



**CATEGORY:** urban / architectural

**TEAM REPRESENTATIVE:** Architect

**LOCATION:** Don Benito– Santiago Apostle site

**POPULATION:** 40.820 inhab.

**STRATEGIC SITE:** 56,29 ha - **SITE OF PROJECT:** 0,73 ha

**SITE PROPOSED BY:** Government of Extremadura and Don Benito City Council

**OWNERS OF THE SITE:** Don Benito City Council and private

**COMMISSION AFTER COMPETITION**

Urban / Architectural

#### HOW THE SITE CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE ADAPTABLE CITY?

Don Benito is one of the Extremadura region's growth areas. It is also a commercial hub. The transformation of historic centers must provide solutions for a city's new requirements to ensure that gaps in the streetscape, the result of urban transformations in the course of time, are given new uses that increase their potential value and recover their shape in space and time, without breaking down.

#### CITY STRATEGY

The proposed study area covers the entire consolidated centre, where there is a need to combine the town's different residential requirements.

Successive urban transformations of the historic centre over time have left gaps, which provide an opportunity to address this town's present-day social and urban growth requirements.

New ways of sharing this collective space and new types of management must be proposed if we want to shape a value-added urban centre that is related to the potential value of this region. The consolidated city requires spaces that mix the spatial dimension with the temporal dimension of their uses, in order to generate places that facilitate their occupation at different moments in the life of the city.

The varied uses of the city that generate tension between the private and public spheres are a potential opportunity to share and increase the value of the current buildings, helping to move towards a sustainable city in time.



## SITE DEFINITION

Don Benito is a large municipality covering 56.292 ha in the northwest of Badajoz province, on the Guadiana River flats. Now the fifth biggest city in the province, it was founded in the 15th century, although there were Roman, Visigoth and Moorish settlements in the area beforehand. Its economy is based on farming, the manufacturing industry for agricultural products and a large tertiary sector, the third largest commercial area in Extremadura. The site is located in the town centre, next to Santiago Apostle Church and close to the main shopping street.

The site is a void in the urban fabric resulting from urban renewal initiatives and the renovation of the church and other catalogued buildings. This site is an opportunity to create a quality space where public and private, the space and time of different uses, are combined. The aim is to create a public space that decouples the rear of the Santiago Apostle church from the current adjacent building, in order to enhance the architectural heritage, solve the current parking problems and provide new urban facilities, all of which will generate a new frontage and a quality space.

## ADAPTABILITY: MAINS ELEMENTS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT

This small scale site is an opportunity to analyze the relationship between time and space on the urban-architectural scale and to foster an adaptable, changing town. The competition defines adaptability as the quality of something that can easily acquiesce to perform functions other than those for which it was designed. The Santiago Apostle site has to be able to create frameworks that facilitate transformations between memory (architectural heritage to be protected), proposal (new uses) and reversibility (temporal organization of different uses, public space, parking area linked to shopping zone and a new city-facade image)

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