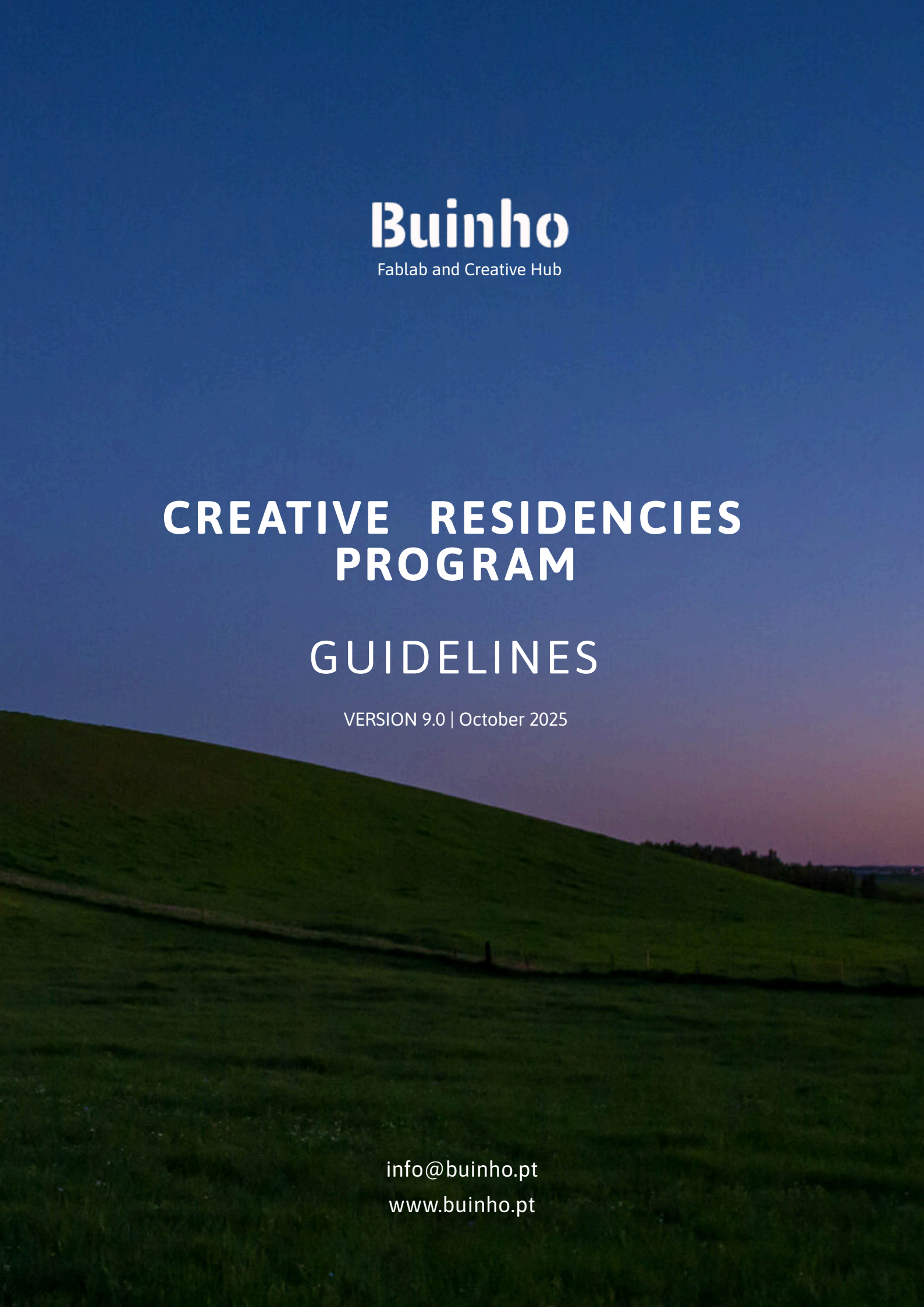


Buinho

Fablab and Creative Hub

CREATIVE RESIDENCIES PROGRAM

GUIDELINES

VERSION 9.0 | October 2025

info@buinho.pt

www.buinho.pt

PREAMBLE

This guide seeks to provide additional information about our Artist in Residency (AiR) program. It contains a description of working spaces, equipment, training courses, production assistance, accommodation, among other important aspects of the Buinho AiR program.

Our residency program is designed to provide the ideal environment for writers, artists, designers, and other creatives, while in direct contact with the unique atmosphere of the historic town of Messejana.

If after reading this document you still need to clarify any issue please feel free to contact us.

info@buinho.pt



BUINHO CREATIVE HUB

The aim of Buinho is to be an inspiring place that fosters creativity, collaboration, and innovation.

