

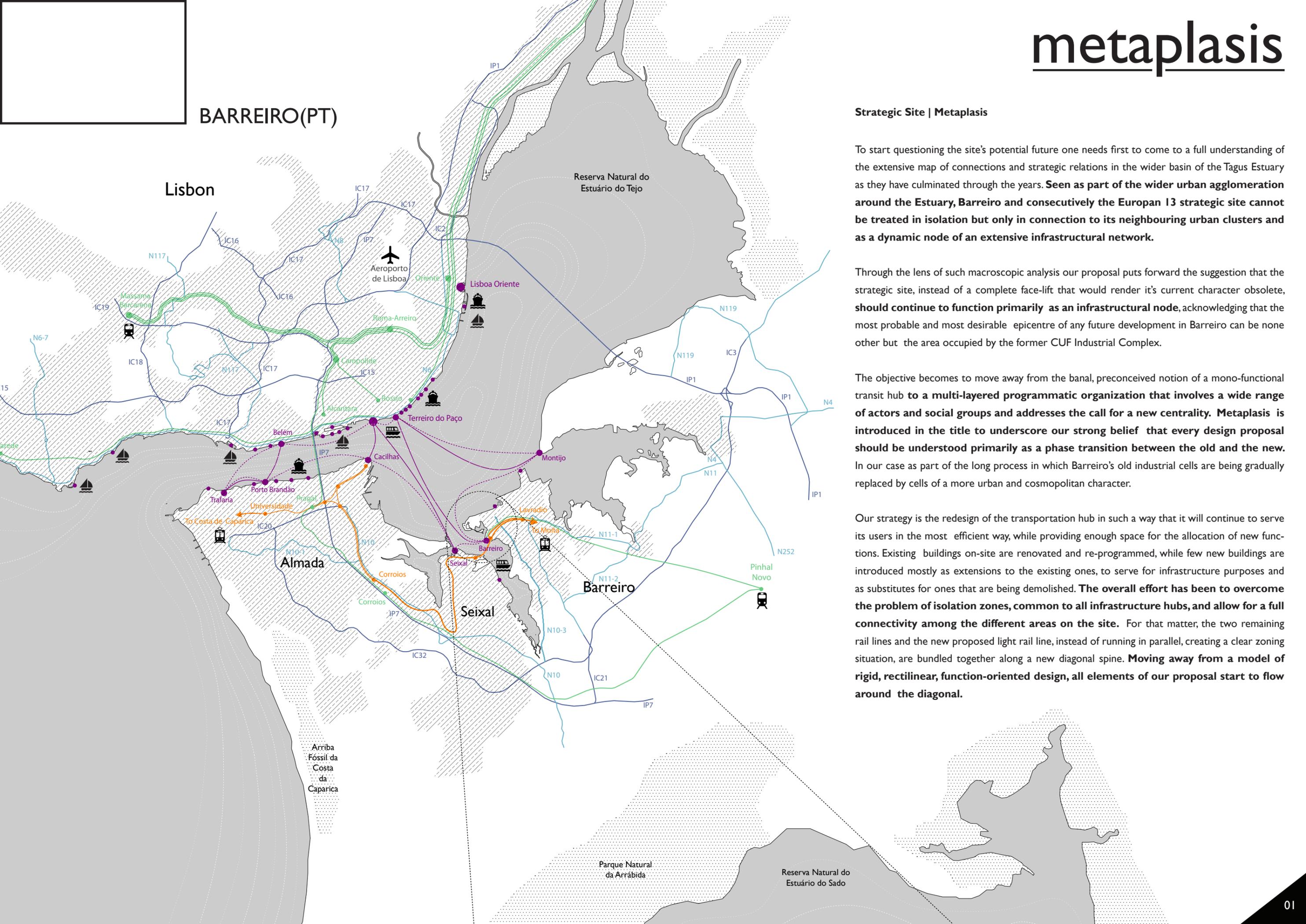


BARREIRO(PT)

metaplasia*

** the reversible replacement of one differentiated cell type with another mature differentiated cell type. The original cells are not robust enough to withstand the new environment, and change into another type more suited to the new environment.*

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Strategic Site | Metaplasis

To start questioning the site's potential future one needs first to come to a full understanding of the extensive map of connections and strategic relations in the wider basin of the Tagus Estuary as they have culminated through the years. **Seen as part of the wider urban agglomeration around the Estuary, Barreiro and consecutively the European I3 strategic site cannot be treated in isolation but only in connection to its neighbouring urban clusters and as a dynamic node of an extensive infrastructural network.**

