UrbanTile

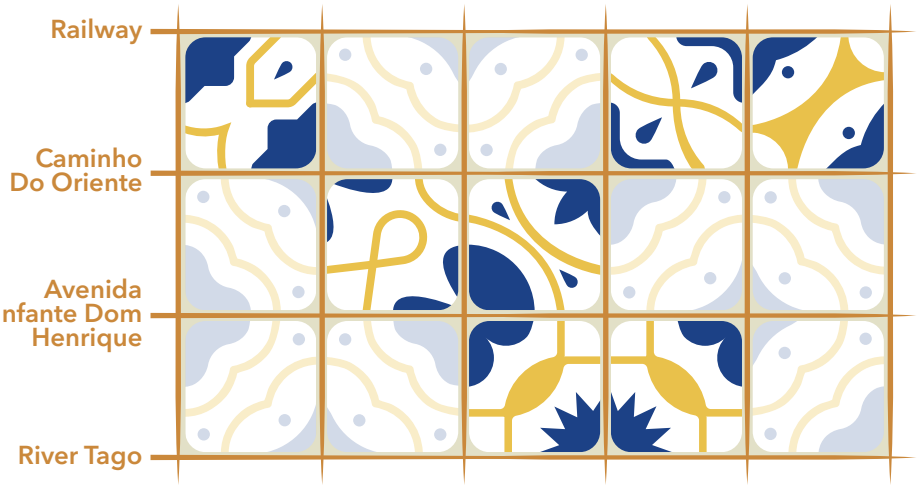
Regeneration within a framework of urban azulejos

The project proposal does not seek to replicate further invasive or self-referential actions but rather aims to systematise the ongoing transformations and existing fabric through a **strategic framework** consisting of fragments, pre-existences and visions. The different parts of the project area are highly independent and juxtaposed, emerging as the result of incremental growth. Many of the transformations both completed and in progress are predominantly architectural, offering only isolated experiences and lacking the capacity to stitch together the urban context. The driving force behind the **UrbanTiles** project is to **promote a more careful and meticulous approach to regenerating the Marvila-Beato area**. Rather than an intrusive brushstroke on a blank canvas or an extemporaneous and self-referential gesture on the territory, it is like the slow inlay work of a carpenter or the patient effort of a sculptor's chisel. This approach does not create the work from nothing, but rather makes it emerge from the existing material.

With the exception of two larger-scale interventions in the port area and at the railway station, the design strategies unfold through measured and targeted actions. These aim to **generate continuity** without disrupting the existing balance, to stitch together fragmented urban and territorial fabrics, to **reinforce** the edges, and to **restore** meaning to urban voids by recognising the value of the industrial, environmental, and historical-cultural heritage present.

The project attempts to compose an articulated network made up of diffuse actions and targeted interventions for urban regeneration. It does this by starting from the integration of environmental, morphological and historical resources, and the reuse of material and immaterial ones that connote the identity of the context. These pre-existing, heterogeneous resources constitute the place's assets, and if they are interpreted and read for their ability to create connections with each other and with the context, they can provide the framework for initiating urban regeneration processes. Cultural heritage, understood as a set of tangible and intangible assets, guides the design vision. It acts as a generative structure and shared framework within which the urban and territorial components become interpretative and design tools that give the territory new shape and quality.

The project is composed as a large urban azulejo: an open mosaic where each piece has autonomy yet contributes to a broader composition. It is an unstable yet vital balance between the parts and the whole, legacy and future, transformation and permanence.





Characterized by the presence of the obsolete Manutenção Militar structures, partially recovered by the Innovation HUB, which will be among the areas most affected by the construction of the Third Crossing of the Tagus.



This tile includes Rua Direita de Marvila, an urban path that links Igreja Paroquial de Santo Agostinho a Marvila with the infantry school area in the Creche Intervention Zone, the Caminho Do Oriente and the 'Marvilla Collection' real estate project.



This piece focuses on Rua do Capitão Leitão and the geological monument, with the intersection between Rua do Açúcar and Av. Infante Dom Henrique.