Buinho was established in 2015 in the town of Messejana, with the statutes of a non-profit cultural association.

It distinguishes itself by being the second MIT accredited fablab for the Alentejo region, and the only space with these characteristics in a rural area. The fablab provides access to a big variety of digital manufacturing equipment as 3D printers, laser cutter, or CNC router, and the specialized support provided by our staff which enables visiting artists to further expand the boundaris of their artistic research.

But Buinho is more than just a fablab. We offer private accommodation, working studios, Precious Plastic workspace and machine shop, and weekly production support, all within a creative residency program open for artists and writers from different disciplines. The proximity of the residency program to the local community and local heritage is another of its distinguishing factors.

Among other initiatives, Buinho has created a community space where it provides free educational activities for the local children, and a textile lab for supporting activities with local women from Messejana.

Our residency program provide opportunities for artists to engage with our educational a community based programs which extend to other municipalities in the Alentejo Region. Also, all AiR have the possibility to organize an open studio event open to the general public.

Buinho is the ideal place for those who want to adopt a more experimental attitude in their creative practice, offering a unique experience to its residents.

Our artist in residence (AiR) program is designed and implemented by professionals with years of experience in cultural institutions and similar programs. Buinho AiR is a space of experimentation but also of social transformation, contributing to the increase of the attractiveness of rural territories.

THE RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Buinho Artist in Residency program is directed to creative individuals from different disciplines and is developed by a rural creative hub that opened in 2015 in Alentejo. It gives the opportunity to live and work in the small town of Messejana for a period of up to two months.

Buinho provides 8 individual rooms for accommodation, private format and shared studios, access to fablab, textile lab, and Precious Plastic workstation, all within a network of creative spaces managed by Buinho and within Messejana.

These artistic residencies encourage dialogue, exchange and experimentation. They are process-based, allowing visiting artists to develop projects in response to the relationship with the local environment and community, or to conduct research benefiting from Buinho's resources, and the daily life and environment of Messejana.

The residency program offers creative individuals the time, space and resources to experiment and try project solutions and approaches. Through the living Messejana's unique atmosphere, creatives can gain new insights that will inform the development of their practice.

Buinho Residency Program offers production support for exhibitions and technical support for the unique feature that it is the Buinho fablab. Also, our staff is keen to discuss the work in progress and assist in sourcing materials, offering local knowledge, contacts and creative input.

A final presentation is displayed during an open studio or final exhibition. Buinho often supports in the production of these exhhibitions, and invites the local community to visit and participate.

Likewise, Buinho also helps to mediate AiR projects for the public and private space, namely murals and installations. Buinho acts as an intermediary with persons responsible for the spaces, and also seeks to help with the overall production if the proposed project is accepted.



A multidisciplinary residency program with unique features combining art, technology, and community engagement.

Buinho air program provides content support for visual artists, media artists, sculptors, designers, makers, writers, or curators.

The creative residency program of Buinho provides private accommodation and shared workspaces in four different locations: Casa de São João, Casa da Avó, Casa da Padaria, and Casa Buinho.

All houses are fully equipped and with access to fast internet.

Casa de Sao Joao has two bathrooms, one shared and the other private to one of the bedrooms. Remaining houses - Casa Buinho, Casa da Avó and Casa da Padaria - all have one bathroom. All bathrooms are equipped with toilet and shower.

Free Wi-Fi access is available in all interior and exterior spaces of all houses.

All houses have equipped kitchens that can be used freely by our residents to prepare their meals. Residents also have individual storage space and a fridge to keep their food. Residents are responsible for the safekeeping and good use of the household equipment and respect the shared space by keeping it clean and organized.

All houses also include linen, towels, and kitchen appliances for the comfort of its residents. Once a week there will be a cleaning service, but residents will be responsible for their laundry and organization of common spaces.

Overall, the facilities are furnished and offer comfortable working spaces. Depending on availability residents are welcomed to have visiting guests or partners. However, artists are required to notify the period of stay, check the availability of spaces, and cover the corresponding additional costs to the residency.

The residency provides production and technical support during weekdays, and once a week the coordinator promotes individual curatorial meetings with residents for a follow up on the projects developed.

We also provide direct access to CNC machines: laser cutter, printers, CNC router, electronics lab, textile lab. However, supervision by Buinho staff is mandatory and subject to availability and staff working hours.

The same is required for access to the Precious Plastic workspace. There, residents can recycle and transform plastic using the machines built by Buinho (shredder, extruder, injector, and compression machine).