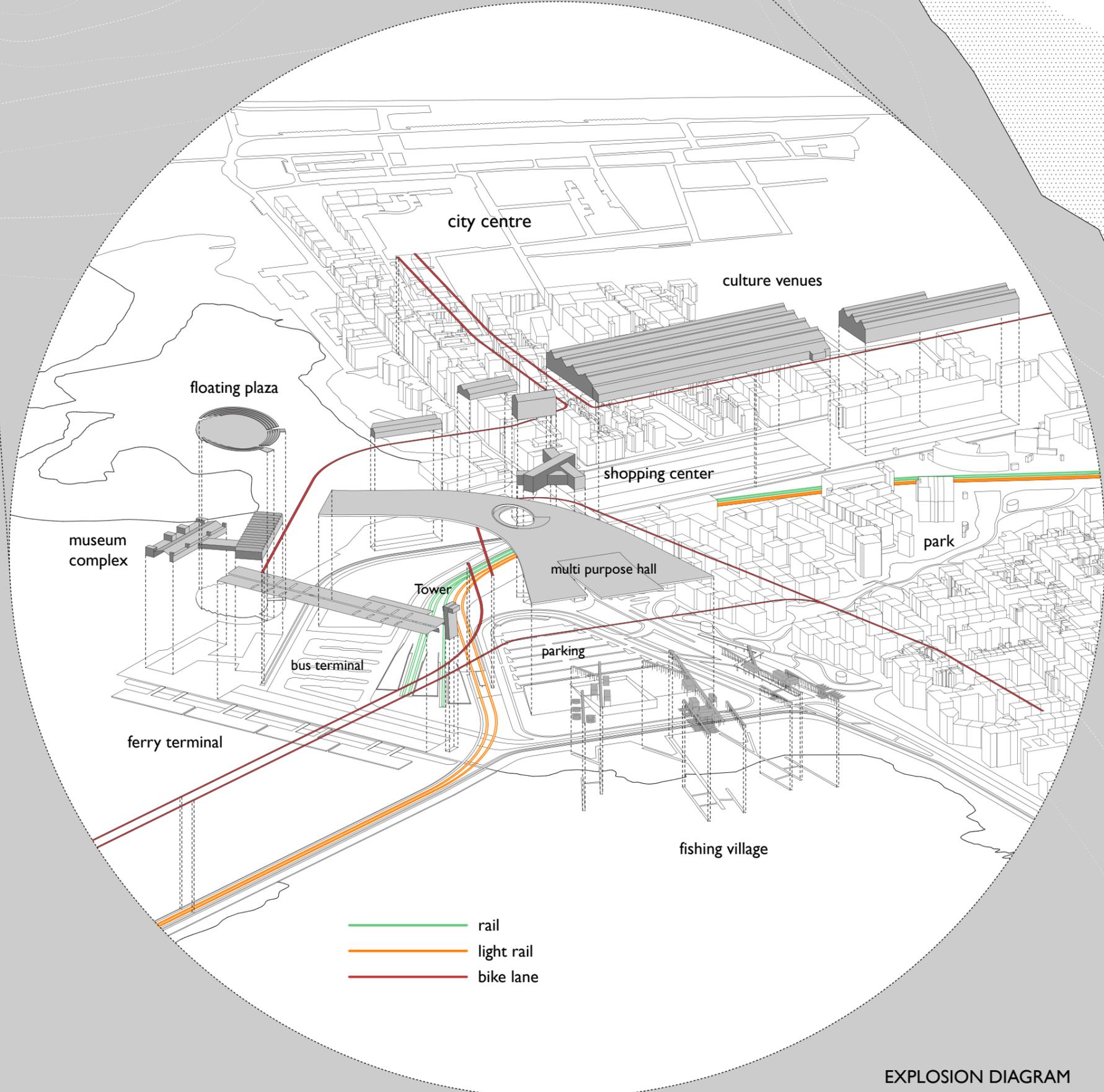
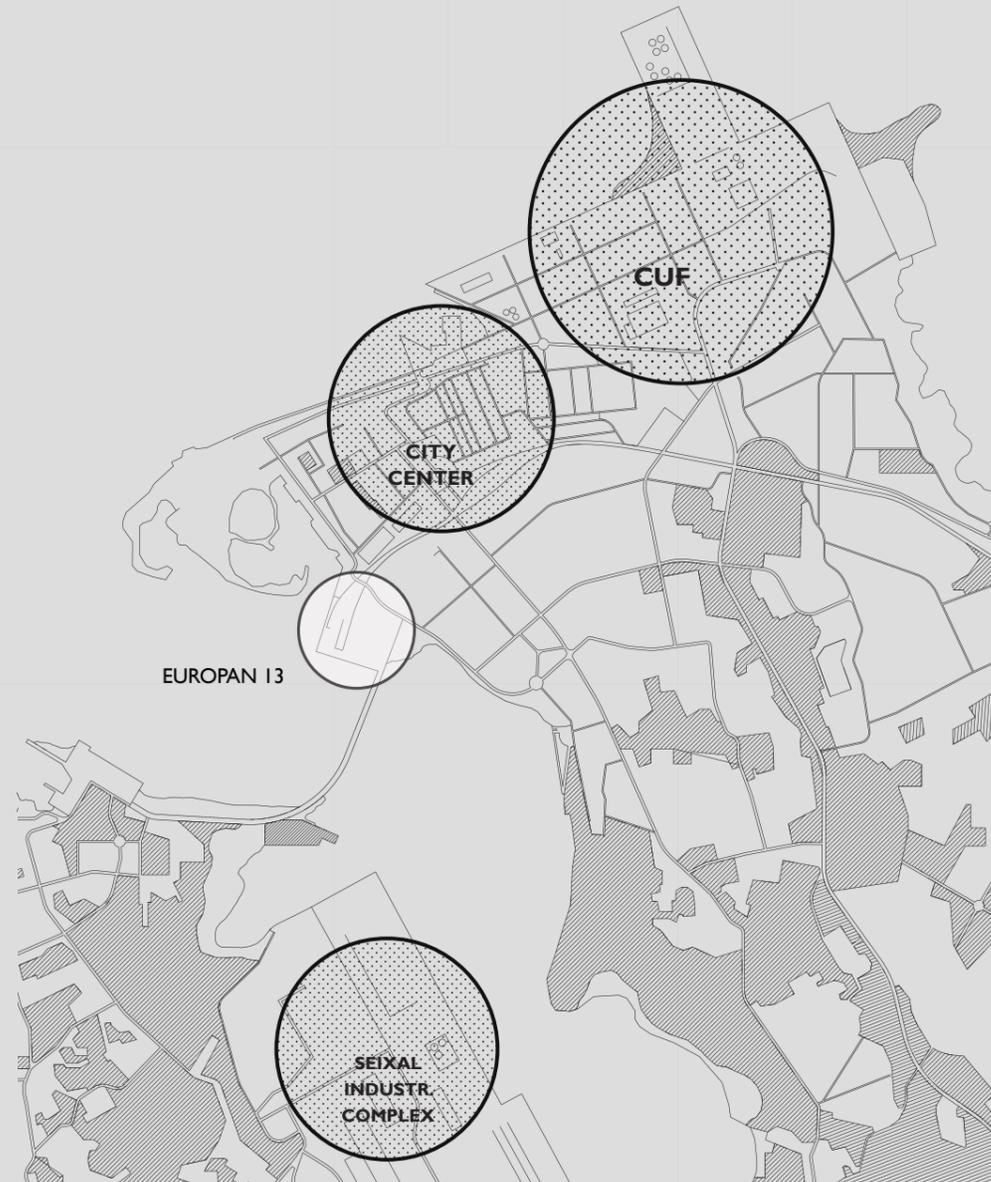
Through the lens of such macroscopic analysis our proposal puts forward the suggestion that the strategic site, instead of a complete face-lift that would render it's current character obsolete, **should continue to function primarily as an infrastructural node**, acknowledging that the most probable and most desirable epicentre of any future development in Barreiro can be none other but the area occupied by the former CUF Industrial Complex.

