



# MORE THAN CITIES

Challenges and opportunities of  
low-density territories worldwide

2nd semestre 2023-24

GROUP 1

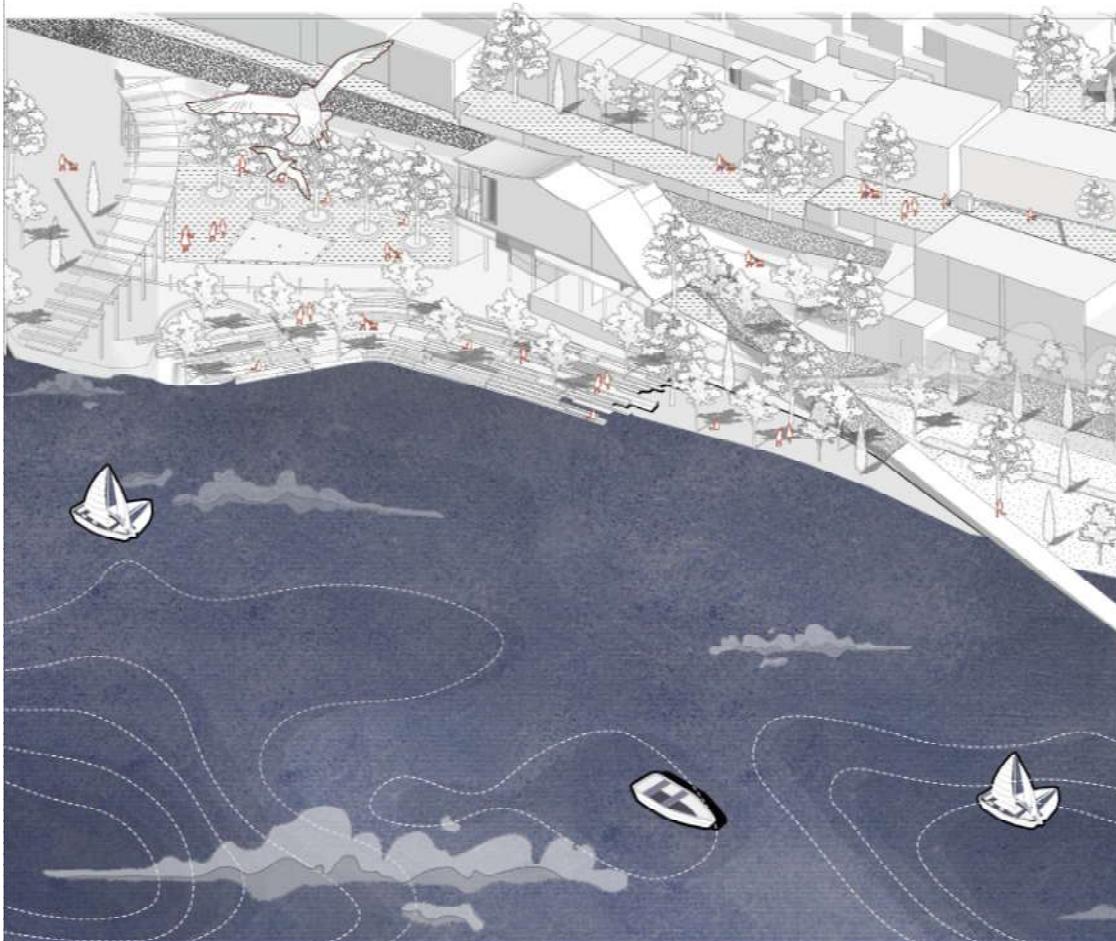
## ABSTRACT

In Portugal, approximately two-thirds of the country is considered rural. Within these regions, many small villages are facing progressive abandonment due to a myriad of reasons such as dwindling populations and shifts in agricultural practices. However, despite their decline, these villages possess immense potential as tourist destinations and are intrinsic to Portugal's international identity. They offer a rich canvas for reimagining narratives surrounding architecture, landscape, and communal life.

The global discourse on rural-urban dynamics has become increasingly pertinent, fueled by rapid landscape transformations, climate change, and technological advancements in agriculture. Architects have a crucial role to play in addressing these challenges and revitalizing these rural spaces. By leveraging innovative design solutions, architects can breathe new life into these villages, fostering economic sustainability and community resilience.

Our project proposes to focus on villages like Pomarao, Mertola, and Sao Domingos, aiming to create a unified framework for development. By coordinating efforts across different sites, students can explore diverse approaches to address the specific needs and potentials of each village, shedding light on themes of resilience, adaptation, and cultural specificity in architectural design.





## 1st Part

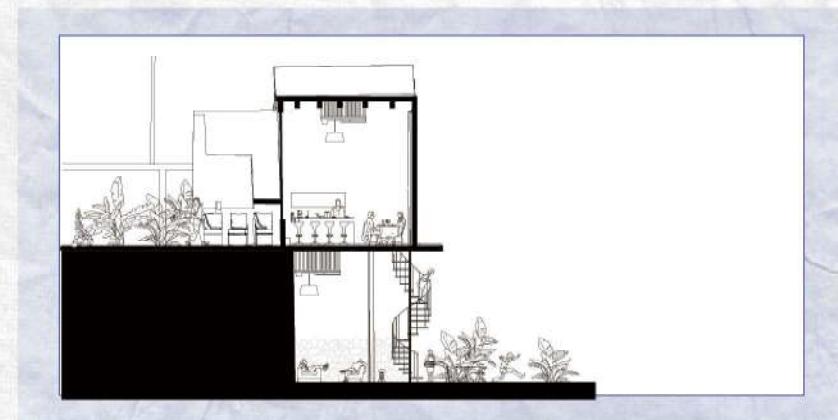
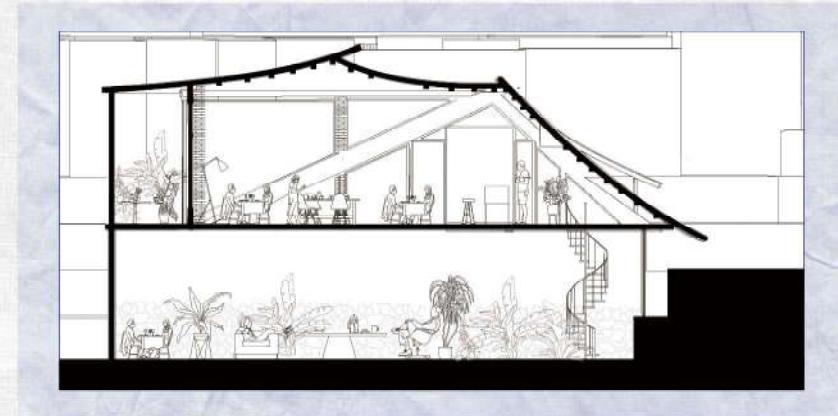
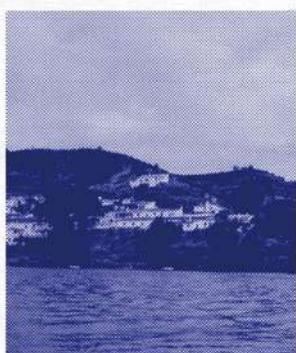
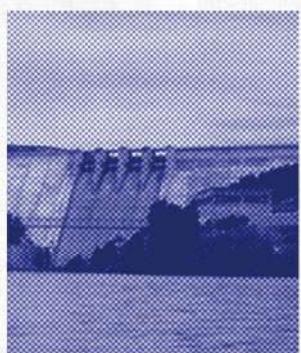
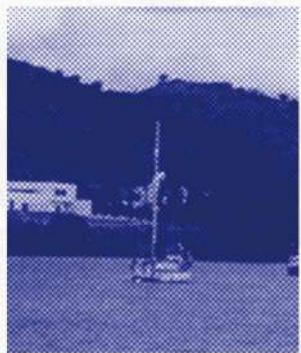
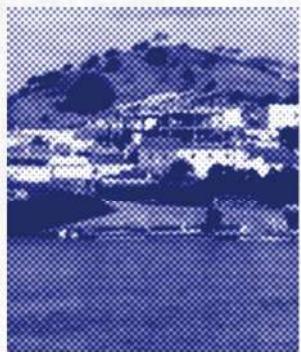
### If River Could Talk

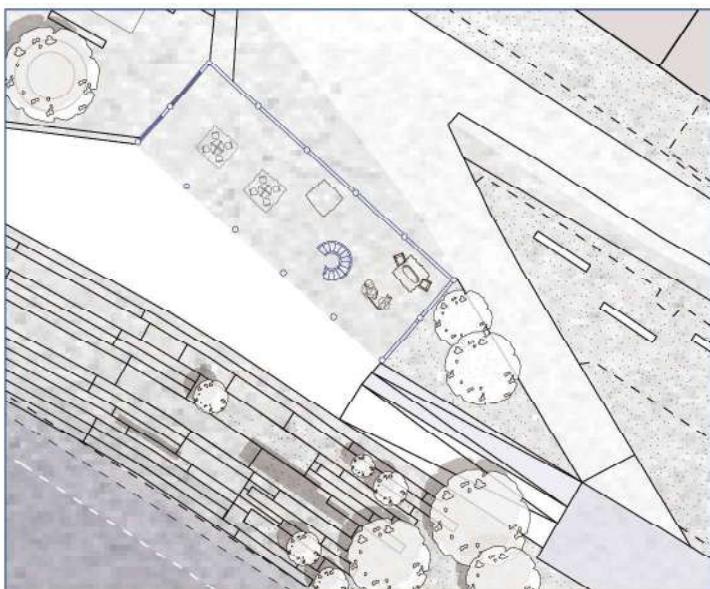
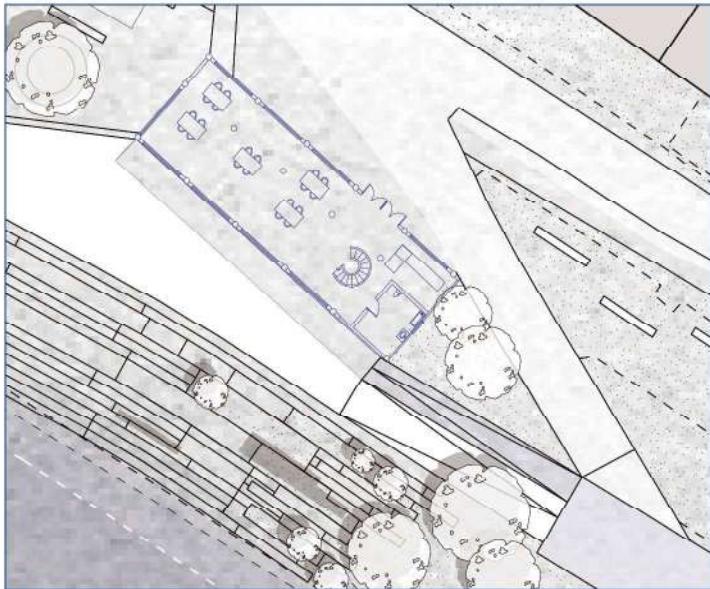
Continuamos nossa jornada alegre e rápida, auxiliados pelas velas e pela maré baixa. Quando o sol começou a esconder sua testa majestosa dentro dos limites do horizonte, chegamos ao local de Pomarao!

## 2nd Part

### Go With The Flow

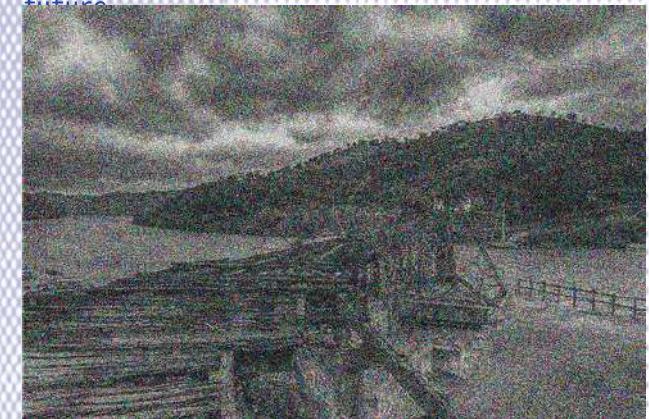
Naquela época era um deserto; hoje não parece o mesmo lugar! A solidão é substituída por vitalidade e vigor.

