

Large Scale Project: The Need for Metropolitan Articulation

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Portugal, as the westernmost country in Europe, is axially structured from a large population concentration and economic activities and, naturally, through an urban development which is situated predominantly on its western coast. The major forthcoming transformations, which will be predominantly of an infrastructural nature, and will require a more effective integration in the large international networks (such as the new international airport, the high speed train and the logistical platforms which will be interconnected and whose location is currently being discussed), already allow us to anticipate phenomena of great urban interest.

Considering these multi-level aspects of urban transformation as well as the several actors which have direct influence in the shape and dynamics of urban and metropolitan development, the paper will mostly address topics regarding large scale territorial elements which impact directly in the configuration of edgy areas in Lisbon, previously characterized by spatial and functional disjunction.

For this, the extremely steeped Valley of Chelas, characterized by urban splintering and superposition of major infrastructures, urban fabrics and rustic matrixes, was considered as of relevance for a future metropolitan centrality, and opposed to its current character, which has been marked by dereliction and social segregation.

The research gives evidence to the importance to clearly define a strategy, a coherent and flexible approach to a master plan by introducing different ranges of urban land uses, considering the open space - in their different intensities and qualities - the cleverest tool to articulate urban splinters in contemporary city.

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