

OLIVENZA SITE 1 / TEAM 3

DEHESA AZUL



European 13-14 Inter-Sessions Forum – Workshop

ARCHITECTURE TO THE RHYTHMS OF CITY AND NATURE

To arouse interactivity at the European level, European and the Junta de Extremadura invited the E13 winning teams (winners and runner-up) for 4 days to consider and design scenarios on the E13 session topic –“The Adaptable City”– applied to urban contexts in the Region of Extremadura. Three urban situations were proposed for the Workshop, all three located in 2 nearby towns – Olivenza (with 2 sites) and Valencia de Alcántara.

In a region like Extremadura, with almost 75% villages of less than 2,000 inhabitants, the city-nature relation is everywhere. Nothing can be done without considering the presence of the rural environment, which has generated enough activity for the urban poles to develop. Still, along the years, the influence of the countryside has gradually (if not drastically) vanished, impacting on the urban spaces which therefore were deserted. So how to regenerate the urban structure through the revitalisation of urban fragments? How to consider today the limit between city and countryside? And how to take back the urban space through new rhythms and uses?

**European
Junta de Extremadura
E13 Winning Teams**



OLIVENZA SITE 1 // ACUPUNCTURE

How Can the Revitalization of Urban Fragments Induce a Larger Regeneration of the Urban Structure?

Olivenza is a small rural town located approximately 22 km South of the provincial capital, Badajoz, and 10 km from the Portuguese border, in an agricultural territory marked by rising unemployment and a shrinking and aging population. The first workshop site proposed a large intervention area covering the historical city centre and its outer edges. Starting from a selection of existing buildings, partially vacant or in need of repair, the participants were asked to reflect on how the town might attract new populations and uses while preserving its local heritage. More precisely, the idea was to explore how to modify the program, use and adaptability of certain sites in and around Olivenza, such as the bus station area—a problematic collection of autonomous fragments consisting of a partially vacant community centre, a series of empty warehouses and an outdoor amphitheatre—or the San Francisco bastion site—a former convent partially occupied by an olive oil mill today—so as to establish the necessary conditions by which these locations might become elements of connection and urban activation in the future development of the city.

After a collective discussion following the initial site visit, 3 teams differing in size and nationalities were formed based on 3 distinct approaches to the site problematic: how to reconnect the spatial and social fabric through a strategy of urban acupuncture; impact of car traffic and road infrastructure on the future equilibrium of the region; and how to re-articulate the territorial and urban scales of Olivenza through a focus on landscape and its unique local heritage as a social and functional structure to be reclaimed.

A common thread linking all three proposals is the conviction that any intervention on the proposed sites or buildings needs to be first understood within a larger framework: territorial, urban, historical, ecological, and temporal.



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ACUPUNCTURE – REGENERATION OF THE URBAN STRUCTURE



This proposal identifies two key potentials for the future development of Olivenza. The first potential is the linear void bordering the historical fortifications, which is an abandoned space today, a barrier between the historical city and the new neighbourhoods. Future construction in this zone is prohibited by law in order to preserve the visibility and access of the ramparts that form an important part of the city's architectural heritage. The second is water. Unlike most towns in the region, which sought the protection of the hilltops to better defend themselves, the choice to settle Olivenza in the lower plains was due to the unique abundance of water at this particular location. Although this historical link to water is now largely absent, the wells and fountains that once forged the local identity of the town still exist, although currently not in use because the quality of the water is no longer acceptable for drinking. The team proposes to link both potentials –void and water– to form a new landscape: the Dehesa Azul or 'Blue Pasture'. The "Dehesa" is a traditional landscape in the Extremadura region: a sparse forest of oak trees for the grazing of pigs, bulls and cows, but which is also used as a social and leisure space, such as in spring, when it becomes a colourful flower meadow or in the orchards where one can find watering holes used for bathing.