We provide supervision and introduction on the use of the equipment, production and how to use different types of plastic.





CASA BUINHO

Where everything started in 2015, the heart and crown of our project. We are still one of the only fablabs in Europe offering inhouse accommodation.



The “Casa Buinho”, was the first of all the spaces create by Buinho. It primarly served as Buinho main HQ and workspace until October 2025. It now serves the purposed of residency house, hosting just one resident for whole house.

Casa Buinho follows a contemporary, open space concept, with the studio in the main house and the workshop in the backyard. The whole interior was redesigned and rebuilt in 2014- 15, but it still maintains several aspects of the initial architecture.

It is divided into three main areas so that you can generate ideas and concepts, share them in a social area and the most important, create real products.

n this house, you’ll enjoy access to all the amenities available in the other Buinho houses, but with added privacy and more spacious interiors. As a landmark building, the Buinho House is unique— it carries all the history of Buinho, and it’s the only residence dedicated exclusively to a single resident at a time.









CASA DE SÃO JOÃO

In 2019 another traditional taipa house was added. The new house is located in the historical quarters of messejana, providing a beautiful view over the town 's churches and castle ruins.



Casa de São João is a remodeled typical house that offers quality accommodation, generous studio spaces, as well as other aspects that provide a more suitable solution for visual artists and writers.

Casa de Sao Joao is a XIX century shepherd's house, which was once the town's only female hairdressing salon. A large house, with plenty of heritage, remodeled in 2019 to offer a unique charm, and that now offers three individual bedrooms, two bathrooms, and plenty of working space.

It is located in the town's historic center, on the street of the museum. It is also located on top of a hill, offering from its garden a unique and very picturesque view over Messejana.

It's studios with high white walls and plenty of natural light are best suited for the work practice of visual artists. Buinho open studios and exhibitions are often organized in this house. São João House also offers a more quiet and intimate environment, being the perfect setting for researchers and writers.









CASA DA AVÓ

This is the most central of all houses of Buinho. Being located in this small town's main square, its an opportunity to have more closeness with the daily social upbeat of Messejana.



When we rented this house, we asked the landlady's daughters what name would best suit it. Their response was 'Casa da Avó,' as it was the home where they grew up with their grandmother.

Although remodelled by Buinho, it still provides this family house feeling to it.

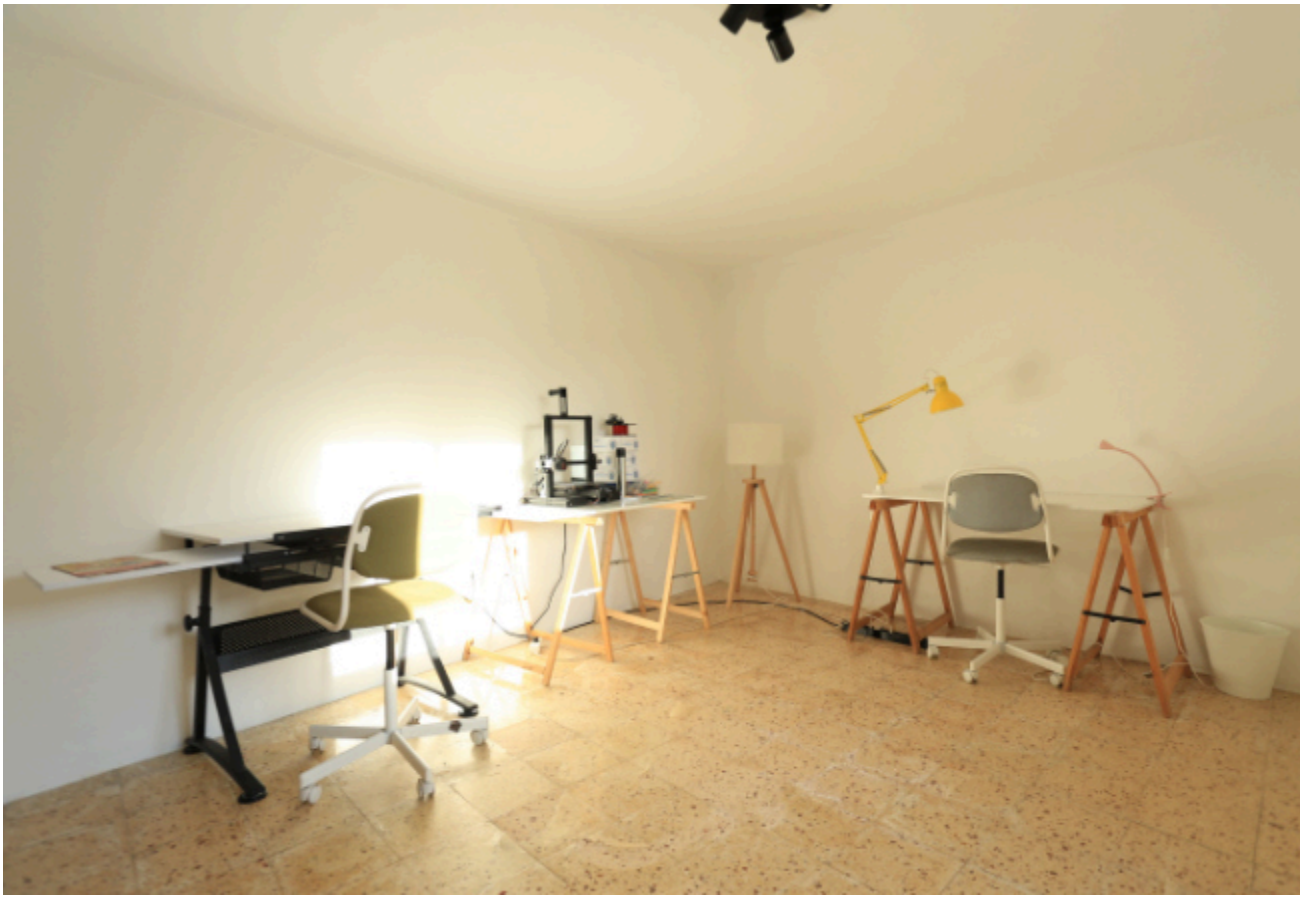
Casa da Avó is a four-bedroom house featuring outdoor patios, a terrace, and an additional workshop space at the back.