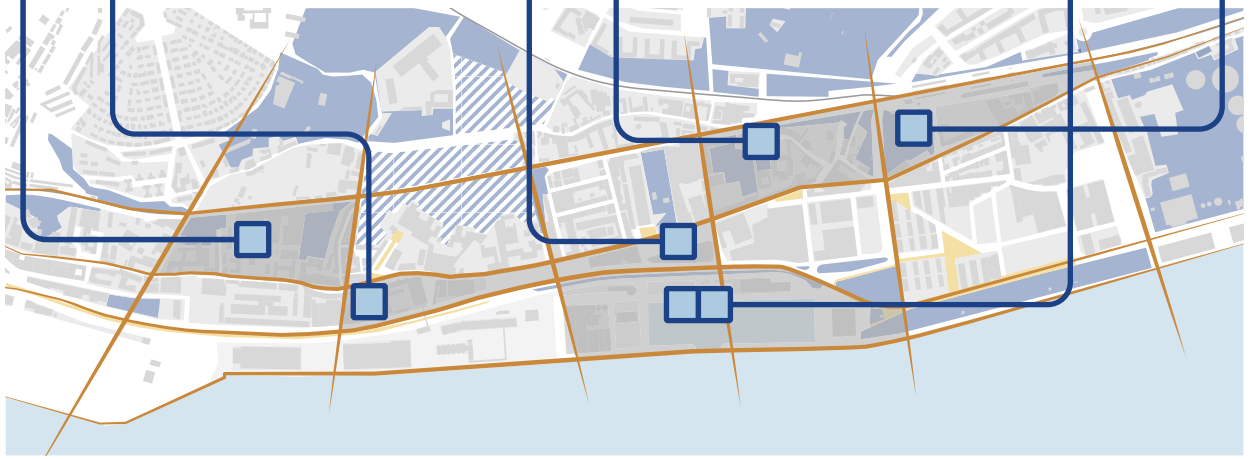
Here is localized The Braço de Prata railway station and its surrounding neighborhood, following the Caminho Do Oriente (here named R. do Vale Formoso), towards the dismissed industrial area, where it is forecasted the Loteamento B do Plano de Pormenor da Matinha.



This tile it's focused on the relationship between the Patio da Quintinha neighborhood, behind which the great urban project of Marvila is developing, and the intersection between Rua do Açúcar and Av. Infante Dom Henrique

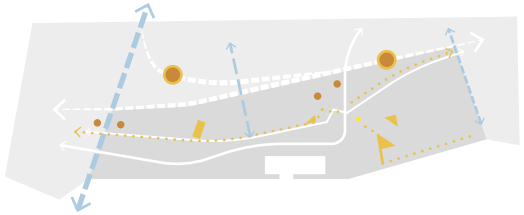


These two pieces frame the port area and the southern edges of the neighborhood designed by RPBW and the river park

