

MADRID

A NEW CULTURAL INSTITUTE FOR CARABANCHEL

„And the fact is that Madrid is brimming with literature, poetry and music on all four sides, so much so that she herself is a literary character.“ - Ernest Hemingway

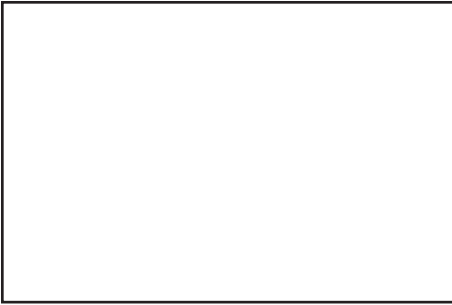
Carabanchel, a place where cultures flow. We step back and analyze it from a wider scale. We look at Carabanchel from afar and up close, we reinvigorate carabanchel with a new urban landscape, creating a place of care and vitality. deficits become new potentials, new places for gathering and sharing culture We examine its structure, its typologies, its characteristics, in order to propose three different strategies for the greater area surrounding that of Plaza de Almodovar:

VOIDS, BOULEVARDS, AND COURTYARDS

1 Vacant sites typically scatter the neighborhood of Carabanchel, empty for months, years, or decades. Unused, neglected, avoided. One gets a glimpse of a new and wild urban nature that occasionally spreads there. We propose to transform and connect those voids and convert them into native planted environments, which in combination with thoughtfully considered new development will thrive and grown into series of connected pocket gardens offering respite on hot summer days, and joy all year long.

2 Greenery and shadow in Madrid's summer months are a rare but needed resource, yet scarce in Carabanchel. Linking to and creating a new environmental network for the inhabitants of Carabanchel to the nearby green structures is an essential need for the district. To Parque de Cerro Almodovar, Parque equipado Finca „Vista Alegre“, or the children's and sport facilities at Parque Isidro River, all accessible with-in 15 min. walking distance, we see the new possibility of tree-lined stand-by areas along the main axes of Calle de la Oca, leading to Calle del General Ricardos - or Avenida de Nostra Señora de Valvanera, leading to the Parque de Cerro Almodovar. Enhancing the pedestrian connection between Plaza de Almodovar and its more popular neighbors is a first step in fostering a new mobility in Madrid This new inter-connected urban landscape turns away from cars, from parking, and instead offers freer, more joyful forms of urban transport

3 Along the way we not only see the sealed streetscape opening up and changing its appearance to that of a tree-lined boulevard. We also look at the private, barely gardened and sparsely wooded courtyards along the main axes. Opening them - the typical typology of the social courtyard, the „Corolla“ - formerly hidden and neglected, paved and sealed, places of circulation and facilities, yet shadowed and quiet, they will become important stepping stones in the network of Carabanchel. A small bench under an old tree on a hot day can mean everything. Unsealing these backyards and patios by creating pocket gardens, tranquil islands in the restless cityscape, a parallel environment to that of the big streets, will install the district as a whole with new qualities through a more direct connection of private and public space.



MADRID

This network of open courtyards will accompany the pedestrian connections, as well as the a new bike lane infrastructure planned on General Ricardos Street further connecting Madrid Rio and San Isidro Park to the area along Plaza de Almodovar.

PLAZA DE ALMODOVAR

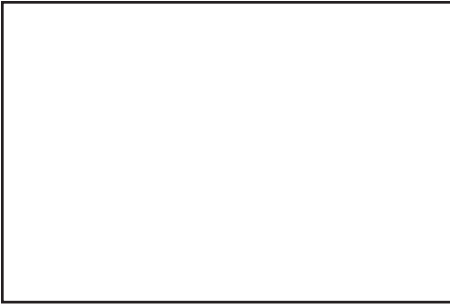
We can not neglect the qualities which Plaza de Almodovar offers today. Trees of different species, seating and planting elements, spaces for social interaction, offer culture and community, despite a current sense of disrepair . Its size however too small compared to the traffic surrounding it. In order to provide shelter from weather, sun, and noise, we intervene by increasing the size of the square itself, adding lines of trees to south and west. Creating a large green roof of tree tops will help to provide space for multiple activities while preserving elements of rest and community .

Furthermore the current square and its surroundings are a hub of urban car mobility, serving as pas-sageway and parking lot. With the aim of Carabanchel to become the cultural district of the city of Madrid, with the former ISO industrial estate as its epicentre, we open up the site of Plaza de Almodovar, remov-ing Calle de Zaida as a secondary road and re-structure the avenue of Calle de la Oca towards a more narrow, two-lane axis with traffic island being removed to reduce the distance between Plaza de Al-modovar and Jardín del Párroco Antonio Varela. By minimizing the passing traffic on site we take care of the predominance of artificial surfaces, reducing the effects of the “heat island” and extending Plaza de Almodovar in the north to cover the former Calle de la Zaida. We strengthen its diverse vegetation compo-nent, its environmental quality and its urban landscape. Meadows, gardens, and grasslands, accumulat-ing within the dense urban fabric bring an unexpected new element to Car-abanchel. Scattering native species of trees in groups among the site will differentiate between places of shadow and sun.