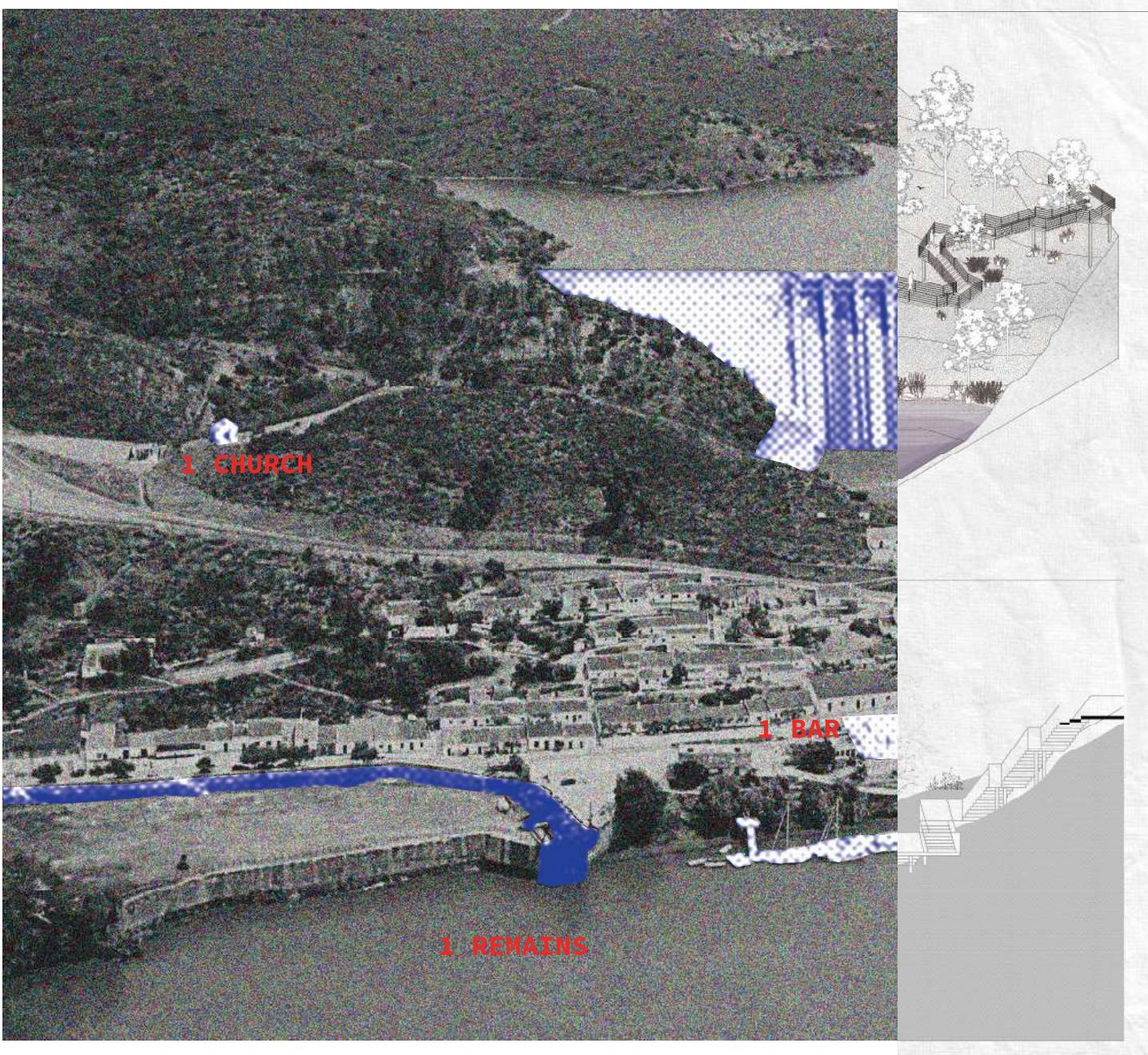




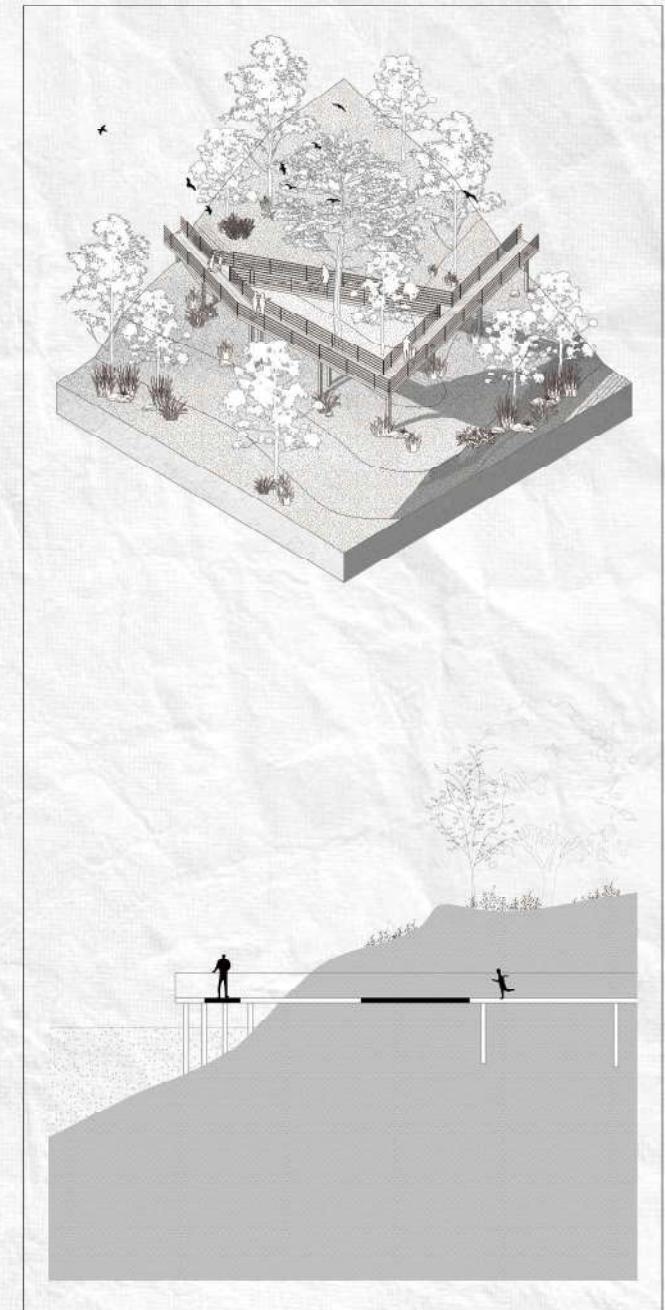
## Pomarão

Portugal  
Lower Alentejo  
Beja  
Mértola  
37°33'23"N  
07°31'27"W

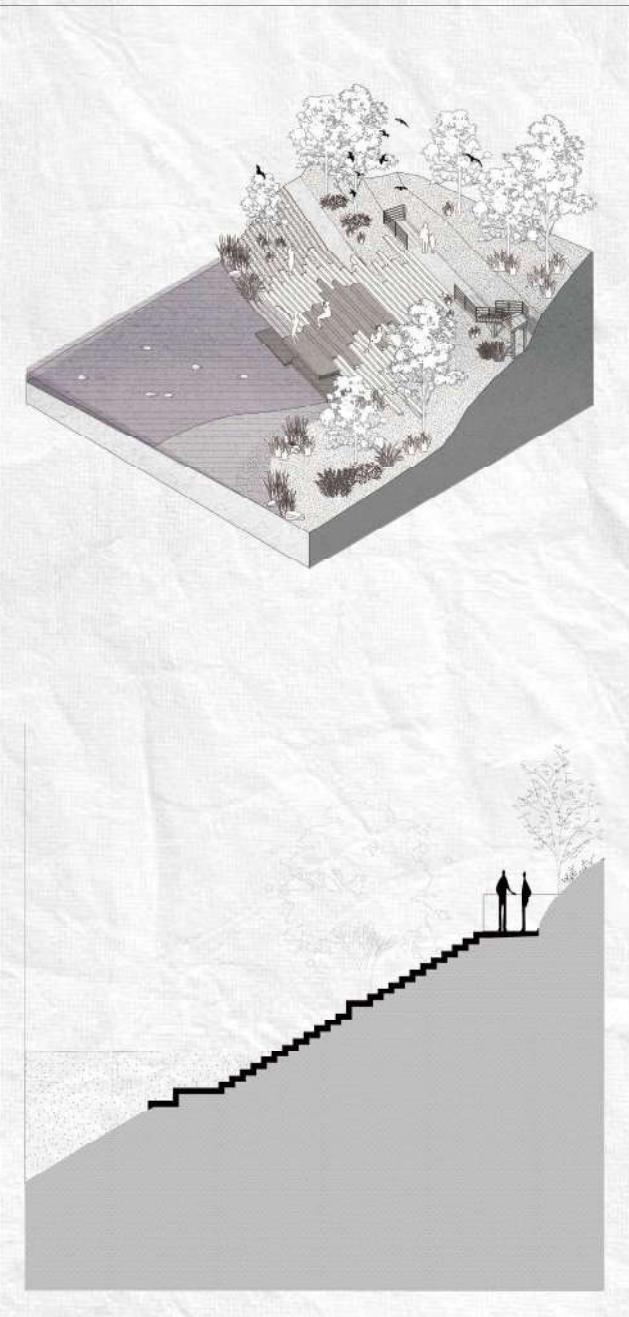




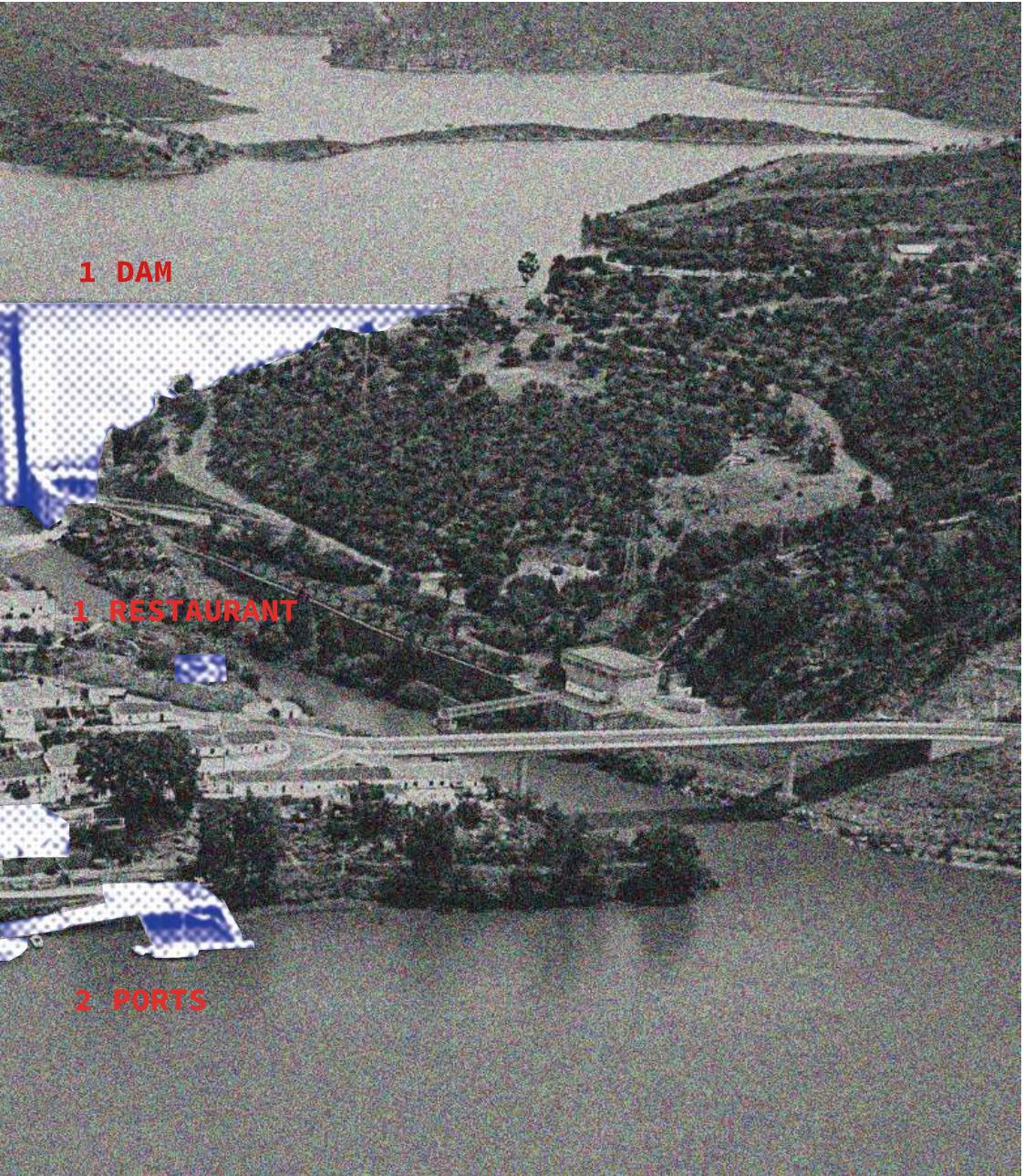
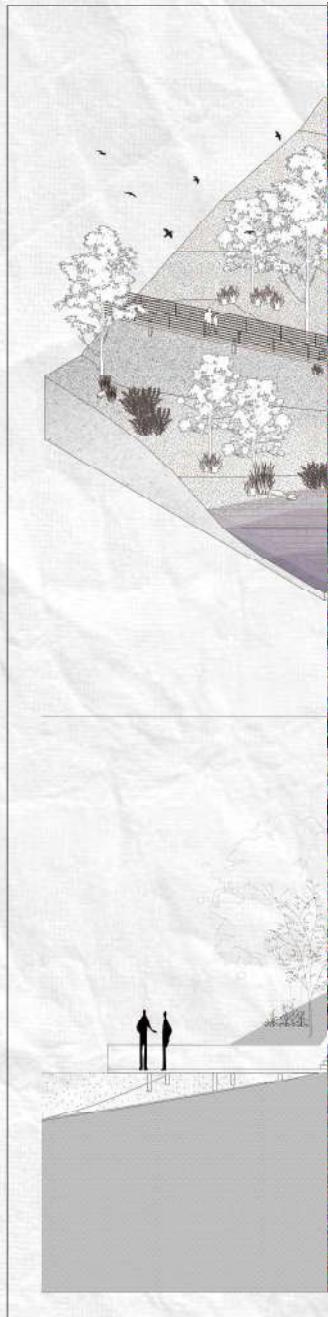
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67



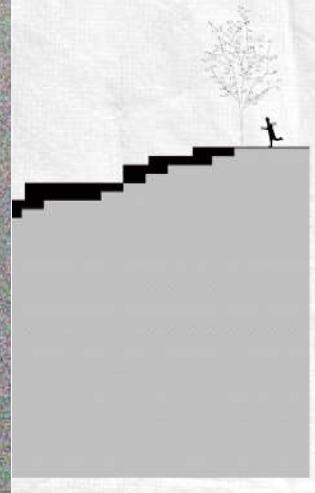
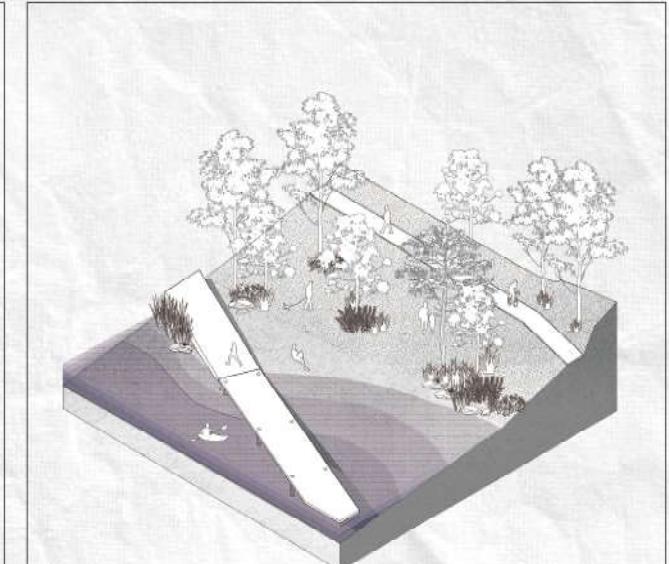
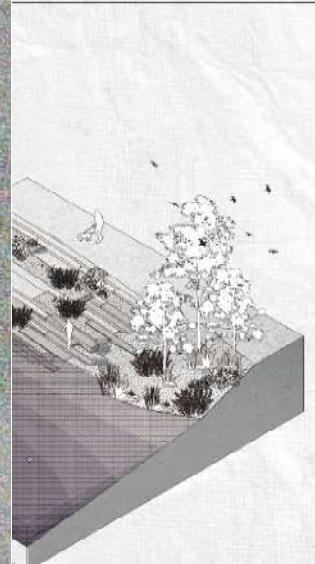
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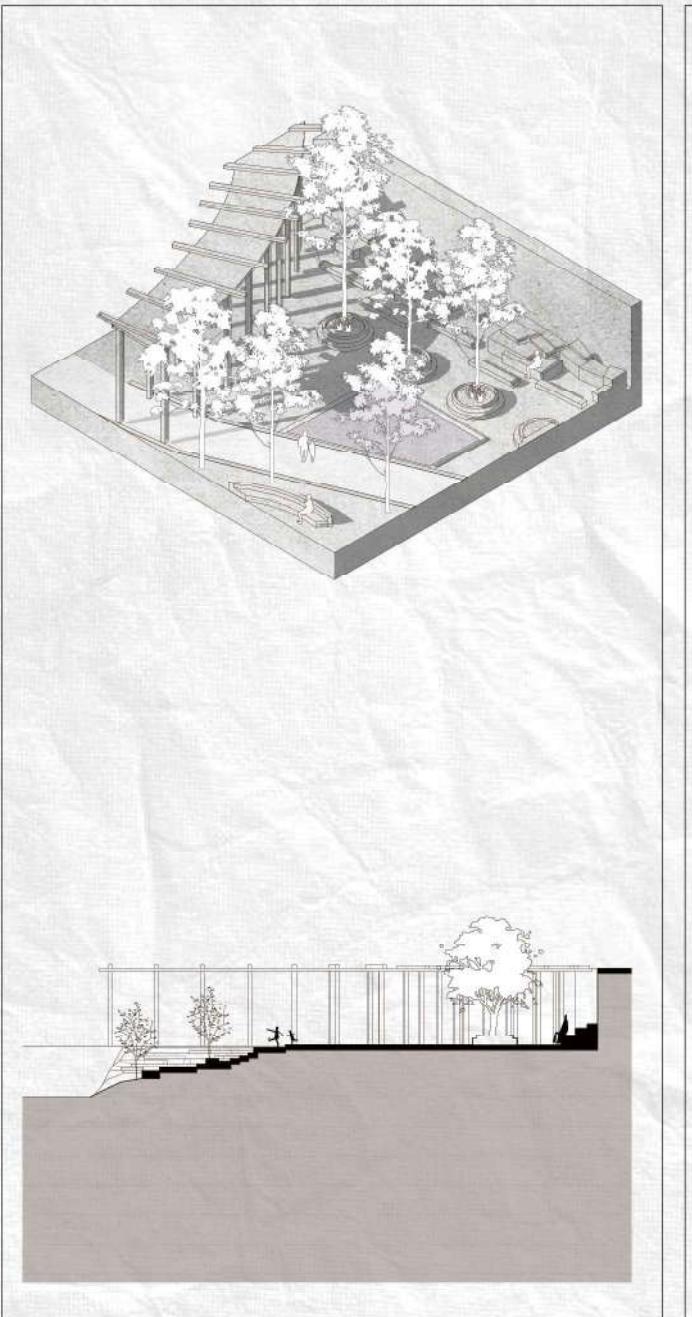


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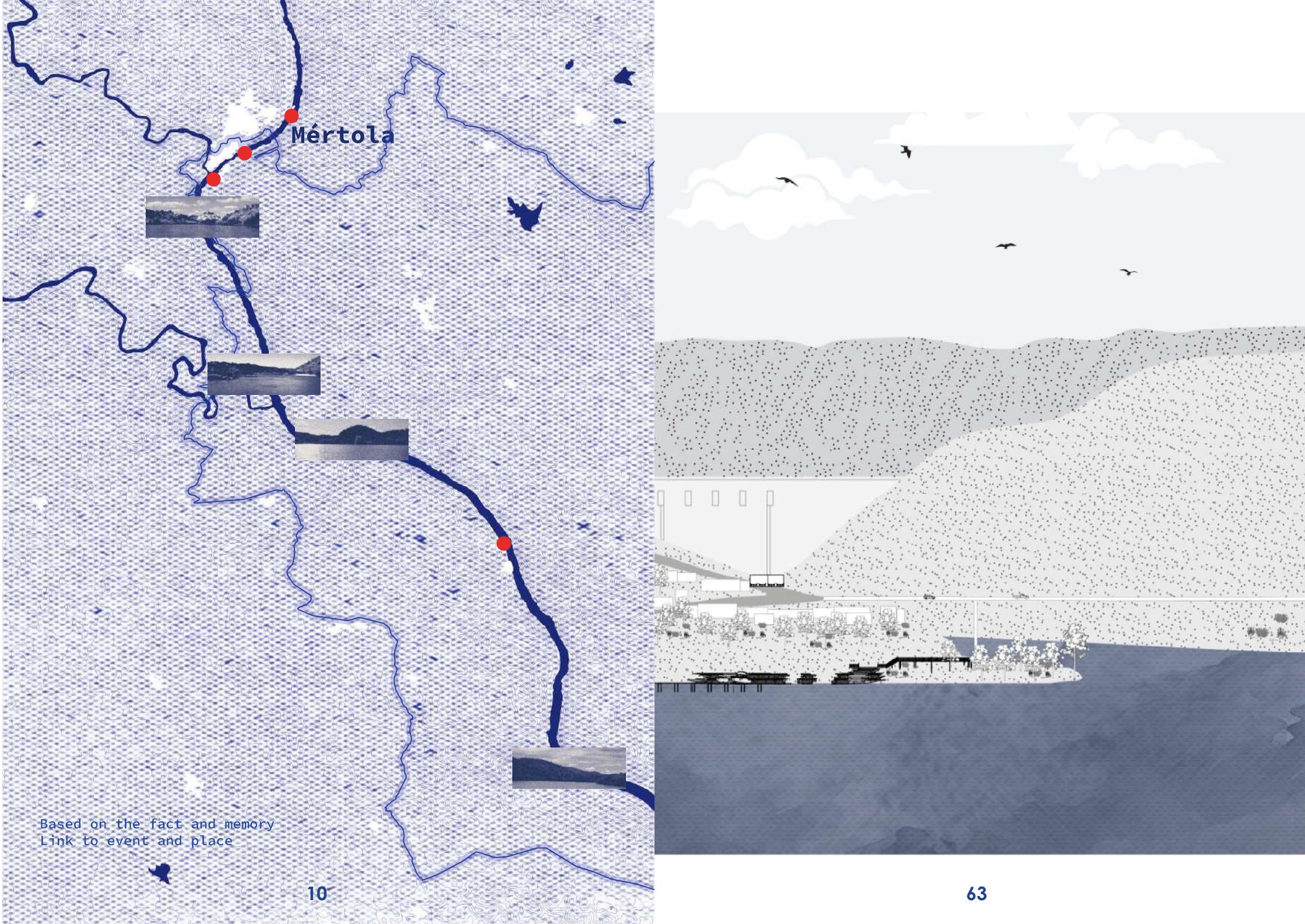
# IF THE RIVER COULD TALK

We are time. We are the allegory of the famous obscure Heraclitus  
We are water, not everlasting diamonds, things passing, not things still  
We are the river and also the Greek who looks at himself in the river  
Everything bids us farewell, everything recedes





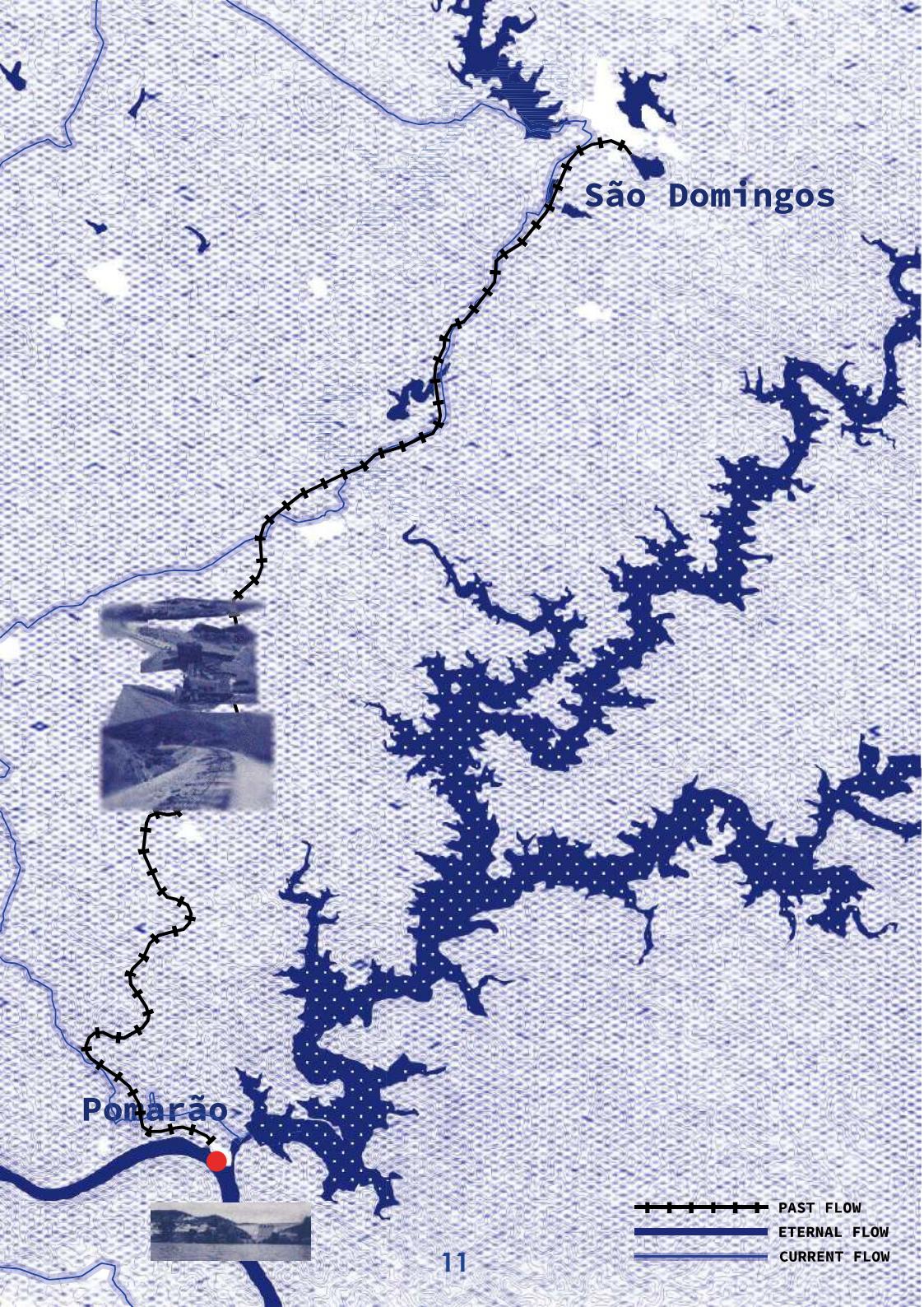
omarao, a village born out of the river, initially seao Domingos mine. In its golden age, nearly 600 ships o and from Pomarao annually. As the mining industry omarao gradually fell into silence. Pomarao is intersvarious flows: the ceaseless river, abandoned railways, glanned hiking routes, and the international bridge connpain. From a temporal perspective, there's an eternal flows, and now new flows. These flows converge in Pomarao countless intersections that create new flows, constantly he only constant is the river, yet even this narrative withstand scrutiny, as rivers themselves are products of imagined etnical and cultural histories. Numerous charpace become visible in the riverbed, from different races of fish to the remains of ancient settlements.ago settlances built by the river, the doconcrete structures concret only bri disappear them now. ent time p different time ally evolvnails; I fin I witnessected ones contrast, periods before ap. However, traces of both present and past can be encifferent time slices. Thus, I encounter the current riverll traces of the past, clear in the dry season and mudainy season; sometimes flooding fields, concrete roads, n the riverbed, I encounter others. We all inadvertently he spacetime reached by the river, each with different leeting by the river. Our life trajectories, ever-changirents, and evolving rivers collectively shape t he pronclusion, the present is interpreted through the interwpace and time. Space changes <sup>9</sup> with the passage of time, w s expressed by various traces in space. This is what we



Based on the fact and memory  
Link to event and place



62



11

## Nicolau Biavaque



-Nicolau Biavaque found an old Roman mine in Serra de São Domingos and registered it in his name.