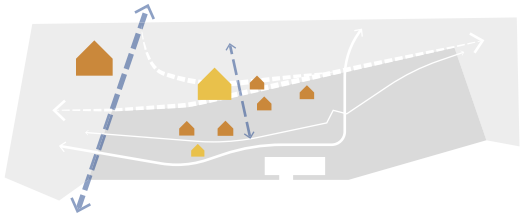


Territorial analysis

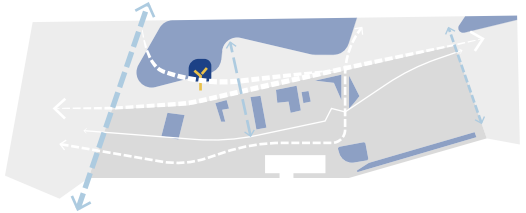
Public city fragmentation



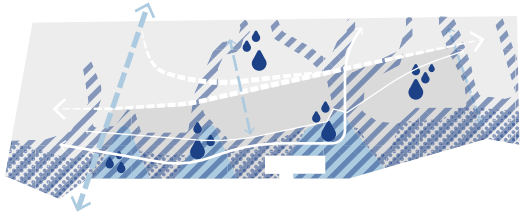
Residential fragmentation



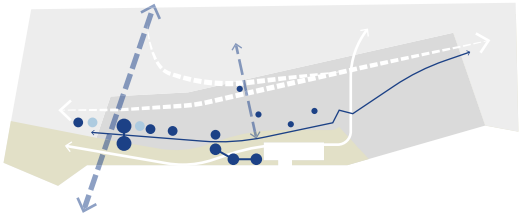
Environmental fragmentation



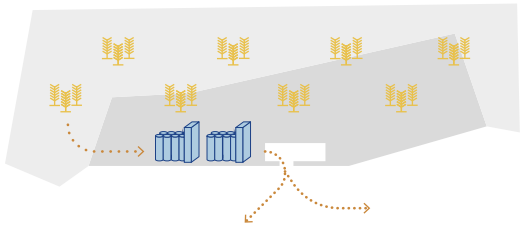
Hydraulic risk



Material Heritage

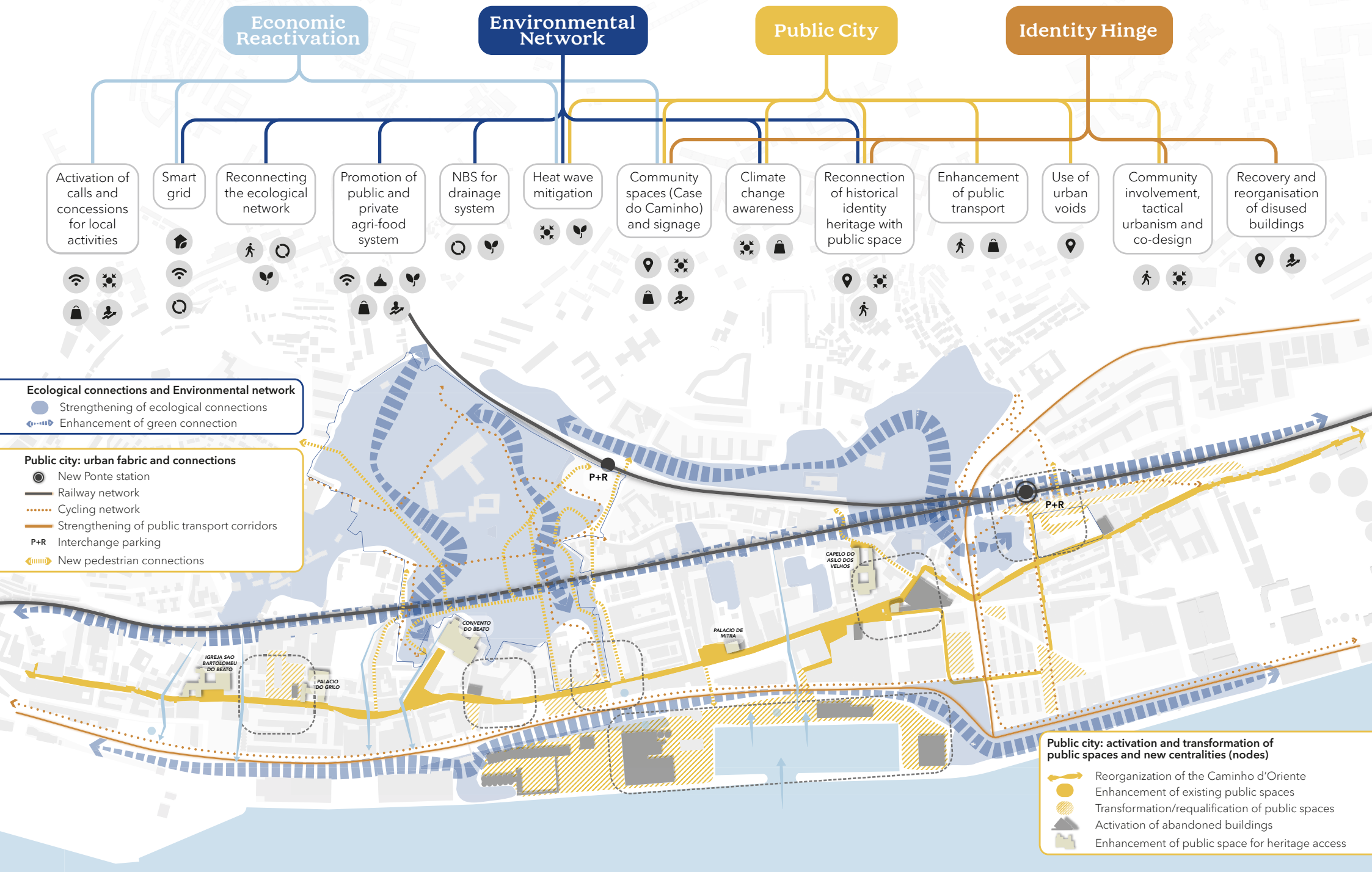


Historical agri-food vocation

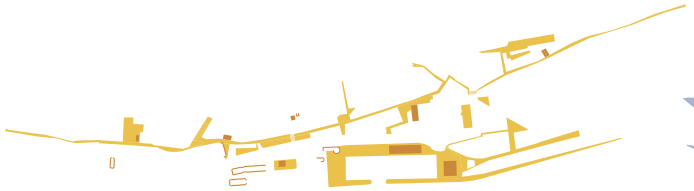


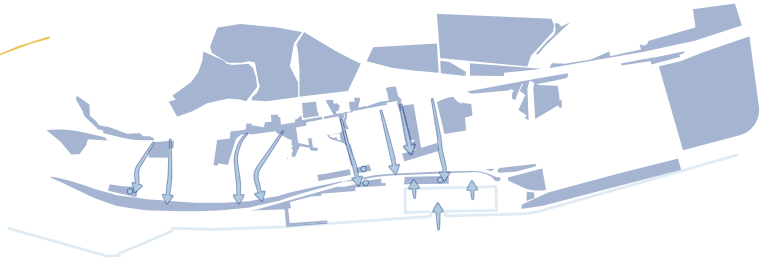


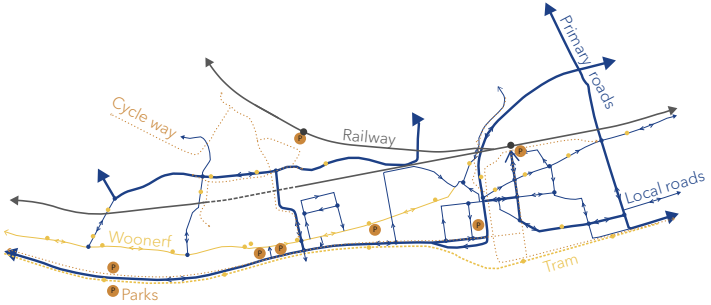
Strategies


Economic Reactivation
Environmental Network
Public City
Identity Hinge
Activation of calls and concessions for local activities
Smart grid
Reconnecting the ecological network
Promotion of public and private agri-food system
NBS for drainage system
Heat wave mitigation
Community spaces (Case do Caminho) and signage
Climate change awareness
Reconnection of historical identity heritage with public space
Enhancement of public transport
Use of urban voids
Community involvement, tactical urbanism and co-design
Recovery and reorganisation of disused buildings
Ecological connections and Environmental network
Strengthening of ecological connections
Enhancement of green connection
Public city: urban fabric and connections
New Ponte station
Railway network
Cycling network
Strengthening of public transport corridors
P+R Interchange parking
New pedestrian connections
P+R
P+R
IGREJA SAO BARTOLOMEU DO BEATO
PALACIO DO GRILO
CONVENTO DO BEATO
PALACIO DE MITRA
CAPELO DO ASILO DOS VELHOS
Public city: activation and transformation of public spaces and new centralities (nodes)
Reorganization of the Caminho d'Oriente
Enhancement of existing public spaces
Transformation/requalification of public spaces
Activation of abandoned buildings
Enhancement of public space for heritage access

Masterplan







Public space

The new layout of the public space, expanded with new squares and primarily pedestrian routes, systematises existing and planned public services, forming the backbone of the regeneration project and of the entire neighbourhood.

Environmental system

The environmental system integrates NBS for sustainable management of rainwater and the strengthening of the urban ecological network. The strategy is articulated through coordinated actions to reduce flood risk and improve soil permeability. Open spaces and tree planting are designed to mitigate heat waves and support biodiversity.

