

**THE DISCOURSE OF THE CITY:**  
***STITCHING, INTEGRATING AND PROMOTING A NEW URBANITY***  
Urban Redesign, Housing and Public Equipment

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**Introduction**

Throughout the 4th year's two semesters, the Design Studio is framed in the two years' study plan of the Integrated Master in Architecture's 2nd cycle.

In order to develop a pedagogical approach based on the incremental domain of the built form's design, the Integrated Design Studios I and II have the study of the Architecture of the City as the reference theme for the year.

The theme of this academic year focuses on the built structure of the city and the morphological, typological and spatial-functional design, based on the understanding of reference models and transformation processes; with the aim of (re)designing the current city, in response to future needs, through a reflection supported by the introduction of Collective Housing and Equipment in areas of the city that need to be regenerated, or in the filling of expectant areas, creating urban discontinuity, with the aim of their requalification.

All classes of the 4th Year of MiArq will develop similar project exercises, sharing objectives, contents, methodologies, levels of demand and calendars. However, two intervention territories will be addressed, one of which will be developed in four classes and the other in two classes, of the six in operation in the current academic year.

The first intervention area, which will be studied by Classes A (Prof. Hugo Farias + Guilherme Maia), B (Prof. Pedro Rodrigues), C (Prof. António Leite), and D (Prof. Miguel Baptista-Bastos), will be the city of **Montijo**, specifically its riverfront. Located on the southern bank of the Tagus estuary and part of the Lisbon Metropolitan Area, Montijo occupies a significant geostrategic position due to its proximity to the capital and good accessibility. Its economy, once centered on fishing, salt pans, and floriculture, has diversified into industry, commerce, and services. Over the years, a process of deindustrialization has led to the degradation of the economic, social, and urban fabric of the historic center and riverfront. As a result, a series of urban voids and spaces near the river remain abandoned or underutilized.

The second intervention area, which will be studied in Classes E (Prof. José Nuno Beirão) and F (Prof. Tiago Mota Saraiva), will be part of the current **Lisbon Airport area**. Considering the future

relocation of the airport to the south bank of the Tagus River, to a more isolated location that is less disruptive and polluting to the urban environment within Lisbon's consolidated center, the speculative question arises as to what to do with the territory where the airport currently stands; and what opportunities this relocation opens up for the city of Lisbon.

Taking these two areas of intervention, each professor, with their class, will develop their own research topic—in line with their own research in Architecture and in vertical coordination with the 5th-year teachers. This opens up potentially interesting research lines and themes for students' future Final Master's Projects (PFM).

### **Programmatic goals**

The project exercises developed within each intervention territory focus on the redesign and requalification of urban structures in the defined areas. Student proposals should establish connections and relationships with pre-existing urban and architectural structures, based on a guiding principle of requalification and planning for each territory under study.

A site and urban settlement recognition and understanding of its development is a fundamental step, and should be framed at various scales, with the identification of critical and problematic situations from the physical, functional and environmental point of view, along with the recognition of its landscape and cultural values.

The design should address the main identified urban discontinuities, taking into account the morphological and physiographic characteristics and the preexisting urban structure, through a coherent redesign of public spaces and an architectural definition of common housing ensembles and exceptional buildings.

The exercise should include a reflection on contemporary challenges and needs in the field of affordable housing, of shared collective spaces, and of new socio-spatial arrangements and practices, under a broader commitment to respond to climate change and to sustainable development goals.

The exercise considers a multi-scale approach: 1) the understanding of the intervention area as part of the city and its main relational systems; 2) the urban design of a complex and mixed-use urban ensemble including both the built elements and the public space features; 3) the characterization of a relevant public space part of the project; 4) the design of a dominantly residential building (or group of buildings) considering its architectural and typological organization, in a qualified relation with the surrounding urban fabric.

### **Organization and phasing of the exercise**

The process to be developed will have the following procedural phasing:

- (1) Critical reading of the intervention area, with the identification of problems and opportunities, articulated with the construction of a Strategic Vision for the valley and for the main urban spaces;
- (2) Development of a proposal for an urban complex for an approximate area, integrated in the Strategic Vision;
- (3) Typological exploration of morphological units, including the explanation of housing models and the characterization of public spaces.

- **1<sup>st</sup> Stage: Interpretative Reading**

The first phase consists of the development of an analytical and critical reading of the intervention area. This reading should contemplate physical, landscape, social and cultural issues, as well as build an interpretation of the evolution of the urban structure, fabric, mobility and urban uses and functions. These approaches should use the knowledge and resources of reading and urban analysis learned in the 1<sup>st</sup> cycle of training in Architecture.

Reference scales: 1:5000 to 1:2000

Exercise development time: 3 weeks.

Elements to be delivered: A1 interpretative reading panels of the intervention area

Group work.

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Stage: Urban Project**

The Urban Project phase will be divided into two sub-phases, ***Preliminary Urban Study*** and ***Urban Detail Study***.

### ***2A \_ Preliminary Urban Study***

In this phase, it is intended to build a Strategic Vision for the intervention area, further developed as a general layout of an urban project, focused on the qualification and structuring of the urban spaces surrounding the northern tract of Chelas Central Avenue, exploring a set of alternative scenarios worked in groups.

The Vision should be based on three components: 1) a spatial logic, explored in plan and section and through speculative images for the intervention area; 2) a system of internal and external connections that allow the fruition and continuity in the intervention area; 3) a system of urban facilities and reference interventions to shape collective spaces of convergence and articulation.

The proposal for an urban set should produce a sense of morphological coherence, articulated 1) with the physiography, 2) with the structuring open spaces of the intervention area, and 3) with the surrounding urban fabric. In this context, the structure of public space is a fundamental support to be clearly defined, namely through its hierarchy, the relationship with the ground floors and collective spaces and the integration with mobility, water and green space systems.

Reference scale: 1:2000 to 1:1000.

Exercise development time: 4 weeks.

Elements to be delivered: Plans, sections, perspectives, study model, area table.

Group work

### ***2B \_ Urban Detail Study***

At this stage, the proposal will be developed in a sector to be specified, articulating the logic defined in the Strategic Vision with an urban program with housing as its dominant use, complemented by commercial, service and collective facilities uses. Particular attention should be paid to the design of the public space and the design of the buildings' ground floors.

Reference scale: 1:500 to 1:200.

Exercise development time: 3 weeks.

Elements to be delivered: Plans, sections, perspectives

Group work

- **3<sup>rd</sup> Stage: Typological Exploration**

At this stage, the proposal should include the explanation of the housing models and the characterization of the public spaces of a relevant morphological unit or built complex, by exploring the dominant typology, the resolution of structuring elements of the building and the characterization of the relationship with the ground and public space, eventually with the inclusion of commercial and/or service uses.

Reference scales: 1:200 and 1:50.

Exercise development time: 4 weeks.

Elements to be delivered: Plans, sections, elevations, 3D virtual model, constructive section through the building envelope, study model.

Individual work

For all phases, students must systematize elements related to the design and design process (sketches, schemes, perspectives, etc.) in a *booklet* to be presented at the end of the semester.

### **Methodology**

The Curricular Unit will be taught at two levels:

- Theoretical classes every 2 weeks, focusing on topics relevant to the development of the exercises in progress.
- Practical classes of systematic monitoring of the development of the students' work, in a workshop regime.

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