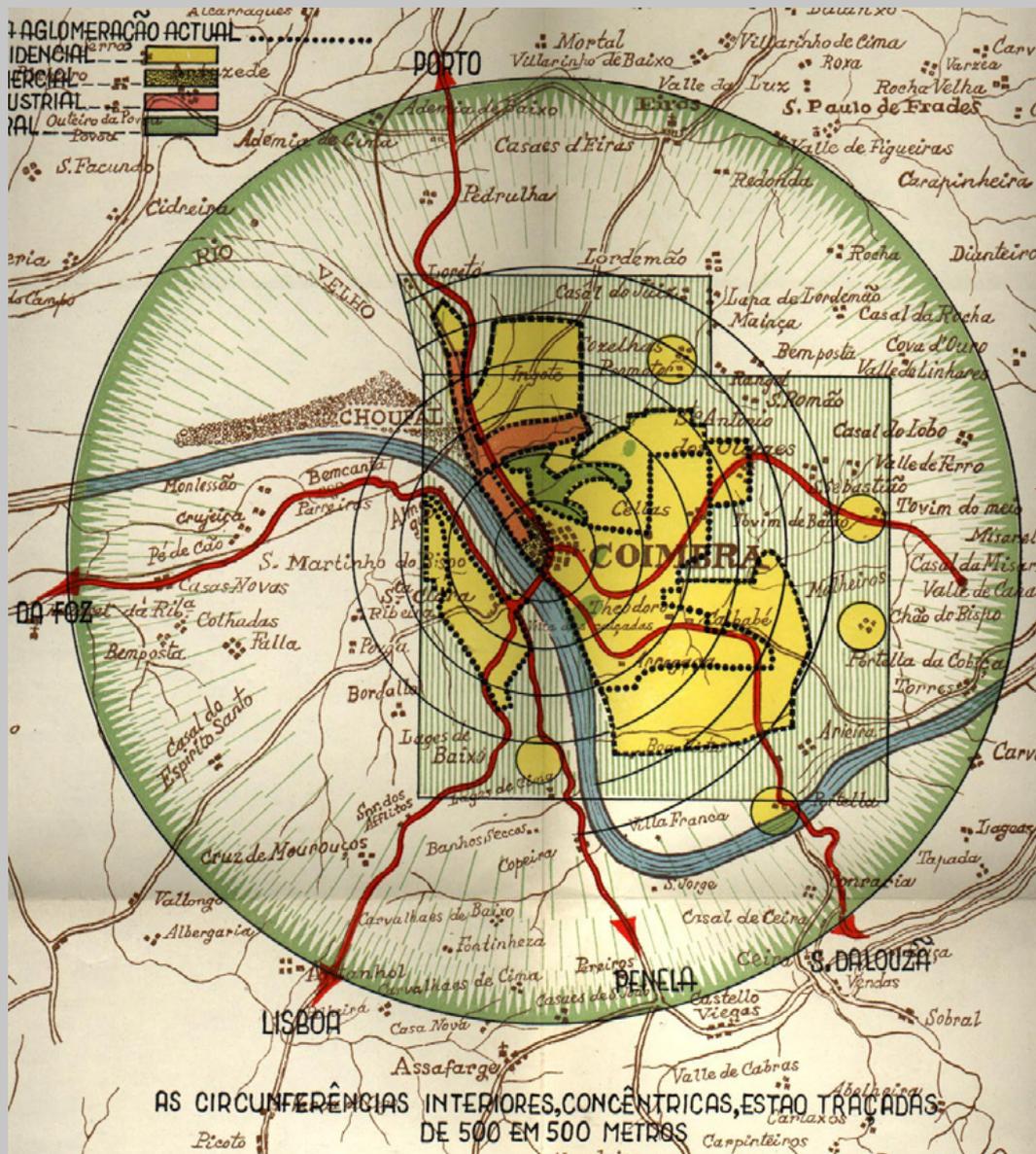


# 2<sup>nd</sup> Reuse of Modernist Buildings Workshop Coimbra Modern City today: from functional buildings to community spaces



NI  
C  
I  
T  
I  
D  
I  
P  
I  
E

After the 1st RMB Student Workshop 2017 in the region of Marl (Germany), the 2nd edition worked in Coimbra, a historical university city in the centre of Portugal. In April 2018, the Reuse of Modernist Buildings (RMB) project, financed by ERASMUS+, organized the 2nd RMB Workshop to rethink the urban areas developed according to the De Groer Urban Plan of 1940.

De Groer and then Almeida Garrett, in 1955, proposed the expansion of Coimbra urban centre through the creation or consolidation of settlements in the first or second ring of the existing city. In this sense, Coimbra developed four neighbourhoods: 1) industrial activity and social housing in Pedrulha (north), 2) housing and medical services in Celas (east), 3) medium class housing, education and sports in Calhabé (south), 4) housing and third services in Fernão Magalhães avenue (west).

These modern plans established in 1940s and 1950s were built by a functional architecture for industrial, housing, educational and medical buildings and for complexes to install the third sector services. These architectures and public spaces are either outdated, abandoned or in bad condition, or even in ruins, due to the political, economic, and social changes. More and more, it is needed that most of these housing, educational and industrial project typologies be reevaluated, in order to understand its capacity to be adapted to current demands, needs and aspirations of the people, from neighbours to institutions.

For this workshop a total of 40 Master students were selected, eight from each university, to form five different working groups. Each group was constituted by students from the five partner universities of RMB project and tutors that supported the team work. Each international team worked on a specific architectural typology and had a tutor from Coimbra, a second from one of the four other universities and one more from another field such as art photography (José Maças de Carvalho), anthropology (Sandra Xavier) and sociology (Paulo Peixoto).

### **Workshop Themes**

Fernão Magalhães Neighbourhood - urban block and avenue  
SAAL Neighbourhood (Pedrulha) - community areas for SAAL Relvinha  
Pediatric Hospital (Celas) - facilities for Ano Zero Art Bienal 2018  
SOLUM Neighbourhood (Calhabé) - design the missing link -  
“Fourth” Tower  
Norton de Matos Neighbourhood (Calhabé) - community school

### **Organisation Team**

Paulo Providência, Gonçalo Canto Moniz, Michel Melenhorst (Coord.),

José António Bandeirinha, José Fernando Gonçalves, Sandra Xavier,  
Paulo Peixoto,

Carolina Ferreira, Daniela Amaro, Noémi Loureiro, Mónica Oliveira

Maria Rita Veiga, Carolina Matos, Laura F. Gaspar, Marian Pereira,  
Rafaela Albuquerque, João Dias, Ivan Brito, Gonçalo Santos, Ines  
Cavadas, Ana Luisa Graça, António Moreno (technical support)

### **RMB Partners**

Universiteit Antwerpen (Belgium)

Universidade de Coimbra (Portugal)

Universidade de Lisboa - Instituto Superior Técnico (Portugal)

Istanbul Teknik Universitesi (Turkey)

Hochschule Ostwestfalen-Lippe (Germany)

Docomomo International (Portugal)

The Energy and Resources Institute, TERI (India)

