



TÉCNICO LISBOA

URBAN PLAN: BENFICA

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Extended Abstract

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00 | INTRODUCTION

The present project report aims to be the presentation and justification of the project developed in the Final Project class, along the academic year of 2011/2012, of the Masters in Architecture, from Instituto Superior Técnico.

This exercise was divided in two phases. The first was developed in group¹ and the second individually.

In the first phase of the project, was created a global strategy for a larger territory, after its analysis. The group strategy consists in the creation of a continuous path through an ecological structure and landmarks (existing and created) in the present territory. The landmarks were designated as “nodes” and they are intended as a communication infrastructure that aims to be an reference public space.

In a second phase, was made an approach to a smaller area of the Group Project Intervention Area (AIPG). Thus, the Project Intervention Area (AIP), that is the subject of study of the present report, is the road node of Estrada de Benfica, Rua Professor José Sebastião e Silva, Rua Tenente Coronel Ribeiro dos Reis, Rua Paulo Renato and Rua Joaquim Paço D’Arcos. This was the chosen area because of its central position in many flows, where paths and roads intersect. Exists in this area, some important urban elements like C. C. Fonte Nova, Florestal Park of Monsanto, Urban Park of Quinta da Granja, “Califa” and campus of IPL. Is assumed that the infrastructure has the capacity to transform public space into a fluid and qualified space, designed for the pedestrian.

It was introduced a reflection chapter about the value of public space and infrastructure, in order to reflect about project decisions, identified along the developed project. The case studies aim to introduce new ways of looking and questioning for similar realities – Sete-Rios and CRIL.

01 | PUBLIC SPACE

I understand the concept of public space as a community space. In it, people can develop many different activities. It is the meeting, recreation, contemplation and circulation space, which is accessible to everyone, at anytime. This urban element can be the sustainable development basis.

In the city, is necessary define the priorities generators elements - infrastructure, public spaces and reference equipment – which have a fixed design and should interconnect urban elements.

URBAN PROJECTRELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PUBLIC SPACE AND PRIVATE SPACEOrganized urban elements trough a STRUCTURE

Network of public spaces reference, green spaces, infrastructure and public buildings

02 | PROJECT AREA ANALISYS

Group Project Intervention Area is located on the Northwest Crown of Lisbon, respectively the Pontinha, Benfica and Carnide areas. The intervention area is bordered by the municipalities of Amadora and Odivelas and it's limited to the west-north by CRIL, to the east by Eixo Norte-Sul, and to the south by Radial de Benfica and Monsanto. The presence of large infrastructures crosses with old streets (Estrada de Benfica e Estrada da Luz), which are essential elements on the urban growth process of this territory. By its periphery position, this area is a disqualified zone, from the urban point of view and public space structure.

The Intervention Project Area includes Estrada de Benfica, Av. do Colégio Militar, C. C. Fonte Nova, IPL Campus, "Califa" and Monsanto.

Until its inclusion in Lisbon, this zone was characterized by the presence of agricultural production, where there were waterlines and farms. In 1755, this area received lots of people that run away from the center of Lisbon, because of the earthquake. So, this territory grew without a plan of the whole, along the old roads.

Regarding the physical aspects, the most important focus in the present work was the ecological and hydric systems. This territory, as referenced, is crossed by an important waterline, designed as Ribeira de Alcântara. So the project aims create an ecological structure, along the existing disqualified public spaces. For that, it was studied the PDM of Lisbon, particularly the ecological system, understanding the future proposals for this urban area. In this ecological system is proposed the creation of a green corridor that links a new Urban Park in Pontinha to the Florestal Park of Monsanto. The project introduces in this corridor a reference public space, creating a network of green spaces – reference public spaces – infrastructures – public buildings. The natural hazards, particularly the earthquakes and floods, were important for the development of the project too.

Despite of the large infrastructures had contribute to the good accessibility of the present territory, they fragment the pedestrian flows, and divides the territory in "islands". However, the existence of a 2ª Circular overpass in the Intervention Area of the Project turns this place like a meeting point of flows. It's notorious the lack of continuity in the road system, isolating the neighborhoods and impairing the circulation of cars and people. So, the road system will be target of an intervention, searching for the continuity of pedestrians and cars paths.

03 | URBAN PROPOSAL

The identification of this area as a cross of flows, where there is a disqualification of the public space, turns relevant the creation of a strategy to articulate and requalify it. The created strategy is based in the necessity to give coherency and legibility to the landscape. It aims to transform the disqualified public space into an social and cultural experience and create a new image of city, a different logic of circulation. So, it was created a continuous ecological structure, which aims to articulate the public space through references and green spaces.

The objective is link the existing reference elements and creates new ones to complete a network of reference public spaces – green spaces – infrastructures – public buildings.

Created strategy uses the infrastructure's "layer" for recreate the value of public space. This urban element establishes great continuities along the city. Is intended that the redesign of the infrastructure has the capacity to propose new public spaces and urban continuity solutions, facilitating the pedestrian crossings. The car parking has been reworked and reset the places taken from the parking on two underground car parking, one close to the C. C. Fonte Nova, and the other at the new health center.

On the overpass of the 2ª Circular, where there is a big car parking today, is proposed a new reference public space. From this public space created in the center of the path between the Urban Park Quinta da Granja and Monsanto and in the center of the Estrada de Benfica too, wooded axes leaves to many directions of AIP. The pedestrian bridge, which allows the access to Monsanto, was redesigned with a larger transversal section and smaller inclination than the existing, in order to create better conditions of crossing and accessing to people.

The buildings aim to create new facades to the public space and conform it. They are the Instituto Superior de Contabilidade e Administração, two commercial buildings and an existing health center that was redesigned.

Main Objectives of the Proposal

- 1 – Create a continuous ecological structure that links Urban Park Quinta da Granja to Monsanto;
- 2 – Create a network of reference public spaces – green spaces – public buildings – infrastructures.
- 3 – Redesign the road system for contribute to a fluid pedestrian path
- 4 – Soil permeabilization
- 5 – Equate the parking surface

04 | CONCLUSION

The project developed in this document is a situation of urban regeneration. It aims to create a new image of public space, focusing on the most important identified problems. To achieve this goal, it was created a continuous ecological structure between Monsanto and Urban Park of Quinta da Granja, through a network of reference public spaces – green spaces – public buildings – infrastructures.

The public space is constituted by many “layers”, which involves different specialties and knowledge. Is important understand the issues underlying the intervention territory, to establish a hierarchy among these “layers” and propose its requalification. For that, it's vital never forget the character of public space.

The public space must be devoted to community. A space with capacity to promotes the meeting of people and allows different forms of circulation.

05 | LITERATURE

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