Bringing back synergies

New green-blue infrastructure to value Chiva's synergies

What are the objectives?

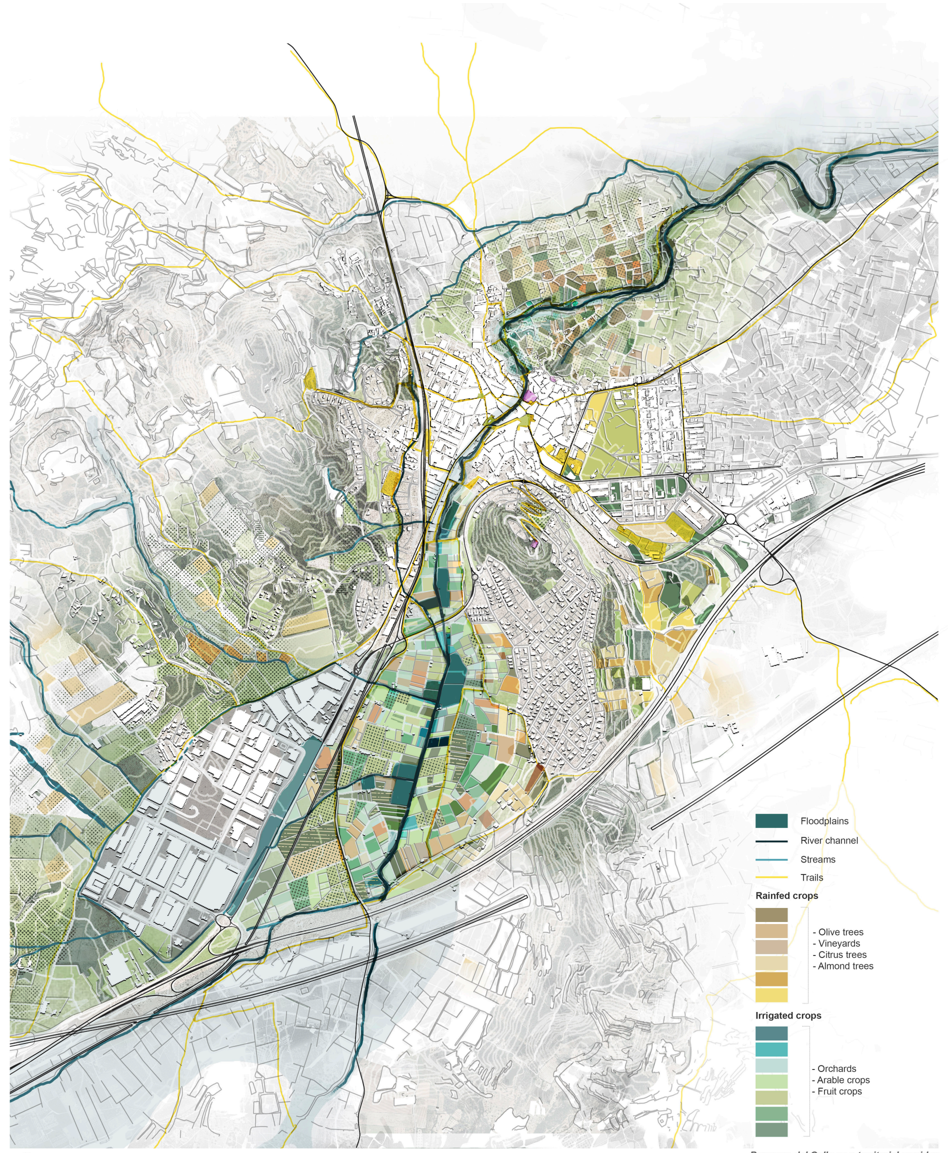
1 Contribute to the renaturalization of the ravine channel
to mitigate the social and economic effects of flooding in the historic center, through water management at the watershed scale, creating a resilient landscape of floodplains and promoting compensatory agricultural activities.

2 Preserve and enhance local biodiversity
through the revitalization and conservation of agriculture, water bodies and natural and urban areas. In addition, the dissemination of the value of Chiva's heritage will be reappropriated through new itineraries that will expand the knowledge of Chiva's agricultural traditions.

3 Promote the connections between natural and anthropic heritage.
that articulate the green economy through long-term strategic alliances with local stakeholders and by promoting economic initiatives (agriculture) that foster a more sustainable and biodiverse landscape.