-Railway completed (mule) (São Domingos - Pomarão)  
-Tunnel connecting mine to Pomarão opened

**Notícias**  
— Na Guedes, junto à vila de Pomarão, foi alegado o valor inglês Salyma com 900 toneladas de ouro e chumbo da mina de São Domingos de Alcoutim que levava para o porto de Vila do Conde, e que os robos que fez no caminho no barco. Depois de muito trabalho conseguiram pôr a encharcamento a molo, e seguir para o seu destino.  
A associação comunitária recomenda ao governo

-Near Pomarão the British ship Salyma sank carrying 900 tons of copper ore

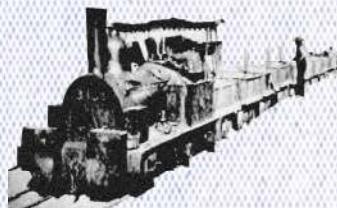


-The railway was demolished

-PRESA DEL CHANZA dam completed



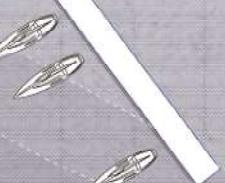
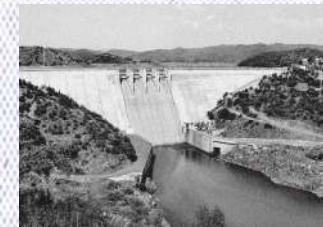
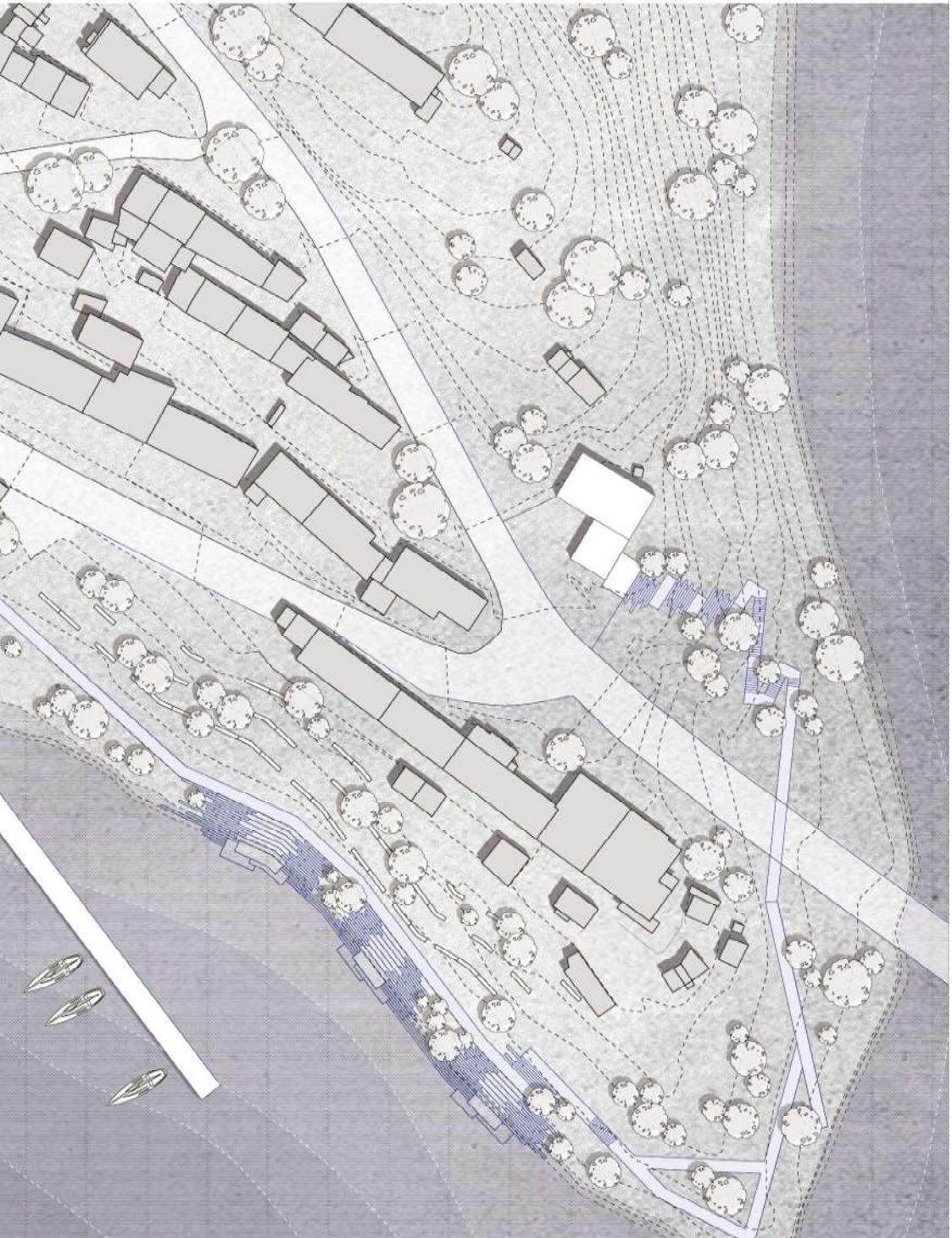
-Pomarão establishes telegraph station



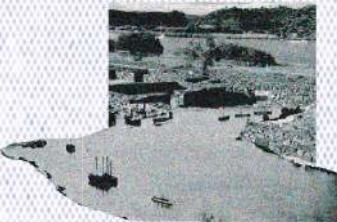
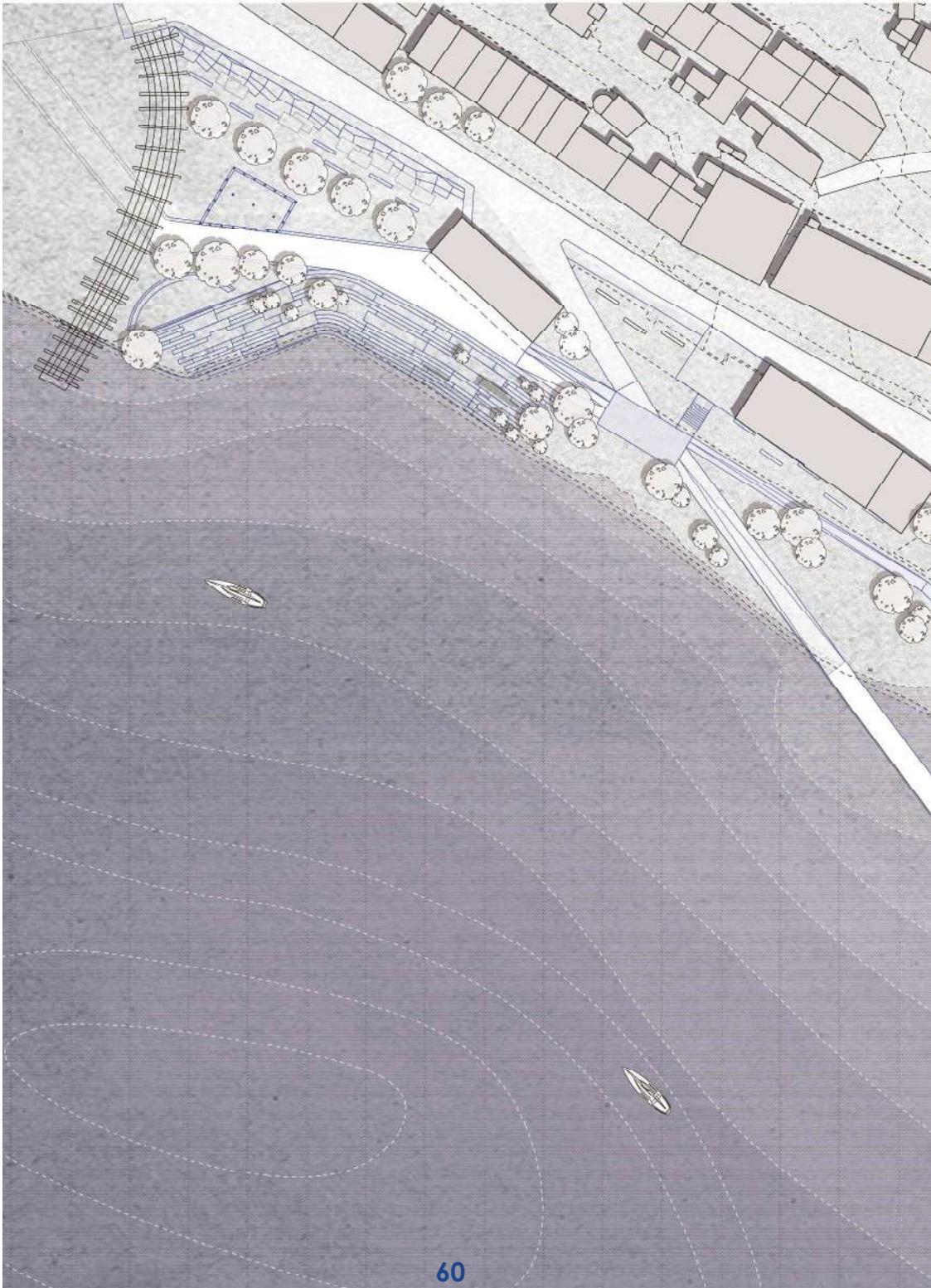
-1065mm gauge railway track completed (steam locomotive) (Linha São Domingos - Pomarão)  
-mason barry company cleans up riverbed



-Near Pomarão the British steamer Dania sank



-End of ore extraction at the São Domingos Mine



-The Romans arrived in the territory, exploring the ore. During the Roman occupation, Baesuris, today Castro Marim rising and dominated the Guadiana estuary, it controlled the shipping routes.



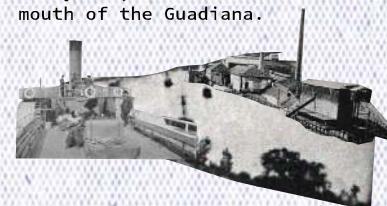
-Strategic concern of Guadiana River area and control the mining trade.



-D. João I V (1640 - 1656) decided to restore and fortify Castro Marim Castle to control crossing and navigation on the Guadiana River.



-Vila Real de Santo António would eventually be built in less than two years, on the beach at the mouth of the Guadiana.



-Mining began in São Domingos, where most of the workers came from the left bank of the Guadiana River, and the ore was transported by rail from São Domingos, to Pomarão, where it was shipped downriver from the Pomarão wharf to England and Germany, among other places.



-Vendaval and Saramago built in 1955 and acquired for use as a cruise ship



-The new village depended on tuna due to its location and port, attracting a fleet of fishing boats and canneries later on.



#### Flood Records

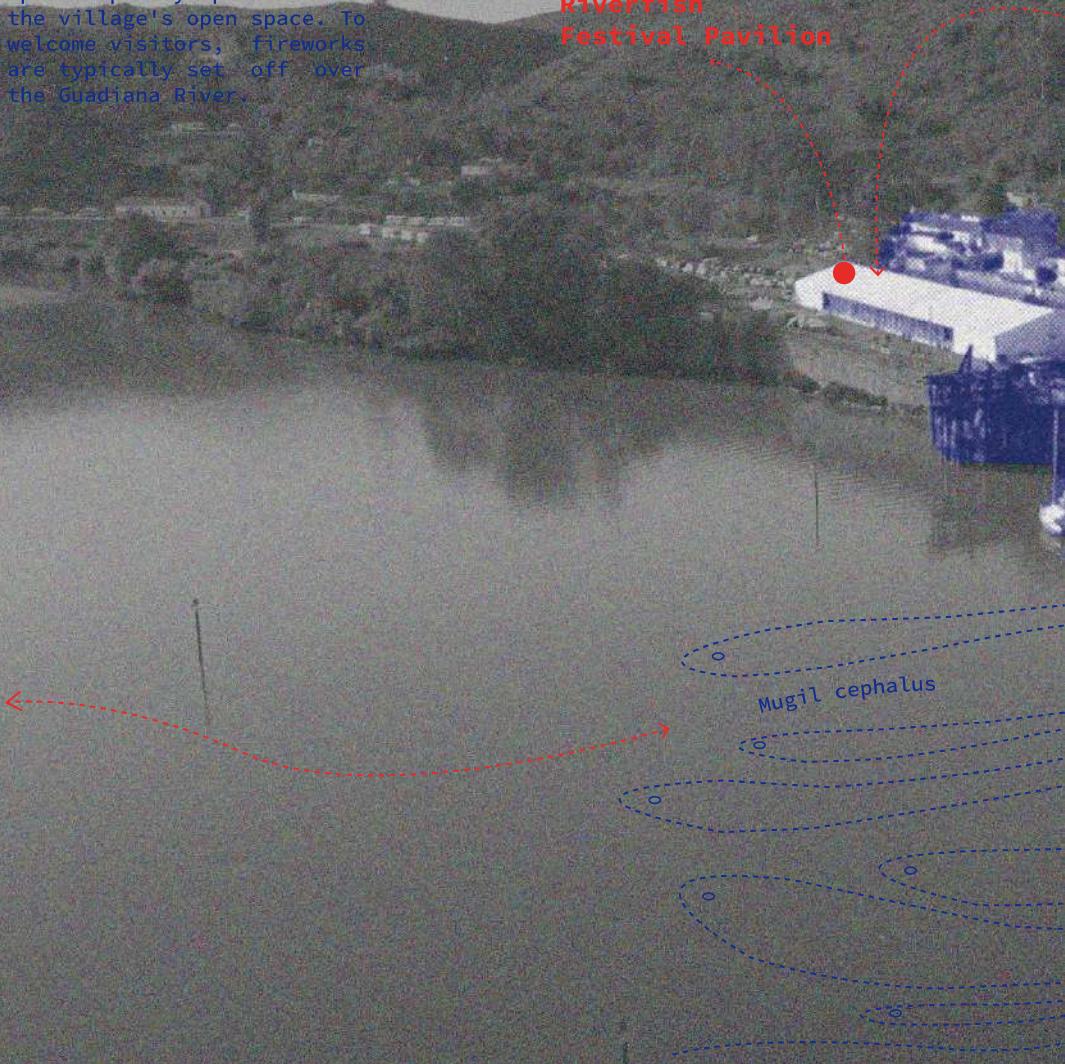
- In 1876, the water level reached 26m(Mértola)
- In 1882, the water level reached 20m(Mértola)
- In 1895, the water level reached 15m(Pomarão)
- In 1907, the water level reached 20m(Mértola)
- In 1912, the water level reached 17m(Pomarão)



-Opening of the "Guadiana: Património Natural Navegável" programme

In March, Pomarão holds a River Fish Festival, setting up a temporary pavilion on the village's open space. To welcome visitors, fireworks are typically set off over the Guadiana River.