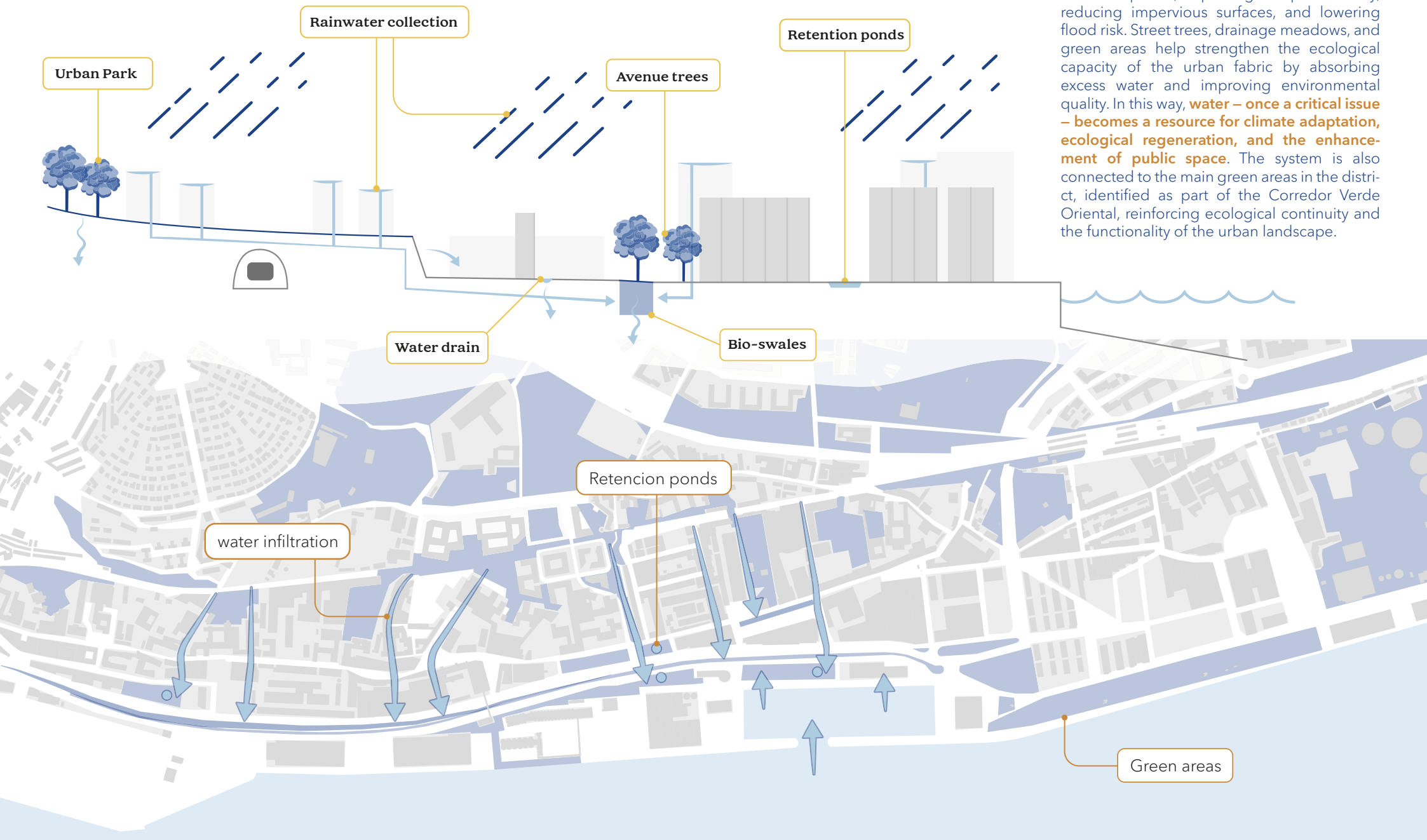
Mobility Asset

The mobility project strengthens the existing rail network by reconnecting stations via pedestrian and cycle paths. Braço de Prata is being redesigned to act as an urban hinge. The roads and public transport system are being reorganised to return public spaces to the community.



Environmental system

The project acts on the environmental system by enhancing soil morphology and natural gradients to guide a resilient and sustainable urban transformation. An integrated network for **rainwater collection and reuse** is structured through drainage channels, bio-swales, and retention ponds, improving soil permeability, reducing impervious surfaces, and lowering flood risk. Street trees, drainage meadows, and green areas help strengthen the ecological capacity of the urban fabric by absorbing excess water and improving environmental quality. In this way, **water – once a critical issue – becomes a resource for climate adaptation, ecological regeneration, and the enhancement of public space**. The system is also connected to the main green areas in the district, identified as part of the Corredor Verde Oriental, reinforcing ecological continuity and the functionality of the urban landscape.



Public Space & Caminho Do Oriente

Community impact

Caminho do Oriente is a connector of high quality public spaces through the expansion of squares, pedestrian paths along with the introduction of the **Casas do Caminho**: spaces recovered from the industrial heritage and repurposed as community facilities and arts and crafts labs. In each one there will be an infopoint on the local area and a 'station' of the travelling museum on Marvila Beato that, Casa by Casa, tells the history and characteristics of the area. These spaces will be assigned, through public calls for proposals, to local associations and organizations responsible for their management and for coordinating the social activities envisioned.

To ensure a long-lasting regeneration with tangible impact on the local community, the project dedicates significant attention to strengthening neighborhood identity and sense of belonging. The goal is to foster a collective reappropriation of space, reinforcing the relationship between residents and their territory, and increasing the effectiveness of the planned actions. To this end, the project includes three main types of actions:

Reactivation of public spaces through action of territorial animation – including open labs, world cafés, debates, and community events.

These activities mark the start of a shared transformation journey and generate early shifts in awareness and identity.

Reappropriation of public spaces through co-design and tactical urbanism, to be implemented ahead of the final interventions.
In this phase, targeted artistic interventions on the industrial heritage will be co-designed, involving residents, shopkeepers, associations, and local institutions, with the support of artists and galleries already active in the area. These transversal collaborations will help strengthen connections among the neighborhood's diverse realities. All these actions give new meaning to public spaces, transforming them into community places that are recognizable and truly lived-in.

Sustained community activation through the creation of recurring events and celebrations—such as film screenings, neighborhood festivals, markets, children's activities, and urban walks—to keep community interest and engagement alive. These moments play a key role in reinforcing a sense of belonging and maintaining the bond between the regenerated territory and its community.

Another key element is the development of a new visual identity for the neighborhood, made visible through **signage and recognizable features in public spaces**. This identity draws on the recurring motif of **azulejos**, both in color and geometry, and includes a **custom typeface**, inspired by the historic sign of the former *Abel Pereira da Fonseca factory*, used for public and information signage. The Caminho paving will be traditional Calçada, to relate to the area's history with the addition of a **horizontal graphic sign** along the entire Caminho.