4 Freeing the historic center
from vehicular traffic by implementing a street transformation model, with the aim to recover for the citizens a parts of the areas currently occupied by private vehicles. The objective is to achieve a healthy public space, with more shade, that is fairer and safer, and that favors social relations and the economy of proximity.

5 Promote social cohesion
by using the river, previously considered a natural barrier, to generate a new point of attraction in the area, where social links can be established within the community and beyond.
The river as a new point of attraction will be made up of program of routes and areas of connection points that guarantee to spread the social benefits across the whole community.

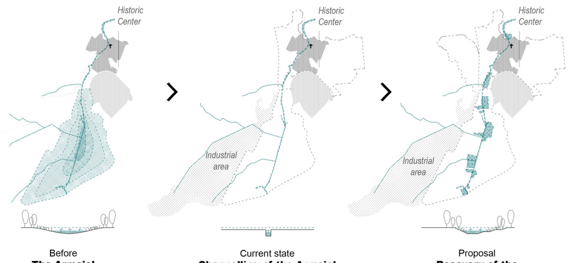


Barranco del Gallo as a territorial corridor.

Masterplan Scale 1/ 5000
Masterplan // New green-blue infrastructure for Chiva.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1# RECOVERING THE SYNERGIES OF THE OLD AMARJAL

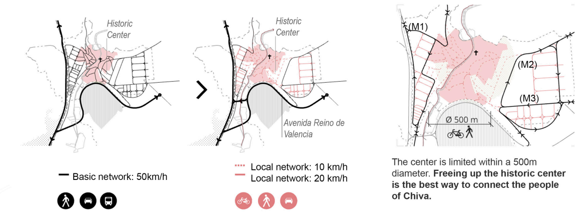


Before
The Armajal
The revine called the 'Barranco del Gallo' adopted a flat, lagoon-shaped morphology or in Catalan 'Armajal', before reaching the town of Chiva. The Armajal mitigated floods by creating floodplains and therefore allowing the retention and absorption of the water.

Current state
Channelling of the Armajal
The river was channelled into a straight line and held in with stone walls through the centre of Chiva, causing the water to run quickly towards the city and as a result creating severe historical flooding in Chiva.

Proposal
Recovery of the dynamics of the Armajal
by partially de-channeling the river and creating flood plains in certain agricultural plots. The strategy adopted proposes to manage flooding in problematic areas by mitigating the impact before reaching the urban center.

2# RECOVERING THE CENTER OF CHIVA



The center is limited within a 500m diameter. **Freeing up the historic center is the best way to connect the people of Chiva.**

Current status
Collapse of public space
The occupation of motorized vehicles within the urban fabric generates a crisis of coexistence between citizens and vehicles, with a greater incidence in the historic center due to the narrowness of its streets.

Proposal
Free-up the historic center of vehicles
Invert the mobility pyramid and put citizens at the center of everything, gaining new, safer and less polluted living spaces. The Model prioritizes light and public modes of transport. The intervention organizes the urban fabric by generating "superblocks". The proposal consists mainly of:

- **Redirecting traffic to the 'Avenida Reino de Valencia' road.**
- **Conforming three urban "superblocks"** of two different scales: the urban one, which loads the perimeter of the urban complex channeling fast and motorized displacements, and another one at a community level, more friendly, domestic and inclusive.
- **Freeing the historic center of motorized vehicles.**

3# RECOVERING THE SYNERGIES OF ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY

Before
Large area of Biodiversity
Chiva was a rural municipality based on agriculture, so it was surrounded by crops, ravines and natural areas of high environmental value.

Current State
Loss of Biodiversity
The abandonment of agriculture, urban growth and new mobility infrastructures have caused a loss of connection to this green infrastructure and a loss of its environmental diversity and quality.

Proposal
New blue-green infrastructure

1. The wetlands park: A large park that gives back importance to the Chiva Ravine as a great ecological and social connector on a territorial scale. Structured in three areas:

- 1.1 Floodplains park of the 'Armajal'.
- 1.2 Chiva riverside walkways.
- 1.3 'La Rambla' river park.

2. The border parks. Ecotones. Large longitudinal parks of transition between nature and the city.

- 2.1 Castle & Agricultural Park Landscape
- 2.2 Station Park

3. Urban green axes. They are systems created through connecting axes and an archipelago of free spaces.

WETLANDS PARK

1. Floodplains park of Armajal, 2. Chiva riverside walkways, 3. 'La Rambla' river park.

FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT

The dynamics of the Armajal are recovered by partially de-channeling the ravine and allowing the expanding of the rivers edge into certain agricultural plots to create a network of floodplains. The dynamics of the Armajal are recovered by partially de-channelling the ravine and allowing the expanding of the river's edge into certain agricultural plots to create a network of floodplains. The current condition of the ravine, tightly walled in as it passes through the urban centre leaves few options to create any kind of complex public programs in the space as it passes through the centre of the village; therefore, the strategy adopted proposes to manage flooding at certain points along the river before it passes through the urban centre, mitigating the impact of flooding before reaching the city of Chiva.

