

Joint Graduate Design Project

ETSAC, School of Architecture, University of A Coruña, 2014

Statement of work: Architectural proposal in the complex "La artística", Vigo, Galicia (Spain).

1. Presentation of the area:

The object of work to be done is nowadays an abandoned industrial complex, known as "La Artística". It occupies about 17,000 m², located in the parish of Coia, delimited by Tomás Alonso Street, Coruña Street, Ramón Soler Street and Beiramar Avenue. It is composed of four industrial buildings beside other complementary units, forming three squares and an internal street.

The factory in Beiramar shut down in 1996. It is in good condition, and still preserves machinery and industrial remains.

What stands up today is the result of successive constructions that accompanied the development and evolution of diverse industrial activities, such as products linked to the manufacture of containers for canning. We are speaking therefore of the first big industrial boom in the city of Vigo.

2. Evolution and urban dynamics

The necessary renovation of industrial facilities, coupled with new logistical needs of some industries, often happen in buildings that hinder or do not conform to the new requirements demanded by functional and spatial evolution of manufacturing processes as some companies change their products, according to technological and economic evolution.

Besides these dynamics of the industry and its facilities, the evolution and social transformation of the labour force is of key importance.

Urban dynamics sometimes question the adequacy of the permanence in the location of the industries themselves, as a result a relocation is suggested by the companies or the town council, taking advantage of the need for renewal,

other kind and dimensions of space, and making the operation financially possible by the gains obtained by rezoning.

These industrial complexes for their size and impact on infrastructure have shaped in many cases the urban fabric of their environments and the evolution of those places where they are inserted.

3. Historical and current framework

The complex of the Artística in Vigo, even with its small size is a paradigmatic case. The approach of the General City Plan (PGOU), focusing on returns on capital gains, ignores and sacrifices both the consolidated traces and industrial heritage, in order to make the relocation profitable.

This is an approach to heritage preservation by packaging and transferring, where the overlapping of architecture, space and urban evolution is transformed into a mere image as a cut-out. Of course ignoring an assessment of the existing, and just preserving what is built with stone.

Our investigation begins with that which exists today and the contingent of the economic and industrial development, not only in their manufacturing processes, but in the evolution of the economies of scale and logistics that lead nowadays to the industrial estates, as efficient solution and sustainable synergies among industries, as well as the connections established between complementary activities.

As a legal framework of guidance and reflection we must consider the General City Plan (PGOU) and the specific datasheet.