We converted two of the bedrooms into studio spaces for the artists. With plenty of natural light and space. In the workshop at the back, we began setting up a jewelry laboratory — a work in progress, but already available for residents to use.

It accommodates two residents at the same time, meaning that this house provides private studio space.









CASA DA PADARIA

The last house to be added to our creative ecosystem used to be a traditional Bakery. Messejana being the town of churches and bakeries, we found suitable to name it the Bakery house.



Casa da Padaria is very similar to Casa da Avó in many aspects. Its also a rented house, that used to house a baker's family, and with a small size Bakery in the backyard.

It was also recently renovated by the owners and converted to private accommodation. We also decided to transform two of its bedrooms into studio spaces for our artists in residency.

It features a cozy living room connected to the kitchen, along with a small patio perfect for enjoying a morning coffee. Offering more privacy, it's well-suited for visual artists, writers, or researchers.

The house is just 20 meters away from our main headquarters, located on the same street as the Buinho FabLab house. It is fully equipped and designed to host only two residents at a time, ensuring comfort and tranquility.









BUINHO FABLAB

From idea to prototype, Buinho FabLab is the place where you can work on your projects day and night.

Fablabs are laboratories of digital fabrication. In a Fablab we can equally digitally design and produce a physical product. It is a space dedicated to the development of concepts and prototypes.

At Buinho we also envision Fablabs as catalysts for local development, attracting talent and raising the connectivity in rural territories. A fablab with a residency program helps us to materialize this vision, and to this day Buinho is still one of the very few European Fablabs offering the possibility of residency within its own premises.