The great **ecological & social** connector

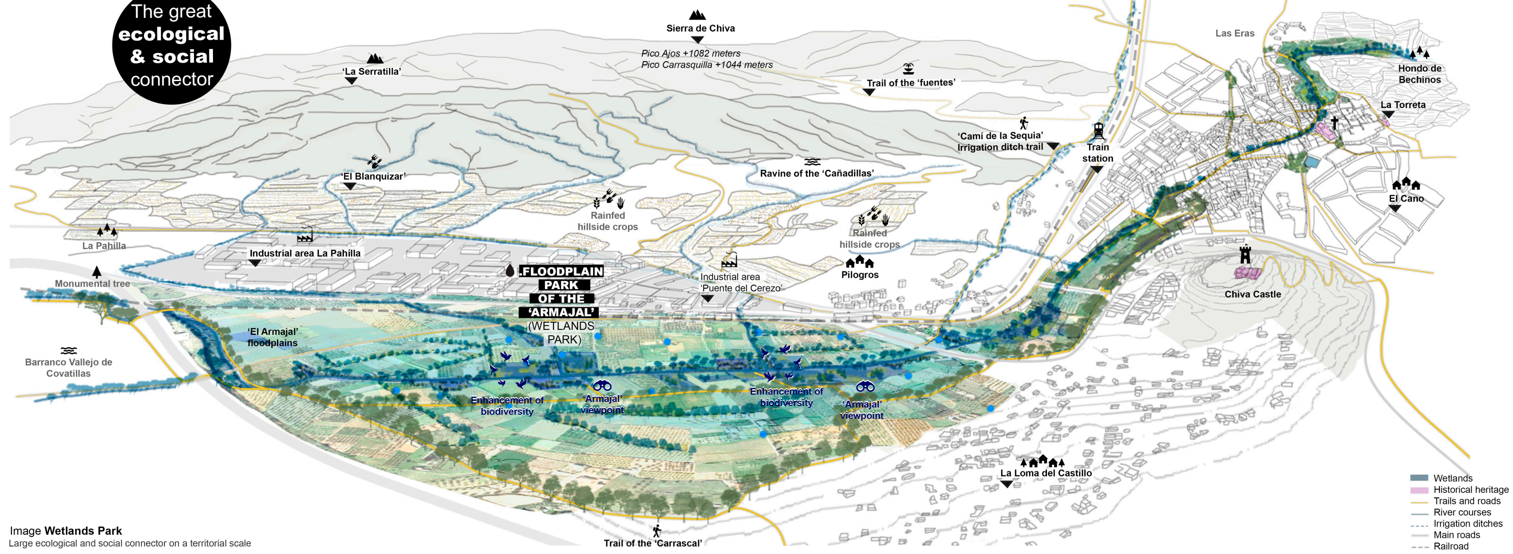


Image **Wetlands Park**
Large ecological and social connector on a territorial scale

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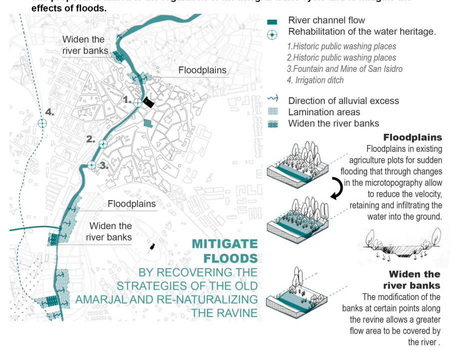
STRATEGIES

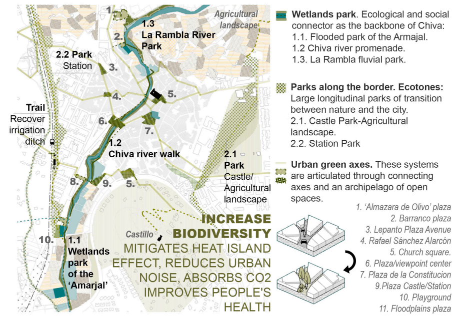
1# THE WATERSCAPE AS A BACKBONE "MAKING ROOM FOR THE RIVER"

A NETWORK OF FLOODABLE AGRICULTURAL PLOTS IS PROPOSED TO ALLOW FOR FLOODPLAINS, AND IN TURN "MAKNG ROOM FOR THE RIVER".
The proposal is linked to the regulation of the integral water cycle and to mitigate the effects of floods.