### **Support**

Centre for Social Studies

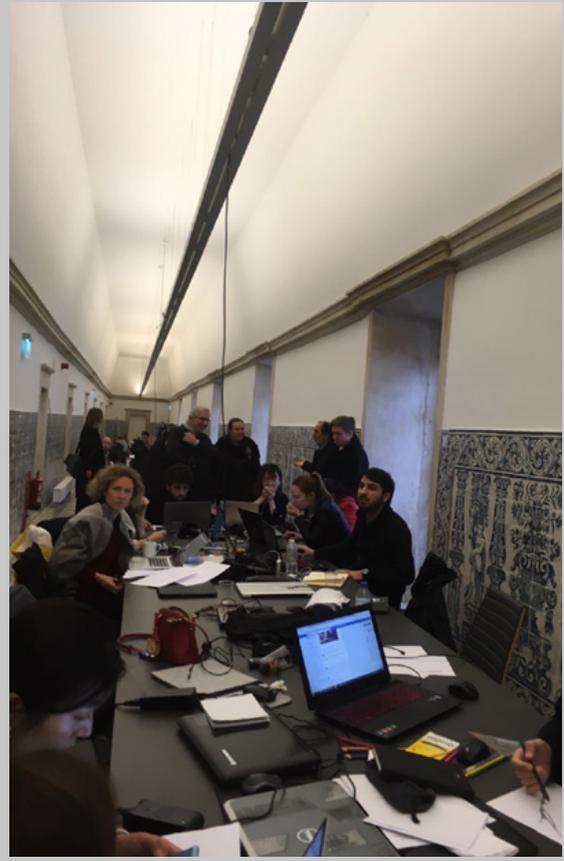
Anozero

Exército

Delta

Sanitana











F  
V  
I  
I  
I  
D  
I  
T  
I  
O  
N



# Reconnecting the modern urban plan Fernão de Magalhães Avenue



## Tutors

Francisco Teixeira Bastos (IST), Paulo Providência (UC)

## Students

Manuel Alves de Campos (IST), João Dias (UC), Omkar Bhagwat (HOL), Ilayda Memiş (ITU), Kelly Pauwels (UA), Elaine Keet (UA), Mirian Pereira (UC), Anna Wisse (UA), Lara Schothors (UA)

## Introduction

The idiosyncrasy of this theme of the RMB Workshop (Reuse of Modern Buildings) is in the focus of looking at *the architecture of the city*. The case study of Fernão Magalhães Avenue questions the design of a *lost modernity*, the partially constructed project for the Avenue by the architect Alberto Pessoa.

To intervene on this avenue, it was important first to realize how its present state fulfilled the city's desire enunciated in the original project, and secondly, what degree of inertia would that desire have in responding to the change to contemporary urban paradigms.

This fact triggered the need to identify what desire this would have been: a perfect vision of *modern city*. The ideas of urban design and of the constructive systems enunciated by the modern movement allowed distinct typologies of the antecedents and made the public space protagonist. Creating spaces with a wide urban profile, crossing, traffic, pedestrian circulation covered by buildings that are released from the ground in *pilotis*, allowed to free the pawn from the constraints of the unhealthy and monotonous corridor.

In the present case, Alberto Pessoa contrasted with the urban intentions of a restraint at the source (following the expansion line of Sofia and Figueira da Foz Streets), a transparency towards the west, towards the river Mondego, bringing other pedestrian complexities to the rectilinear path.

The realization of the plan, carried out by others, betrayed the initial intentions of the ground occupation of the volumetric suspension. The resulting space for the west, is a set of *cul-de-sac* enlargements, uncharacterized and without solutions of spatial continuity. To the east side, an ambitious model of an urban block that matched housing, services, and commerce, has never solved the high platform that would allow the collective spaces of housing, and the continuity of the south plan, in times of furious postmodernism, caricatured the modern dash.

As a working method, it was intended to put into dialogue the readings that the urban wanderer, the citizen, makes of urban space, between the current state and the initial aspiration. We explored an interview method that relies on the image as a means of elicitation, having elaborated a series of photographic assemblages of the elevations of the two street fronts in order to characterize the sets, allowing visual perception of the continuities and breaks on each side of the avenue. These images evidenced the result of land, commercial

and speculative pressures, most of which were expressed by the uncritical preservation of preexistences and embodiments loose objects, leading to a disordered image in time, scale, size, language and weak correspondence to urban structure.

The proposal's strategy focused on the search for a *reality statement* to intervention by means of the definition of a temporal starting point. The project proposes, as a basis of work, a plan elaborated by Eduardo Souto Moura for a new surface metro line, in a new avenue between the riverside walk *City of Aeminium*, and the avenue Fernão Magalhães, injecting life in it and avoiding what would always be as the *Backs* of the riverside avenue, reinforcing the main north entrance in Coimbra.

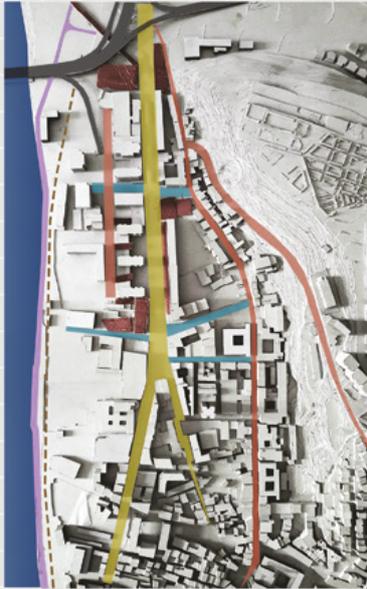
The surrounding boundaries were worked in order to re-signify the core of the Av. Fernão Magalhães. Connections are made by drilling the basement of the building's spring band, taking advantage of the existing portico system. Connections are opened to this new avenue, which becomes main entrance ways, introducing transverse flows between the river and the avenue. These cuts cause a reflection in the edged western band, where the empty space between buildings has greater expression, completing the composition. It accentuates the entrance in the city with the score of new blocks at the beginning of the avenue. The modern geometric and formal lexicon is used as a *mote of composition* for the new environments of the avenue. It proposes a wooded and garden area between the avenue and the river.

This search for identity bets on the clarification and qualification of the public space. The spaces are humanized, and life and joy are enhanced in their enjoyment. Together, the interventions boost the dynamization of the avenue Fernão de Magalhães, seeking a frank integration in the city.