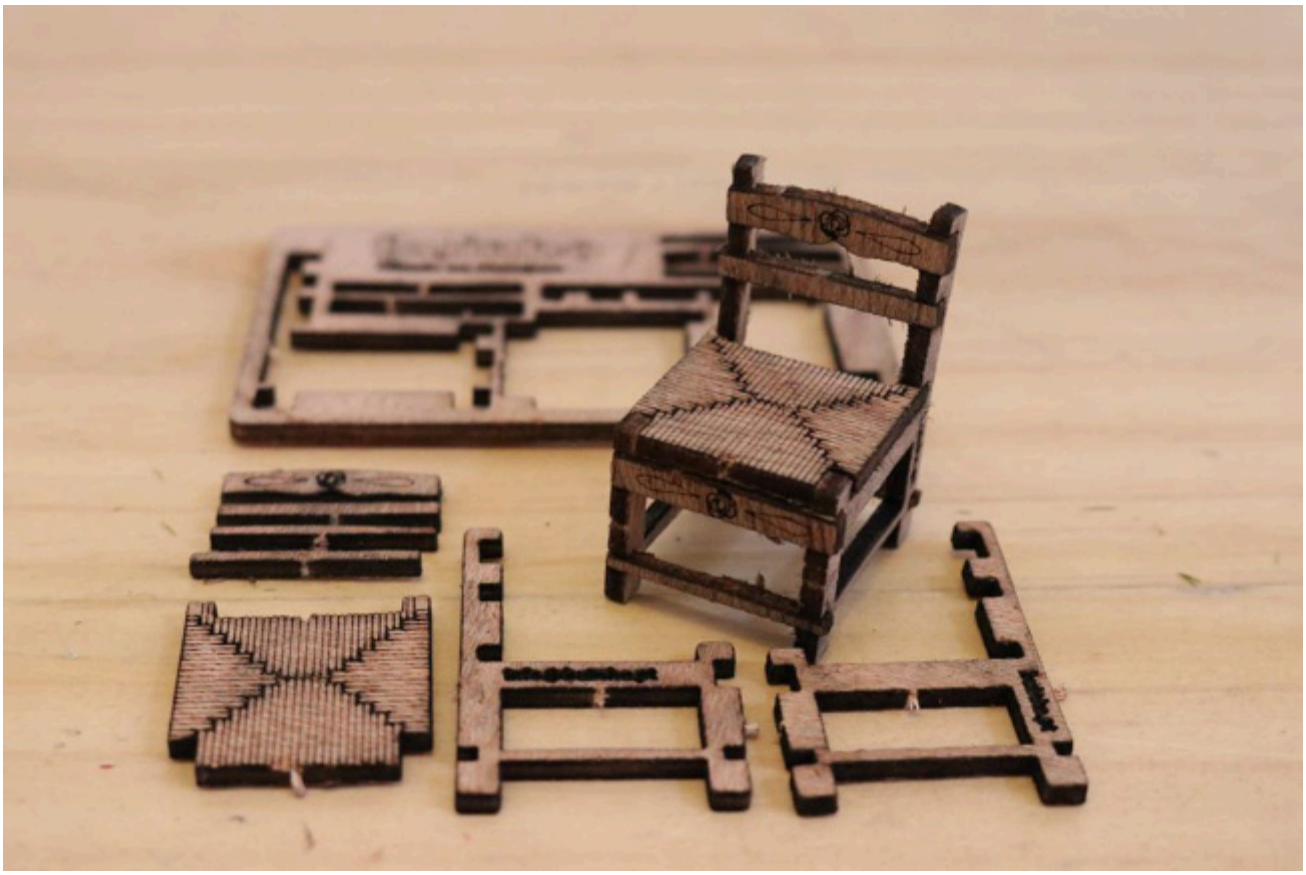
Buinho FabLab is divided into two main spaces:

- The workshop, which is equipped with two CNC routers, two laser cutters, Precious Plastic machines, and various tools and machines for woodwork and prototyping.

- The studio which has several 3D Printers, vinyl cutter, sewing machines, several electronics and robotics equipment, controllers, 3D scanner, sensors, and other components to be used in creative projects. The studio also offers several PC workstations, complemented by two iMacs with adequate software for graphic and product design.

The use of the equipment requires supervision from the staff. Our staff also provides specific technical assistance to help residents develop their personal projects.

All projects developed by Buinho team within the fablab can be shared with the residents, and we also encourage the engagement and participation within other educational activities developed by Buinho and for the local community.



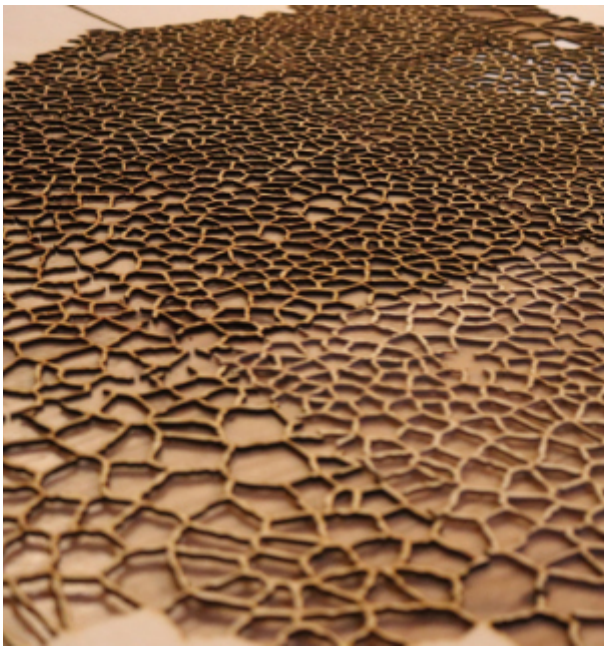
LASER CUTTER

The power of the laser cutter comes from its ability to cut through a wide range of materials with high precision. Drag-knife cutters can’t penetrate hard and thick materials, while a laser can slice through them like butter. And a CNC router has a hard time creating ultra-sharp details.