Riverfish  
Festival Pavilion



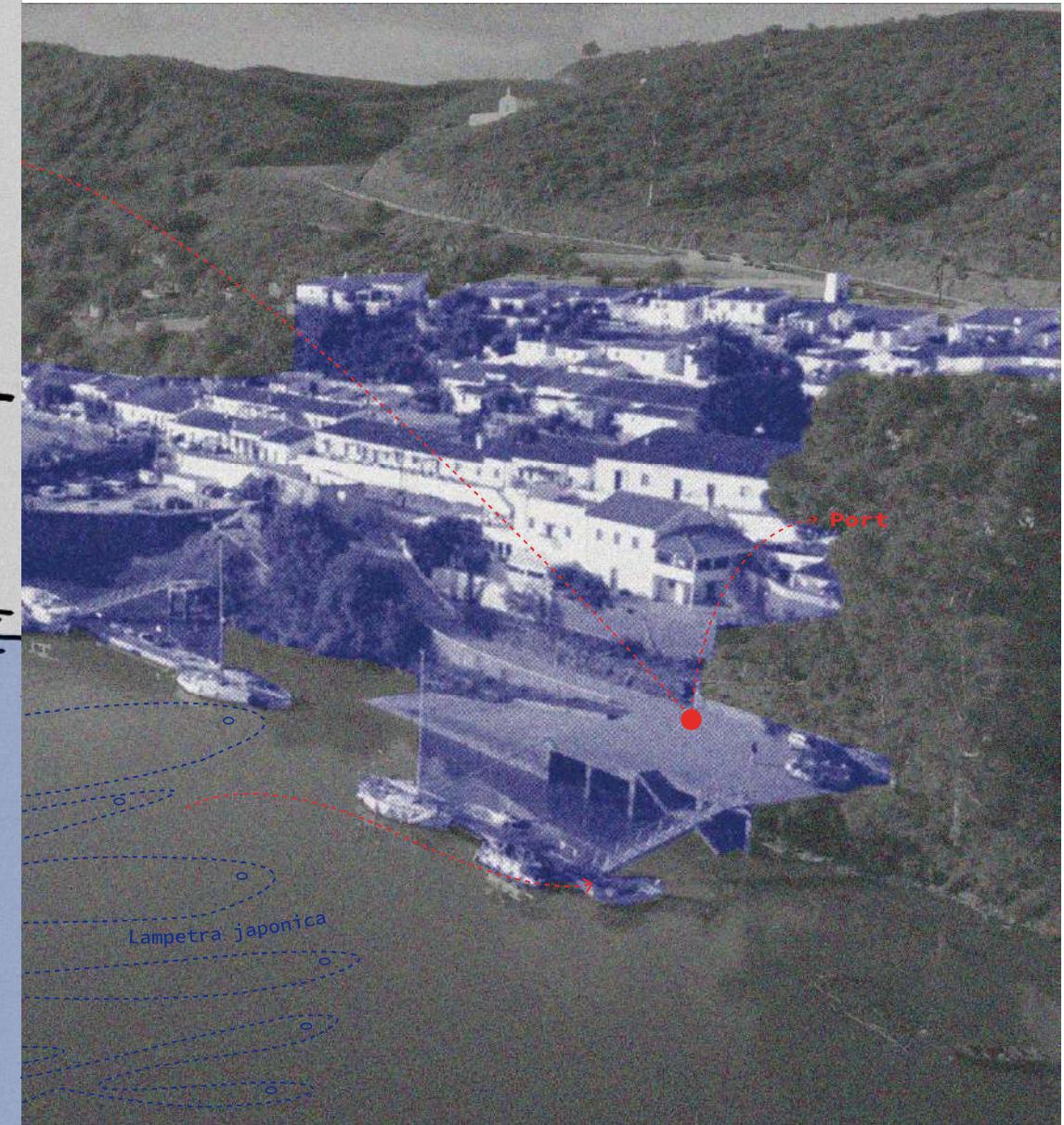
Urban landscape



Nature landscape

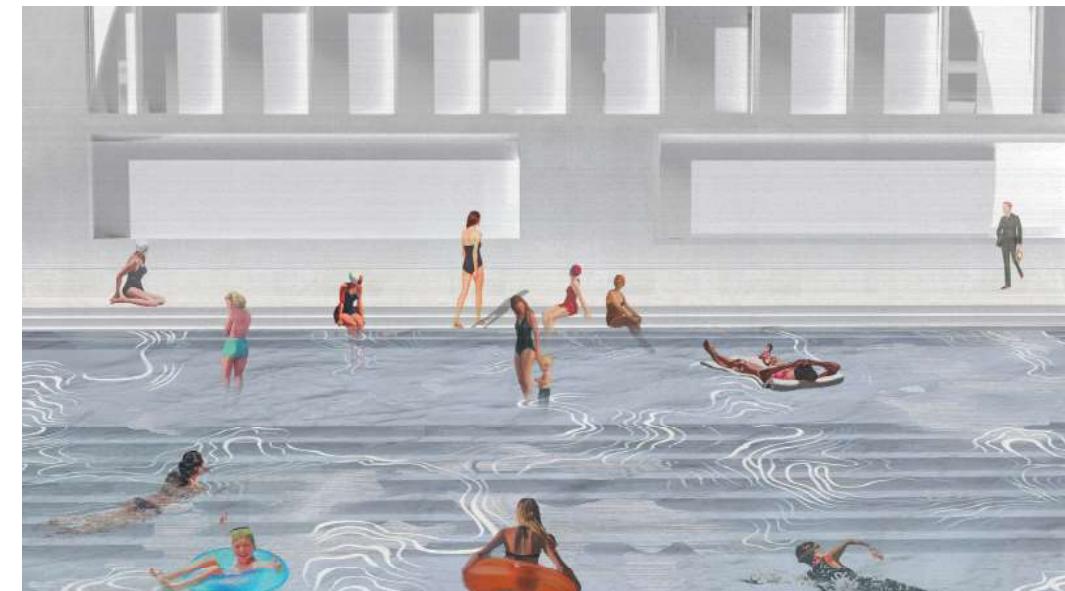
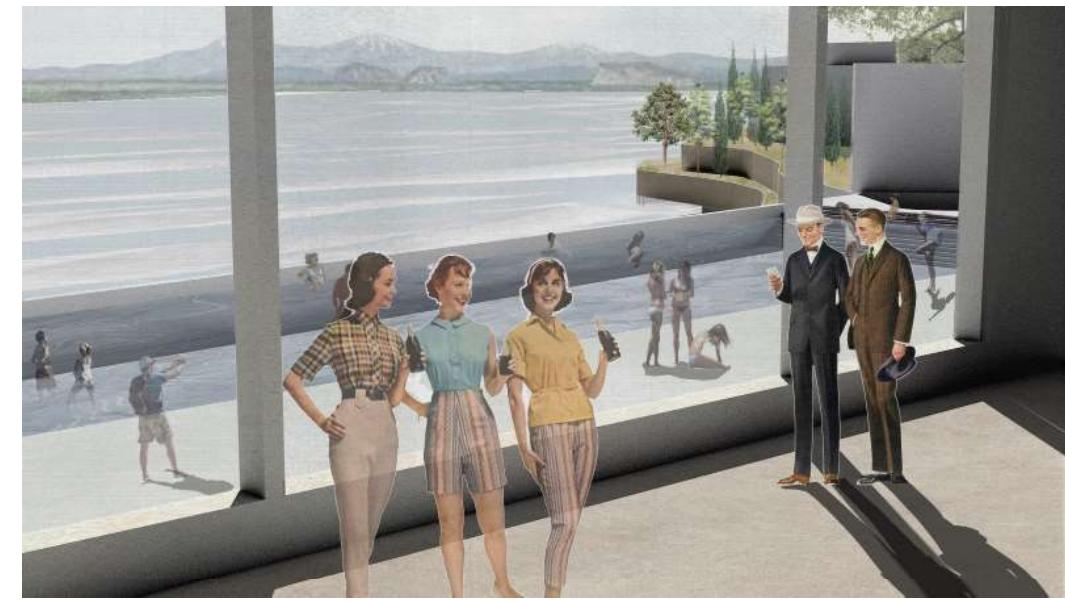
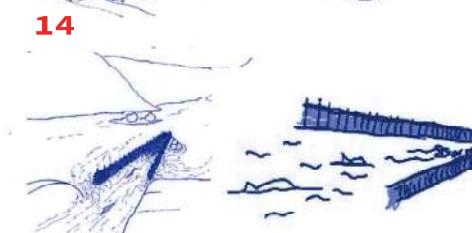
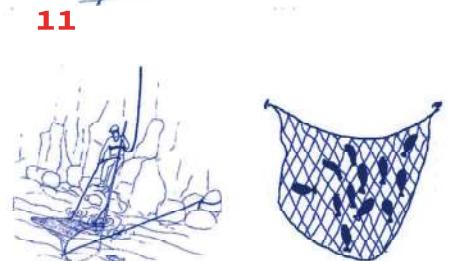
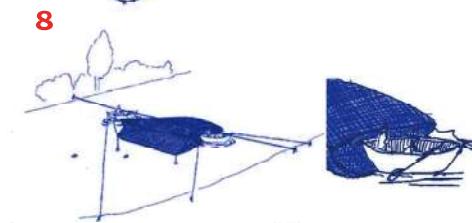
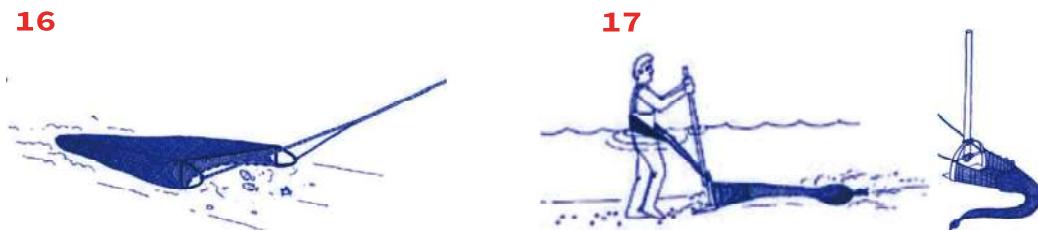
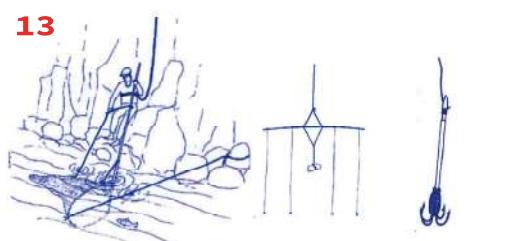
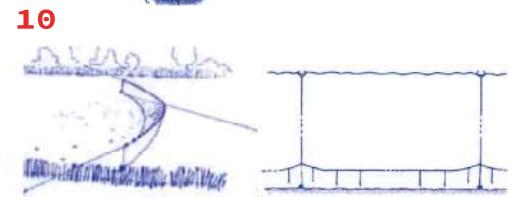
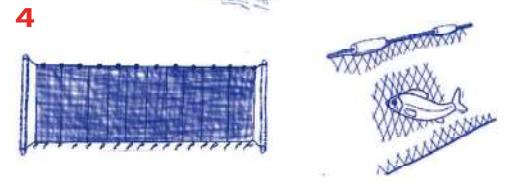
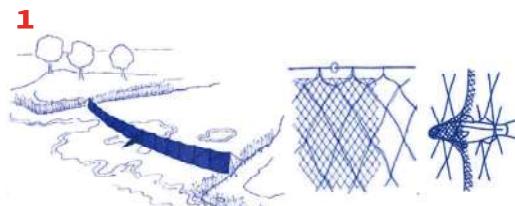


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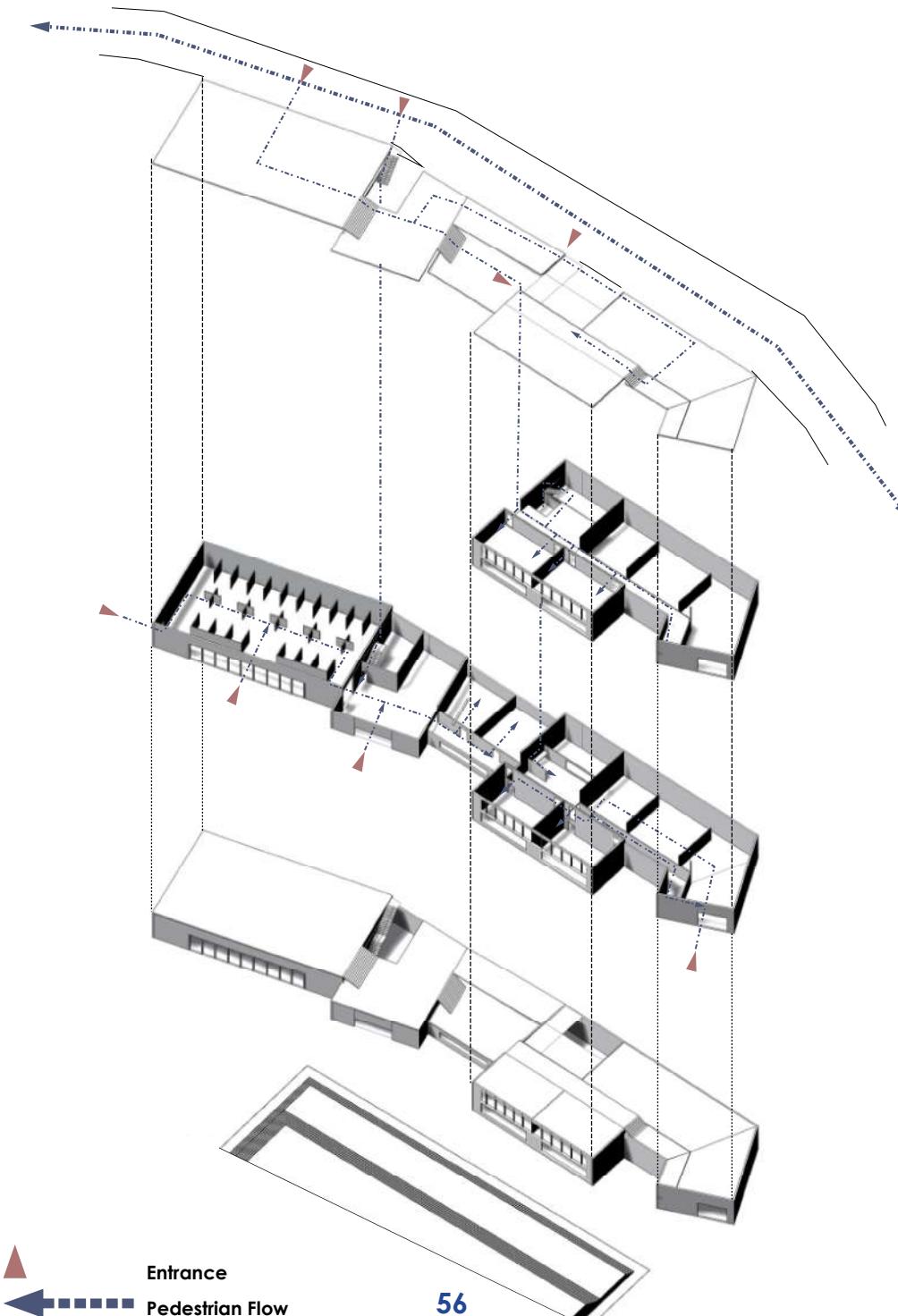


15

## RENDERING



## PEDESTRIAN FLOW DIAGRAM



56

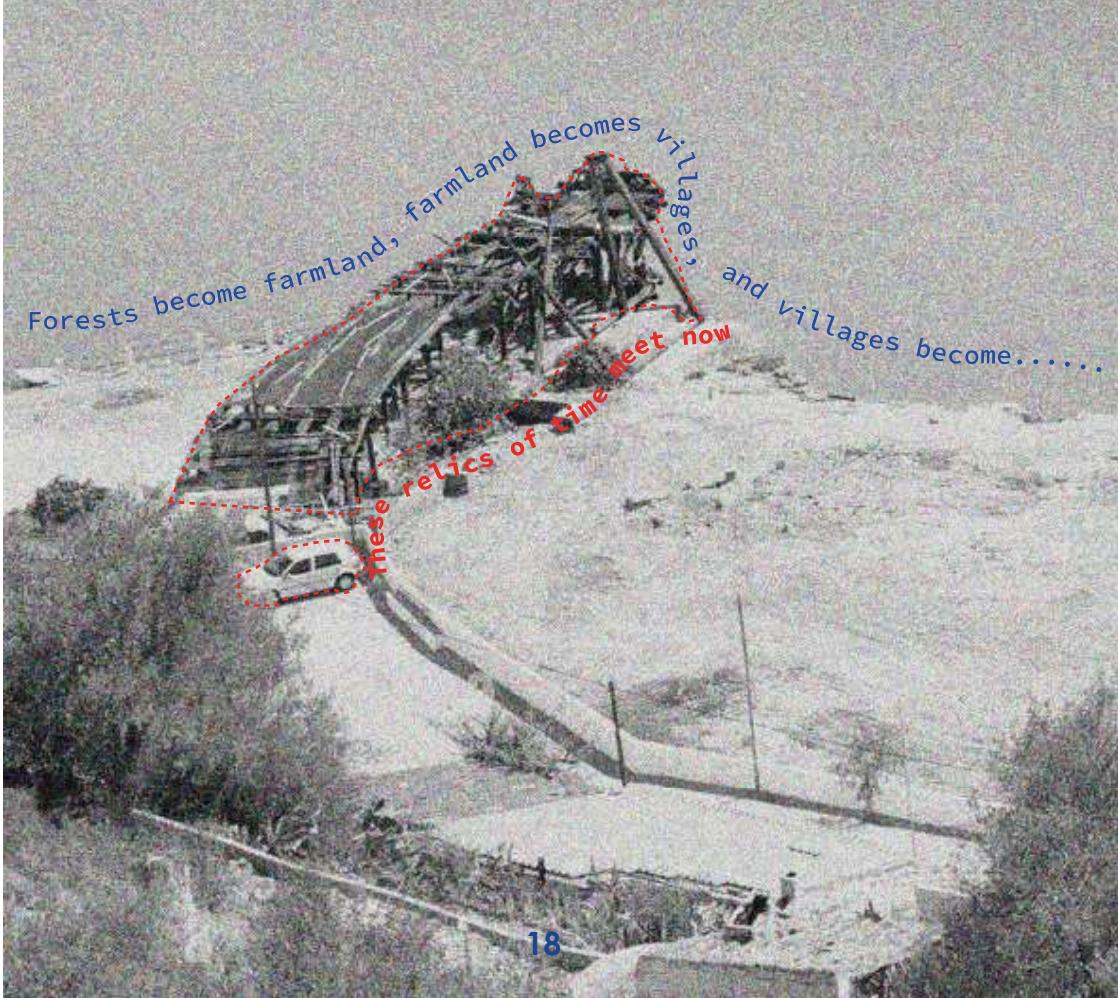


17



During the dry season, the river's bottom becomes visible, while during the rainy season, it carries sediment and sometimes overflows its banks, flooding fields, roads, and cities.

In the space opened by the river, I met other people, and together we constructed this space, this river





## THE NARRATIVE

Pomarao started by the river, serving the Sao Domingos mine. At its peak, around 600 ships came and went yearly. But as mining declined, Pomarao quieted down. It's crossed by various things: the constant river, old railways, new hiking paths, and a bridge to Spain. Time brings eternal, past, and new flows to Pomarao, constantly changing. Space holds points from different times, like ancient life next to today's village ruins. Old docks sit near modern bridges, while perishable items leave fleeting traces before disappearing. But before they vanish, these remnants of time meet us. With time, more diversity comes. Different materials from different times mix in one space. Today, we can see different time point, like fossils next to modern habitats or ancient docks beside new bridges. Durable materials trace back to longer periods, unlike perishable ones. That's why the past can't fit neatly on a map. Yet, traces of both present and past can be found in different time slices. So, encountering the river today means encountering its past, shaping the present. Space and time intertwine, changing with each other. That's what we see in Pomarao and its river today.

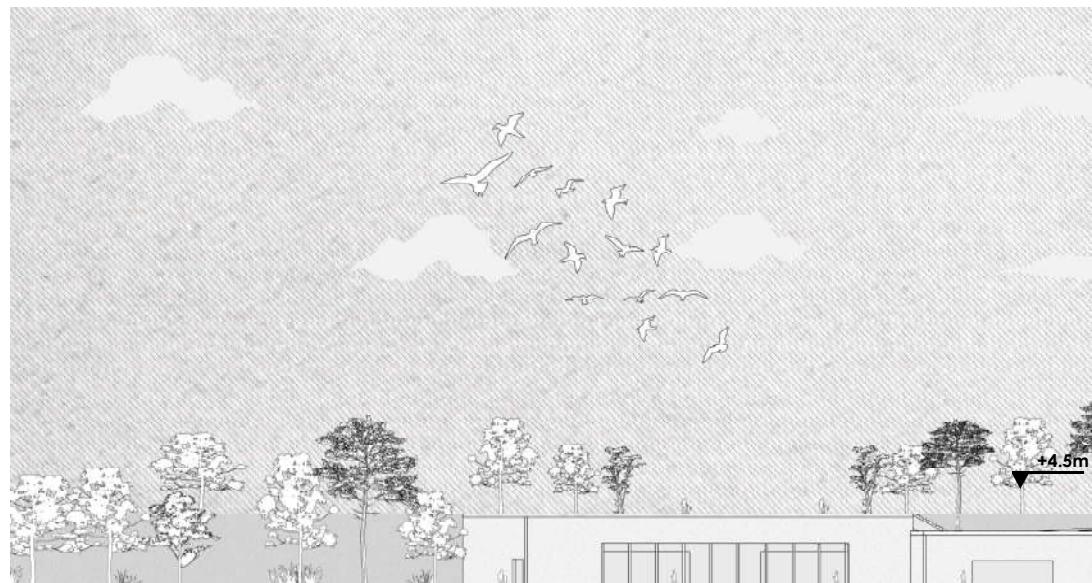
## GO WITH THE FLOW

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Memory will never mind its coils  
yet somehow something will always remain, yet somehow something will always lament  
noshing towards the sea. Shadows have enveloped it  
ever doomed to emptiness

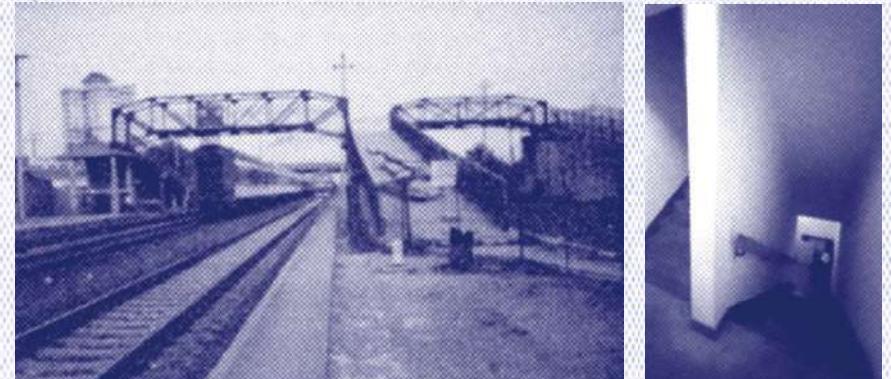


## SECTION B-B'

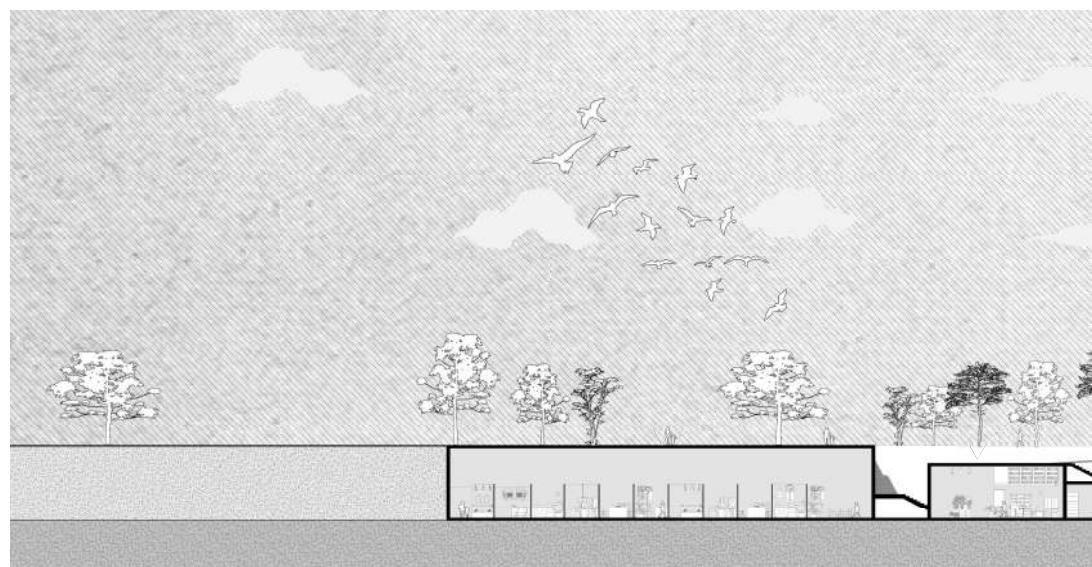


# LIMINAL SPACE

Period of Ambiguity, Uncertainty and Transformation



## SECTION C-C'



Liminal space is the space between spaces. Is the boundary between two points in time, space, or both. It is a middle ground between two locations and in-between structure between two structures. When you are in a liminal space, you are neither here nor there, neither this nor that. But at the same time, you are here and there, this and that.