# analysis



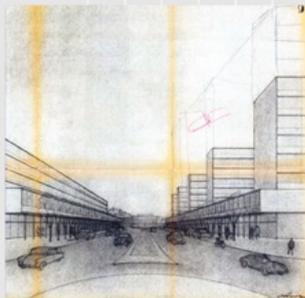
Existing Green Spaces



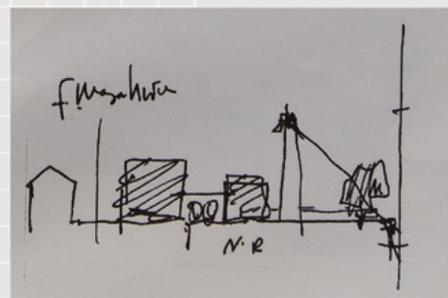
Road Connectivity



Open and Built Space



Visualisation of Av. Fernão Magalhães, Arq. Alberto Pessoa



Section sketch Av. Fernão Magalhães, Arq. Eduardo Souto de Moura



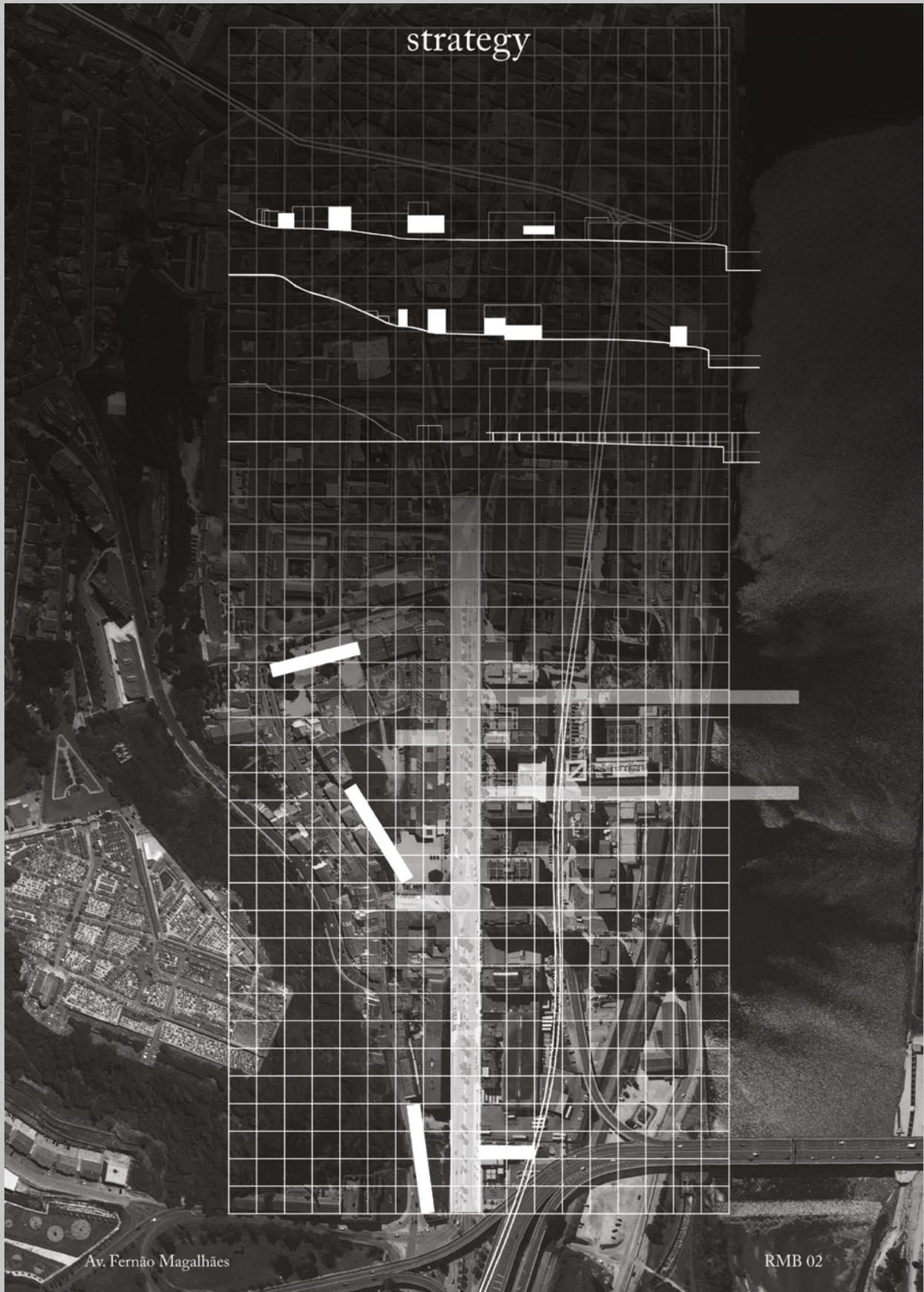
Throws the river, Street facade



Throws the hill, Street facade

Av. Fernão Magalhães

RMB 01



strategy

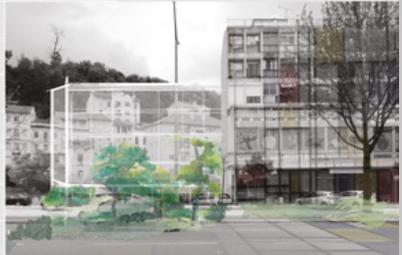
Av. Fernão Magalhães

RMB 02

proposal



public space



identity



joy



Av. Fernão Magalhães

RMB 03

# RELVINHĀ

## Relvinha Neighbourhood



### **Tutors**

Carolina Coelho, Els De Voos, José António Bandeirinha

### **Students**

Pavel Furtsev (HSOWL), Sena Basgül (ITU), Hatice Yasemin Çakir (ITU), Lucas Nepomuceno (IST), Inês Cavadas (UC), Maria Rita Veiga (UC), Nathalie Casteels (UA), Pieter Van Steenbrugge (UA)

Relvinha is a peripheral neighbourhood of Coimbra. It was a slum until the rise of Democracy in Portugal, in 1974, when it became part of a national rehabilitation process of slums, the SAAL process. This was an exemplary process, even in an international perspective, in terms of participation of neighbours, because all the options about the project were intensely discussed and all the decisions about the process were taken together. Then new housing began to be programmed and built in two phases, single row houses from 1975 to 1978 and collective blocks from 1977 to c. 1980. In the surroundings there is an ancient industrial area, with some noteworthy modern factories, some in a process of re-use, some unfortunately still abandoned.

Nowadays since their dwelling needs are completely fulfilled, inhabitants seek for new facilities, such as a cultural meeting centre, which is already going on, and better quality for public space.

So the workshop team faced the challenge of responding to this new kind of inhabitants' needs, working the way they are used to, i. e., discussing the project since the beginning. The students began by visiting the site and understanding its topography, its programmatic uses and spatial arrangement, as well as its urban context. Besides, students became aware of its historical development and its participatory history, by means of a meeting with the actual community of this neighbourhood that welcomed the students and explained them their history, their current situation and their most pressing needs.

Students then identified core issues to be answered, namely: the need to design an infrastructure that would connect two levels of the site and that was thought in a cohesive manner with the remaining built space, the inhabitants' urge for a communal space that would address the lack of a centrality, and facilities that would provide for the uses needed by the current inhabitants. Furthermore, their proposal should provide higher urbanity to the neighbourhood, connecting it more tightly with the existing urban fabric, besides understanding the specific social and spatial heritage this neighbourhood comprises from its origin.

The final proposal gathered all these inputs, suggesting additional building and green areas that would resume the existing layout of the single row housing, an infrastructure that would answer functional requirements and that was also conceived as a green area, and a communal core that would provide interior and exterior space, for



" A population without HISTORY  
A generation without MEMORY

it is a generation without BEGINNING"  
— FUTURE —



conversation with habitants

"We can't always be stuck in the past  
but it shouldn't be forgotten."

"Keep the fire of our fight alive!"