The objective becomes to move away from the banal, preconceived notion of a mono-functional transit hub **to a multi-layered programmatic organization that involves a wide range of actors and social groups and addresses the call for a new centrality. Metaplasis is introduced in the title to underscore our strong belief that every design proposal should be understood primarily as a phase transition between the old and the new.** In our case as part of the long process in which Barreiro's old industrial cells are being gradually replaced by cells of a more urban and cosmopolitan character.

Our strategy is the redesign of the transportation hub in such a way that it will continue to serve its users in the most efficient way, while providing enough space for the allocation of new functions. Existing buildings on-site are renovated and re-programmed, while few new buildings are introduced mostly as extensions to the existing ones, to serve for infrastructure purposes and as substitutes for ones that are being demolished. **The overall effort has been to overcome the problem of isolation zones, common to all infrastructure hubs, and allow for a full connectivity among the different areas on the site.** For that matter, the two remaining rail lines and the new proposed light rail line, instead of running in parallel, creating a clear zoning situation, are bundled together along a new diagonal spine. **Moving away from a model of rigid, rectilinear, function-oriented design, all elements of our proposal start to flow around the diagonal.**

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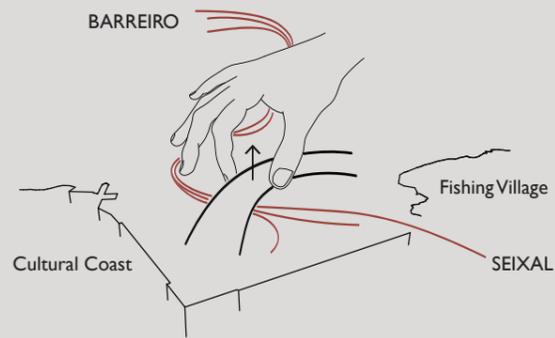
The decision to maintain the infrastructural character of the site is fuelled by an estimation of possible scenarios for the future development of Barreiro and its surrounding area. The former CUF Factory area has a prominent location in Barreiro, overlooking Lisbon, with a direct link to the city centre, and is clearly a tabula rasa on which a future development could be planned. At the same time the former Industrial Zone of Seixal presents equal opportunities and should be taken in consideration. **Strategically situated among the two, and in vicinity to the centre of Barreiro, the strategic site of Europán 13 can maintain and reinforce its importance as the main entrance gate to the area.**



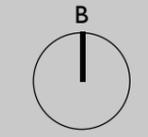
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The two parts dichotomized by the diagonal assume directly their distinctive character. On the left side (A), a major part is occupied by the rail, bus and ferry terminals and the rest, overlooking the Alburicca natural reserve is organized as a promenade connecting to the city center. On the right side (B), the natural beach, the organically remodelled fishing village, and the extended park area create a “soft” ground tied more to the adjacent neighbourhood.



A bold move is introduced as the cornerstone of the whole design. A bridge-like surface, brings the two parts together in a seamless manner as a natural extension of the ground. A new dimension is added, and the infrastructure assembly is transformed from obstacle to spectacle.



SITE PLAN

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Following the descent from the esplanade, the floating plaza lies between the land and the sea offering a large public space suitable for open air concerts and public events. The plaza is not literally floating, yet is clearly distinctive from the rest of the promenade in terms of form, materiality and structure .



The large ramp connecting the parking area with the top of the esplanade offers an unexpected experience to the visitor. This is, in a metaphoric fashion, the navel of the whole project, the connecting point where the two worlds meet.



The Multi-Purpose Hall that emerges naturally at the one end of the Esplanade is the largest new building in terms of surface area that is introduced in the strategic site, a sort of counterweight to the floating plaza on the other end. Suitable for a broad range of events, it would contribute significantly to the economic sustainability of the project.



The iconic building of the Former Transport Interchange "Sul e Sueste", is extended in surface area through the addition of a new building, and together the two form an important cultural complex. A permanent exhibition could relate to the history of Barreiro and the building's former use, while temporary exhibitions could engage with contemporary art and attract a number of visitors. The plaza in between is envisioned as a sculpture garden.



The watchtower acts as a signal for the whole development becoming a point of reference and marking the entrance point for visitors arriving in Barreiro from Seixal. It is the highest elevation in the area, 40m high, and offers great panoramic views of the site, the city of Barreiro and in clear days potentially even of Lisbon.



The existing sheds of the fishing community are removed, and are replaced by a new system of wooden decks and kiosks. The new system is anchored on the promenade and stretches out into the sea in an organic fashion. The desire is to strengthen the presence of the fishing community and develop a touristic hub around it.

