



POLITECNICO
DI TORINO

Honours thesis

MASTER COURSE of
Sustainable Design

The Hospital of Capuchins on St. Ana's hill in Lisbon New spaces for the ancient city

The design research developed through this master thesis aimed at focusing on the relationship between the ancient fabric of the city and the public space, in a dialogue with private space. The choice of studying the old town of Lisbon originates from the projects designed for this area, where the care for the ancient architecture fits with the interpretation of urban elements coming from the Portuguese tradition: such is the interpenetration of public and private spaces that this part of the city is experiencing a betterment. The area of Sant'Ana hill is a very topical subject because of the expected enclosure of the hospitals that actually occupy former convents: thinking again about this city area requires to affect in depth the infrastructural and historic roots of the hill urban structure. The ultimate goal of the thesis is to suggest such a congruent interpretation of the morphological identity of the hill that it may make possible to arrange a regeneration of a city portions since its own tissue.

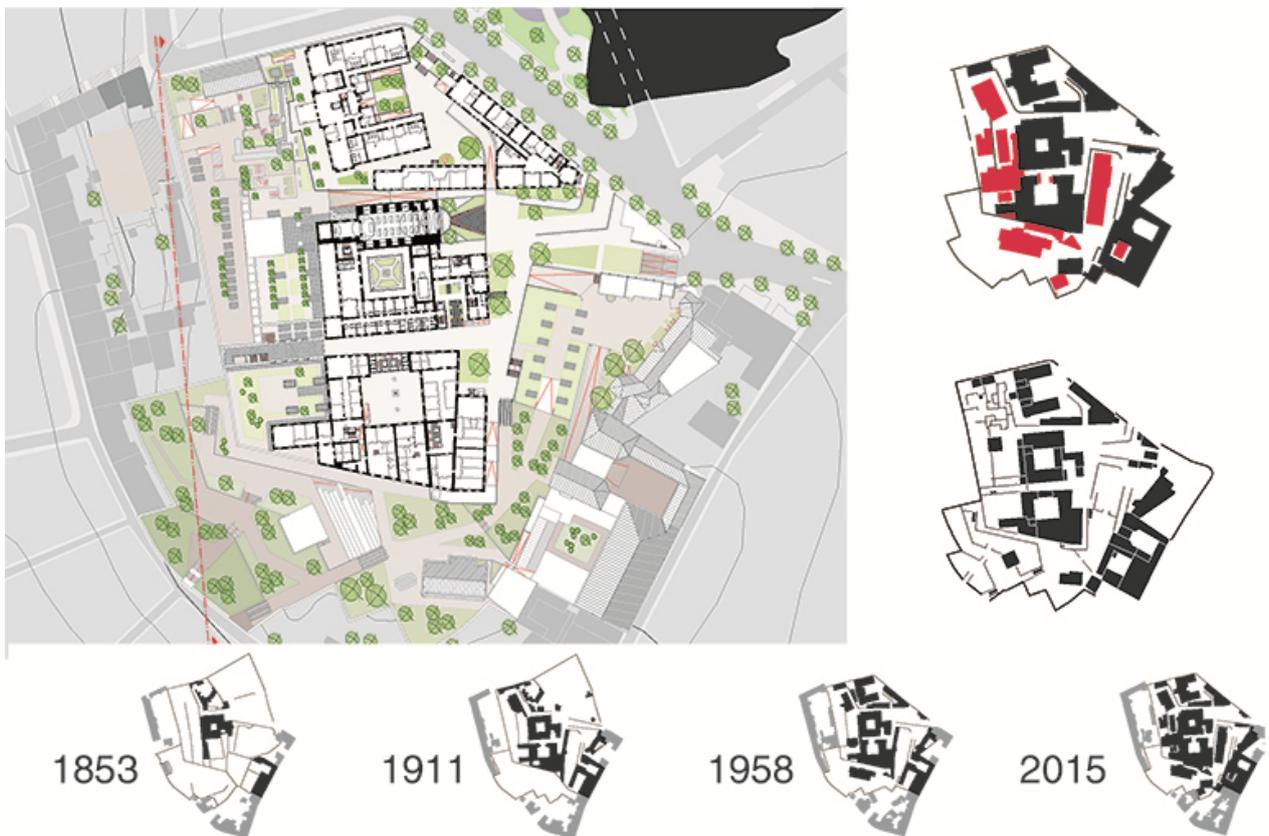
The methodological process was developed thanks to the supervision of research team *Forma Urbis LAB* at Faculty of Architecture of Universidade Técnica de Lisboa, led by prof. Carlos Dias Coelho, where I had the possibility to study in depth the city of Lisbon from an urban morphological point of view. This process was organized through different analysis

