

EUROPAN 6 – MARSEILLE – FRANCE

Location: Marseille, Arenc

Population: 810,000 inhab.

Study area: ±20 ha || **Site area:** 3 ha



CONURBATION

Marseille is France's second most important town and also its oldest. The conurbation has a population of 1 400 000 and owes its development to its port. Benefiting from a variety of economic activities, a large population catchment area, Marseille is well served by transport networks and the progressive setting up of «intercommunality». Its aim is to become the major interface between Europe and the Mediterranean basin. In order to assist this impetus, the French state has initiated a major operation of national interest on a 310 hectare site close to the centre, between the port and the railway station: Euroméditerranée.

SITE

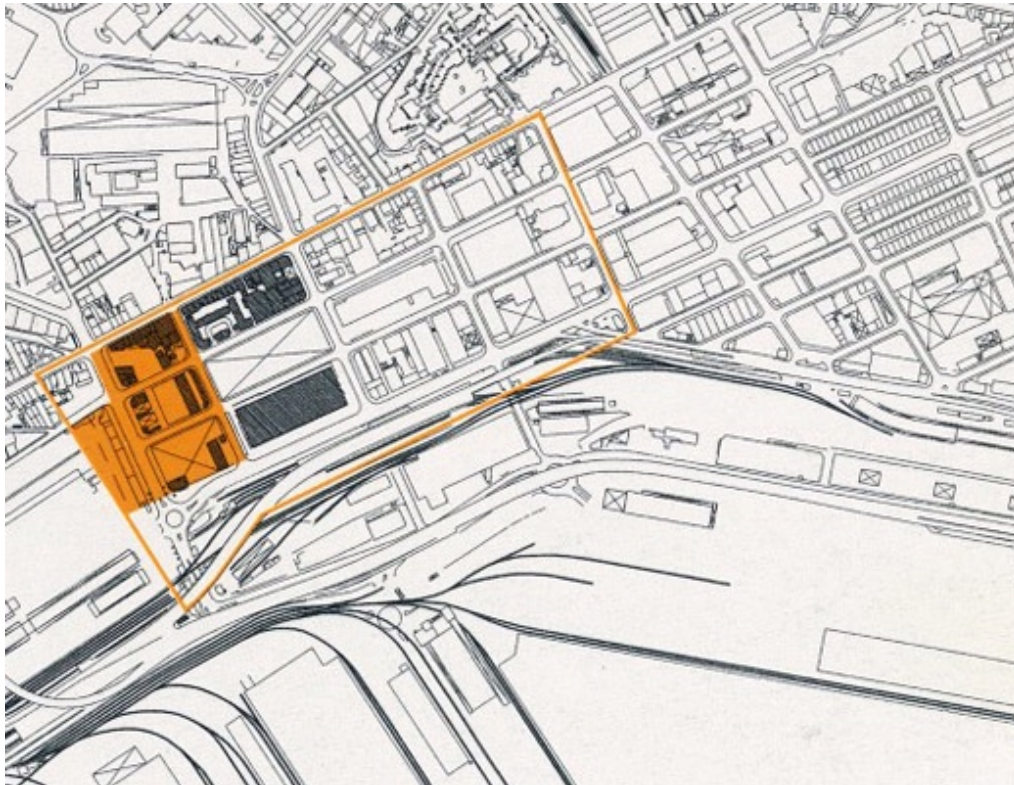
On the north west border of the Euroméditerranée site, and at the entrance to the town on the maritime fringes, the competition site comprises three plots.

Two of these are made up of large parcels occupied by warehouses, the third is dilapidated housing concentrated along the road into the town centre. An integral part of an urban ensemble dating from the 19th century, characterised by a regular orthogonal grid, the site is bordered to the west by a harbour complex, a motorway which at this point forms a viaduct, and railway lines. With the programmed modernisation of the port, and the creation of a multi-modal transport hub (train, bus, tramway) this degenerating neighbourhood whose activity is declining, is destined for a period of progressive transformation.

FUNCTIONAL ISSUES

The aim is to transform a harbour hinterland into a business/housing neighbourhood.

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SOCIAL ISSUES

Functional and social mix is sought, by proposing innovative construction programmes that bring together housing, offices, leisure activities, and services. A new population must be tempted to move to this district by an innovative range of housing, and the highlighting of a particular way of life.

PERCEPTUAL ISSUES

Public spaces must be regenerated using the historic 19th century grid (Mirés), and the urbano-portuary nature of the existing landscape as a foundation for the neighbourhood's identity. Ambitious architecture must be proposed in such a way as to add value to this town entrance, and the new sea front, on the scale of the «metropolisation» project.



PROGRAMME

Innovative housing must be generated in order to respond to the demands of a new population. In the context of a «docklands» logic, service sector activities need to be generated that can form «shop-windows» for business. Public spaces need to be regenerated.

THEME

Between the harbour town and the residential suburb, a progressive transformation needs to be organised in obsolete «docklands», in a neighbourhood that will be a mix of business and housing. This urban development project with ambitions on a metropolitan scale has to be undertaken in tandem with the modernisation of the port of Marseille.