ABEL PEREIRA DA FONSECA

ABEL PEREIRA DA FONSECA

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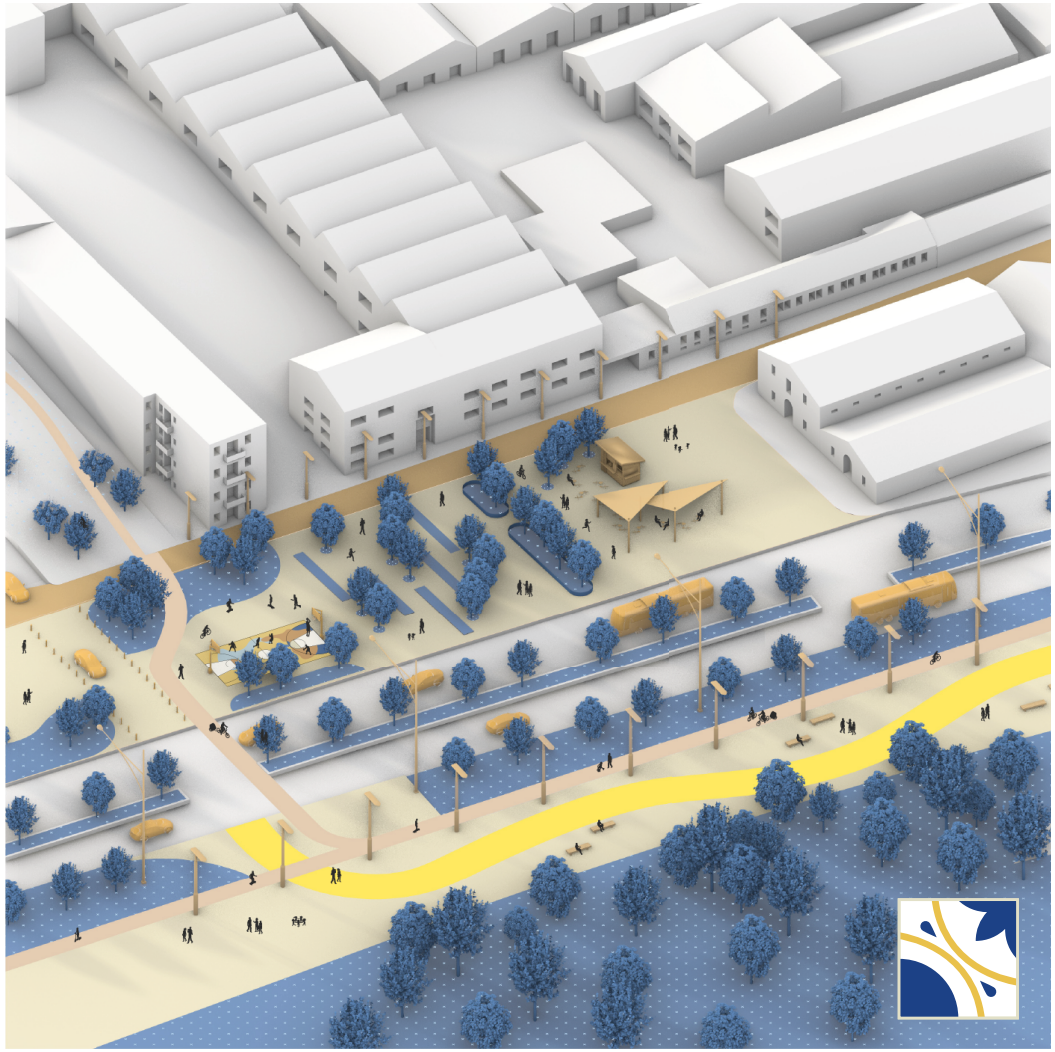
Praça dos Azulejos Unidos

Located at a strategic junction between the port system and the Caminho, the new square acts as an urban hinge, connecting the new PALU residential district with Avenida Infante Dom Henrique. Its layout is articulated into two sections, divided by a main road yet unified by a strong visual and functional identity. The project draws inspiration from Portuguese tradition by reinterpreting the iconic azulejos motif in a contemporary key: green flowerbeds and permeable paving create a vibrant mosaic. On the western side, a **new parking area** is integrated with the existing one, while **shaded spaces**, **playgrounds**, and **relaxation zones** transform the space into an **accessible and inclusive place**, ideal for leisure of all ages.
The eastern section features a **retention pond connected to the city's drainage system** (Tunnel Monsanto – Santa Apolónia, Chelas-Beato), serving not only as an **ecological infrastructure** but also as an **educational element on flood risk management**.
The square is completed by **sports courts** and a **kiosk with a seating area**, making it both a **green infrastructure and a vibrant public space** – a symbol of the urban regeneration of Marvila-Beato.



