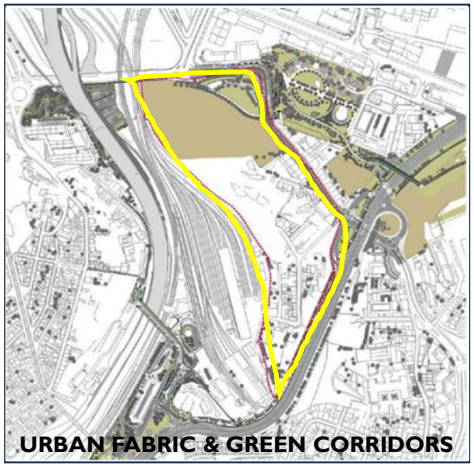
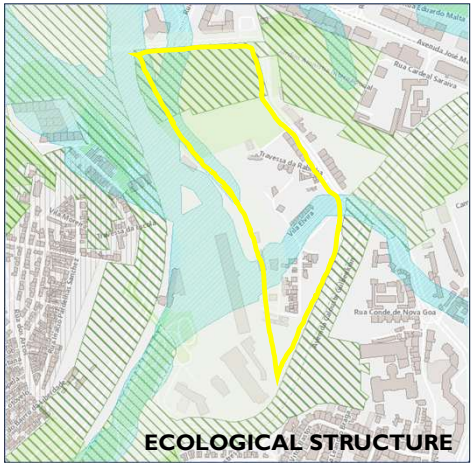
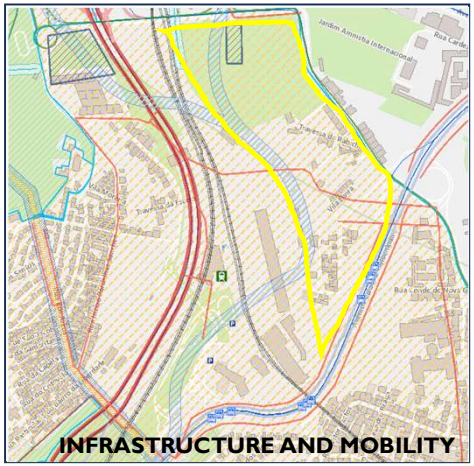
Lisboa (PT)

Team composition: Architect mandatory.
Team representative: Architect / Urbanist.
Location: Campolide, Lisboa. Portugal.
Population: Campolide: 14 787 inhab. | Lisboa: 545 796 inhab.
Reflection site: 253 ha.
Project site: 11,6 ha.

Site proposed by: Lisboa Municipality.
Actors involved: Lisboa Municipality, others.
Owner(s) of the site: Lisboa Municipality (mainly), private owners.
Commission after competition: Elaborating the Urban Rehabilitation Operation (ORU) phase, integrating the scenario and conditions after the water tank and tunnel construction.







SITE / CONTEXT

In Campolide, Lisboa, we are faced with a territory with unique characteristics in the city: on the one hand, it is isolated from the adjacent urban fabric, marked by road and rail infrastructures, with a complex morphology and steep slopes, still reflecting a past of agricultural and working-class character, devalued and degraded; and on the other hand, it is located on a slope facing west, overlooking the Alcântara Valley, currently integrated into the city's structuring system of green corridors, with panoramic views.

The secular Águas Livres Aqueduct, built in the 18th century, is an extraordinary landmark and protagonist of the site south views, crossing the Alcântara Valley with its stone arches and entering the Monsanto Forest Park.

Currently, as part of the Lisboa's General Drainage Plan (PGDL), the construction of an underground tunnel between Campolide and Santa Apolónia is underway, which will connect to the Caneiro de Alcântara (main city sewer) at Quinta José Pinto and cross the project site, with planned protection zones.

Rua de Campolide defines the northeast project site limit and is the main route through which residents and users of this area can establish networks of relationships between themselves, on a more human scale, albeit disconnected from the surrounding urban fabric. On the opposing limit, facing southwest, there is a major railway line, station and railway depot.

In 1960s, the Avenida Calouste Gulbenkian (fast traffic road) was constructed, cutting through this territory and creating the southern boundary of the project area. In the late 1990s, the opening of Avenue Miguel Torga further enhanced the mobility of the north-south axis.

The urban landscape has undergone significant changes, with the emergence of new high-rise buildings in the neighbouring areas to the north of this territory, resulting in its isolation.

QUESTIONS TO THE COMPETITORS

After the undergoing construction of a major tank and tunnel (measuring 5km in length) to prevent downstream flooding in low-lying areas of the city, a design solution is required for a new urban cover. This should (re)connect a part of Lisboa that has been separated from the adjacent urban fabric by major public works, such as railway line and motorways. The intervention should carefully integrate preexisting residential low-scale buildings, heritage from a preindustrial city.

How can we create new ways to use natural resources wisely in the built environment and boost ecological balance between natural flows and urban needs?
How can we establish effective connections between urban areas and overcome the limitations imposed by infrastructure?
How can we shape a sustainable, beautiful and inclusive future while providing housing and habitat?

Major water works confluence
+
Infrastructural complexity
=
Room for brand new city?

How to create an opportunity for the development of a new city overcoming major hydraulic works and highly complex infrastructure?

Harvesting the water: a new city layer

What about tomorrow?

Harvesting water as a foundational layer for urban development: how can this approach be transformed into an advantage and an effective starting point for shaping the site and city of tomorrow?