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levels depending on the aim of the research, but always referring to the case of study of Sant'Ana hill and of the Hospital of Capuchins.

First level considers the development of the public space at the scale of the City. The chronology and the periodization carried out try to highlight both the spatial and the planning developments of the city: the analysis focuses on how punctual elements (architectures acknowledged as landmarks) relate with scattered elements (as neighbourhoods, infrastructures, street systems). The syntax of the city was studied in depth to point out the main urban elements and to structure the masterplan of the area: a system of panoramic views (the *miradouros*) and fair passages of stairs to link open public spaces inside the blocks.

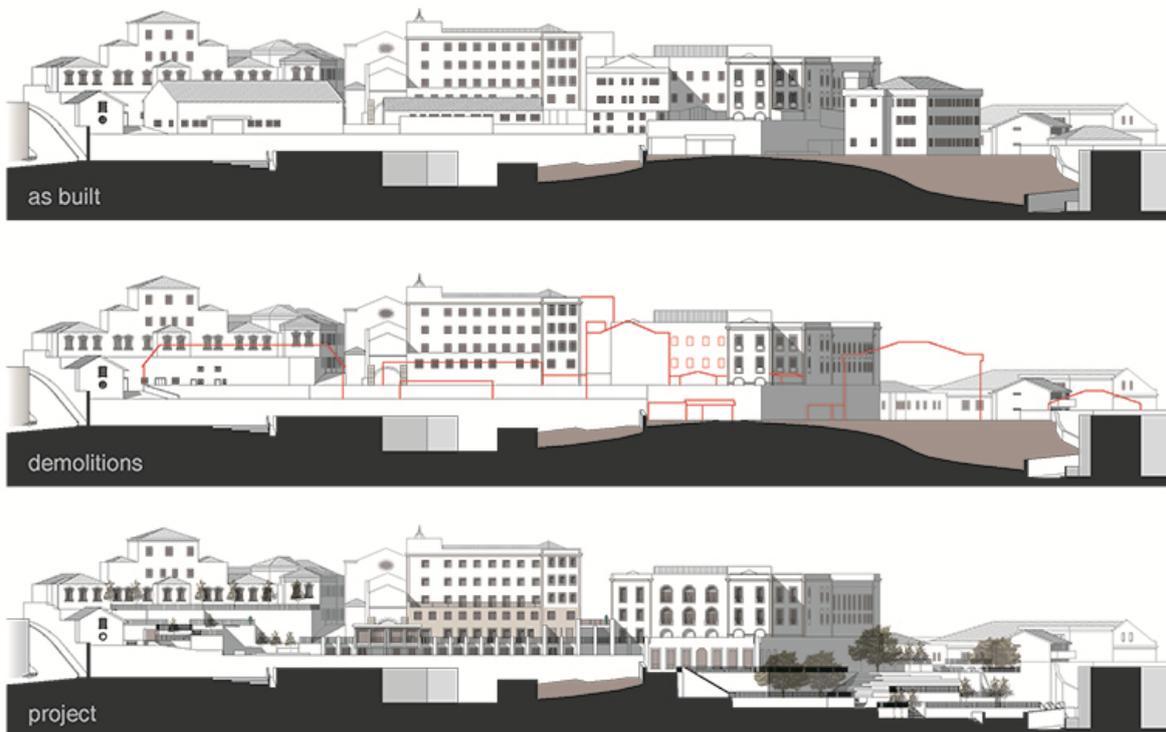


Second level focuses on Sant'Ana hill: the research method allows to analyze, since cartographic sources, the urban fabric in order to recompose the relationships between the urban layout and the buildings aggregate, that is the block. Topographic plants were redrawn, since 1853 every fifty years, to point out the development of both the road layout (by defining public space) and the fabric composed by every building (private space). The research made evident the leading role that some cadastral elements, featured by significant dimensions, played in the process of urbanization of the hill: designed as convents and turned into hospitals, these areas were chosen as vehicles of urban engagement thanks of their strong urban, architectural and social identity. The Hospital of Capuchins was pinpointed to play this role.