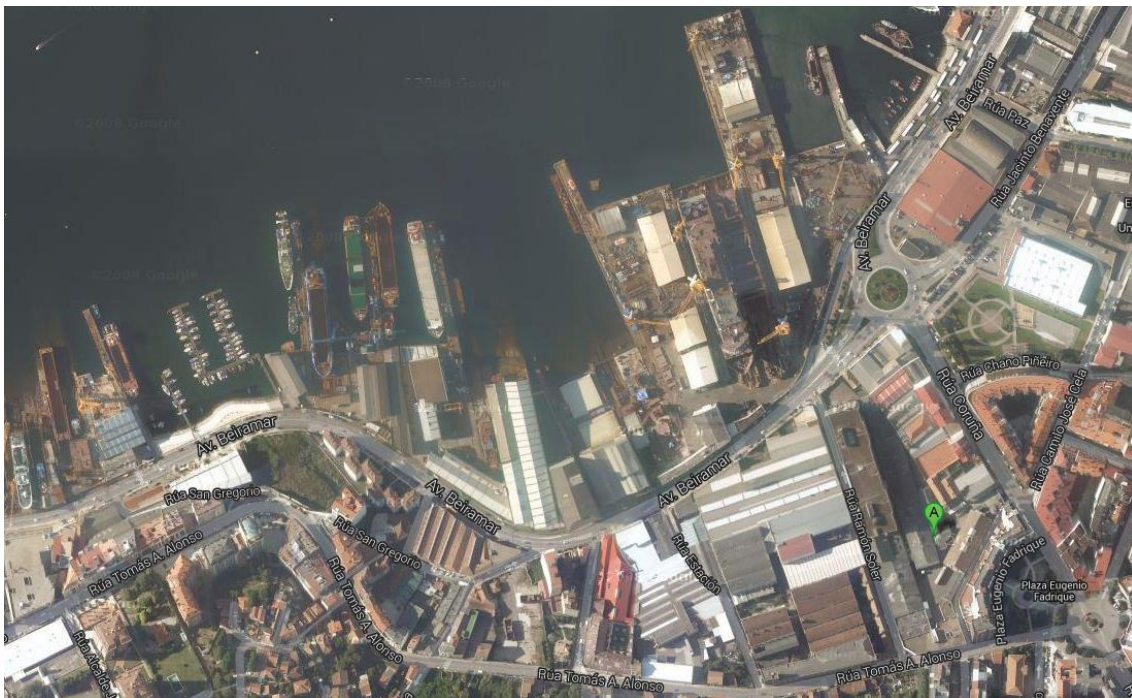
4. Course Objectives

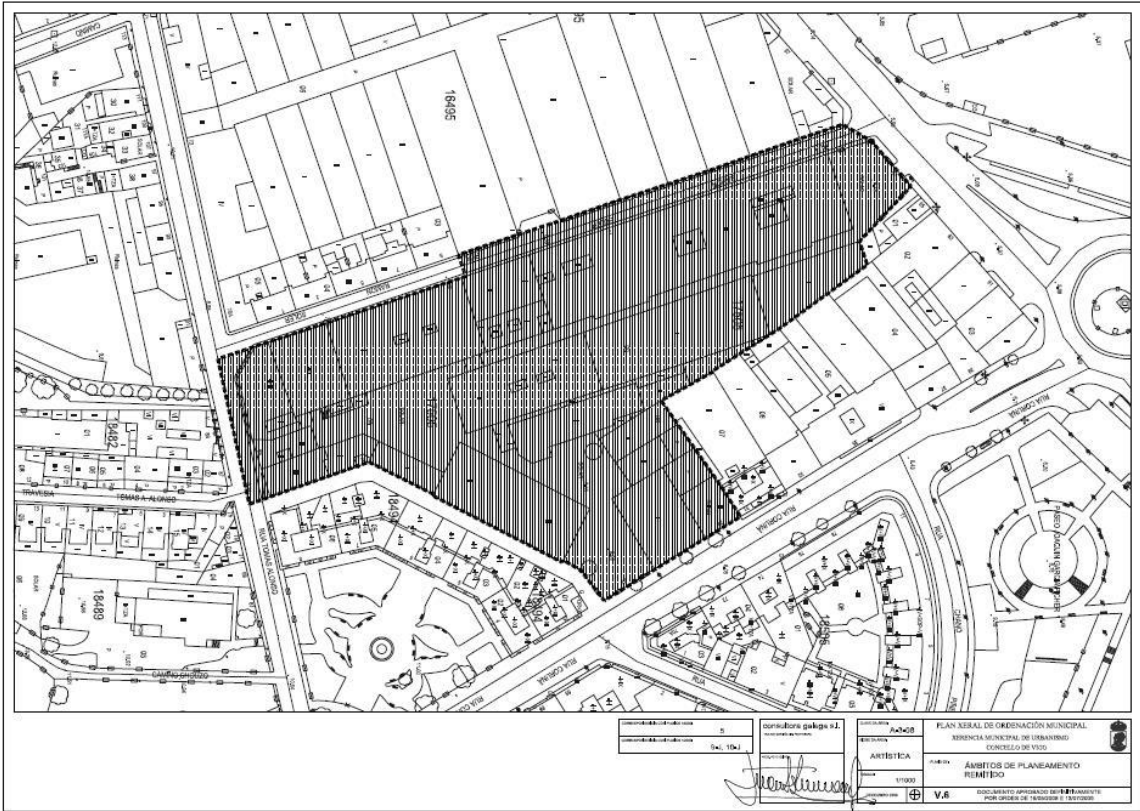
-Explore alternative paths, where a consistent assessment of the built environment, the pre-existing conditions as valuable heritage should be considered beside the establishment of synergies with the physical potential of the site, in terms of climate, topography, culture or infrastructure. This architectural complex questions the separation in recent decades between architecture and urbanism.

-Understand the dwelling as an action full of life experience with many activities ranging from private to more public and even collective, establishing vital relationships among them.

-Reconsider the intended uses, exploring possibilities that intensify the coexistence, allowing needs that we sense and even unknown ones.

As part of the academic world, in a field of research and project, we must inquire about a wide range of possibilities, demanding strategies and innovative concepts to tackle and propose specific responses to a real issue as the one we are dealing with. This is an architectural and urban challenge, in a social, cultural and specific time, which must contain the necessary commitment to reality, society, and sustainability in all areas of the project.







JOINT GRADUATE DESIGN PROJECT, 2014

Week at the ETSAC, School of Architecture of A Coruña

Day 01, March 3rd

09:00-09:30 Welcome by Fernando Agrasar, Dean of the ETSAC

09:30-10:30 Presentation of the Joint Graduate Design Project

10:30-11:30 Debate

Break

11:45-12:45 Lecture by Fernando Agrasar: *Art as project strategy*

12:45-13:45 Roundtable with teachers from Harbin and ETSAC

Lunch break

15:15-16:45 Workshop: Workgroups and organization

18:00 Moneo exhibition at Barrié Foundation

Day 2, March 4th

Visit to La Artística, Vigo. City tour visiting architecture highlights in Vigo and Santiago

Day 3, March 5th

09:30-10:00 Lecture by Patricia Sabín Díaz: *Big span structures, typologies and examples*

10:00-10:30 Lecture by Cristina García Fontán: *Theoretical and legal context in urban heritage*

10:30-11:30 Roundtable with teachers from Harbin and ETSAC

Break

11:45-13:45 Workshop

Lunch break

15:15-16:15 Brainstorm on project outlines

Break

16:30-18:30 Workshop

Day 4, March 6th

09:30-10:30 Lecture by Harbin teachers: *The context in China*

10:30-11:00 Lecture by Plácido Lizancos Mora: *Depicting architectural projects nowadays. A case study at ETSAC*

11:00-12:00 Roundtable with teachers from Harbin and ETSAC

Break

12:15-13:45 Final Degree Projects, ETSAC Jury

Lunch break

15:15-18:30 Workshop

Day 5, March 7th

09:30-10:00 Lecture by Carlos Seoane González: *Construction systems related to industries*

10:00-10:30 Lecture by Jorge Rodríguez Álvarez: *The European city*

10:30-11:30 Roundtable with teachers from Harbin and ETSAC

Break

11:45-13:45 Review of results

13:45-14:30 Joint Graduate Design Project: schedule for the next weeks