accessible
vibrant
incusive
educative
ecological
public

Hemp Cultivation System

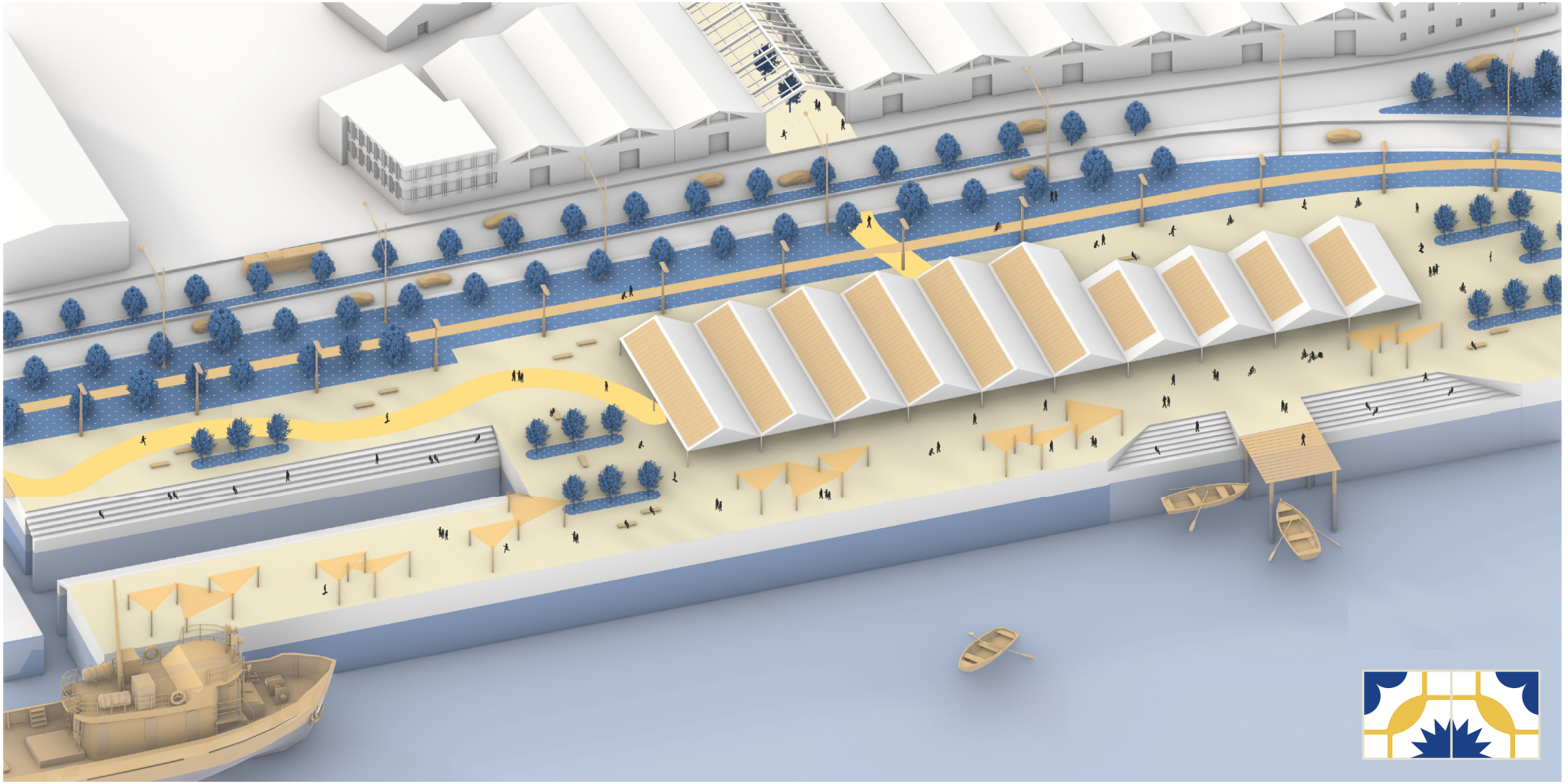
The proposal to **allocate an agricultural area for the cultivation of textile hemp, using soil excavated from the urban development project in Marvila**, is part of a strategy for sustainable regeneration and circular economy. *Cannabis sativa L.*, due to its rapid growth, low water requirements, and natural resistance to parasites, represents an ecologically efficient crop. Scientific studies also highlight its **ability to improve soil quality** through phytopurification and erosion reduction.
The use of excavated soil–such as that from new planned districts, after appropriate characterization and purification, **reduces the volume of waste material while transforming it into an agricultural resource**.
The **creation of a local textile supply chain** can stimulate economic development, strengthen artisanal skills, and actively involve the community in the production, processing, and valorization of the product, fostering social inclusion and territorial cohesion. It can also be integrated with training programs, workshops, and educational activities to be held in the Case do Caminho, reinforcing the connection between territory, agriculture, and social innovation.



The new Square on the Tago

The project addresses the fragility of the port by **transforming water** from a critical element **into a vector of urban regeneration**. The guiding idea was to mend the broken relationship between public space and water landscape, allowing water itself to redesign the city. The new urban layout is based on a zero-volume architecture, where **squares, walkways and collective spaces are developed according to a logic of mutability linked to sea level and flooding events, which define the fragile connotations of the places**. The different heights on which the spaces are articulated design new ways of inhabiting the public space, capable of adapting over time and suggesting new geometries and new ways of experiencing the port space. A further strategic intervention concerned the connection of the existing park with the port node, as well as the **re-functionalisation of two industrial buildings** facing the quay: one transformed into an **urban market**, the other into a **pavilion for cultural and musical events**. The spaces are completed by light, mobile and reversible shading systems, which contribute to making the **environment flexible, usable and alive in all seasons**. In short, the project proposes an idea of **public space that lightens the artificial, establishing a dynamic and resilient dialogue with the natural element**.