"We want to pass to our  
kids and our grandkids  
the fight of their fathers"



- empty spaces
- playground
- car parking
- green areas



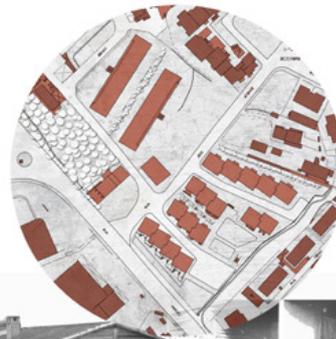
- main roads
- secondary roads
- pedestrian roads
- retaining wall



- semi public spaces
- public spaces
- private spaces



- solid
- void



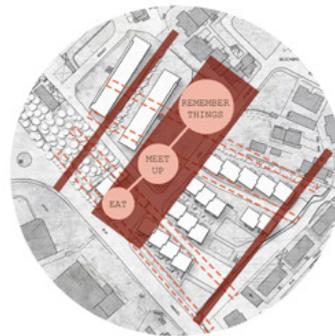
CURRENT SITUATION



Due to the construction of Fernao Magalhaes Avenue, people are forced to move to Relvinha.  
1900s



Protests began to strike for supporting the habitants of Relvinha  
1964



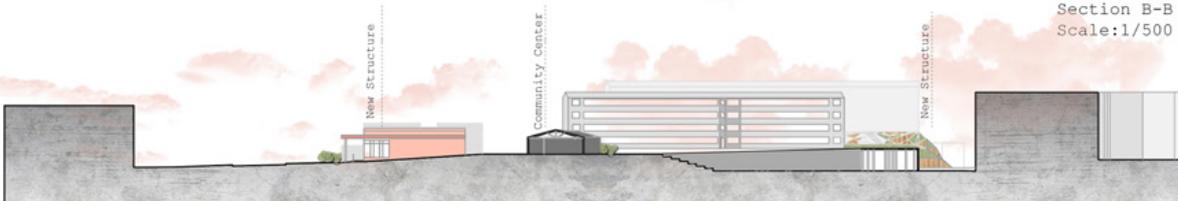
CONCEPT



Section A-A  
Scale: 1/500



Section B-B  
Scale: 1/500



Section C-C  
Scale: 1/500



25th of April - Revolution

SAAL

constructions started

2nd part of construction

1974

1975

1980

1982

REVISTA DE ARQUITECTURA

Pavel Furtsev (HROWL)  
Sena Başgöl (ITU)  
Hatice Yasemin Çakır (ITU)  
Lucas Nepomuceno (IST)  
Inês Cavadas (UC)  
Mária Rita Veiga (UC)  
Nathalie Casteels (UA)  
Pieterien Van Steenbrugge (UA)

WORKING COMMUNITY

WORKING  
COMMUNITY  
IDENTITIES

IDENTITY

COLLECTIVITY

POLYVALENT CENTRALITY



VISUALISATION

YOUNG & OLD

PARTICIPATION

SOCIAL SPOT

MUSEUM ATMOSPHERE

MUSEUM  
EDUCATION



community weaken - decrease in numbers of habitants - unefficient public spaces

future

community center project  
2003

2018

# Art as Therapy: From Coimbra Pediatric Hospital to ANOZERO Art Biennale Pediatric Hospital Norton de Matos School



## Tutors

Carlos Antunes (UC), Michel Melenhorst (HOL)

## Students:

Arbi Sinoimeri (HOL), Cagdas Kaya (ITU), Denise Zwanenberg (UA), Helena Bossolan (UC), Huulya Yavas (ITU), Rafaela Albuquerque (UC), Sérgio Costa (IST), Shuangning Wei (HOL)

## Introduction

'I speak of a complex and contradictory architecture based on the richness and ambiguity of modern experience, including that experience which is inherent in art' or ; 'I welcome the problems and exploit the uncertainties'; I like elements which are hybrid rather than "pure", compromising rather than "clean"; 'accommodating rather than excluding'; 'I am for messy vitality over obvious unity'; I prefer "both-and" to "either-or", black and white, and sometimes grey, to black or white'<sup>1</sup>

These are just a few quotes from Robert Venturi's *Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture*, they express clearly what he likes in architecture. He would probably also have very much liked the *Pediatrico*, the former Children's Hospital in Coimbra for it has all these aspects of complexity and contradiction in it. Around and in its centuries-old core, a former monastery, in numerous extensions it collected layers of time, adding, covering and intersecting with previous constructions. As with the building, also the context of the building changed over time. The Hospital itself and the adjacent church, both build in a walled garden, originally outside of the old city of Coimbra, became part of Coimbra's modern extension, a hortus concluded in the densified city.

In the RMB workshop, the students kept in spirit with this history of the site and buildings. They were not trying to favourite one period of the buildings history above the other, were not trying to clean. Instead of cleaning up by removing traces and layers, they brought clarity and new meaning by adding new layers instead to achieve one main goal: opening up the building and its garden to the city. They made new connections between building, it's garden and the city. They found ways to re-use the building, to read it and experience it in a new way, thus preparing it for its future role as a seat for the Coimbra Ano Zero Art Biennale.

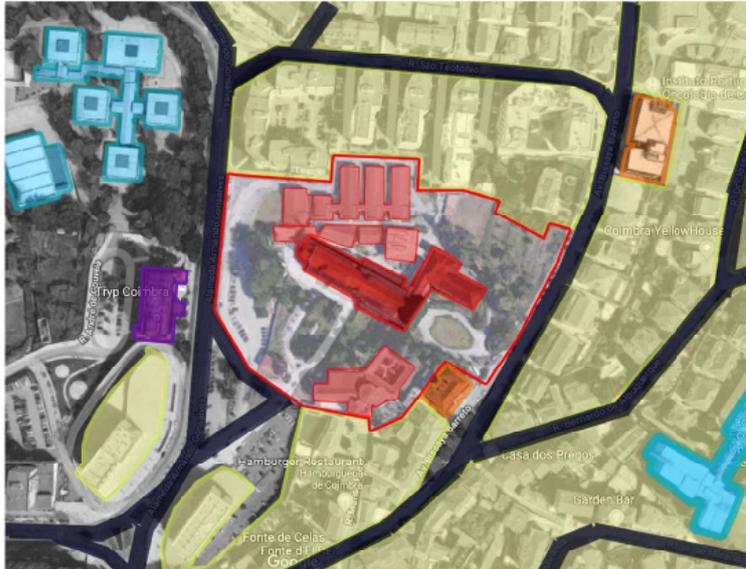
1 → 'Complexity and Contradiction changed how we look at, think and talk about architecture' 22 December, 2016 By Martino Stierli in <https://www.architectural-review.com/essays/reviews/complexity-and-contradiction-changed-how-we-look-at-think-and-talk-about-architecture/10015872.article> 29.10.2018

