

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
FIRST SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
Master of Science in Architecture (Urban and Territorial Design)
Honors theses

The Waterfront as a public space. A project to redevelop the eastern front of Tagus river in Lisbon

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During the last ten years, the transformation and the reestablishment of the waterfront in contemporary city has surely been the most widespread urban intervention. The following final thesis deals with the waterfront in order to reconstruct and to retrace the kind of relations between waterfront, city and territory, to analyse how water is used in designing the contemporary landscape and its form. In this connection, it's been very useful to me the experience at PROAP, a portuguese urban design office where I had the chance to cooperate in projects dealing with the waterfront, thus learning their methods and their conceptual point of view on the matter. PROAP aims at introducing new brands and systems on the territory focusing on the knowledge and development of what's specific in a given territory.

The present work begins with a general survey on the different trends in the dealing of the change of the waterfronts, then describes the techniques to design the waterfront, stressing on the importance of avoiding the use of clichés usually connected to this places.

The waterfront becomes the pivotal element on which redesign the urban landscape, due to its inevitable involvement in the economy as well as in the distribution of resources, infrastructures and places. And that is the aim of my work: to establish the waterfront as an integral part of the city, that therefore must be structured and developed.

Along with the survey on the state of the art about the waterfront, this work illustrates the project for the conversion of an area on the east front of the river Tejo in Lisbon.

The city represent an exemplar case as for the revitalisation of waterfront areas through projects of urban development.

The project here examined is about an area situated on the East of Baixa (the central district in Lisbon), along the river Tejo; an area highly fragmentised, where industries and the activities linked to the seaport represent an obstacle between water and the urban front.

The project gives the main role to public park and gardens as well as public areas, which have to organise in a coherent way the relation between the river Tejo and the urban front. Besides, it considers the different ideas about an upcoming cruise liner terminal.

Aim of the project was to create a dialogue between the different parts of the city and the river through the selection of specific places which play the role of a square, connected by a tree lined boulevard which breaks, thanks to its being partitioned, the linear dimension of the waterfront.



Masterplan. The sectors of the new waterfront of Lisbon

The return of water, such as a leitmotif used to give a new aspect to the shoreline, is developed through a promenade along the river and the squares, trying to reestablish the link with old Lisbon, with its materials and its ways of settling as well as the new relations with water.



Development of Campo das Cebolas

The cruise liner terminal, instead, represents the focal point of a large system, which involves different nations and which makes the project something different from a mere and isolated urban event. It is meant to become the reference point of the skyline that overlooks the river, avoiding the close nature that is typical of terminals, and so creating in Lisbon a new viewpoint.



Water square and the cruise liner terminal

General guideline of the project was the attention on the elements which have proved as the most lasting from an historical perspective, such as public areas wider than the areas for buildings and the relations between the states of the city: the solid and the liquid. Thus to rethink of the collective areas, useful for different activities that has changed during time.

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