A laser cutter can also engrave, it's just a matter of defining the settings, and thus increasing the versatility of this equipment.

This equipment has become so popular among our residents, and we grant free access to it.

Please understand that for safety reasons the use of this equipment requires supervision from our staff, and that availability and access to this equipment is also constrained by our own necessities of use.

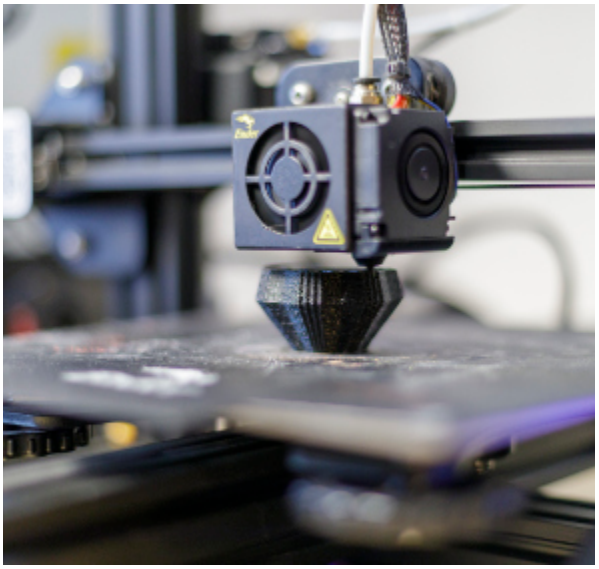




3D PRINTING

3D printing or additive manufacturing is a process of making three dimensional solid objects from a digital file. It's basically the opposite of the other fablab technologies, of subtractive manufacturing which cut out / hollow out a piece.

3D printing is revolutionary in providing residents the possibility to design an object and replicate it entirely by digital means. It further expands the boundaries







CNC ROUTER

Buinho has two 3-axis milling machines. This is the most common variety of milling machines. You can cut in any direction, but an object like a sphere will need to be done one half at a time.

CNC routing machines are more useful to produce larger objects, since laser cutter and 3D printing have bigger constraints in terms of thickness and dimensions of the materials. Examples of uses of the CNC routing machines for creative practice include the manufacture of furniture, sculpture, and installations.

Working with a milling machine requires specialized CAD/CAM training and know-how, being essential the supervision of Buinho staff during the operation of these pieces of equipment. Materials usually used from CNC routing includes plywood, MDF, other types of wood, some soft metals (eg aluminum), foam, and plastics.



OVERVIEW OF THE MAIN EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE IN THE FABLAB

For more detailed information please consult our website www.buinho.pt

FDM 3D printers:

- Creality CR - 10S (1x)
- Creality Ender3 Pro (14x)
- Blocks Zero (3x)
- Anet AM8 (2x)
- Startt (3x)

Resin 3D Printer:

- Anycubic Photon (2x)

CNC Mill

- CNC 1212 1200x1200
- Openbuilds Workbee 1000x1000
- Shaper mobile CNC

Laser Cutter

- 100W CO2 Laser cutting machine 900x700
- 60W CO2 Laser cutting machine 700x500

Vinyl cutter

- Skycut V24
- Liyu SC631-A 28

Industrial Welder

- MIG Welder (2x)
- Metal arc welding (1x)

3D Scanner

- Revopoint Pop 2
- Microsoft Kinnect

SLR Cameras

- Canon 5D
- Canon 80D

Audio Microphones

- Zoom H2n
- Zoom H1

Powertools

- Circular Saw
- Jig Saw
- Hand Drill
- Drill Press
- Orbital Sander
- Belt Sander
- Heat Gun
- Grinding wheel
- Miter saw
- Cutting table
- Electric Planer
- Dremel

Wood Hand Tools

- Chisels
- Handsaws
- Planes
- Mill files
- Marking Knifes
- Squares and other measures
- Screwdrivers

Precious Plastic Machines

- Extruder
- Pro Extruder
- Shredder
- Compressor
- Injector
- Safety Equipment
- Tools for mould making



BUINHO EDUCATIVO & TEXTILE LAB

In Buinho we explore the intersections of art, technology, and community. A special emphasis is given to our educational branch, where we teach robotics, coding, and electronics to local children ages 3 to 16 years old.