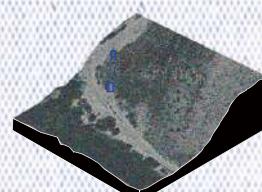
Liminal spaces have an edge quality, a concept borrowed from social anthropology. The word "limen" means "threshold" in Latin. In some primitive cultures, rites of passage are held to commemorate the transition from one state to another. When adolescent experiences in primitive cultures mark the rite of passage from child to adult, they can finally call themselves adults. Liminal spaces can be physical, psychological, temporal, cultural, conceptual, political, or a combination of these.



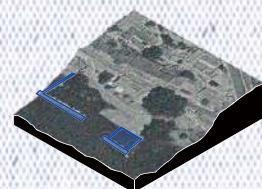
**Traces of human activities left in the previous stage**



Old Port



Tunnel



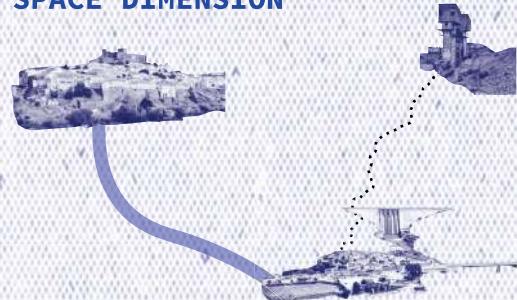
Two Ports



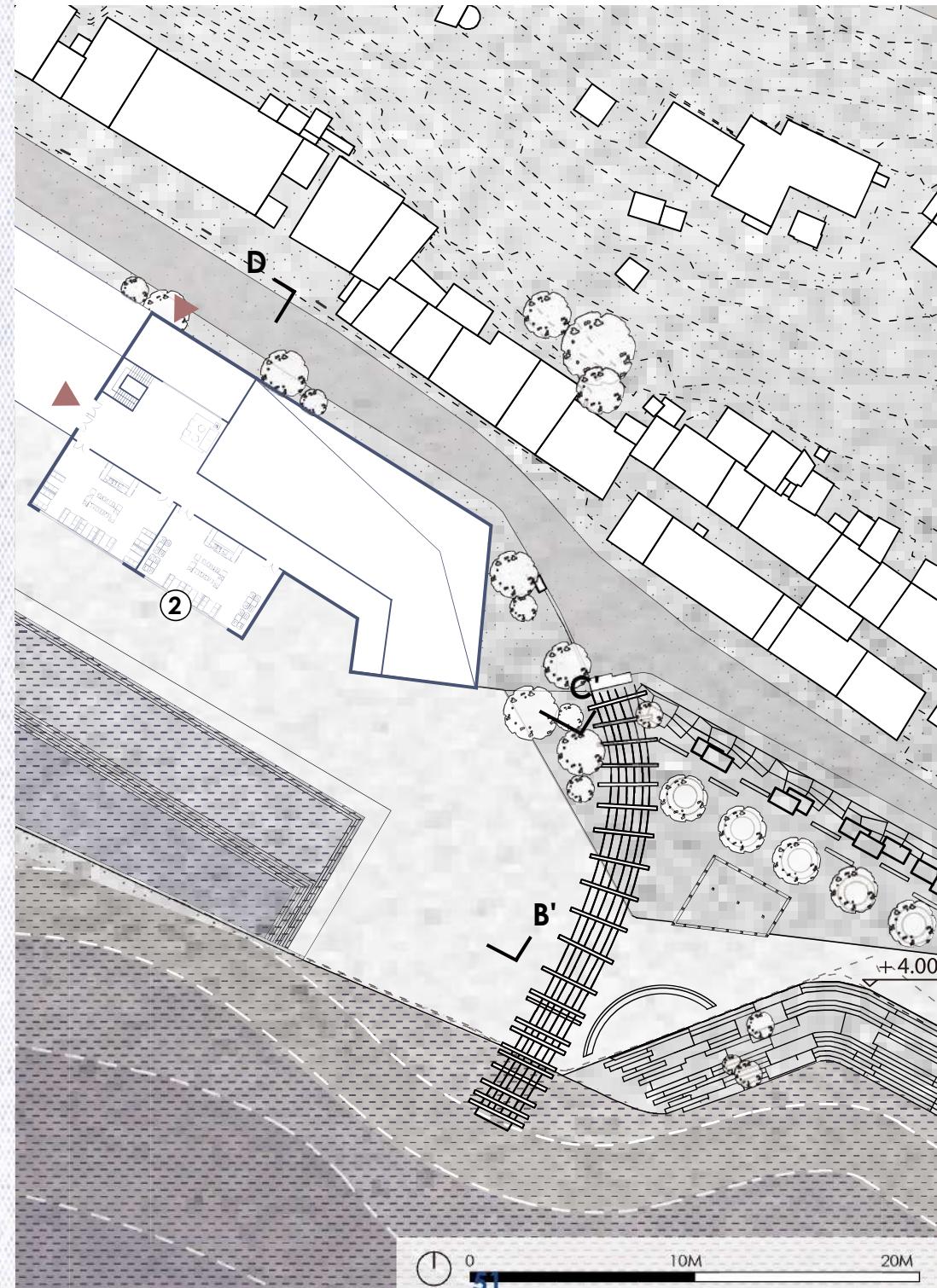
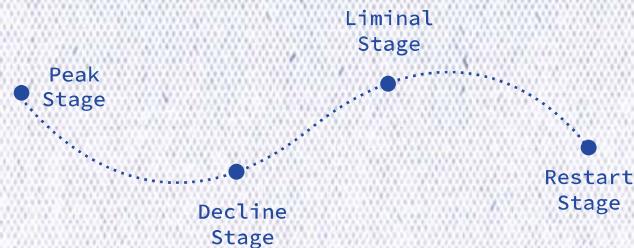
Railway Remain

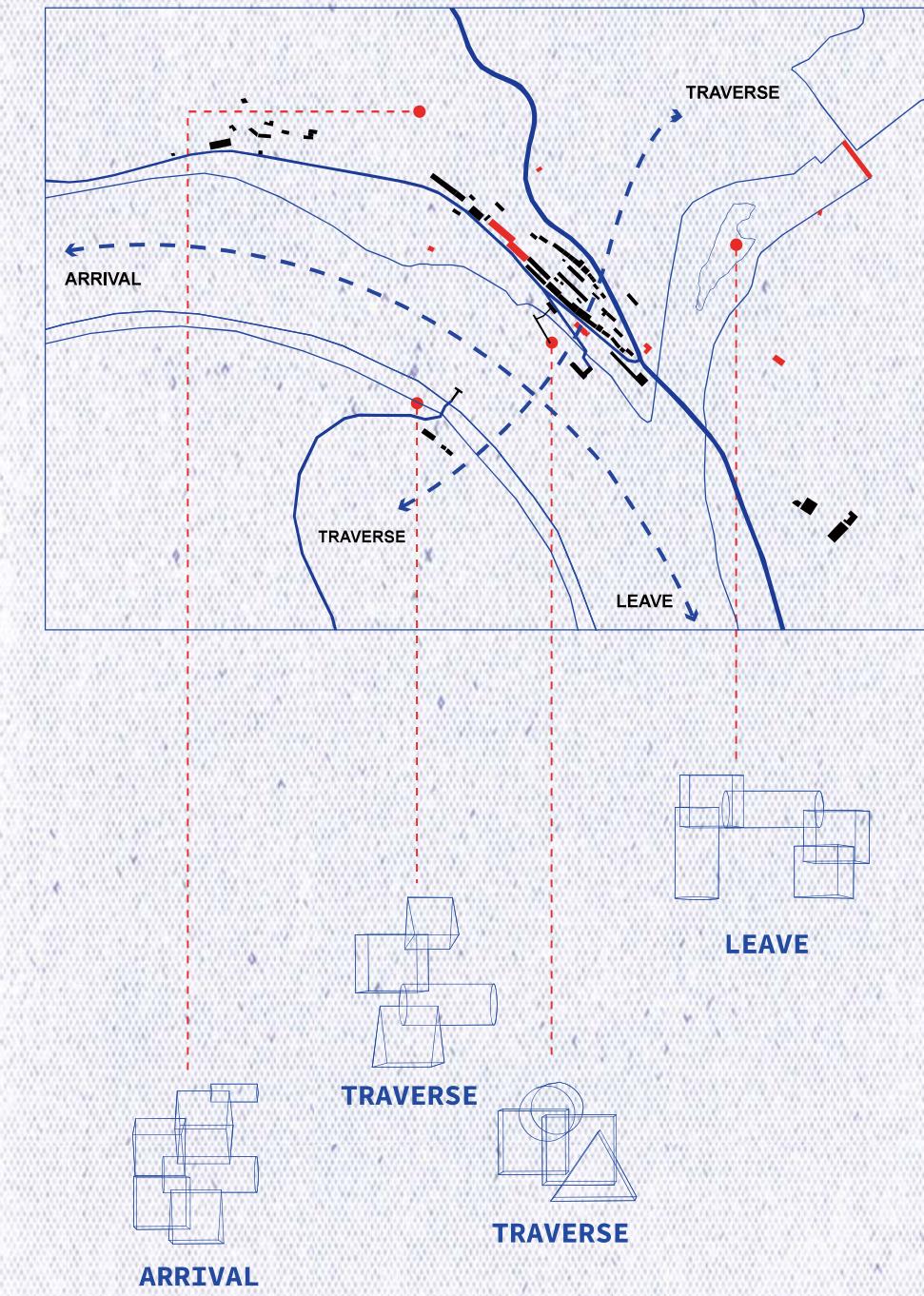
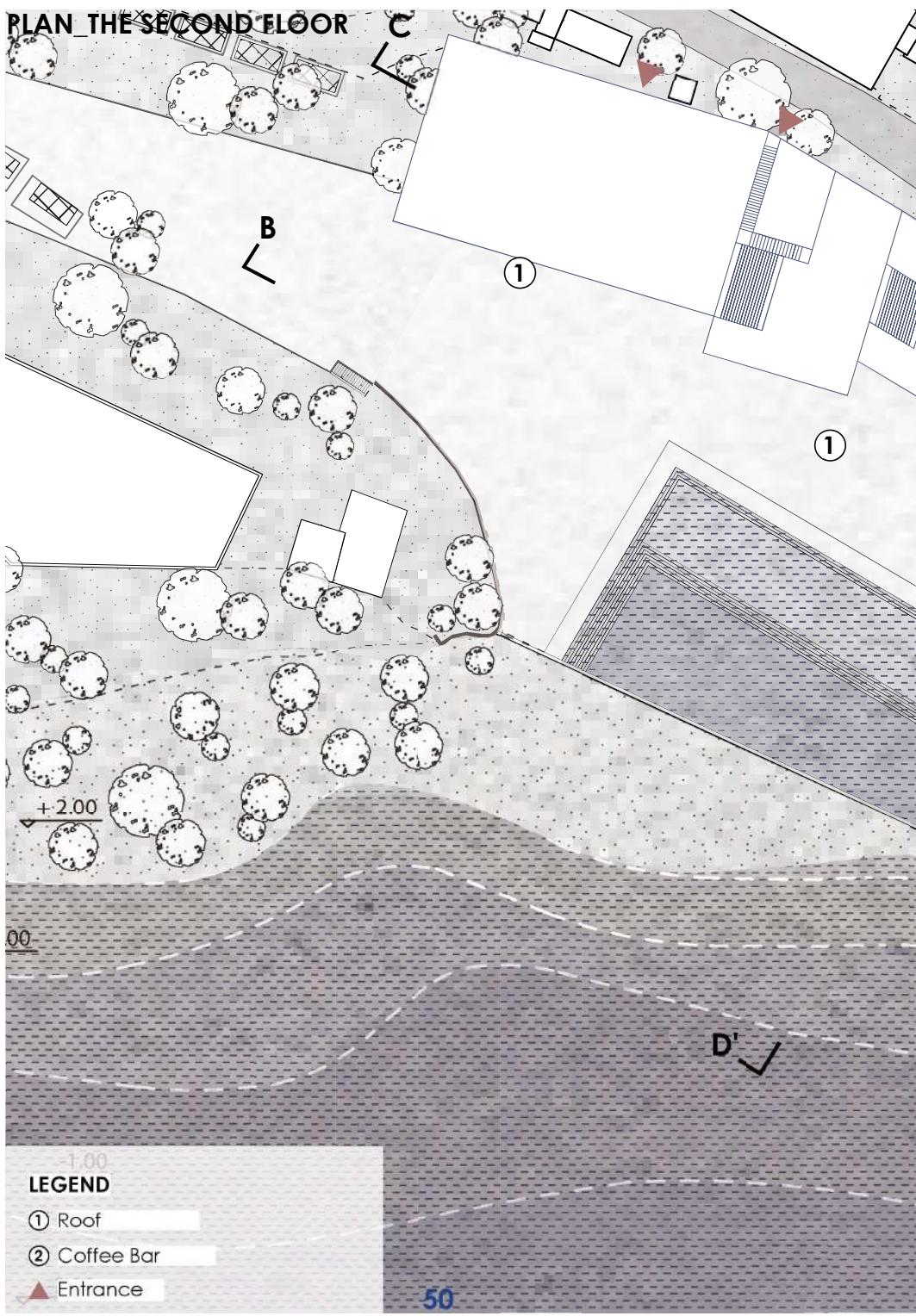
"**Liminality**" is the second stage in the "**Rites De Passage**" (all transitional rites have three stages: **separation**, **liminality**, and **convergence**)

#### SPACE DIMENSION

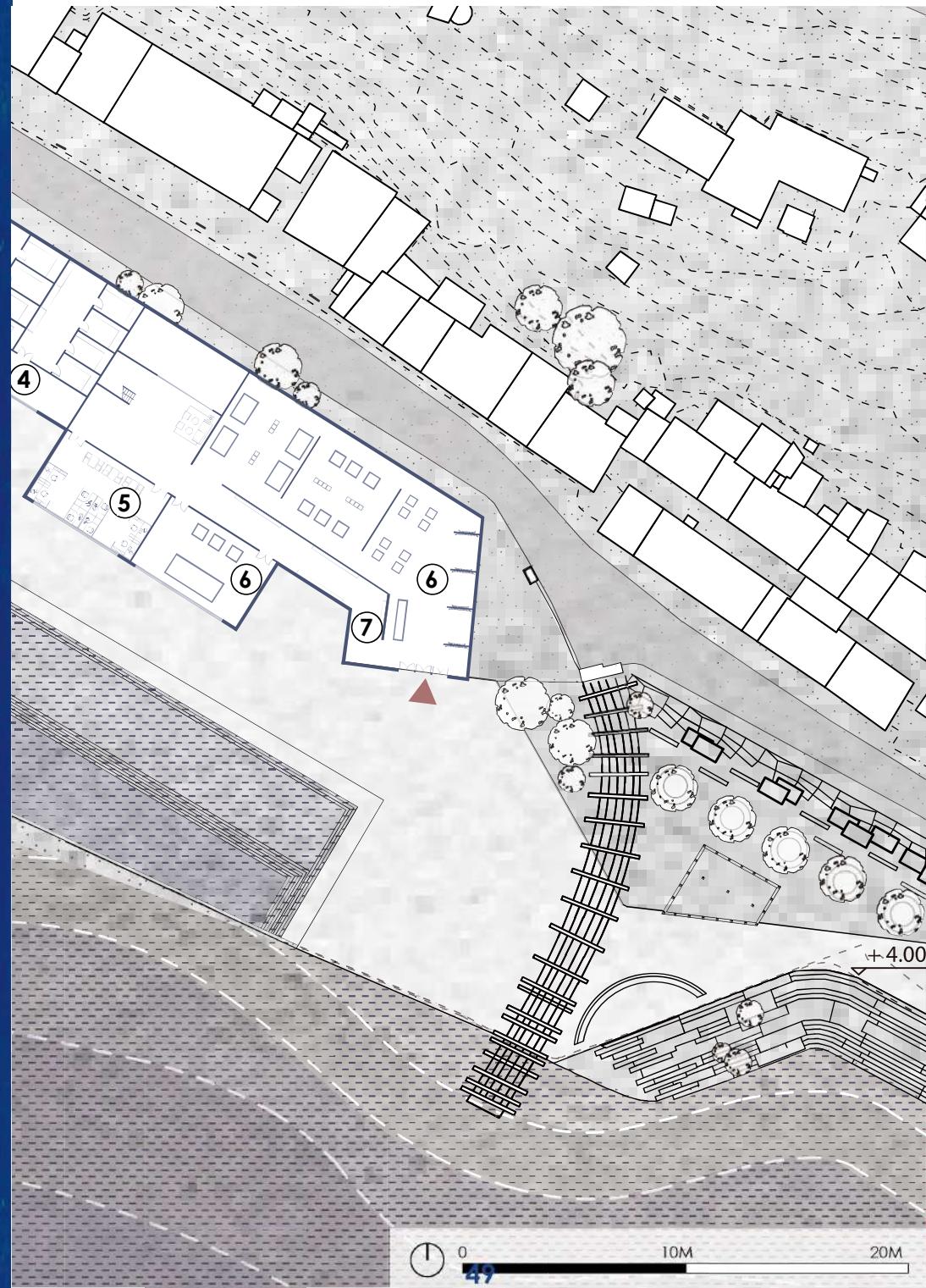


#### TIME DIMENSION

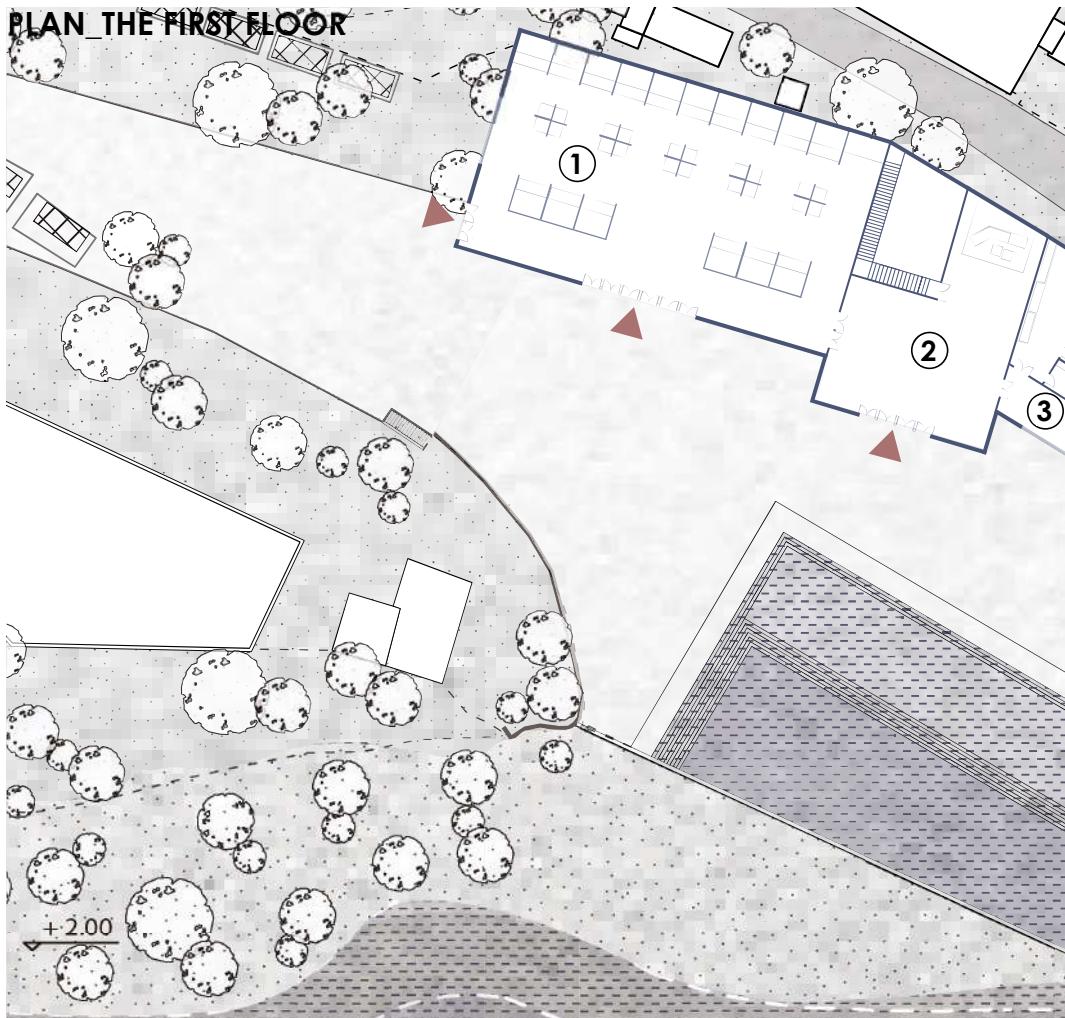




As river flows  
It begins to change  
And that is why rivers  
never stay the same  
And just like a river  
My currents shift every day  
And the way I am right now  
Might not always remain  
So if you are searching  
For the girl I use to be  
She was washed away  
all the way out to sea

