



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

LARGO DE ST.^a MARINHA

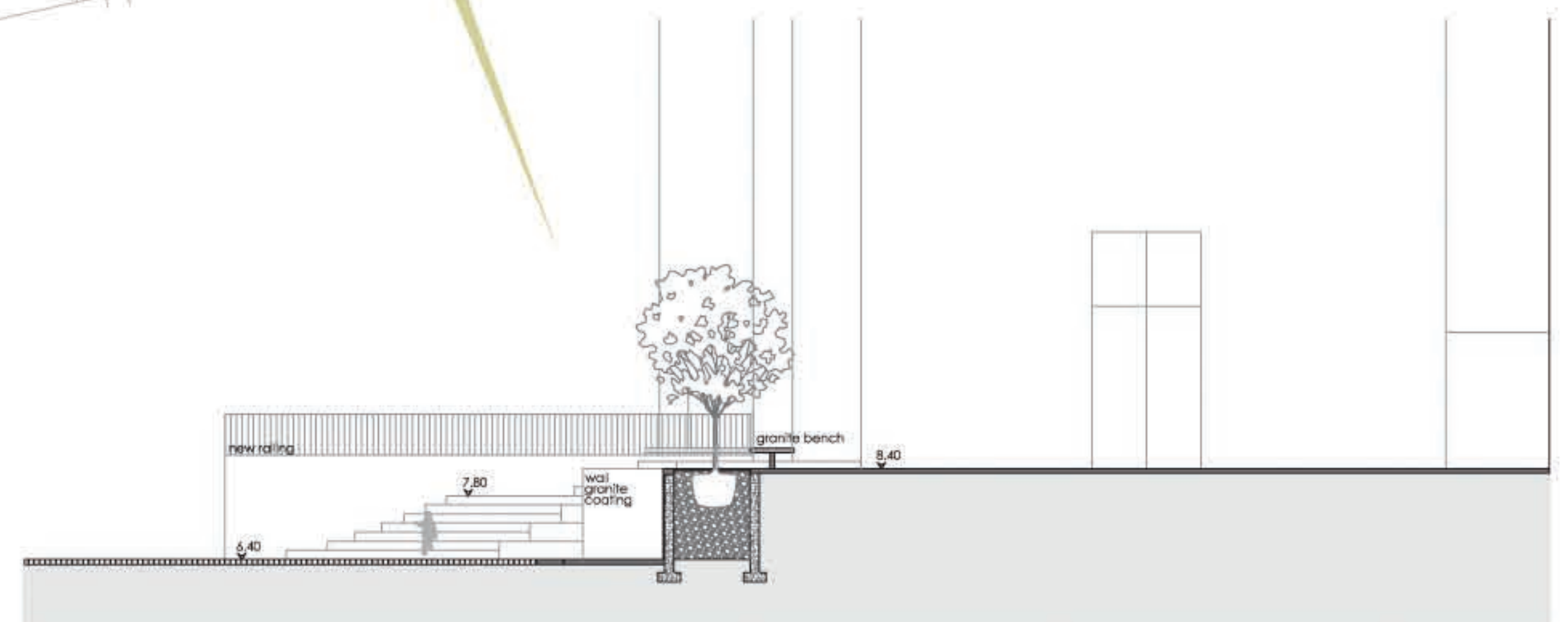
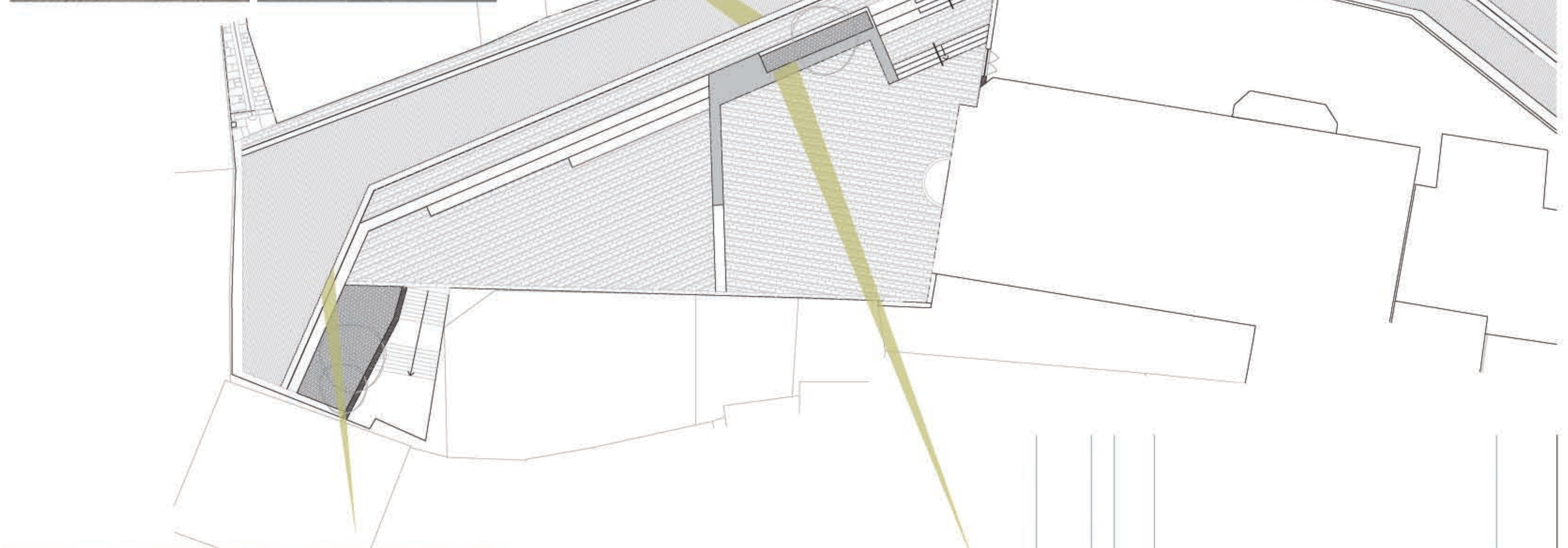
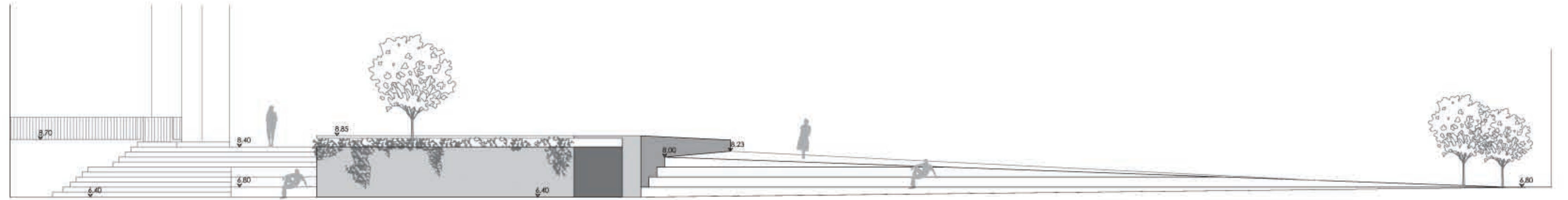