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Project Site | Cultural Coast

The project site is treated as an integral and indispensable part of the strategic site, a keystone in the operation and viability of the overall design scheme. **The working title “Cultural Coast” emanates the desire to render the area with a new identity, clearly related to cultural uses.** The occasion that clearly drives to this decision is the potent transformation of the iconic “Sul e Sueste” station to an exhibition hall that portrays instances of Barreiro’s recent past. The proposed extension to the existing building enlarges the exhibition floor area and significantly broadens the scope and curatorial potentials of the new institution. **The new complex emerges as a strong reference point in the south-west corner of the strategic site and can be supplemented with shopping and recreation functions.**

Beyond the museum complex no other major building infrastructure is proposed for the project site, with the exception of small temporary structures that could be installed in periodic intervals to serve temporal needs. On the northern part of the project site the majority of the existing building infrastructure is also refurbished to house culture and recreation related program. The proposed culture zone can extend well beyond the European site to include, in later phases, many of the existing industrial sheds of the former railway infrastructure.

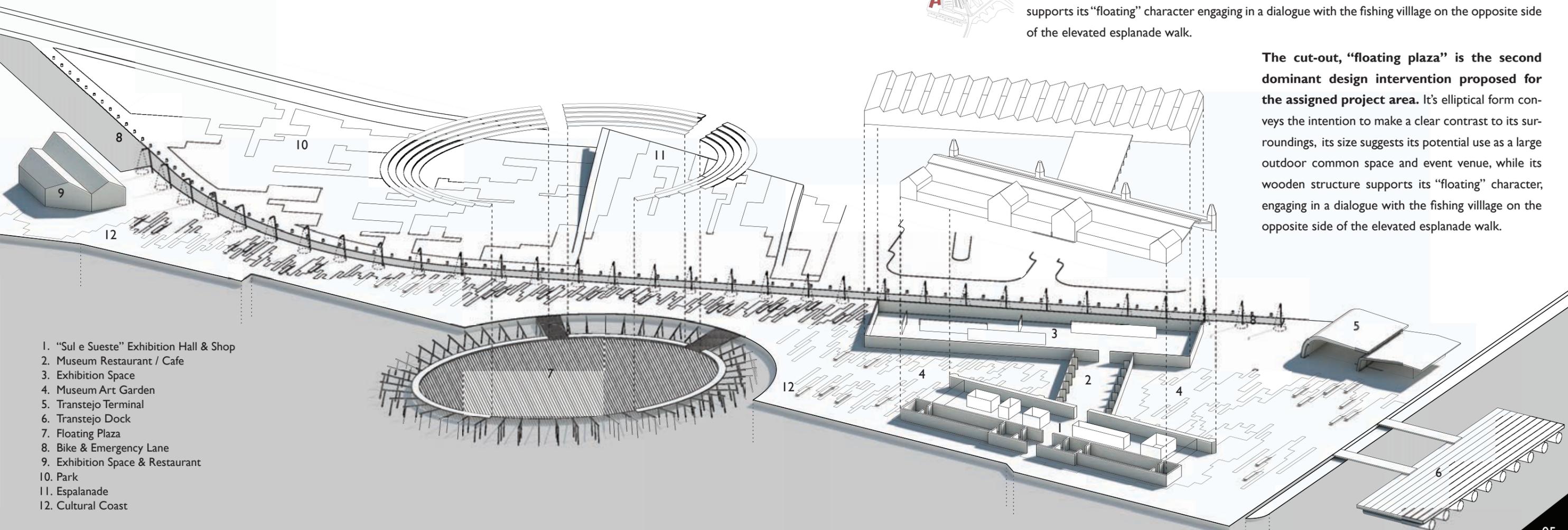
AERIAL VIEW



The “floating plaza” is the second dominant design intervention in the assigned project area. Its elliptical form marks a clear intention to differentiate it from its surroundings, its size suggests its potential use as a large outdoor common space and event venue, while its wooden structure supports its “floating” character engaging in a dialogue with the fishing village on the opposite side of the elevated esplanade walk.

The cut-out, “floating plaza” is the second dominant design intervention proposed for the assigned project area. Its elliptical form conveys the intention to make a clear contrast to its surroundings, its size suggests its potential use as a large outdoor common space and event venue, while its wooden structure supports its “floating” character, engaging in a dialogue with the fishing village on the opposite side of the elevated esplanade walk.

AXONOMETRIC VIEW



1. “Sul e Sueste” Exhibition Hall & Shop
2. Museum Restaurant / Cafe
3. Exhibition Space
4. Museum Art Garden
5. Transtejo Terminal
6. Transtejo Dock
7. Floating Plaza
8. Bike & Emergency Lane
9. Exhibition Space & Restaurant
10. Park
11. Espalanade
12. Cultural Coast

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CLOSE-UP VIEW