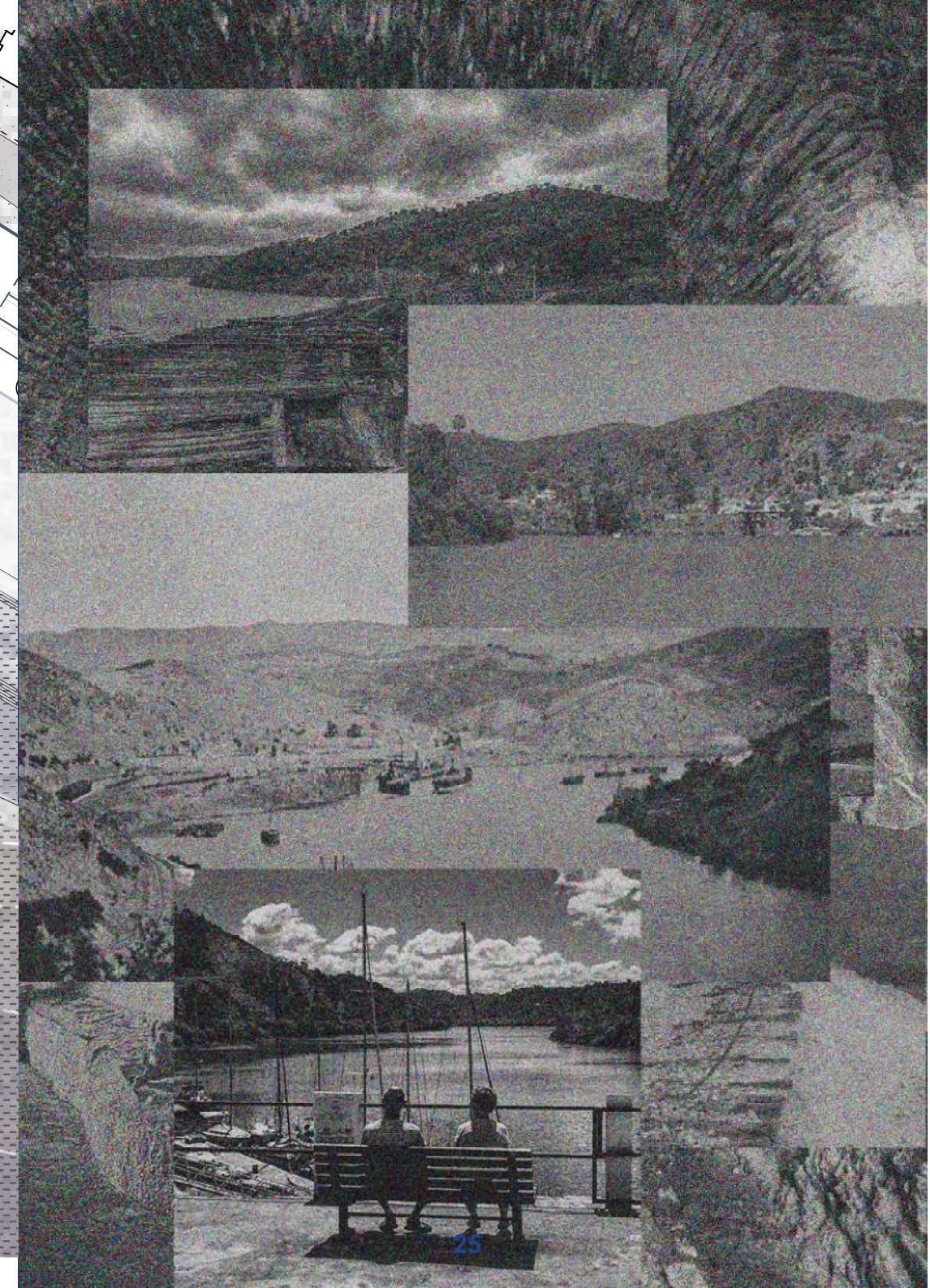


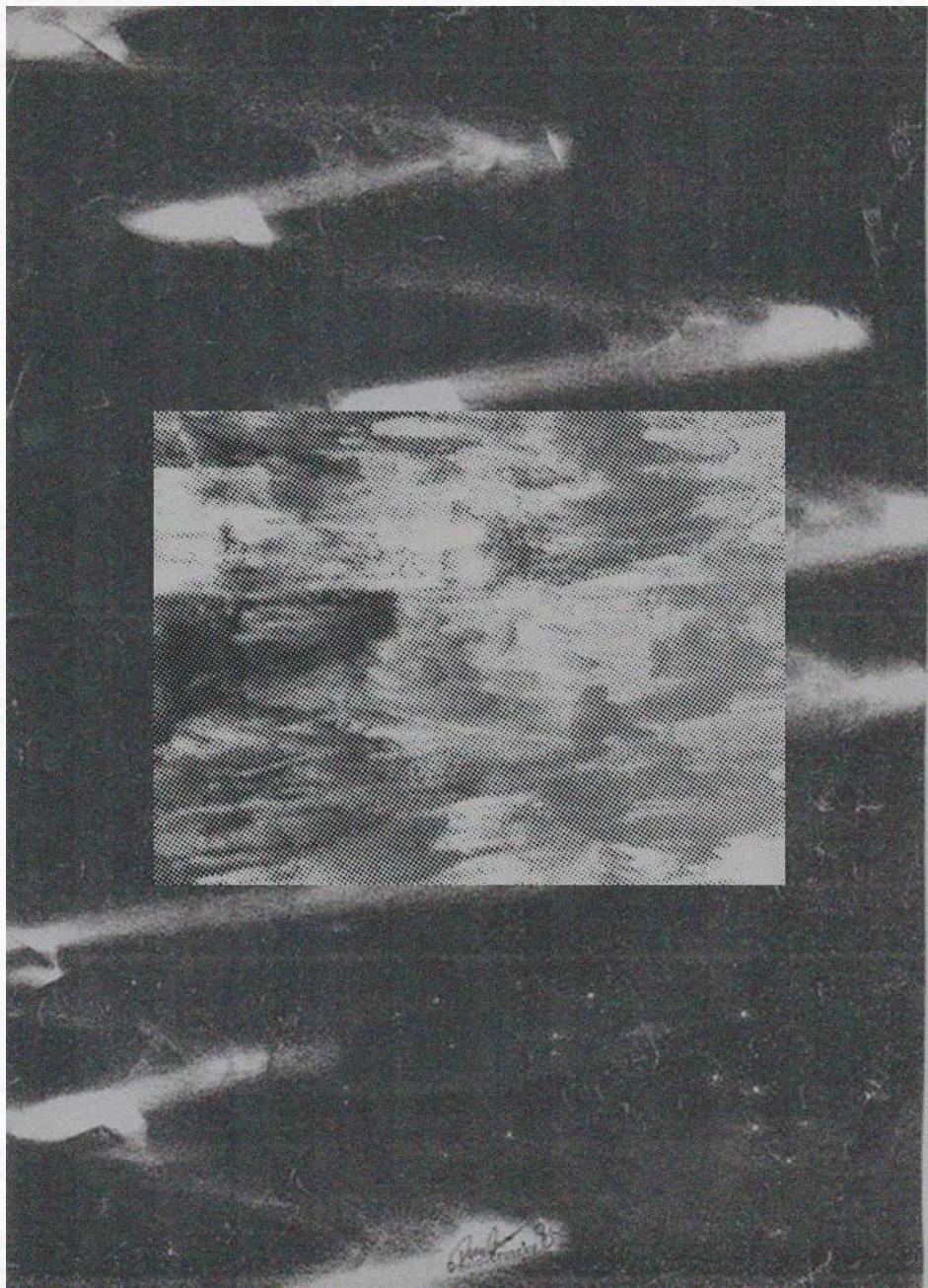
## PLAN THE FIRST FLOOR



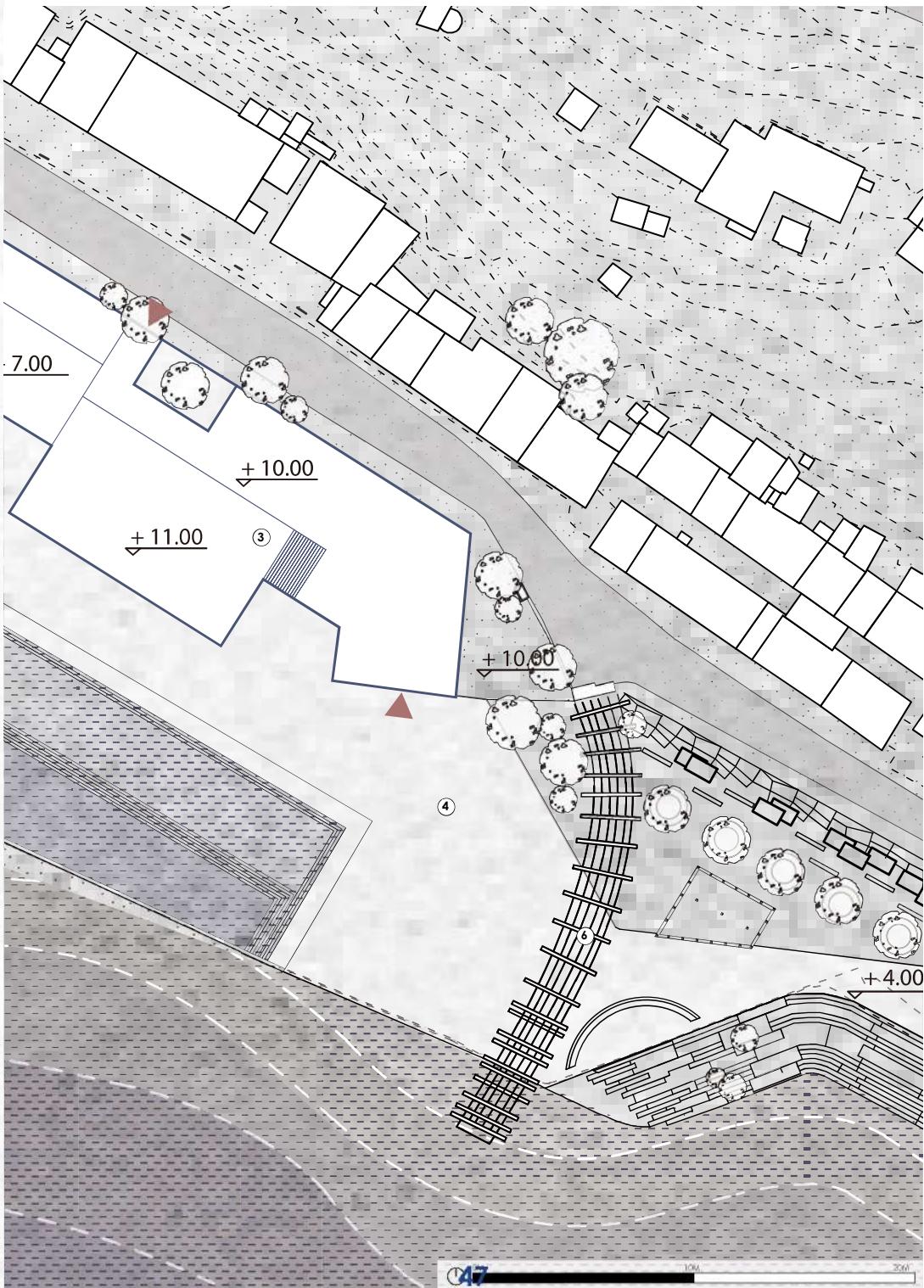
### LEGEND

- ① Fish Market
- ② Service Center
- ③ Changing Room
- ④ Toilet
- ⑤ Office
- ⑥ Exhibition Hall
- ⑦ Exhibition Gallery
- ▲ Entrance

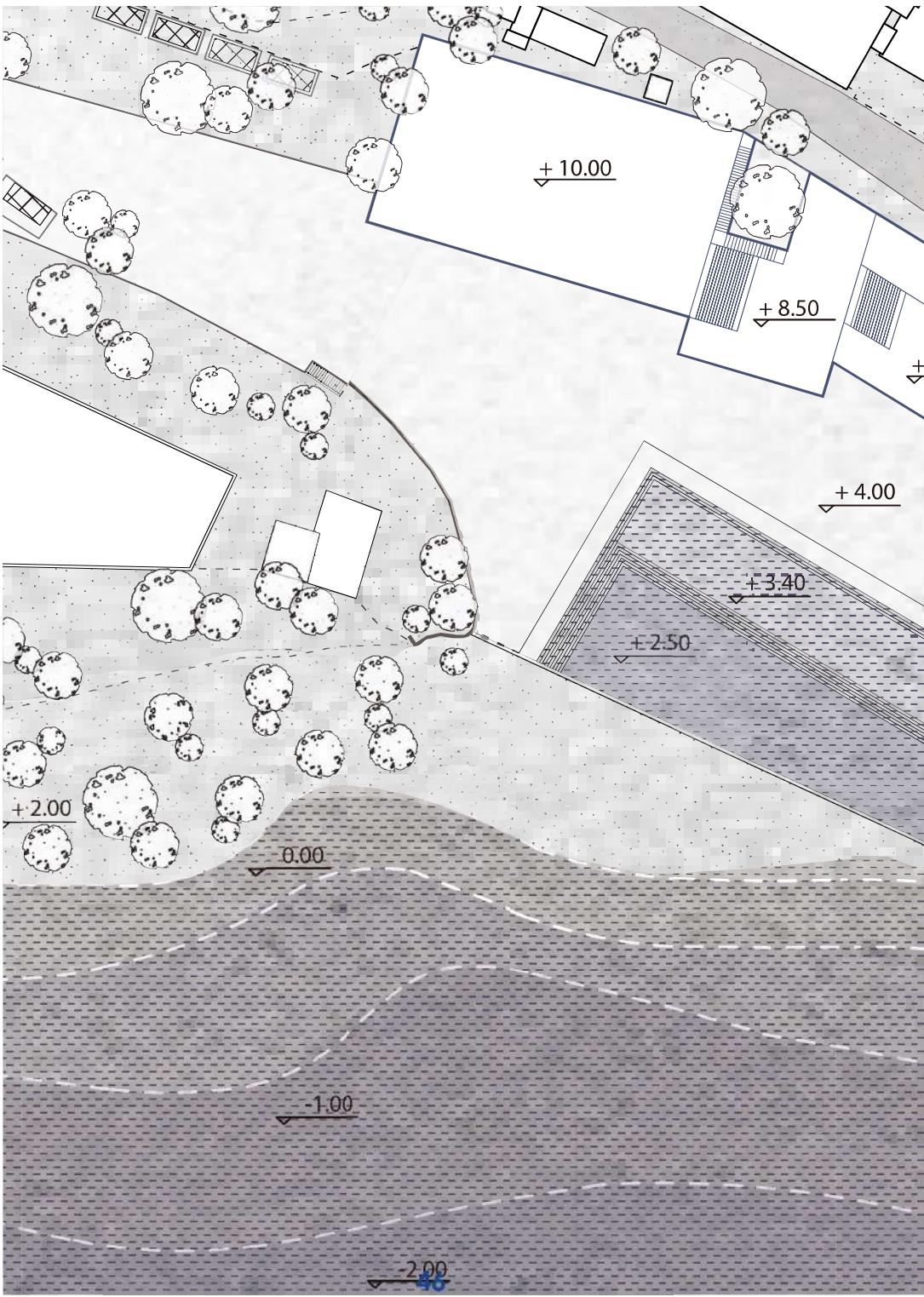




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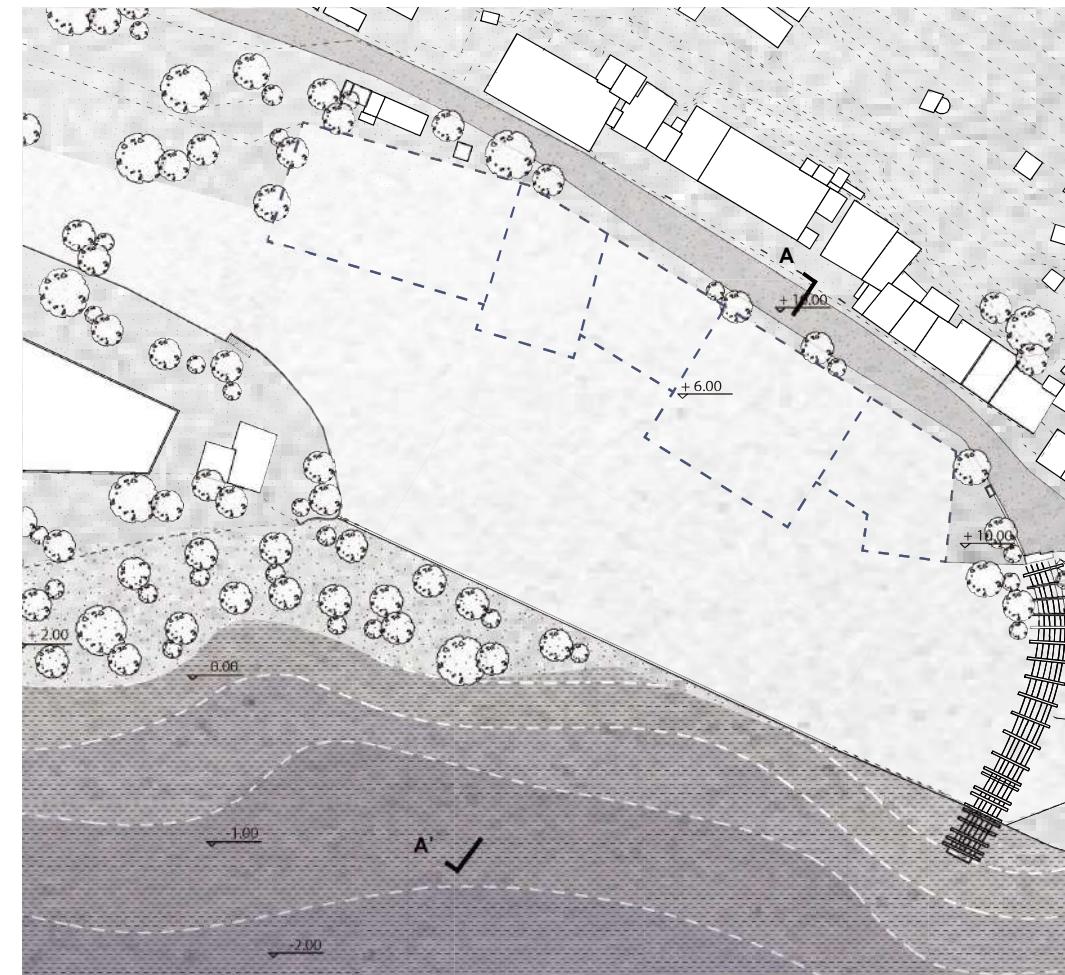


The tide rises, the tide falls,  
The twilight darkens, the curlew calls;  
Along the sea-sands damp and brown  
The traveller hastens toward the town,  
And the tide rises, the tide falls.