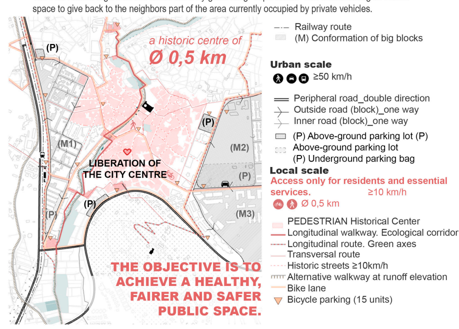
2# SYSTEM OF INTERCONNECTED OPEN SPACES

THE PROJECT IS COMMITTED TO AN INFRASTRUCTURE OF INTERCONNECTED OPEN SPACES THAT LINKS URBAN AREAS WITH NATURE.



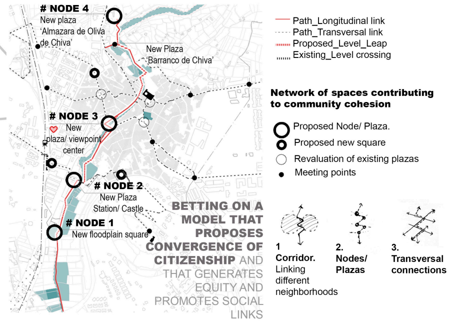
3# FREEING UP THE CENTER. MOBILITY PLAN

AN INTEGRATED AND EQUITABLE MOBILITY MODEL THAT PRIORITIZES LIGHT AND PUBLIC MODES IS PROPOSED.
The intervention organizes the urban fabric by generating "superblocks" and reformulating its interior space to give back to the neighbors part of the area currently occupied by private vehicles.



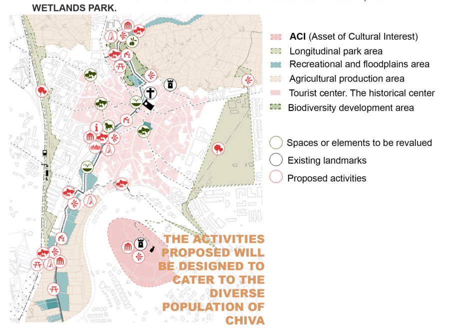
4# PROMOTING SOCIAL COHESION

PROMOTE THE WATER PARK AS A POINT OF ATTRACTION.
To this end, a program of squares/plazas at points of convergence or the 'nodes', is established to articulate and promote transversal connections.



5# ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

THE PROPOSAL IS IN CHARGE OF SUPPORTING THE REVALUATION OF THE EXISTING OPEN SPACES AND FAVORING THE NEW GREAT ATTRACTION OF CHIVA, THE WETLANDS PARK.



