

Urban Project in Santa Apolónia Riverfront

Spatial continuities as regenerative processes



EXTENDED ABSTRACT OF THE MASTER DISSERTATION

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Extended Abstract

This thesis investigates and proposes a development plan for the Santa Apolonia area located in Lisbon, the capital of Portugal. The development plan involves the area extending between the Santa Apolonia train station and the Xabregas suburb. With the urban expansion of the city of Lisbon, necessity dictates the development of underdeveloped district as that discussed by this thesis. Previously, the area between the Santa Apolonia train station and the Xabregas suburb, was utilized as farming land till the 20th century. Afterwards, the area was converted into industrial area in the suburbs of Lisbon to support the growing industrial demand of the city. The conversion of the Xabregas suburb into an industrial area lead to its isolation from the main urban fabric of the city of Lisbon. The task of developing this area into an urban zone that has high connectivity to the capital is challenging but nonetheless essential. Many obstacles present today in this region make this project nontrivial. The lack of urban infrastructure in this study zone in addition to the separation of this region by a highway and railway tracks are elements of the problem addressed by this thesis. These problems will be addressed and proper solution will be suggested within this development project. Infrastructure is a collective term for the systems and space of flows that provide the services of the city, such as transportation, water, energy, information, communication, and public spaces including green parks. Recently, there has been a strong focus on the architectural renewal of stations, bridges and terminals, but less emphasis on how these infrastructure systems interact with their local tissues. Spaces of flow can be studied using space syntax, which provide strategic and evidence-based consulting services in economics, planning, design, transportation and property development.

To have an overall view of the current situation of the project area, and the possible approach of intervention. Several layers will be studied and analyzed separately, then overlapped to create a general overview that best describe the problem. Accordingly the proposal will be developed with respect to the collective information that was obtained by the several sections of this report. Starting with the history of the area, to better understand the chronological order of the development of this network. followed by the relation between the history and topographic limitations that plays a major role in defining the boundaries of each distinctive area of this network. After seeking the relation of the history with the third dimension of the topography, the network is brought down to the simplest form, which will be put into the test by the space syntax methodology. therefore the idea about the network defining elements and the relation between its sectors will be well rounded.

Similar projects are helpful for better understanding similar scenarios and the possible approaches to the same problem. Case studies of the grid network provide more information concerning the framework and objectives of several models of city grid. Lisbon categorized as a discontinuous city, that has different sectors or fragments with their own identity. Each designed to meet the needs of specific programs, this create individual neighborhoods with different identities. As an overall these information with the previous analysis of the area, start to give us the total understanding of the area characteristics, and corresponding to its context from each and every corner. History, topography, integration level, connectivity, and the city grid as a whole, also the area of intervention as a part of the coherent whole. This is a starting point to rethink the area according to all these outer factors, that will better integrate the area and it's proposed new components. Current situation of area of intervention is evaluated, with respect to the preceding knowledge. Variant infrastructural systems are reconfigured according to the resulting information of the analysis and studies. which will finally define the internal and external relation of the proposed project, with it's context as a fragment of the whole city, also a sector with it's own needs, identity and program.