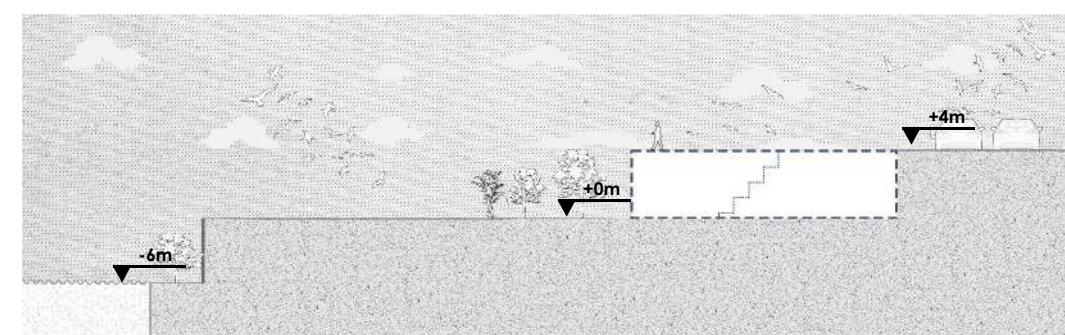
Darkness settles on roofs and walls,  
But the sea, the sea in the darkness calls;  
The little waves, with their soft, white hands,  
Efface the footprints in the sands,  
And the tide rises, the tide falls.

The morning breaks; the steeds in their stalls  
Stamp and neigh, as the hostler calls;  
The day returns, but nevermore  
Returns the traveller to the shore,  
And the tide rises, the tide falls.

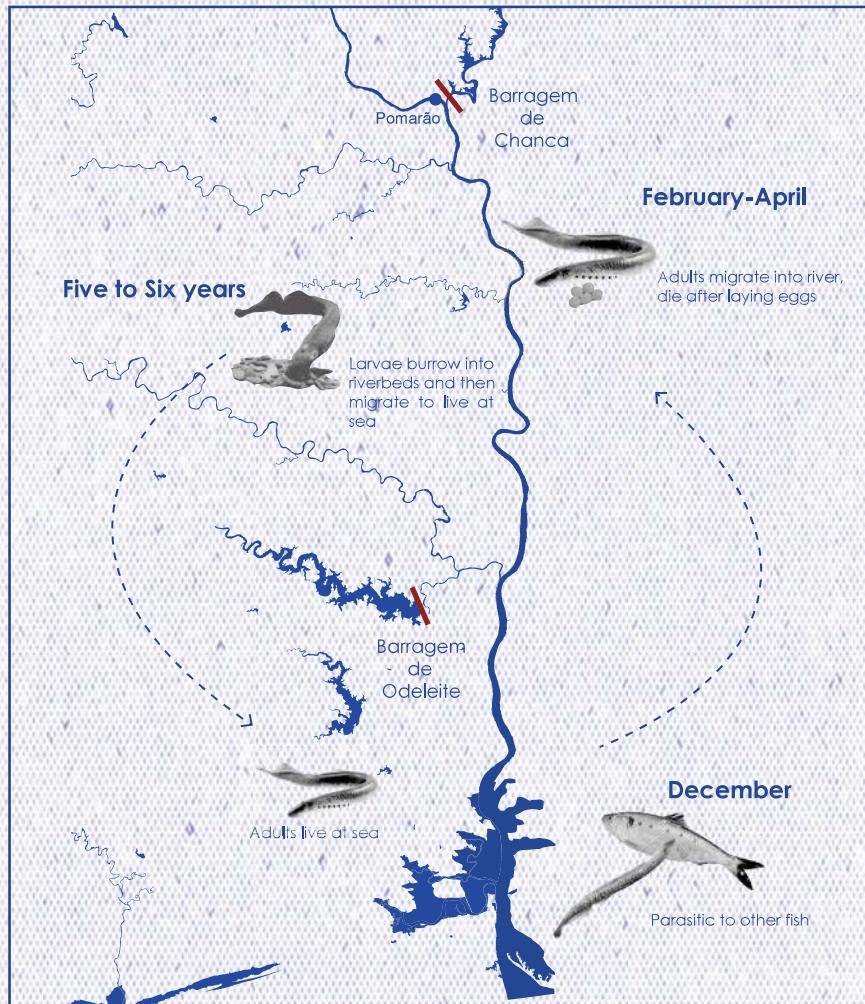
## CONCEPT



SECTION A-A'

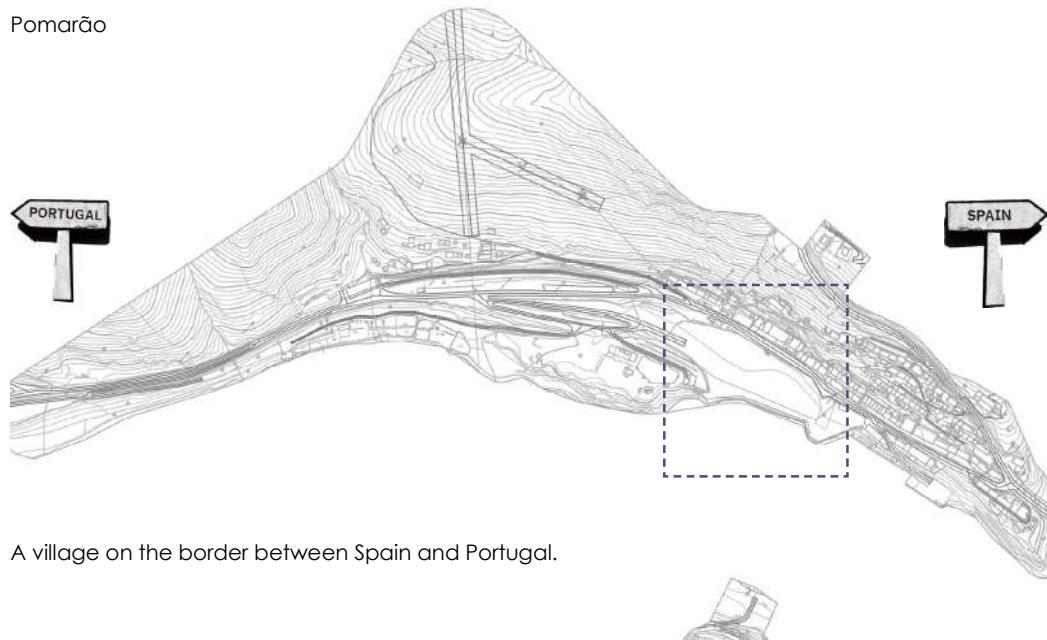


Use architecture to address the elevation differences that exist on the site and plan the location of building according to the existing architectural fabric of the village.



## LOCATION

Pomarão



A village on the border between Spain and Portugal.

## SITE PICTURES

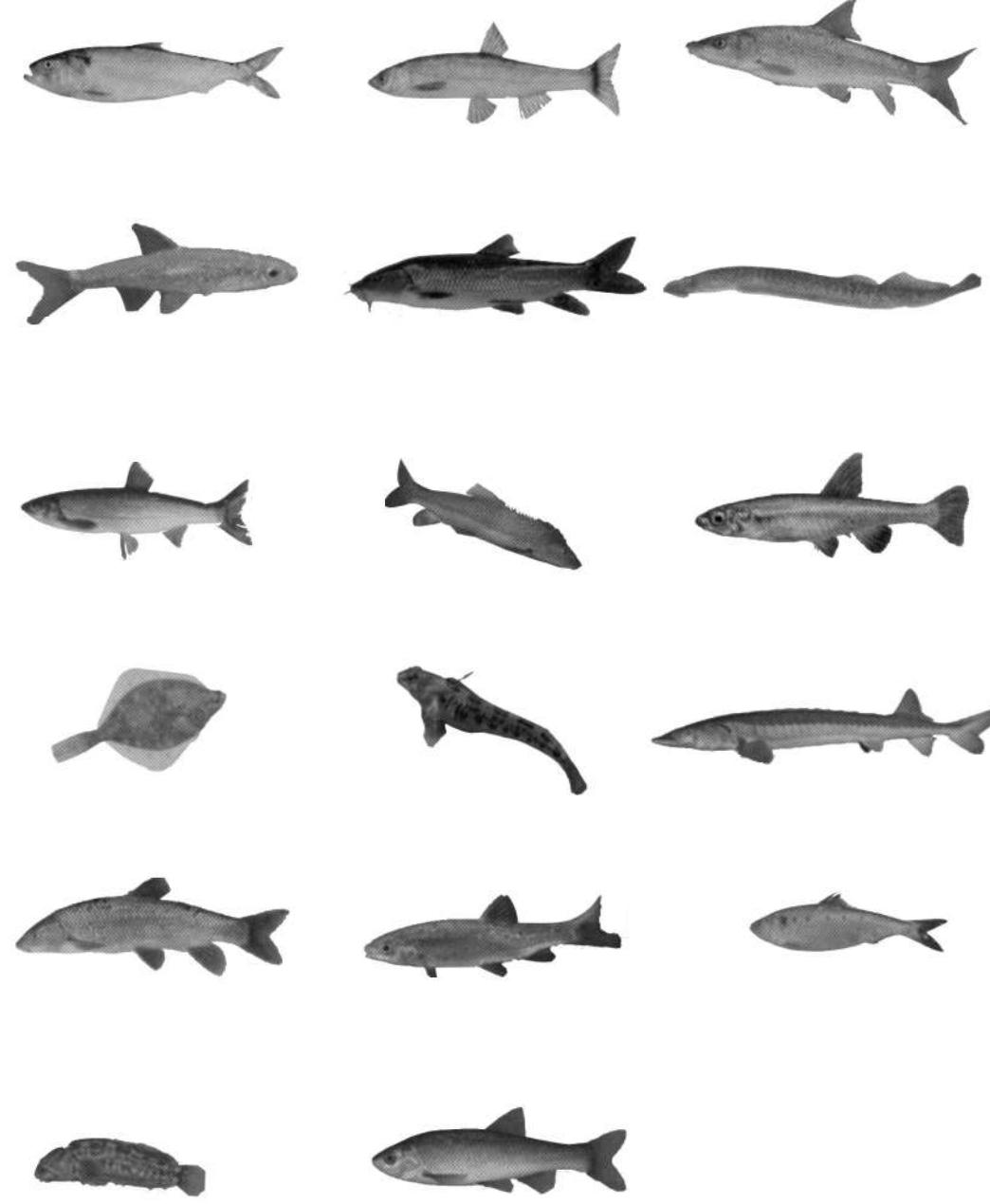


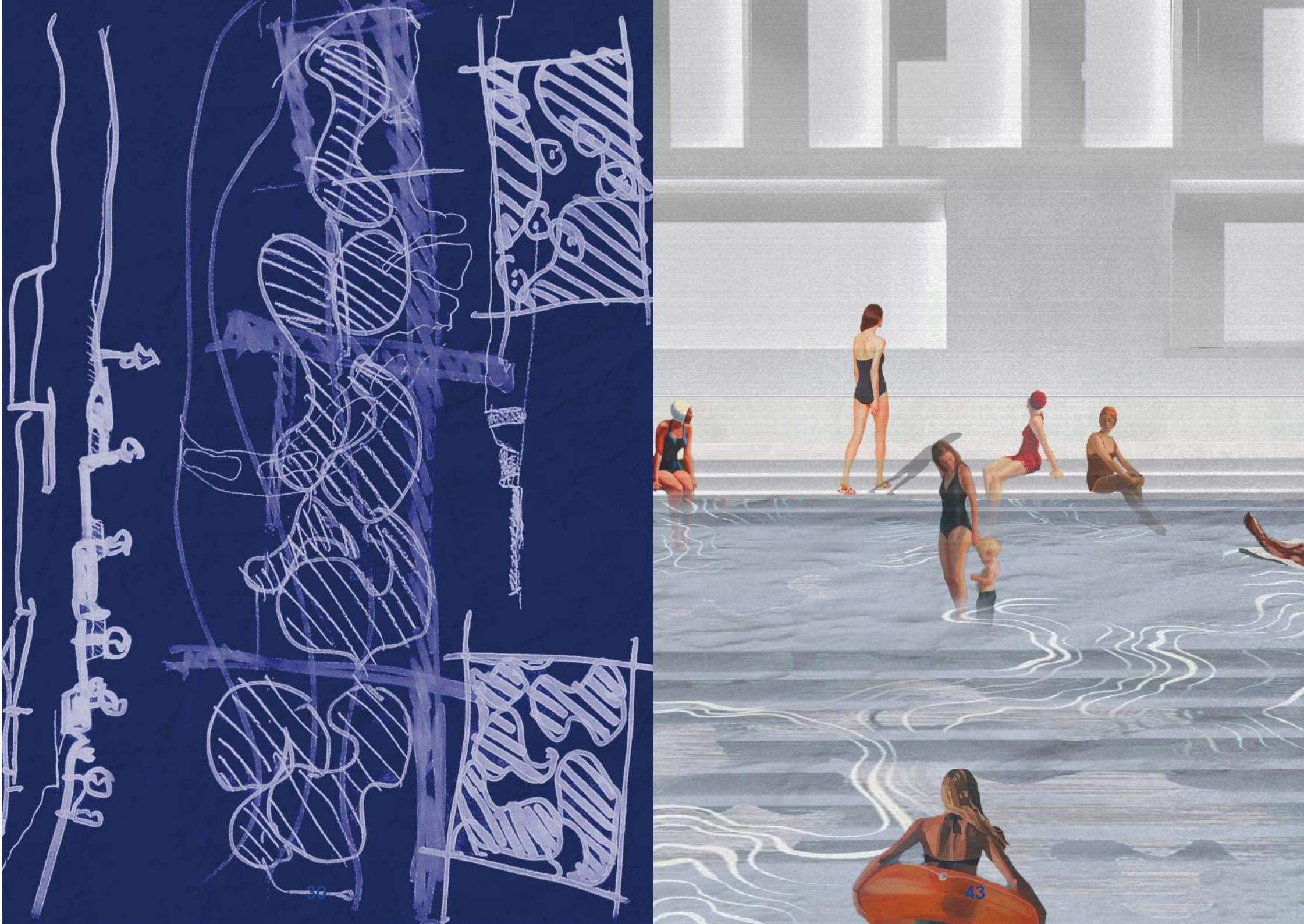
The original large camping area had a height difference of about 4 metres from the road surface.

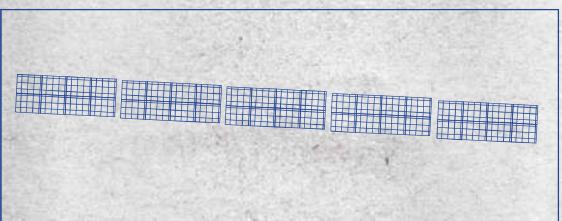
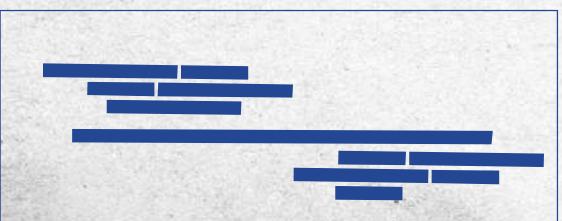
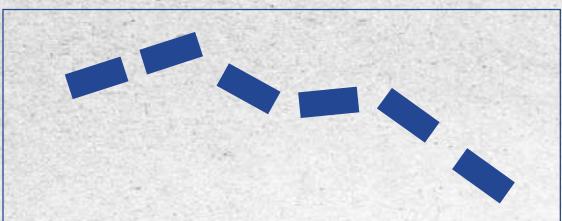
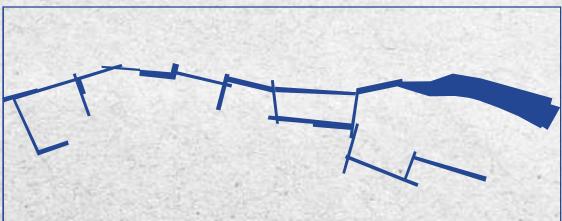
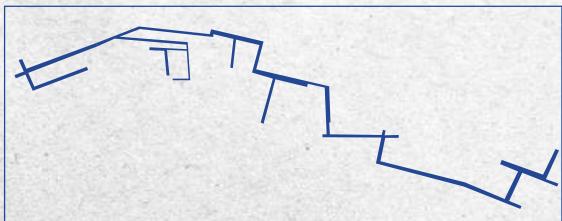
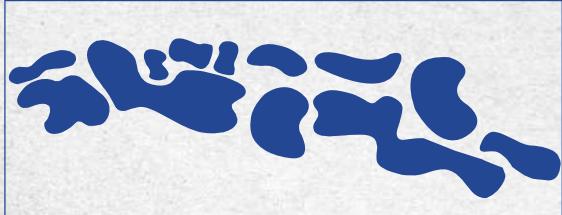
## TYPE OF BUILDING

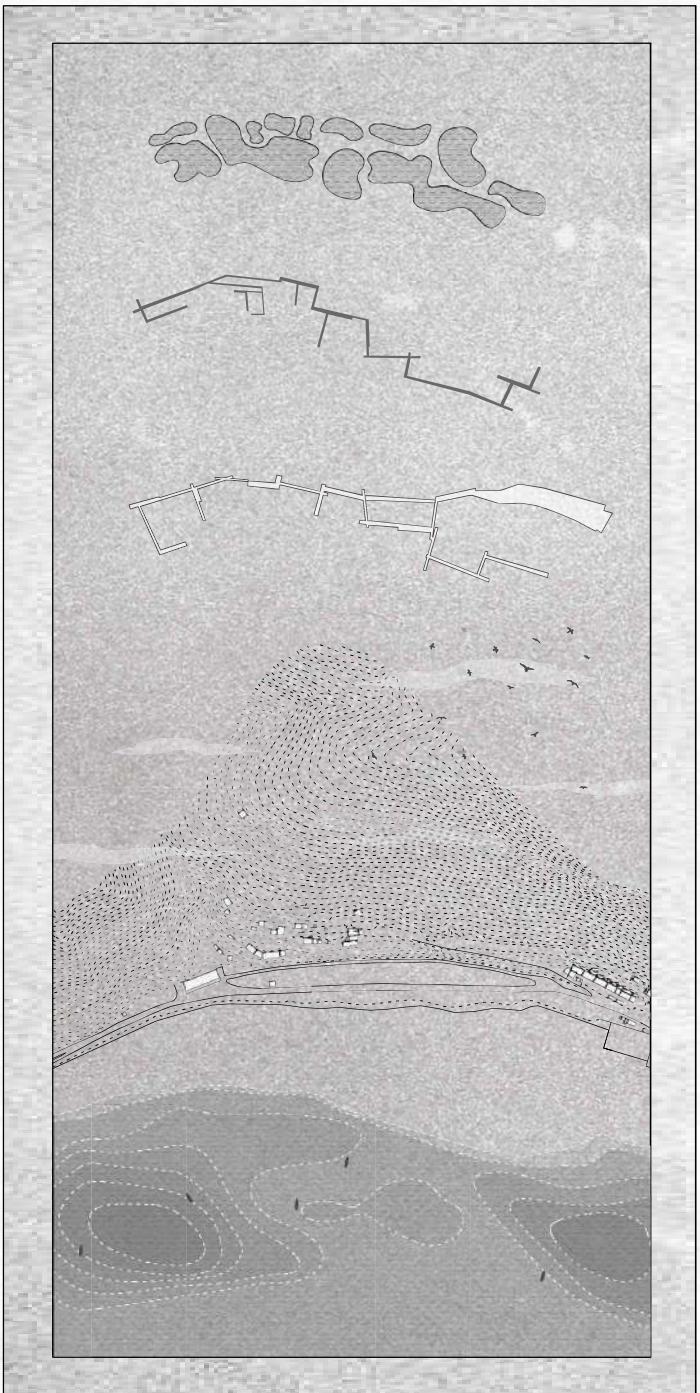


The building facade is dominated by rectangular windows and doors.

