

# The Palgrave Handbook of Blue Heritage

*Edited by* Rosabelle Boswell  
David O’Kane · Jeremy Hills

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# Tales of Ocean, Migration and Memory in Ancestral Homespaces in Goa

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**Pedro Pombo** 

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## Abstract

Histories of departure have left traces in Goan rural landscapes, as well as in material cultures, memories and family stories and diasporic references to Goa have been filtered through senses of belonging to ancestral family houses. These family spaces, acting as physical and emotional locations, are central to understand lived experiences and can be seen as intimate museums accumulating objects, photographs and feelings of longing and separation. This chapter explores the possibilities of sensing the ocean while immersing in the Goan village landscapes, taking family houses, in their material qualities and mnemonic possibilities, as privileged locations to understand processes of abandonment and nostalgia that pervade contemporary Goan rural spaces. It is then, not on the maritime shores, but amid paddy fields and backwaters that we can sense how traces of the ocean are embedded in stories, objects and aesthetics of ancestral homes.