

Tagus Platform project – Innovating Lisbon's Port Territory

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At Lisbon waterfront, the project Tagus Platform presents a holistic perspective in which city and port are seen as part of the same system. The project makes use of land owned by the Municipality, the Railway Co. and Port Authority, merging disciplines that are often presented separately – architecture and public space – Tagus Platform challenges the current convention that public open spaces are located between buildings. Here public space stands over functions working below inside the building structure and reshape the morphology of the landfill surface.

The barrier of railway and/or heavy traffic is central to this project. It succeeds to remove the presence of the barrier and blur its effect with a low budget project. The fruitful dialogue between city and port is oriented to a specific project rather than general urban planning.

The sustainable development of ports cities challenge the capacity of both port and city, to successfully negotiate and work towards mutual improvements. New public space at the waterfront adds value to the urban environment when mixed with port related activities. Tagus Platform links both, urban environment and port atmosphere increasing port city's culture. The project brings value to urban life, to port, to city's image, to tourism and mainly, to people who uses, accesses and enjoys new facilities. The creation of new waterfront public spaces increases port city identity and consequently strengthen the public support for the port, the environment and the necessary use of green modes of transportation. The holistic transformation affects the heart of urban life and the idea citizens have of their own port city for tomorrow.

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