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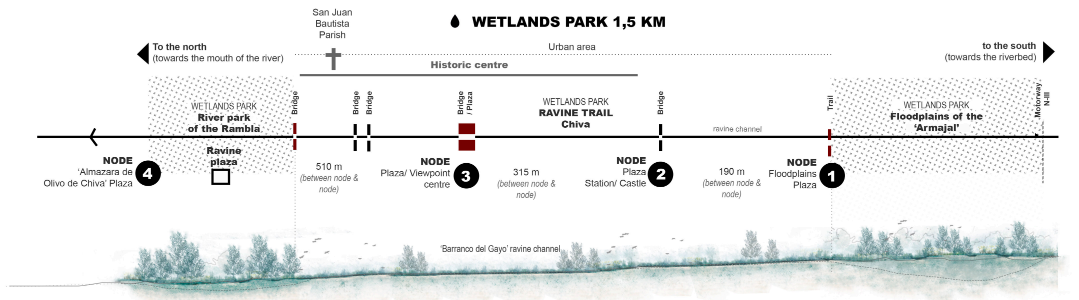
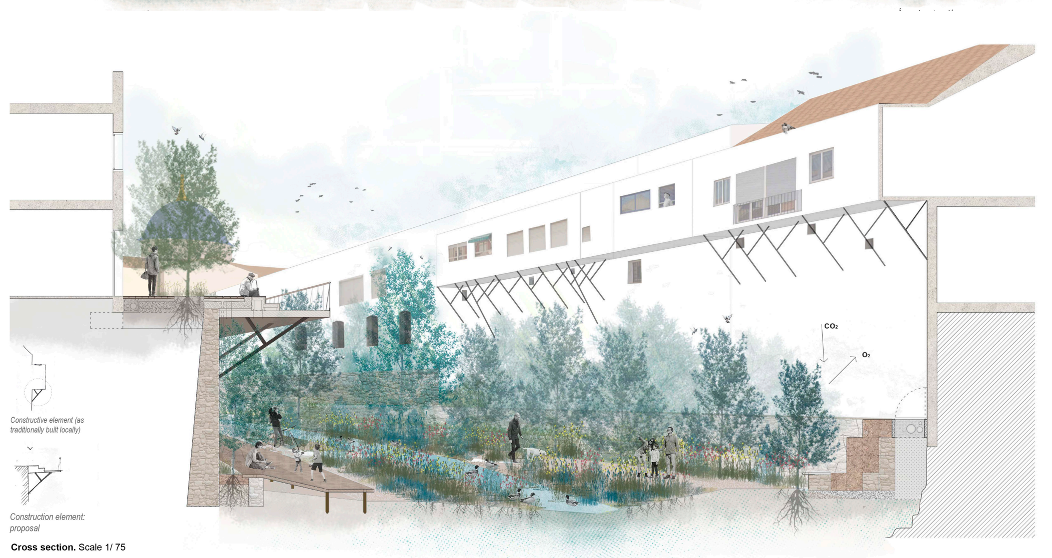
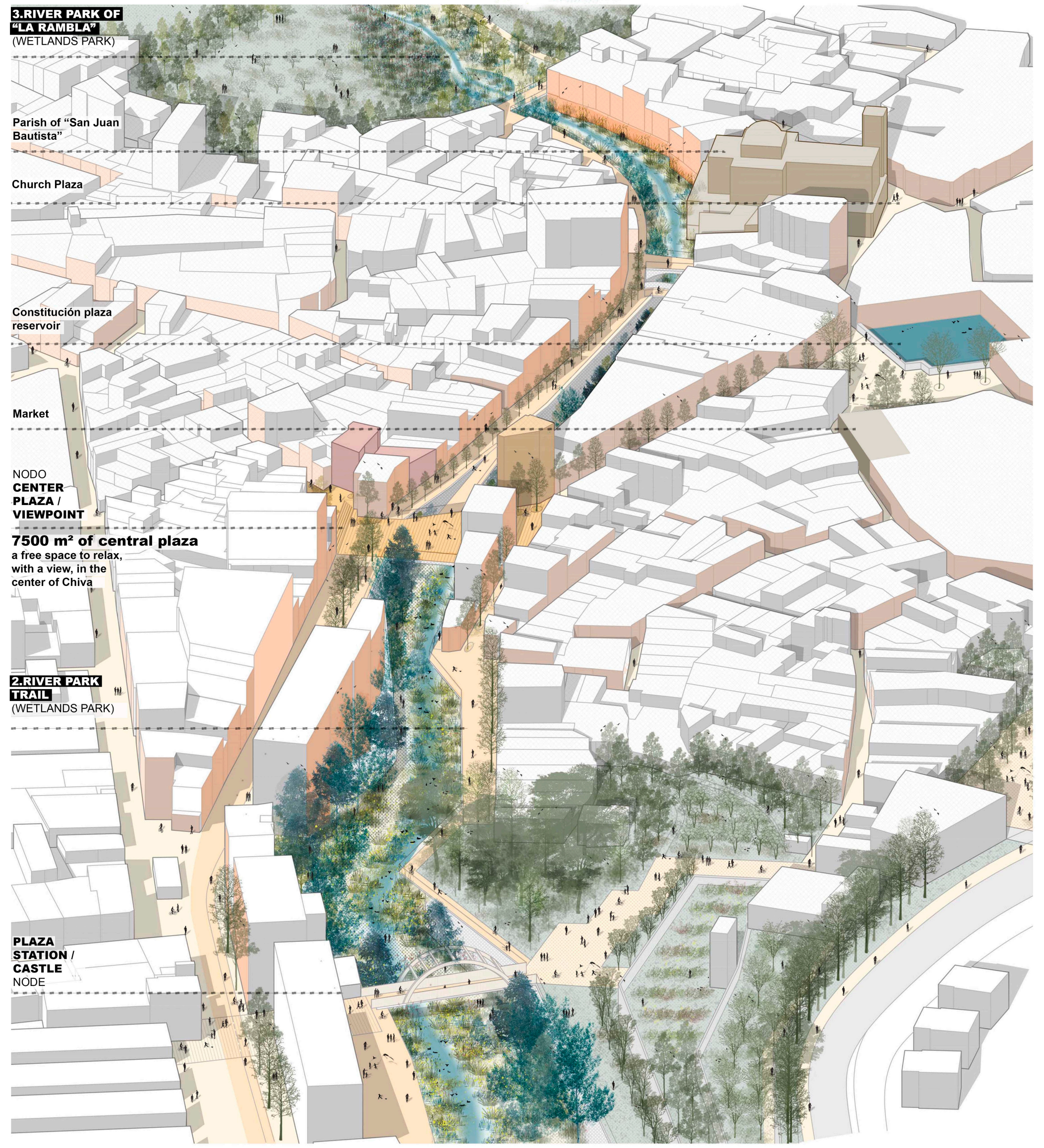
Section/ General diagram