A dialogue between public space, natural element, and community



Praça David Leandro de Silva

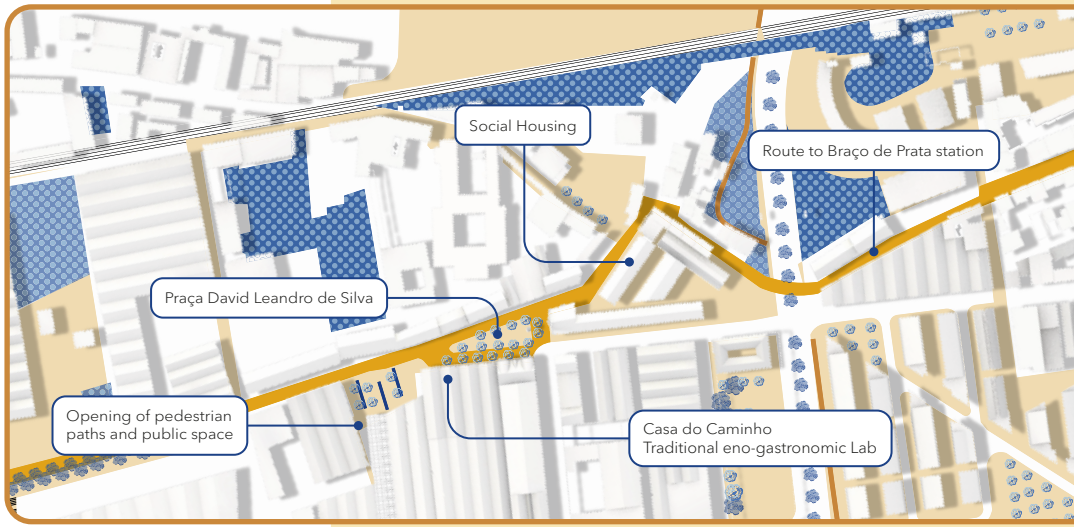
The project for Praça David Leandro da Silva envisions the **expansion of the existing public space toward the façade of the historic "Abel Pereira da Fonseca" building**, removing car traffic on Rua Fernando Palha to create a **continuous and accessible pedestrian square**. The intervention enhances a place already recognized by the community, defined by building façades of high aesthetic and cultural value, reinforcing its central role through a connection with the **Casa do Caminho** – dedicated to the neighborhood's productive memory and hosting an eno-gastronomic lab inspired by the former wine factory. The square also connects to the former Prata Market, where a **social housing project is planned** to counter gentrification and promote social inclusion. In this strategic urban node, circulation is reorganized to prioritize soft mobility and public use of space. The square thus becomes a **hinge between the Casa do Caminho and the new Horticultural Market – Sea Rise Awareness Pavilion**, the core of the regenerated public space system along the waterfront.



Giving back cultural spaces to people

Connections

In the fragmented context of Marvila-Beato, the Urban Tiles project unfolds through the strengthening of both material and immaterial connections. Ecological connections aim to link extensive and scattered green areas into a continuous network that provides ecosystem services and enhances urban quality. Cultural connections seek to enhance the industrial heritage along the Caminho do Oriente, reclaiming underused or marginal spaces through new public uses, pedestrian paths, and cycling routes.
Infrastructural connections focus on improving public transport and rail systems: the new Braço de Prata station and enhanced intermodality help reduce car dependency. Within this framework, the transformation of Praça David Leandro da Silva into a pedestrian friendly, accessible, and integrated public square, framed by the Edifício Sede da Fábrica José Domingos Barreiro and the Edifício Abel Pereira da Fonseca, key elements of the area's industrial heritage, becomes a symbol and central node for inclusive urban regeneration.



Energy Assessment

The **Smart grid** for energy production serves the needs of each inhabitant of the Marvila-Beato riverside. It connects both the industrial heritage buildings that have already been redeveloped on the area with large roof areas (8 marvila, baco do Prata factory, de beato creative hub) and on which it is planned to intervene with the **installation of photovoltaic panels**, as well as degraded buildings reused in the project to hold the Case do Caminho and the structure converted into a market overlooking the harbour for photovoltaic energy production.

In addition to energy from photovoltaic panels, it is planned to obtain **energy from food waste produced by commercial activities** to ensure the recycling of resources. On average, a restaurant produces about 10kg of waste per meal. Considering the size of the area of the activities taken as a reference, it is estimated that 112.000 kg of waste is produced per year.

The contribution obtained from these two primary energy sources is sufficient to satisfy the inhabitants' uses. The surplus is storedin batteries to be reused to power the public transport system or the hub of sharing mobility.

In addition the furnishing devices located on the Caminho do Oriente are equipped with an autonomous power supply system.

Input

4.896.000 KWh/year

Requirement for 1088 inhabitants

Energy from Photovoltaic system

21.743 m2	3.261 kWp	5.217.600 kWh/year
Photovoltaic surface available	Installed power	Energy produced

Energy from Biogas

112.000 kg/year	14.000 m3	28.000 kWh/year
Organic waste from 18 catering business	Biogas	Energy

Output

5.345.600 KWh/year

Total energy produced

449.600 KWh/year
Energy surplus