# Art as Therapy

From Coimbra Pediatric Hospital to ANOZERO Art Biennale

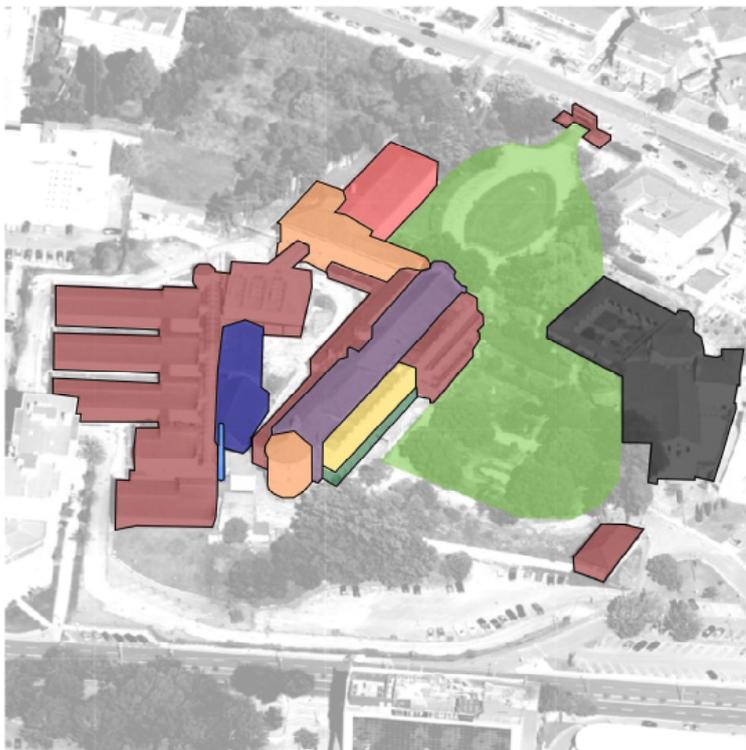
## The Building's History

1



### The building's surroundings

- Former Pediatric Hospital
- Hotel
- School Facilities
- Medical Facilities
- Residential Areas
- Road Network
- Parking



### The building's history

**XIII to XVII Centuries**  
Original Celas Monastery

**1612**  
New Dormitory for the Monastery

**1892**  
Asylum for the Disabled and the Blind: dining hall

**1912**  
Minor improvements: kiln

**1929**  
Women's Sanatorium: ground floor verandas for sunbathing

**1931**  
Classical-styled landscaping

**1934**  
Upper floor verandas

**1958**  
Semi-circular apsis and Children's Ward

**1962**  
Children's Ward extension

**1970-1977**  
Conversion to Pediatric Hospital

An RMB Coimbra 2018 Project by: Arbi Shoimeri, HOL | Cagdas Kaya, ITÜ | Denise Zwanenberg, UA | Helena Bossolan, UC | Hülya Yavas, ITÜ | Rafaela Albuquerque, UC | Sérgio Costa, IST | Shuangning Wei, HOL

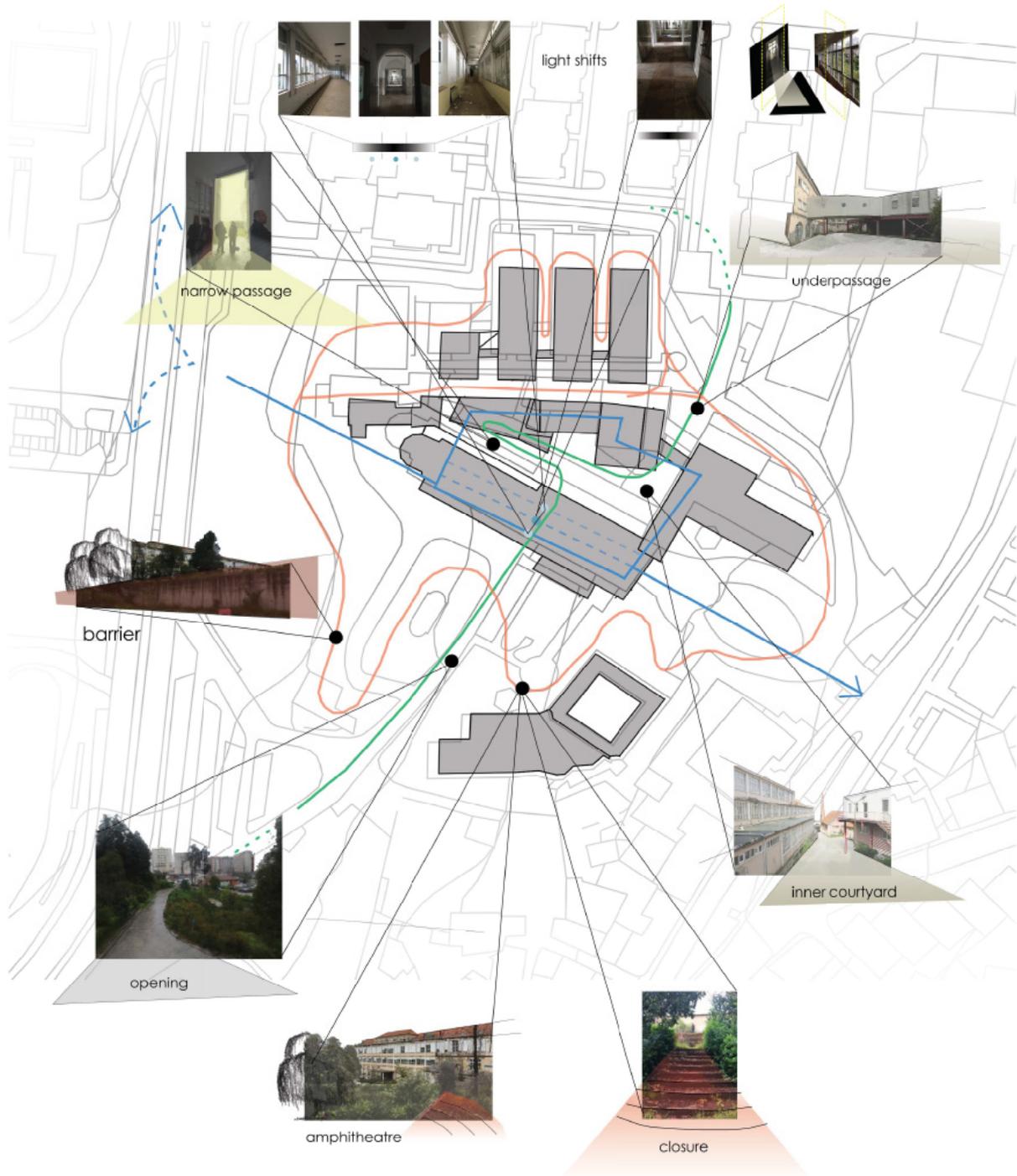
NI  
 CO  
 TI  
 TI  
 D  
 I  
 LI  
 V  
 E

# Art as Therapy

From Coimbra Pediatric Hospital  
to ANOZERO Art Biennale

## The Site Analysis

# 2



An RMB Coimbra 2018 Project by: Arbi Shoimeri, HOL | Cagdas Kaya, ITÜ | Denise Zwanenberg, UA | Helena Bossolan, UC | Hülyüç Yavas, ITÜ | Rafaela Albuquerque, UC | Sérgio Costa, IST | Shuangning Wei, HOL



# NOTÍCIAS



# Missing Link

## Solum Neighbourhood (Calhabé)

### “Fourth” Tower



## Tutors

Ecem Edis (ITU), José Fernando Gonçalves (UC), Paul Wauters (UA)

## Students

Allesandro Grossi (HOL), Alex Noels (UA), Ellen Mollen (UA), Enes Serdar Yaltir (ITU), Jana De Borger (UA), Sofie Dascotte (UA), Veronika Phadtare (HOL), Yang Yang (HOL)

## Introduction

In the context of the expansion and modernization of the urban structure of Coimbra, in 1955, the “Plano regulador da cidade de Coimbra” was set up and in its context the “Plan of the residential unit of Calhabé”, both carried out by Antão de Almeida Garrett. Although modern urban plans do not have a great expression in Portugal, this plan presents a formal solution that replicates the principles of the Athens Charter, namely the creation of a “neighborhood unit” characterized by high-rise housing blocks set in a garden.