We do this to find ourselves in an environment with a small landscape reminiscent of Madrids surrounding hill-sides, of Torrelozones, Escorial, and la Sierra de Madrid. By extending the Plaza de Almodovar we also reduce the traffic-based noise emission in the new green area and future Institute grounds to gener-ate a comfortable stay during all day hours, therefore adding to the social interaction and exchange in the neighborhood. Doing so we regenerate the quality of everyday life with a new civic square that contributes to social cohesion and gener-ates an identity beyond the function of the new cultural Institute; we recover a public space that inherits nature, society, mobility, and culture, acting as a new node and as catalyst for future adjustments to the urban structure in the wider area of Carabanchel.

MOBILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

As the initial step to modify the situation of car mobility and parking strips around the site, we propose an under-ground parking garage beneath the new cultural Institute. Accessed via Calle de la Oca, the garage offers around 40 parking lots on one deck for the Institute and its neighborhood. However this strategy allows for further subter-ranean floors with additional parking as the neighborhood needs after the trans-formation of Calle de la Oca. By extending the Plaza of Almodovar in all directions we create a new flooring reusing elements of the present



MADRID

one, unifying those areas which are now being separated by steps, platforms, and barriers, into a single surface. This helps mobility and accessibility by foot, removing what has been barriers so far.

The slope of former Calle de Zaida - unsealed and freed from the asphalt paving - is shaping a new meandering universally accessible path to connect from Calle de la Oca to Calle de la Tortola.

The future Institute is accessed from Plaza de Almodovar by foot and bicycle, or via the new parking garage underneath by car.

LINKING THE BUILDING SITES

The existing situation offers two building plots separated by a narrow, 7m wide path connecting from south to north. We clarify this diffuse urban situation and reduce the proposed amount of building volumes to a single one. Drawing up a „Plan de agrupación de parcelas“ we propose to build what appears to be one building, able to shape and respond to the identity of the district. The floors from 2F - 4F are connected by slabs, carefully taking into consideration the maximum buildable surface for each of the plots as well as regulations for building heights of 4 floors facing west, and 3 floors plus attic facing east. The ground floor remains an open plaza, connecting all four adjacent sites of the cultural Institute and allowing pedestrian flows in all directions, creating new possibilities for connection, interaction, and exchange.

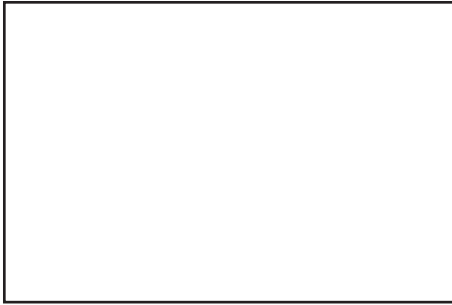
THE INSTITUTE AS A PUBLIC SPACE

We imagine the cultural Institute of Carabanchel as a continuation of Plaza de Almodovar, a public space happening on a stack of large open balconies, interconnected by a variety of staircases, elevators and galleries. They are the home to the functions of the Institute related to culture and art, as well as to public services, sports facilities, and educational spaces; programs which provided substance, and activity in the present, but whose forms allow for rapid adaptation to changing needs in the future.

The ground floor being situated within the surrounding new landscape creates a direct link between Plaza de Almodovar and the sunken outside auditorium for 300 guests in the north of the building, connecting to Calle de la Tortola above. As an entirely open plaza, the ground floor provides shadow and space for children's education and public screenings, it is a marketplace of possibilities for the neighborhood to interact with the site.

The above floors host further functions on levels dedicated to the essential factors of the house as a place of Making, Discovering, and Connecting. Rental ateliers, workshops, and studios for various crafts share the space with classrooms, educational greenhouses, event spaces, or small libraries. They are all nestled between horizontal gardens and planting areas, leaving large areas open for the individual appropriation of each floor, since the Institute should offer one thing above all: openness.

Conceiving that openness we spread different enclosures made of local brick across the building. Shelter and structure, for the loud or the quiet, workshop or atelier, physical material or digital outcome, they serve a variety of purposes. Their small footprint can be extended towards the balconies, thus creating a generous and malleable



MADRID

boundary for all demands. Illuminated by skylights or through openings in their skins they are spaces which are both specific and malleable, defined, and open to adaptation for any production in community, culture, music, and art.

ENERGY AND MATERIALITY

Capsules of naturally dried and reused brick carry typical low cost slabs of concrete and brick. Working with materials typical from the local community in Madrid and especially to the area of Carabanchel, we see it crucial in order to integrate the new building into the surrounding urban and social fabric of the district. Wide spanned slabs, reinforced with concrete in order to minimize the use of the latter provide the necessary infrastructure for a radiant heating and cooling system throughout the entire building. We use the flat rooftop for solar hot water heating in winter, and cooling water circulating through the slabs supported by a heat pump.

The enclosures per floor made from brick contribute to the building's climate as a thermal mass. The masses which sit back from the slab edge, nestled away from the summer sun, yet exposed to the winter light preserve the cool air of Madrid's summer nights in the brick, yet radiate warmth throughout the day in winter.

This open, vertically stacked collection of houses for cultural productions benefits again from its openness. Ventilation comes in a horizontal direction whose cooling breezes find their way through the blocks. In the vertical direction is hot air pulled out from the building through openings in the slab at the centre of the building. The stack effect increases the night cooling of the building and thus prevents its heating over a longer period of time. Curtains add to the shading where needed, together with the native plants grown on the balconies. They further support the indoor climate through their evaporative cooling and are irrigated by grey water recycling. All these strategies come together to create a highly efficient public village dedicated to the production, reinforcing, and communication of the culture of Carabanchel and Madrid.