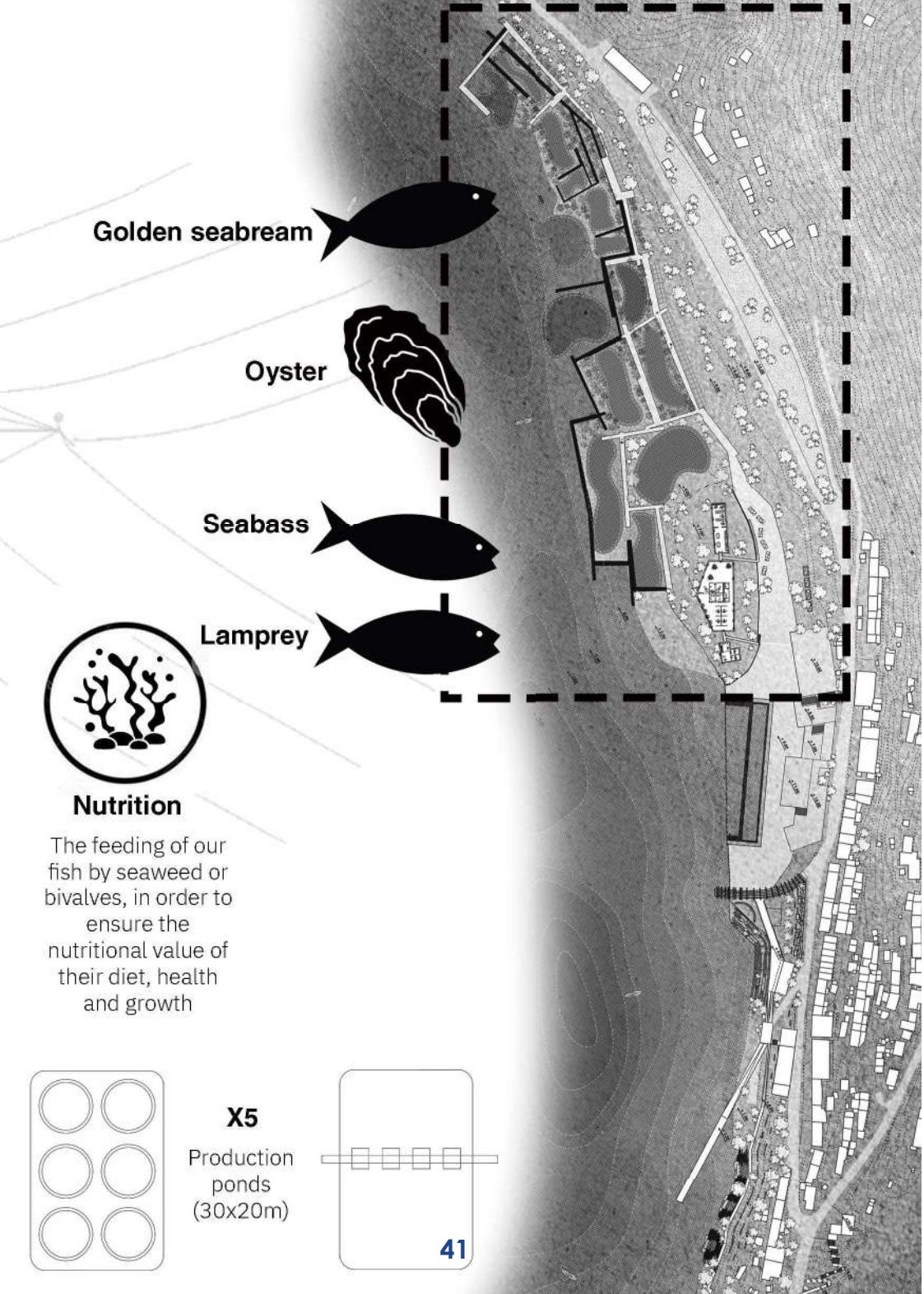








32



Golden seabream

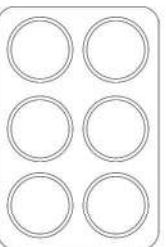
Oyster

Seabass

Lamprey

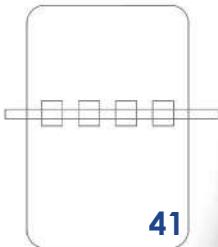
### Nutrition

The feeding of our fish by seaweed or bivalves, in order to ensure the nutritional value of their diet, health and growth



X5

Production ponds  
(30x20m)



41



# Pioneering a better future

Raised in a natural environment, in the new area for Aquaculture in Pomarao, our fish stand out for their excellent quality.

## ABOUT US

The aquaculture facility is located in Parque natural del Valle del Guadiana, in Pomarao, Mértola.

Is made up of 4 pre-fattening earthen fish ponds, 5 production ponds and 6 ponds for oyster production covering a total of 4 hectares. The complex counts with a biological research campus, a development center with an office, stands for the famous fish festival and a fish market to sell the local catch



### FishTrack

Outdoor Market for fish festival and to show visitors fish samples



### Local tradition

Our boats are equipped with traditional fishing nets to respect the art of fishing of Pomarao



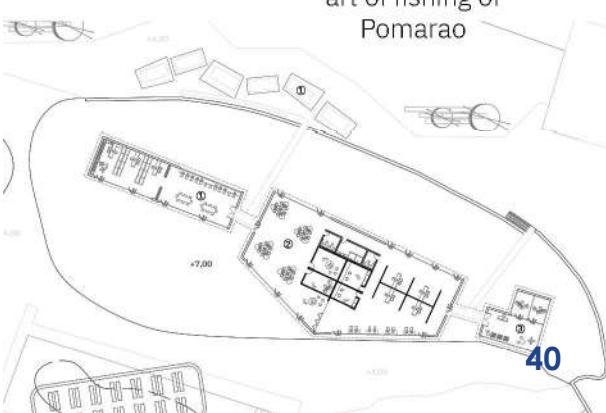
### Water renewal

The renewal of our waters is done by the energy of the tides,



### Solar Energy

Minimizing the carbon footprint by utilizing solar panels to generate electricity for pumps of pre growing ponds



X6

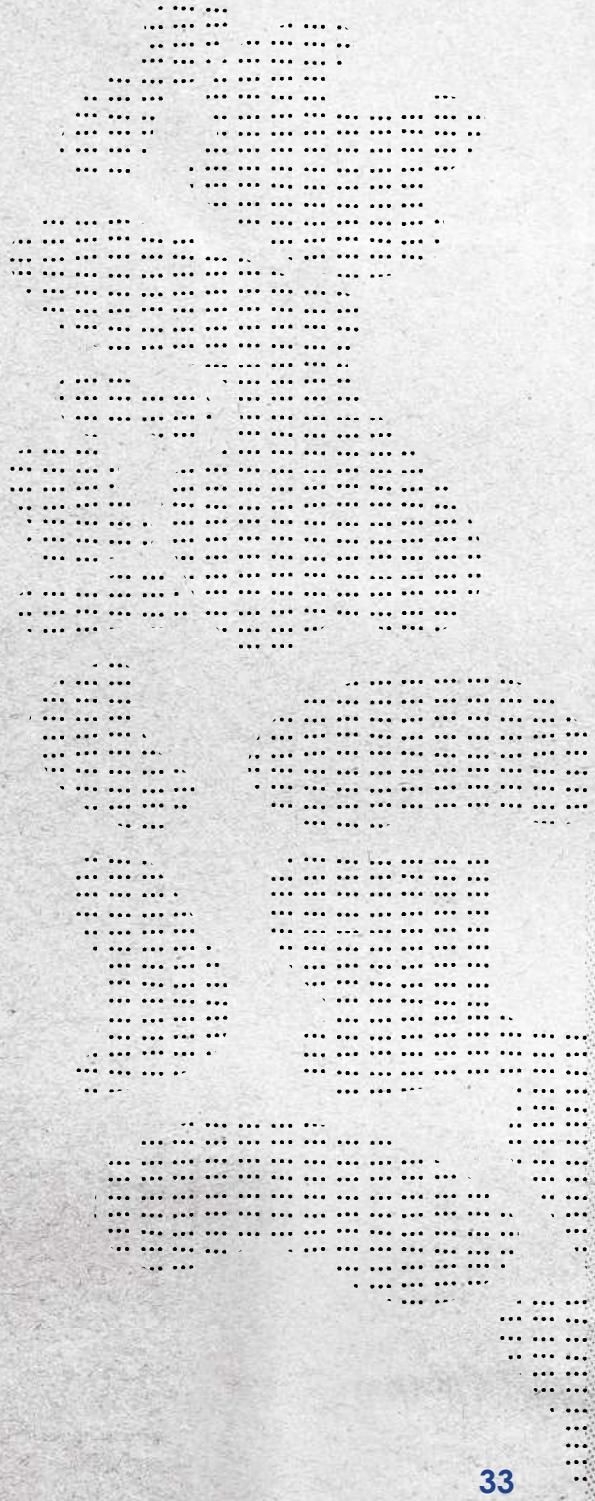
Oyster production ponds (30x10m)



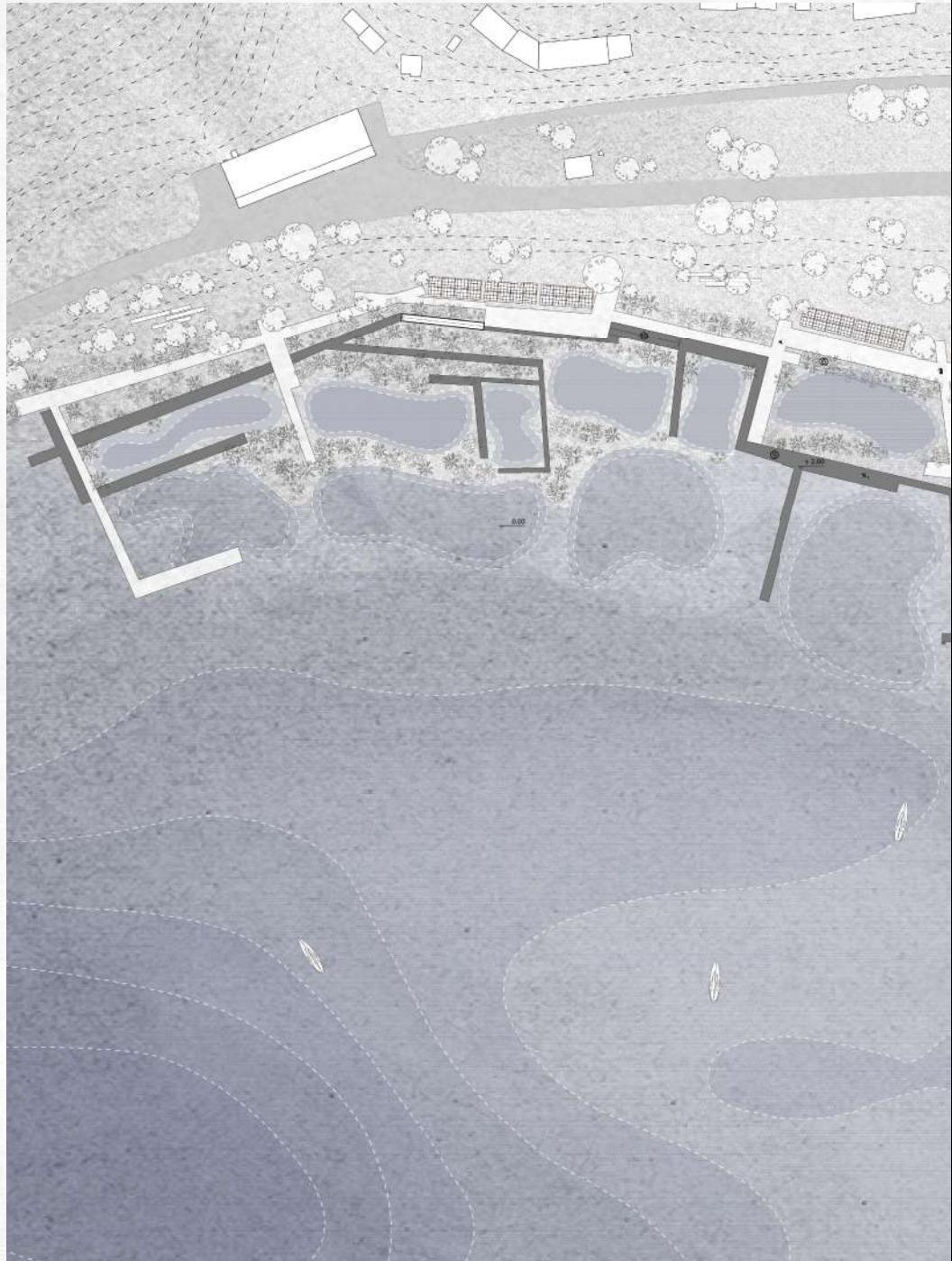
X4

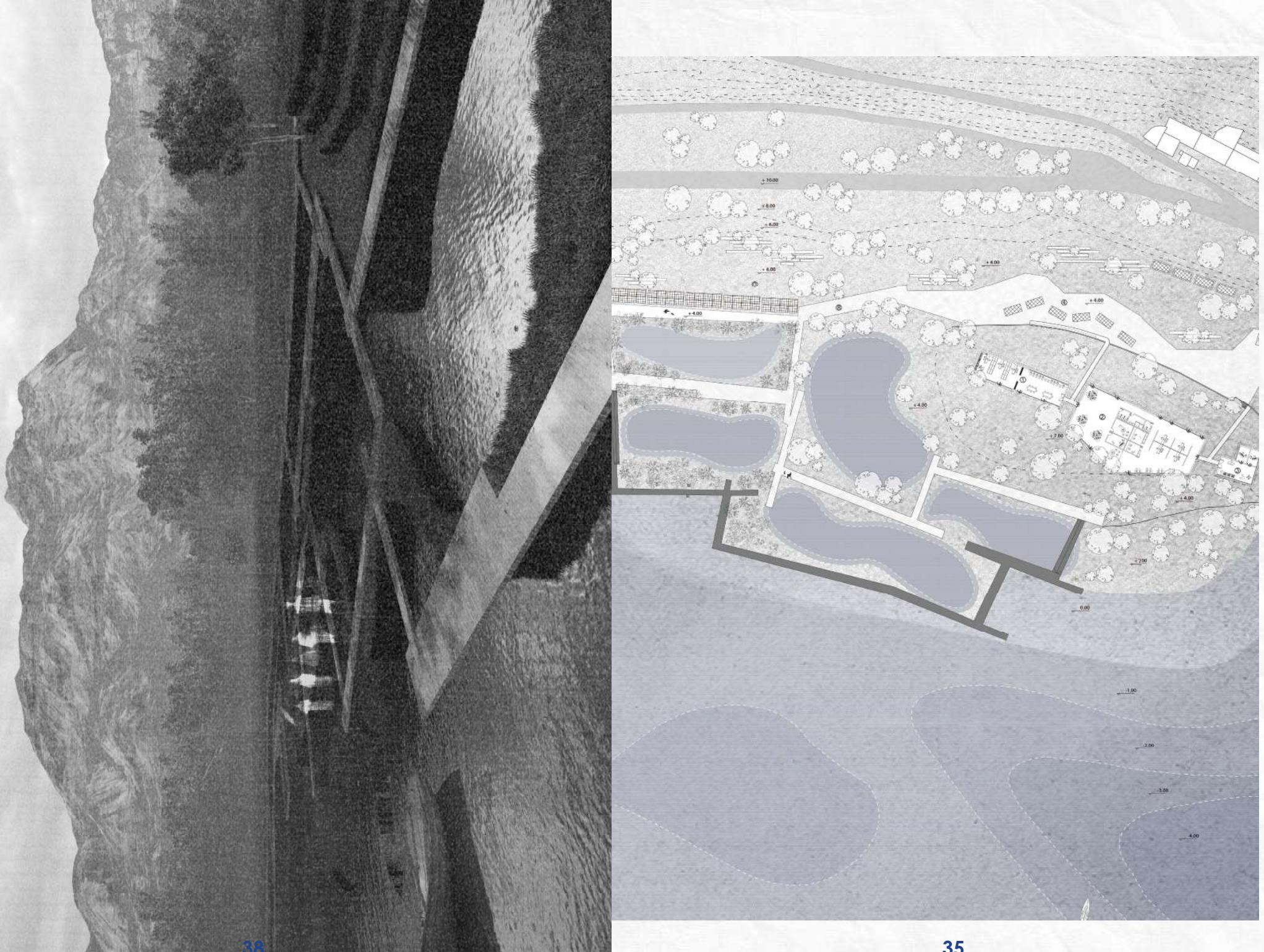
Pre fattening ponds (30x20m)

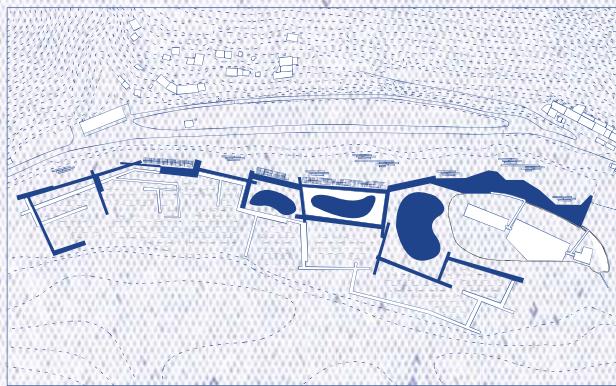
40



Our project is a fusion of space, atmosphere, and landscape. Usually, space is divided by walls, but we make the space soft, flexible, and blurred, bringing new landscape possibilities to this place. Now, through the interweaving of space and time, this landscape is presented. Space changes with the passage of time, while time is expressed through various traces within the space. This complex time-space continuum showcase the present. Our boundary linger here, with different temporal intentions coming from various place, finally converging to shape the memory of this river, which can be used in my present moment.

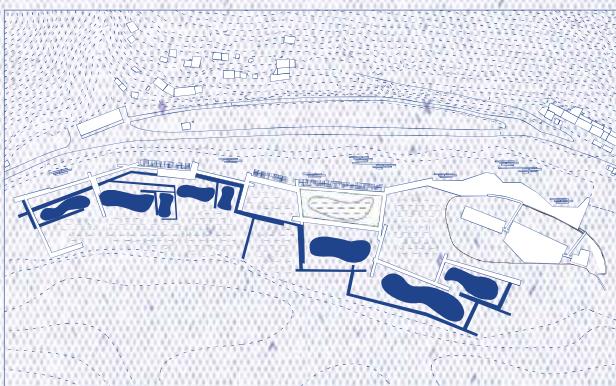
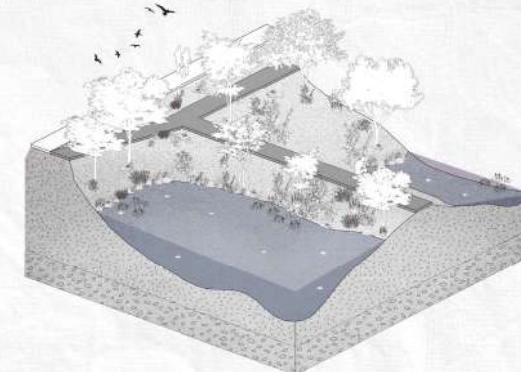






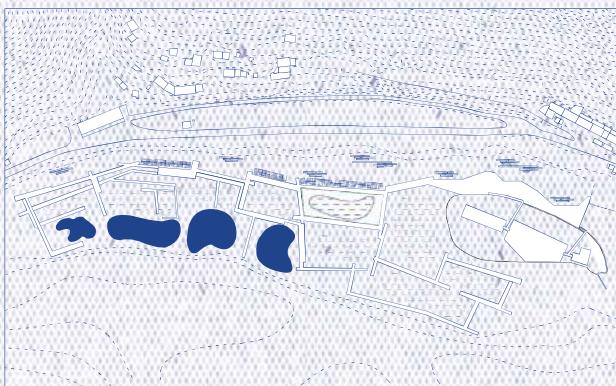
#### HIGH TIDE

Main path with hand rail +4m of Guadiana tide.  
All visitors learning from aquaculture.



#### MEDIUM TIDE

Secondary path at +2m of Guadiana tide.  
Exclusive for fish farming with traditional net.



#### LOW TIDE

No path but land that creates a pool for cultivation at +0m of Guadiana tide.  
Workers feed the fish.

