History of the Valada e Azambuja Palace
Eca de Queiroz makes references in the book "0 Mandarim" about the well known soirees of "the yellow palace of Loreto" in Lisbon. The author refers to Valada e Azambuja Palace. The literary episode quoted by the author is just one of the defining moments of a building reconstructed three times throughout its history.

This building was constructed in the second half of the 18th century over the ruins of a 15th century palace, which was destroyed by the 1755 earthquake. The Pombaline property was reconstructed in the second half of the 19th century, mainly at the level of the front facade as well as its main staircase and saloon of the first floor.

In the 15th century, it was the house of the Count of Avranches, who was killed with the regent D. Pedro at the battle of Alfarrobeira. In August of 1449 the property was donated to Álvaro Pires de Távora, who erected a palace on the old houses that existed there. With the earthquake, in 1755, the palace was destroyed, killing the Spanish ambassador who was currently living there. Later, the palace was rebuilt, and was occupied by D. José de Menezes, who was famous for his lavish receptions that he held there. In 1791, Marquês de Pombal lived in the palace once he married a member of the Menezes family.

In the beginning of the 19th century, the owner was D. Francisco de Menezes da Silveira e Castro, the first Count of Caparica and Marquês de Valada. In January of 1867, the palace was sold to the counselor Francisco José da Silva Torres, who gave it as inheritance to his step-daughter who married the count of Azambuja, and subsequently the palace was known as Valada e Azambuja.

In 1922, the newspaper "A Lucta" conducted their business from the building. In 1925, the tile panels, which came from a palace in Amada, were installed. In
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1936, the newspaper left the building and the 7th and 9th criminal justice courts were installed. Another noteworthy tenant of this building was Sidônio Pais who conspired to take over the government and ultimately did in 1917.

The use of the building as cultural equipment of the municipality of Lisbon took place in 1973 with the installation of the public library for the visually impaired. The library was renamed in 1981 as Camões Library. Luís Vaz de Camões is one of Portugal's most famous poets. His most famous work is an epic named "Os Lusiadas" (meaning: The Portuguese) which was written in 1572.

In 2000, the building was modernized, allowing an increase in the size of the collection. In September 2011, the library expanded to occupy the entire first floor of the building, increasing the number of rooms and promoting many new services to the community.

In 1982, the building was classified as a public interest property. Later on, in 2002, the Bica lift and the surrounding area, including the palace itself, were classified as national monuments.

Adapted from: