PUNCTUATION
Porto Brandão-ALMADA
First of all here is a landscape and the simple alternation of ridges and vales, like a comb, that gives its tempo to the left bank of the Tagus. Then comes what it contains, human settlement, the drastic alternation of traditional fishermen villages and industrial infrastructures.

Two rhythms overlaying and echoing, revealing the impact of what is at heights and the self-sufficiency of each vale. It is in this self-sufficiency of low areas and in the potential impact of higher surfaces which lay the richness of this type of topography. This landscape grid becomes a score, in which each vale, each ridge can welcome a note. A sole note that has its own atmosphere and functions, and that integrates into a melody composed of synergies of functions.

From that angle, the current urban structure of the left bank of the Tagus, its rhythm, must be preserved and strengthened. Harmonies must be arranged only for functions hosted by valleys and the ridges, and thought in a complementary way. A very busy area can answer to an empty one, where the nature is more present. Thus, these two valleys bordering the Porto Brandao valley can host natural areas. One of them can be a farming area, and the other one a leisure one, in the middle of the nature, as a bar taking away the village industry.

More demonstrative, ridges can welcome prestigious programs that would have a too important impact to be located in the traditional village. They are landmarks in the large landscape and represent a hyphen between each vale. Thus the Lazareto Hospital ridge becomes a congress center, a summer university and a hotel. It is reachable and visible from the village and connects it to the aquatic recreation center. Oriented towards Lisbon, it becomes one of signs of the new dynamism of the left bank of the river and Porto Brandao.

No inicio, tem a paisagem, e a sensível alternância dos cumes e vales que vêm para ritmar, na forma de um pente a margem esquerda do Tage. Depois tem o que contem, a ocupação humana, e a mudança radical de uma aldeia de pescadores artesanais e dos infra-estruturas industriais.

Dois ritmos que se sobrepõem e se respondem, revelando o impacto do que é no topo e da independencia dos vales entre eles. Fica nessa independencia das zonas baixas e na capacidade de impacto das superfícies altas, a riqueza deste tipo de topografia. Esta trama paisagem se torna numa partitura, em qual cada vale, cada cume pode receber uma nota. Uma nota unica que possui seu ambiente e seu próprio uso, que juntas, e que se inseri numa melodia formada por la complementaridade das funções entre elas.

Nesse ponto de vista, a estrutura urbana actual da margem esquerda do Tage, seu ritmo, tem que ser preservada e reforçada. Apenas as funções aonde ficam os vales e os cumes precisam ser harmonizadas e pensadas de uma maneira complementar. A uma zona fortemente ocupada pode se responder uma zona vazia, aonde a natureza se vem buscar o lugar. Assim, os dois vales que ladeiam aquella de Porto Brandão podem receber uma zona de natureza. Uma delas pode ser uma zona agrícola, a outra um espaço de lazer no meio da natureza, afastando a industria e a aldeia duma medida.

Os cumes, mais demonstrativos, podēm receber programas prestigiosos, impactandos demais para estar na aldeia de pescadores. Servem como uma referência nesta grande paisagem, e contém a marca da união entre cada vale. Assim, o cume do hospital Lazareto se torna num centro de convenções, uma universidade de verão, e um centro clinico. Ele esta accesivel e visível desde a aldeia e liga esta no centro de lazer aquático. Se virada para Lisboa, se torna num novo signal dinâmico da margem esquerda do rio e de Porto Brandão.

The landscape and the score

A paisagem e a partitura
Thickening, boundary and direction

The reading of a rhythm in the landscape is expressed through strong boundaries created by the reliefs.

This boundary is clearly materialized by very steep cliffs on the bank, and dissipates when one walks away from the river. In the same way and following the same thread, activities drastically separated from banks tend to merge when one walks towards inland. This loss of boundaries and the absence of constraints imposed by the relief allow the homogenization of the urban fabric. The fringe between the highway and principal road hosts low density areas that have difficulties connecting each other. The notion of a fair level of areas, depending on its function dissipates due to the lack of structure. However, even if constraints and benefits of the relief of river banks have disappeared, there is nothing preventing to keep this structure. Banks boundaries can be extended inland and materialised through urban planning and architecture. Boundaries must be strengthened.

This relief dying in topography creates an effect of compression dilatation. Ridges are the gradual disappearance of the Armada plateau. Valleys are taking shape and gradually thicken towards the river. It can be the same for activities constituting the urban fabric. Functions favored by the presence of the river correspond to valleys – for instance leisure, housing and the production of raw materials. More autonomous and dynamic programmes such as a university or a congress centre can match with ridges. In this way, the relationship between these different activities is not rigid. It evolves through the territory while preserving some continuity. The city is then organized according to a triangular logic, in thicknesses and towards one direction.
A. A NATURAL AQUATIC CENTER IN PAULINE COVE
Un centro aquático natural em PAULINE COVE
T0 Remediation
T1 Botanic garden
T2 Open-air swimming pool

B. AN INTERPRETATION CENTER OF THE LANDSCAPE IN THE TORRE VEHLA
Um centro de interpretação da paisagem na Torre Vehla
T0 Renovation and rebuilding
T1 Museum and operational belvedere

C. AND A MULTI-PURPOSE CONFERENCE CENTER IN LAZARETO
Um lugar de conferência polivalente no seio de LAZARETO
T0 Renovation and connection
T1 First program housed in a wing
T2 Continuous phased renovation wing by wing

D. T0 Improved connection to Lisbon
T1 Connection to university thanks to a shuttle link
T2 Multimodal hub creation with underground parking

E. THE MARKET O PASSEIO E SEU LUGAR
T0 Renovation; market hall and public space
T1 Urban influence parvis
T2 Public space flexibility thanks to metallic stalls

F, G, H. SPORTS CENTER PÔLO ESPORTIVO
MEDIA LIBRARY MEDIATECA
HOUSING MORANDO
T0 Connections and breast walls
T1 Working-class gardens following a grid
T2 Housing creation

I. A CENTER FOR AGRONOMIC RESEARCH AND INNOVATION ON THE « FUEL DEPOSIT » SITE
Um polo de pesquisa e de inovação em agronomia
T0 Remediation
T1 Private plantation
T2 Laboratory and partial public botanic garden
Rhythm, eagerness and punctuation

Porto Brandao village is to be considered as a constituted entity. A village archetype in the valley, organised along a central traffic artery that follows the gentle slope previous taken by the runoff waters. Secondary routes head towards the slope and devalue the upland. The solution to problems related to the relief, as well as the superimposition of constructions from different periods give the village a special asset and a strong identity. Constructions scales naturally match and give the village a tone that ensures its consistency.

Similarly to the large landscape scale, it is possible to strengthen those crucial features. The village central artery can be enhanced by a material processing inspired from the rock which constitutes the valley.

Several new programmes required for the good working of the village must be settled in the centre, according to the existing organisation of the village. At first, constructions are set up punctually along the central traffic artery, and reinvigorate it by offering new public areas.

In a second time, it offers new secondary aisles where necessary. It clears views and allows us to see under revealed entities such as the suburb. This settlement strategy allows the adaptation to Porto Brandao’s tone, and gives it a new punctuation.

Every project can be considered as a finite or decomposed item according to issues tackled earlier. The chosen architectural writing permits to build only what is needed, a simple public area created from a levelling, a cover or stairs along a wall. Construction phases match those issues. The projects can afford uncertainty, and the possibility to be adapted to assessed and unexpected uses.

That way, and according to priority needs of Porto Brandao, projects will represent its time punctuation.

O ritmo, impaciência e pontuação

A aldeia de Porto Brandão tem que ser considerada como uma entidade constituída. Um arquetipo de uma aldeia no vale, organizada ladeando uma importante via de comunicação seguindo a encosta antigamente usada por as aguas escorendas. Os percursos secondarios se metem depois numa encosta. A resolução dos problemas que o relevo bota, e a sobreposição das construções de tempos diferentes dão uma riqueza espacial na aldeia, e também uma forte identidade. A escala das construções foram harmonizadas naturalmente conferindo na aldeia a garantia coerência.

Na mesma maneira que a escala da grande paisagem, é possível renforçar as características fundamentais. A via central da aldeia pode ser valorisada pelo tratamento material inspiradp da rocha em qual o vale foi escavada. Varios programas necessarios no funcionamento da aldeia de hoje tem que ser no centro, preservando a organização natural da aldeia existante.

Primerio, as construções se implantam de maneira punctual ladeando a via central, e dinamismam por a proposta ne novos espacios publicos. Segundo, oferece novas circulações segundarias nos lugares aonde se revela necessário. Permite aos barrios mal exprimidos como de se render visivel. Esta estratégia de implantação permite uma adaptação de Porto Brandão, e oferece uma nova pontuação.

Cada projeto pode ser pendado como um objecto acabado ou decomposto en função das proble- maticas abordadas precedentemente. A escrita arquitectonica escolhida permite a construção do que solamente é necessário, um espaço publico simple, produzido por um terraplenagem, uma co- bertura ou escadas ladeando uma parede. Nestas problematicas, corresponde fases de constru- ções. Os projetos se oferece o luxo da incecerteza, oferece a possibilidade de ser adaptados aos usos constatados e impresiveis.

Desta maneira, e segundo as necessidades de Porto Brandão, constituem a pontuação no tempo.
According to the territory scale, the used materials in its renovation offer a direction. They appear gradually and guide the visitor to the town centre. The use of several materials with several roughness allows a traffic regulation. For example, a pebbles area just before a public place leads the vehicles to slow. This material principle is inspired from the local stone; a detritive conglomerate made of hard stones caught in a softer stone.