



2nd Biennial of Architectural and Urban Restoration Integrated strategy for intervention in the Public Space of **THE HISTORIC CENTER OF VILA NOVA DE GAIA**

Gaiurb, EM Departamento de Reabilitação Urbana

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2008-2012 Vila Nova de Gaia, Portugal

PORTO

VILA NOVA DE GAIA

The historic center of Vila Nova de Gaia has a unique character and is exceptional in terms of its rich landscape, its complex topography and the diversity of typologies in presence and its associated uses.

The mesh composed by the so calling common architecture is disrupted by the mass of warehouses of Port and the large voids that correspond to ancient farms.

A prime location on the north bank of the Douro River, overlooking the Oporto's waterfront, and its typological richness give the historical center a potential that has not gone unnoticed by public and private investors.

The historic center has developed two speeds: the one of the marginal (target of strong pressure from tourism and trade) and the one of the inner mesh (little explored and traversed almost exclusively by those who live there or work).

The work of redevelopment of public space focused precisely on the inner grid that connects the high elevation (city center) at level low (waterfront).

In the context of the intervention were requalified 21 public spaces. The 'ground project' is assumed as a catalyst for investment, generating synergies and enhancing agent of new experiences in the historic center.

Interventions aim to attract marginal movements

to the interior and create a network of qualified public space covering the area of the port wine cellars. This network has a diversified structure and covers streets, alleys, stairs, squares and plazas. The public space, which until now had a residual nature, at present assumes its role: leading flows, creating qualified places to stay and contemplate, supporting and enhancing new uses and experiences. Attention is given to the pedestrian against the car, the streets are not structured in a classical way (street-walking) but, instead, grouped into a sort of large square that stretches, sprawls and leads the local pedestrian to rediscover the mesh.

INTERVENTION AREA
public space + building area

PUBLIC SPACE

BUILDING REFERENCE
CITY EQUIPMENT

PORT WINE WAREHOUSE

GREEN SPACES
● public + ● private

PEDESTRIAN PATHS