We manage a space called Buinho Educativo Messejana, which function as a Educational Makerspace. Its equipment is used primarily to support the educational mission of Buinho. But the spaces are also available for those residents that want to experiment with physical computing, interactive environments, sound, among others.

But besides digital fabrication capabilities offered by this spaces, we also created a space for adult education.

The textile lab is equipped with several sewing machines, a digital embrodery machine, tufting guns, and other textile dedicated equipment that serves not only a local sewing club, but also for textile experimentation.

Residents are also welcome to join the weekly sewing sessions we host with local women from Messejana — a free and open workspace for creating, connecting, and sharing experiences. These gatherings also play an important role in combating social isolation.

List of available equipment:

MicroControllers and electronic prototyping platforms - Arduinos, Raspberry Pi's, Microbits, LilyPad,

Electronic Bench - Variable power supply, oscilloscope, multimeter, soldering stations, calipers, precision tools, etc.

Electronic Components - Arduino sensors kits, conductors, resistors, capacitors, breadboards, jumpers, perfboards, DC motors, stepper motors, servo motors, etc

Other relevant equipment - 3D Scanner, Virtual Reality Head Mount, Leap Motion, Sewing Machines, digital embrodery, tufting equipment


Buinho



BUINHO PRECIOUS PLASTIC

The Precious Plastic project exists to reduce plastic waste, but our Precious Plastic enables much more.

Our Precious Plastic workspace initially started as an Erasmus+ project of non formal education (preciousplastic.pt), centered around the importance active citizenship in youth and the promotion of a plastic waste recycling culture. In this project, Buinho provided training to more than 50 participants from 6 different European countries in machine building, plastic recycling, and how to run a Precious Plastic workspace.

We later had the opportunity to further enlarge the Precious Plastic workstation and project, and with the support of a national grant we opened in Messejana the first Community Plastic Recycling Center in Portugal (2019). The specialized tools allow us to provide an educational program for the regional schools of Alentejo, together with the possibility to build machines to other organizations.

We also made a set of Precious Plastic Machines for the United Nations Development Program in São Tomé e Principe, and still dedicate some of our time for machine building purposes. We aim to enlarge the scope and presence of the Precious Plastic community in Alentejo.

Today the Buinho Precious Plastic workstation is located within Buinho house, and is also open to the use of the residency program, having already been the centerpiece of some residency proposals. The Precious Plastic machines allows residents to experiment a whole new field of Plastic transformation while making a direct and positive impact in terms of environmental sustainability.

Buinho provides supervision and if requested we can also provide iintroductory support on how to separate and prepare plastic, as well as the individual use of each machine.







PUBLIC ART

For the past five years, the Buinho AIR program has been transforming the landscape in Messejana.

This little town currently has more than a dozen public art permanent interventions, an open-air museum in the making. The permanent art pieces includes murals, sculptures, tiles, and land art. And not all interventions are permanent, most are temporary installations, bringing a continuous creative atmosphere to Messejana.

All the resident artists that wish to create a public art first need to present the proposal to Buinho curatorial committee, then discuss with the local municipality its location and feasibility.

Production assistance can provided by Buinho.





COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION

Essential elements in the policy of promoting and disseminating the results of its creative residences, Buinho provides communication and production support to both the exhibitions and workshops developed by residents.

Open Studios, complemented by workshops for the local community, are vectors of great importance in the program of residences in a rural context.

Besides open talks and the weekly thursday's AIR Breakfast Potlucks were we discuss and share ongoing projects, artists in residence will also have the opportunity to organize an open studio in Messejana. The purpose of the open studio will be to provide the artist with the possibility of presenting the process behind the creative act to the community, gathering and identifying motivational, technical and other elements. It will be a moment of special importance for the conclusion of the relationship between the community of Messejana and its residents.

In addition, a temporary formal exhibition can be organized in conjunction with our network of partners in Messejana with the purpose of further developing a solid cultural agenda available for the local community. Such exhibitions will be aimed at reaching a broader and more diverse audience.

Finally, the documentation of the creative process can also be supported by our staff and will later be included as a digital portfolio of the Buinho website and its main social networks. The realization of the residence's digital portfolio, as well as its permanent exhibition on the Buinho website, allows a multiplier effect that reinforces the promotion and visibility of the artist.



OPEN STUDIOS

Open studios are usually organized individually by each resident artist or writer during the last week of residency.

Not being mandatory, it is however of great importance for the residency program. For this reason, Buinho provides special support for its realization.

Specific support includes the production of communication material as posters, that enable the dissemination of the event next to the local community. Buinho also provides its exhibition spaces and assistance to the exhibition production.