From 1956 on, the first study of one of the sectors of this plan was promoted by SOLUM, which only acquired its final design in 1962 (Rogério Alvarez Arq. And Castro Pita Eng.). The buildings constructed in their sequence will be designed by Rogério Alvarez, Melo and Matos and Carlos de Almeida at the end of the decade and the beginning of the next.

At one of the central points of this plan, which results from the intersection of two crossing streets of the neighborhood, a housing tower is proposed in each of the three adjacent lots. The fourth batch, already occupied by an educational institution, was not integrated into the process of modernization of the area, generating an incomplete urban process perception.

It is precisely this challenge that is proposed to the students:

- 1 – how to think the re-use of the modern city through the (re) qualification of its buildings and urban spaces?
- 2 – Does the design of the fourth tower make sense as a process to complete a urban plan that has never been completed and with it to create the dynamics of transformation of a place?

When researching the context and the current situation, the students decided at an early stage of the process to propose alternative solutions to the many difficulties instead of thinking about a design for this fourth missing tower. They discovered that the original modernist ambitions that form the basis of the design for this site are under great pressure in the current reality.

The busy traffic situation, the unrestrained parking pressure, the fencing of the open green areas around the buildings and the appropriation for private use of the public space are in direct opposition to the modernist principles to allocate the open space for communal use.

Instead of building a fourth tower on the terrain that was planned for it, they wanted to offer a concept that solves the parking problems for the residents and visitors in a sustainable way, providing a departure and arrival point for public transport and bicycle storage. By building partly underground and providing a faint green sloping roof, they make an expansion of the green public space that connects the campus of the nearest university buildings and the neighbourhood of the three towers.

Finally, the 'Missing link' want to provide a scenario for a long-term vision on the further sustainable development of the neighbourhood indicating this proposal as an intelligent answer for this interesting architectural issue.

## Missing Link

## Research

Portugal - Coimbra - Solum Area



### An exemplary modernist district in the heart of Portugal

The district of Solum is located in the Southeastern extension of the de Groër Plan in Coimbra, Portugal, also called the Calhabé Zone later on. The initiative to realise a modernist neighbourhood came from one of the landowners, Dr. Fernando Luís Mendes Silva, who associated the owners and presented a proposal for the revision of the Urbanisation Plan of the Residential Unit - Plano de Urbanização da Unidade Residencial - of Calhabé in November 1952. The plan drawn up defines new objectives and contents in the urban planning of a large area, and is an example of the application of Athens Charter principles. This neighbourhood, among equals in the country, is a source of inspiration that proves to be a successful example of modernist doctrines applied to intervention sites, not as static stylistic models that repeat themselves blindly, but as a method that establishes new relationships between form, content and location. Nevertheless, the realisation was subordinate to the urban policies that were in force, referring to the car routes, location of the complementary equipment to be built and their boundaries, and the programmatic constraints of the plan implemented by Antão de Almeida Garrett, Etienne de Groër's successor in city planning.

The urban planning was intended to guarantee a greater humanisation of the housing environments, a self-sufficiency of each residential district with respect to commercial, leisure, schools, in order to guarantee to the inhabitants a daily life of their own. In fact it should be noted that the residential district of Calhabé already had some of these facilities at the time it was accomplished, such as the Municipal Stadium, the Infanta Maria school, the Magistério Primário school, the Avelar Brotero school and the Sao José church. The Solum district has privileged physical characteristics due to the gentle north-south slope that favors solar exposure, as well as the presence of these important collective facilities mentioned above, that complement the housing area, and are today extended with a shopping centre and a sports centre.

The Charter of Athens described the functional logic that zonifies the city by functions: to inhabit, to work, to leisure and to circulate, determining an angular urban conception where "the housing districts occupy the best locations, taking advantage of the topography, having the most favorable sun exposure, and opportune green surfaces".

The proposal presented through a plan and model clearly shows a planning based on these principles. The buildings were placed on a large expanse of green without barriers or walls, suggesting a free layout, independent of the subdivision of the territory, favouring the sun exposure, the distance between buildings, the accesses and the privileged location points. The roadways are strict orthogonal axes, independent of the buildings, hierarchised by different types of circulation: passing pedestrians and cars, access to the building, to the garage, to a shop or other facility. The buildings are presented in the design model with the ground floor recessed from the plane of the facade, so it is assumed that it is the intention of the designer to suspend the buildings on pilotis, with different heights corresponding to the different social classes, separating the functions by buildings: shops, garages, social institutions and corporate bodies. The different typologies of volumes presuppose the existence of groups of buildings with the same typology of combination of housing units, that is, there are different groups of buildings with the same structure of housing units that are related in the same way to the urban space. The resulting interstitial public urban spaces were composed of landscaped green areas, car parks and access to housing units within the blocks and suggested to act as "extension of housing" and also contribute to the articulation between the different directions of deployment of the buildings.



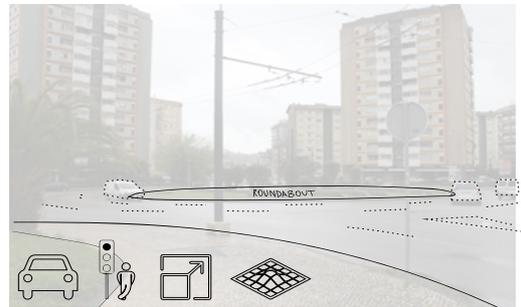
residential area - A missing fourth tower?

"You shouldn't be here because its private."

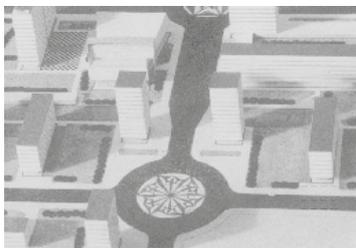


public facilities - opening up the area?

"Did you ask permission to be here?"



(road) infrastructure - shifting the usage?

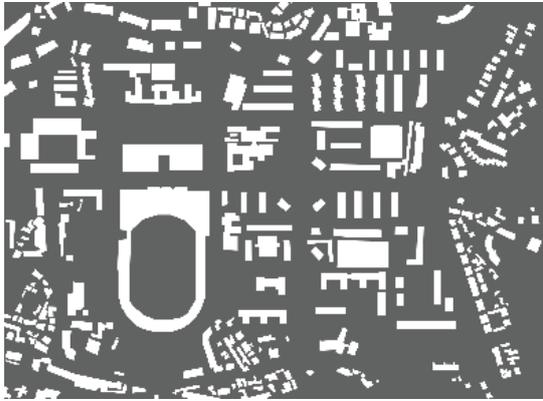


An analysis by

Alessandro Grossi - Alex Noels - Ellen Mollen - Enes Serdar Yaltr - Jana De Borger - Sofie Dascotte - Veronika Phadtare - Yang Yang