PRE-EXISTENCE

Coexistence of different uses such as housing, port wine cellars and church;
Absence of a churchyard as a gathering place;
Chaotic car-parking;
Big flow of tank trucks for loading and unloading port wine;
Different topographic elevation between the church platform and the street;

PROPOSAL

Definition of a yard limited by a long bench and the existing stairs that connect the lower level (street) to the upper level (the church platform). This yard is preceded by a square that develops in a ramp expanding access to the church;
Extension of the existing stairs to create a small amphitheatre composed by large granite benches that merge into natural topography;
Definition of a traffic-flow channel, with cube granite pavement, in order to discipline interaction between pedestrians and vehicles;
Floor spaces designed for pedestrians covered by granite slabs;
Rainwater system composed by a double granite guide, 2 cm apart, in order to create a continuous central tear to drain the water;



TRAVESSA CÂNDIDO DOS REIS



PRE-EXISTENCE

Street with very steep slope highly used by tourist as one of the connections to the river side;
Pavement in very bad conditions composed with very old granite slabs;
Quota doorway too high for the street network;
Conflict between cars and pedestrians due to its narrow cross-section in its final term;

PROPOSAL

Introduction of a transverse element composed by a drain-water grid and a 3cm granite high guide that works as a speed bump that constrain traffic and make the descent more stable for the pedestrians;
Creation of two rows of granite cubes of 11cm and a 40cm guide along the façades. This track is occasionally interrupted in front of the door's buildings to give place to a granite slab or steps;
Choice of materials influenced by the characteristics of the street, which forced the adoption of a material that would guarantee a better grip on the pavement. The old pavement was reused to mark some relevant points such as the pillar bridge foundation;
Improvement of pedestrian circulation by the introduction of a metal suspended walkway, fixed on the outside of the street's support wall;
Element in iron, of light appearance, that allows to win space for pedestrians and increase the effect of view-point over the river and the Luís I bridge;