Cross section. Scale 1/ 75

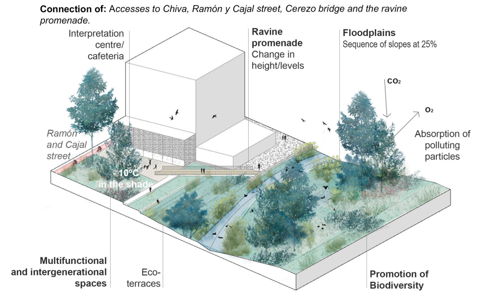


Perspective proposal

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1 NODE WETLANDS PLAZA

Connection of: *Accesses to Chiva, Ramón y Cajal street, Cerezo bridge and the ravine promenade.*



The proposed square brings the citizen closer to the network of lagoon along the floodplains.

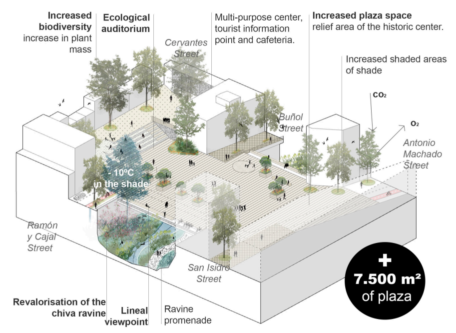
2 NODE STATION/ CASTLE PLAZA

Connection of: Ramón y Cajal street, Cruz Piedra street and Arhc bridge

ARTICULATE AND PROMOTE THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE CASTLE AND THE STATION.

3 NODE CENTRAL PLAZA/ VIEWPOINT

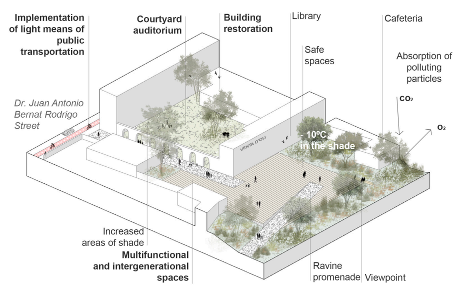
Connection of: *Ramón y Cajal street, Cervantes street, Buño street, Antonio Machado street, San Isidro street.*



A public space to relieve the density of the downtown area

4 NODE 'ALMAZARA DE OLIVA' OF CHIVA PLAZA

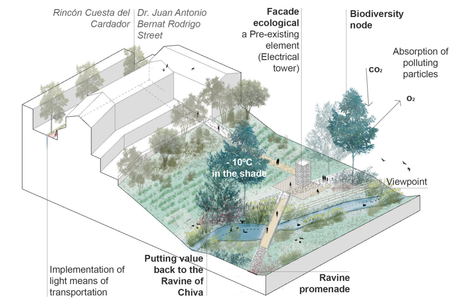
Connection of: *Dr. Juan Antonio Bernat Rodrigo street and the Barranco promenade*



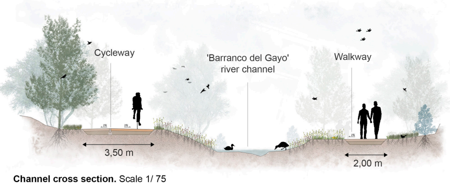
By recovering the 'Almazara de Olivo' plaza it is turned into a centre of attraction for the city of Chiva.

NODE RAVINE PLAZA PROTOTYPE

Connection of: *Barranco promenade and access to the Dr. Juan Antonio Bernat Rodrigo street*



Management of the ravine river promenade with accesses to the urban nucleus.



Channel cross section. Scale 1/ 75