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Third level studies in depth the urban and architectural design of the Hospital of Capuchins. The 1:500 scale became the main tool to both analyze and design because of its intermediate level between architectonic and urban scale: all the territorial sections focus on three stages, the first is about the as built state, the second explains the appearance of the area after the demolitions, and the third talks about the project.

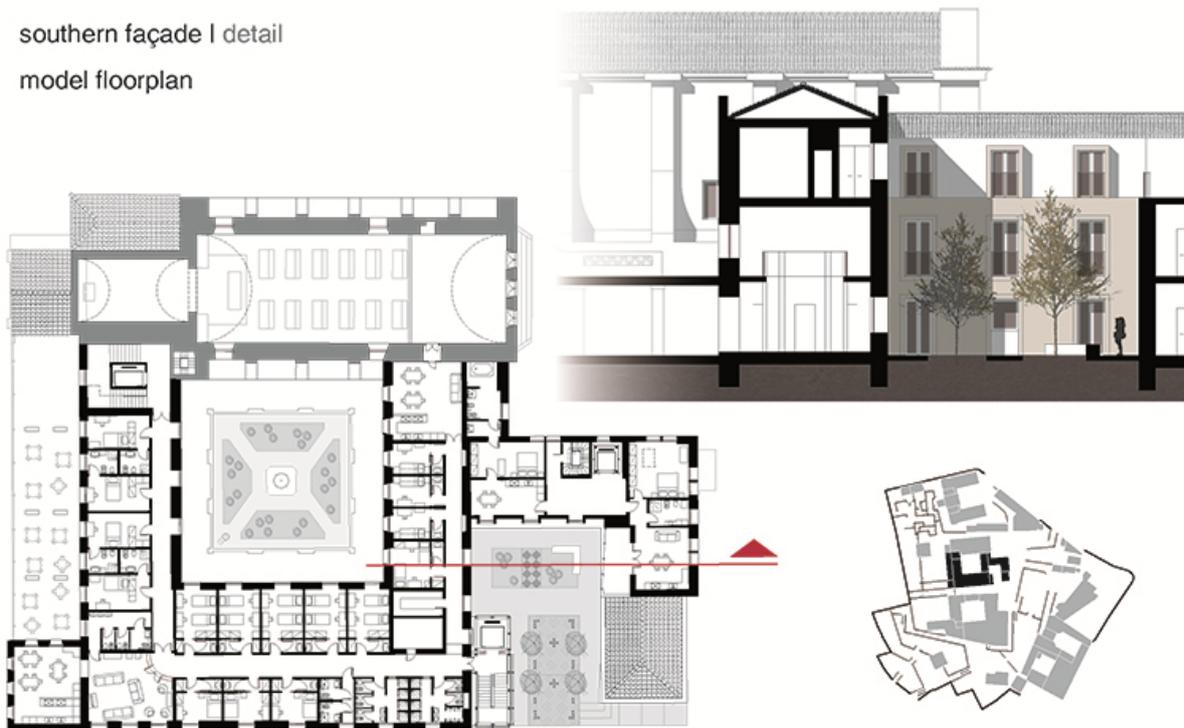


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Project that tried to return the Hospital area its ancient cadastral complexity by preserving the different functional stages it passed through after the alienation of cloistered properties; new functions chosen for this area come from a SWOT analysis. Two main axis were found out inside the area to cross it in an original way: one of these was studied in depth at an architectural scale (1:200) by designing an university students residence.

southern façade I detail
model floorplan



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