## Missing Link

## Design



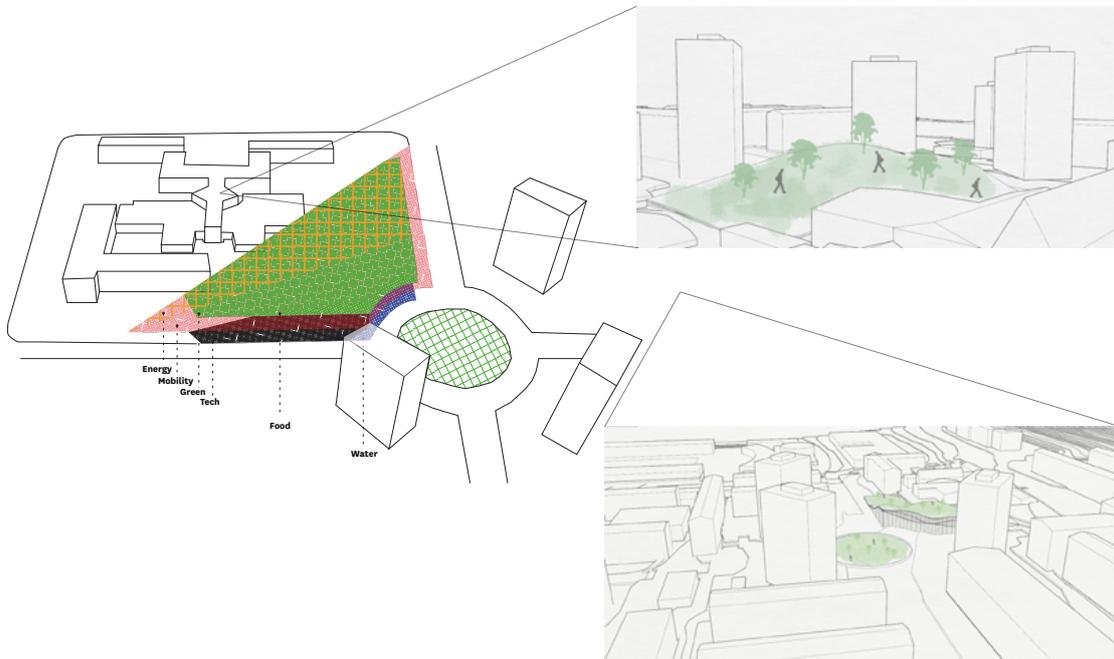
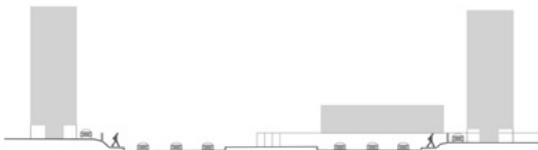
### Negative

A negative visualisation of our area, shows how much open space there is in between the buildings. In reality almost no part of the area is public space. It is all privatised by the inhabitants of the building. What if we have the freedom to look at the space as a public area. Then there's the negative aspect that becomes an advantage of the area.



### From open to restricted access modernism

Today cars rule the space between the buildings, once supposed to be green landscaped community space. This causes an inactive urban situation, in extreme terms a "dead spot". Residents lay hold on the outside space around the buildings as an automatically acquired property right. On the fourth quadrant of the roundabout, the urban issues are rather different. There is no connection between the residential area and the ESIC university, as was envisioned by the modernist city planners. A wall and fence border the school and its buildings are oriented to the centre of the building block. The university claims to be self-sustaining in a way it does not need facilities outside its campus. Parking spaces are provided for its professors, while students, who mostly live nearby, pay parking fees in the shopping centre. This towering mobility problem has its roots in the lack of efficient public transport and entrenched habits.



### A concept by

Alessandro Grossi - Alex Noels - Ellen Mollen - Enes Serdar Yaltr - Jana De Borger - Sofie Descotte - Veronika Phadtare - Yang Yang

Missing Link

Vision

Making the city ready for the future



By participatory activities starting to create a feeling of community

"University shows the area the potential of a future"



The line between private and public spaces will be gone, creating a collective space which can be used by everyone.

"The campus becomes the hearth of the sustainable city center"



A urban campus can spread ideas, lifestyle and improvements trough its city

A future by

Alessandro Grossi - Alex Noels - Ellen Mollen - Enes Sendar Yaltr - Jana De Berger - Sofie Descotte - Veronika Phadtare - Yang Yang

# Knowledge without boundaries

## Norton de Matos School



## **Tutors**

Ana Goes Monteiro (UNICAMP), Gonçalo Canto Moniz (UC)

## **Students**

Gizem Mentese (ITU), Ivan Brito (UC), Jameele Eranpurwula (UA),  
Monika Tylutka (UC), Ruby Ingwersen (UA), Tildem Kirtak (ITU)

## **Introduction**

Norton de Matos School is nowadays a unique facility in the urban grid of the Norton de Matos Neighbourhood, in Coimbra. Located on the top of a the avenue, it is, without any doubt, an important nodal point. Although, with the ageing of the resident population in its surroundings, the number of students has been continually decreasing.

In this context, the challenge proposed to the students was to consider the Norton de Matos School as an urban facility capable of establishing the articulation between different parts of the neighbourhood, and as so, making the urban transformation that is necessary. Transforming it in an open school, opened to the community, so it can fulfil again is nodal role, and with mixed programs, identifying itself as a singular object in a defining axis, is in the base of thought.

The project aimed to be the more participative as possible, facing the needs of the population, students and teachers. Therefore, visits to the School and the neighbourhood were performed in order to understand the building and the urban environment. The first idea was to work the relation between the school and Vasco da Gama street. In the next day, the team visited the school again. This time, to realize a series of activities with the students, children of 8 years old, which come from very different social realities. The first question made was: What would you change in your school? The answer was almost unanimous: we would reform the spaces related to leisure and sports.

The team of students could then realize a deeper diagnostic and identify the risen opportunities: school as a referential point; the existence of an open space; the use of school spaces by the citizens during the school counter-periods of classes. With these thoughts, the team could initiate the design proposal, where they prioritized the public space; the security of children; the leisure areas required by them; different scales for use by children and adults; the combination between public spaces, semi-public and of restrict usage to the School Norton de Matos community.

The walls, which usually, were seen as urban barriers, were in this case the boosters of the proposal, and upon which, the scheme unfold. The school walls define the frontier between the public/private and neighbourhood/school and the project explored the transition of spaces.

Since sport was an early concern to the School users, it had a preponderant role in the design decisions. The proposal made itself use of the altimetrical differences between the several interior levels, to guarantee diverse equipment and several ways of appropriation

of space. Considering that most users of Norton de Matos School are children, the project took in consideration the scale and space relations, that are quite different from adults. The entrance to the schools used as a transition between them. All spaces are (re)think to the children so they can have spaces to play and to stay.

The school, instead of surging in its context as a barrier, transforms itself in the connection point between spaces, instead of closing in itself, passes to belong to the children and to the neighbourhood.