The open studios usually act as individual exhibitions, but can also take the form of talks (specially relevant for writers, curators, and researchers), group exhibitions, happenings, or performances.

Alternative locations can be considered for the open studio.

MESSEJANA, TOWN OF THE SEVEN CHURCHES

Buinho is located in the sunniest region of Europe.

Providing more than 3000 hours of sunshine per year, alentejo is also famous for its gastronomy.

We are just 1 hour and a half from Lisbon and other major cities.



Located in Southern Portugal, deep within the region of Alentejo, Messejana (the town of the seven churches) weaves a colourful composition of blues into Mediterranean whitewashed houses. Offering a unique rhythm, Messejana is a place of contrasts between past aristocratic houses with its hidden patios, and the small rural taipa houses surrounded by baroque white churches.

Messejana has currently 800 population and a long story of human occupation. It possesses archaeological artefacts which dates to the neolithic, including the Romans, Moors and of course the Portuguese.

As a result Messejana possess several points of interest and a strong local identity, full of traditions, folklore and festivities.

Messejana is surrounded by Alentejo's plains and its world famous cork trees. We provide bicycles to our residents for free but residents are requested to keep them in a good condition and return them to the allocated places.

Other private spaces might be available for interventions, installations, presentations, exhibitions or performances. Nevertheless availability will be dependent of its owners.







GENERAL CONDITIONS OF RESIDENCIES

Creative accommodation, technical support, workshops, mediation with the local population, curatorial support, open studio — a complete program.

Artists and writers interested in participating should send by email (info@buinho.pt) a short curriculum, portfolio, and description of the project/ work to be developed during the residency.

Applications will be evaluated by a curatorial committee and will take into consideration the following parameters:

a) artistic quality;

b) relevance of the project;

c) motivation of the candidate.

Writers, researchers, and curators don't require the sending of a portfolio but should send small essays or writing samples that should not exceed 12 pages.

Buinho usually favours projects that involve engagement with the local community or Messejana's distinctive heritage and landscape.

We also like to encourage traditional visual artists that develop art research in the field of digital fabrication.

Our AIR program values multidisciplinarity so we expect the acceptance of creatives from different backgrounds, media, and experience.

We also try to support emerging artists that seek opportunities for international visibility and curriculum. The level of scrutiny of the portfolio's quality is proportionate to the artist's experience.

GENERAL CONDITIONS OF RESIDENCIES

The residency fee varies according to the dimensions of the private spaces.

Minimum two weeks, maximum two months of residency period.

In Buinho we differentiate the value of the residency fees according to the characteristics of the accommodation. Bedrooms have different dimensions, spaces, some may have a private bathroom. By differentiating the fees we are establishing a more fair criterion between residents according to their needs and capabilities.

Monthly fees are the following:

1. São João larger bedroom with private bathroom and shared studio- 900€;

2. São João other two bedrooms with shared studio and bathroom - 800€;

3. Casa da Avó bedrooms with private studio and shared bathroom - 900€;

4. Casa da Padaria bedrooms with private studio and shared bathroom - 900€;

5. Casa Buinho whole house - 1200€.

Accompanying person has a 50% discount but has to share the accommodation.

The minimum duration of each residency is two weeks and the maximum is two months.

Please note that upon acceptance into the Buinho AIR program, we require an initial deposit of 50% of the total residency fee. The residency is only considered confirmed once this deposit has been received.

The remaining 50% is to be paid during the first week of residency. For payment of the deposit, the resident should choose bank transfer. Buinho will issue a receipt confirming the residency payment.

Cancellation requests with a full reimbursement of the deposit should be made by writing within 5 months before the start of the period of stay.

All other cancellations will not result in the refund. Deposits are non-refundable and residency dates are non-transferable.



HOW TO GET TO MESSEJANA

Messejana is in the heart of Baixo Alentejo region, 150 km away from Lisbon in the North and 100km away from the Algarve in the South.

The major nearby town is Aljustrel, located just 9kms away from Messejana.

We recommend you take the plane to Lisbon international airports. Then take in Sete Rios terminal station (Lisbon) one of the daily express buses to Aljustrel. Depending on availability we can drive you to Messejana. From there residents can take a taxi from Aljustrel to Messejana (the trip by taxi takes around 10 minutes and should cost about 20 euros).

Another possibility is to take a train from Oriente train station (Lisbon) and to Funcheira. Funcheira is around 20 kms from Messejana. From there residents should take a taxi which has an approximate cost of 40 euros.

More than a place, more than a fablab, Buinho is a common house for sharing experiences.

Buinho

Fablab and Creative Hub

info@buinho.pt

www.buinho.pt