# knowledge without boundaries



- Strengths**
- Located at the end of an important street
  - Large open space
  - Open groundfloor

- Weaknesses**
- No facilities
  - Separated staircase
  - High windows in the corridors

- Opportunities**
- Possible reference point
  - Wide space for a playground
  - Only used during daytime, not in the evening

- Threats**
- Different scales for children and adults
  - Safety for the children
  - Combination of the semi-public school with a public surrounding

### 1. image elicitation



The children were given a model and icons of several activities, so they could point out where they like to do what. Not only did this give us visual data, but it was also a

### 2. student generated photo's

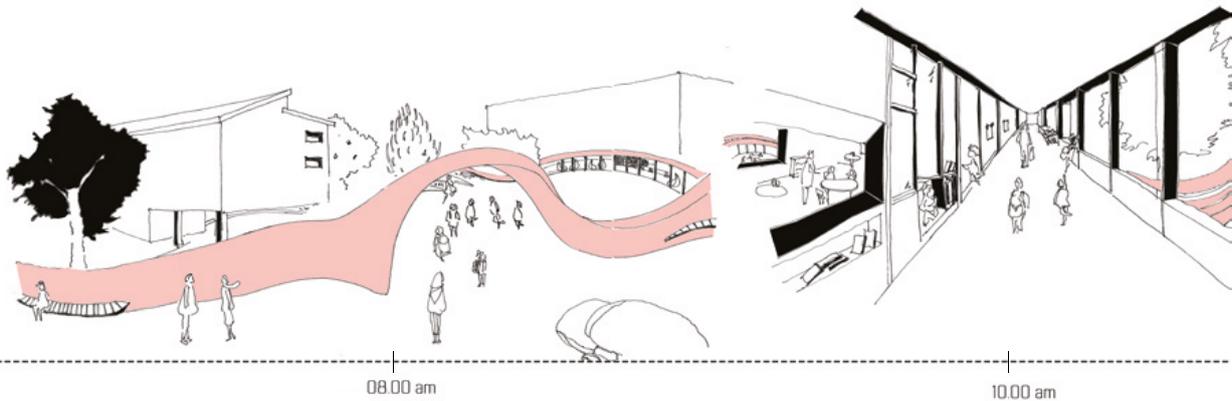


Giving the children a camera was a great tool to make us see through their eyes. They were limited to take three pictures of what they like inside and around the building.

### 3. student generated drawings



Furthermore, we asked the children to make a drawing of what they do when playing. This way we got a very extensive picture of their favorite activities. It was striking that on half of the drawings a football field was





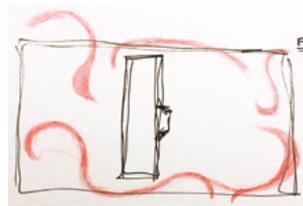
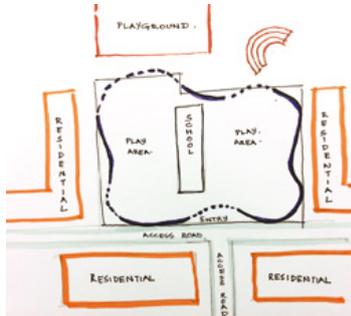
Aldo van Eyck



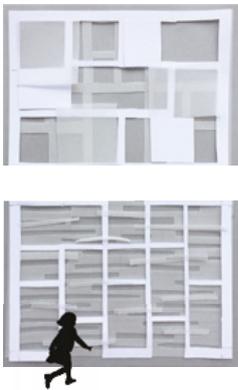
Tezuka Architects



COR Arquitectos

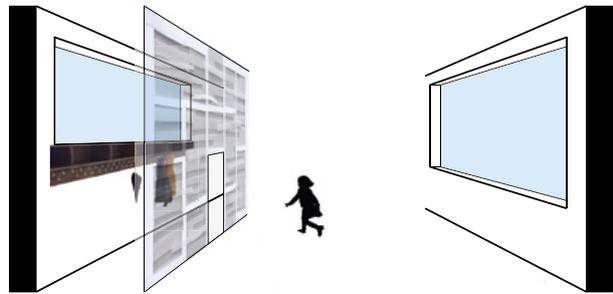


walls ?

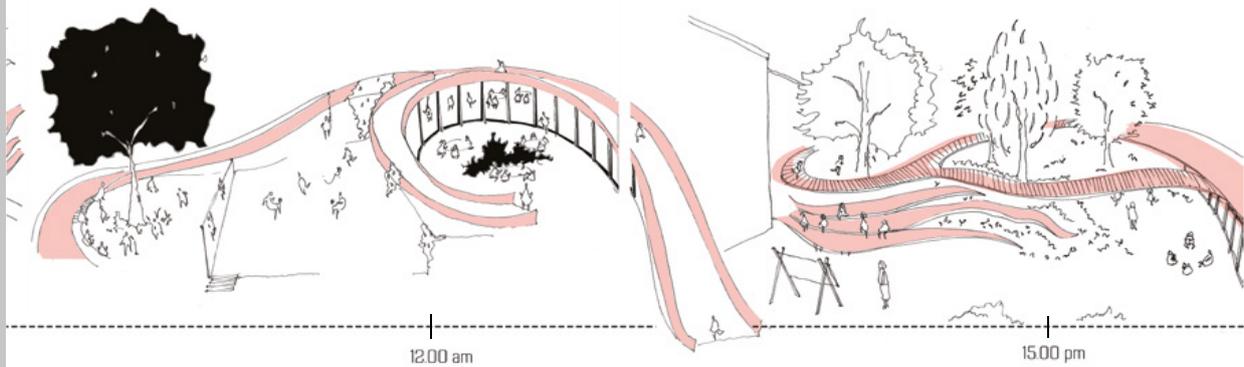


transition

corridors ?



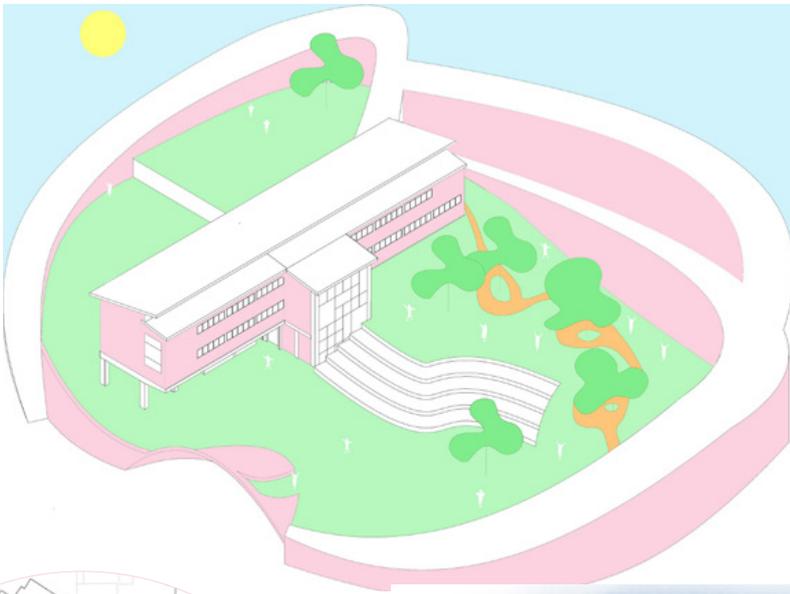
multifunctional



12.00 am

15.00 pm

RMB Workshop Coimbra  
Primary School  
Gizem Mentese, Ivan Brito,  
Jameele Eranpurwala,  
Monika Tylutka, Ruby Ingwersen,  
Tiidem Kirtak



access



An architect's role is not to provide a complete solution, but to provide a spatial framework to be filled in by the users.

*Herman Herzberger*