PARTICIPANTS

Christian EICKELBERG (DE),
Winner in Bamberg (DE) with "Tradition:Adaption:Verknuepfung"

Eduard BALCELLS (ES), Honorata GRZESIKOWSKA (PL),
Runner-up in Barcelona (ES) with "Sustainable Interface"

Karl ZETTERHOLM (SE),
Winner in Nacka (SE) with "Lucker"

COACH: Jim NJOO (CA/FR)

DEHESA AZUL

A NEW LINKING LANDSCAPE FOR OLIVENZA
UN NUEVO PAISAJE DE ENGARCE PARA OLIVENZA

CHRISTIAN EICKELBERG (DE), BAMBERG
EDUARD BALCELLS (ES), BARCELONA
HONORATA GRZESIKOWSKA (PL), BARCELONA
KALLE ZETTERHOLM (SE), NACKA

2 POTENTIALS:

POTENTIAL 1: VOID / VACÍO

POTENTIAL 2: WATER / AGUA

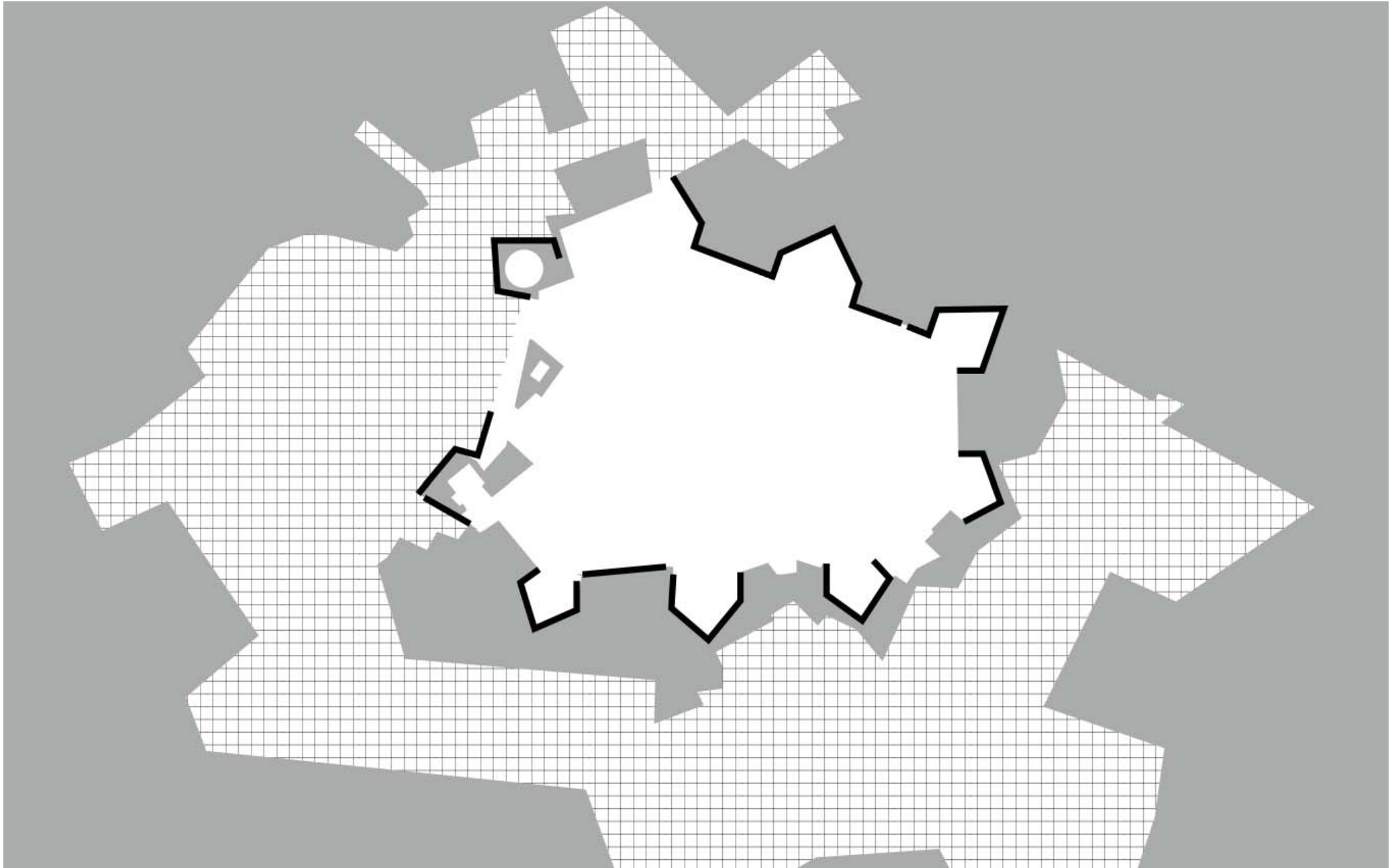
POTENTIAL 1: A VOID

POTENCIAL 1: UN VACÍO



VOID AS POSSIBLE LINK

EL VACÍO COMO POSIBLE ENGARCE



POTENTIAL 2: WATER

POTENCIAL 2: EL AGUA



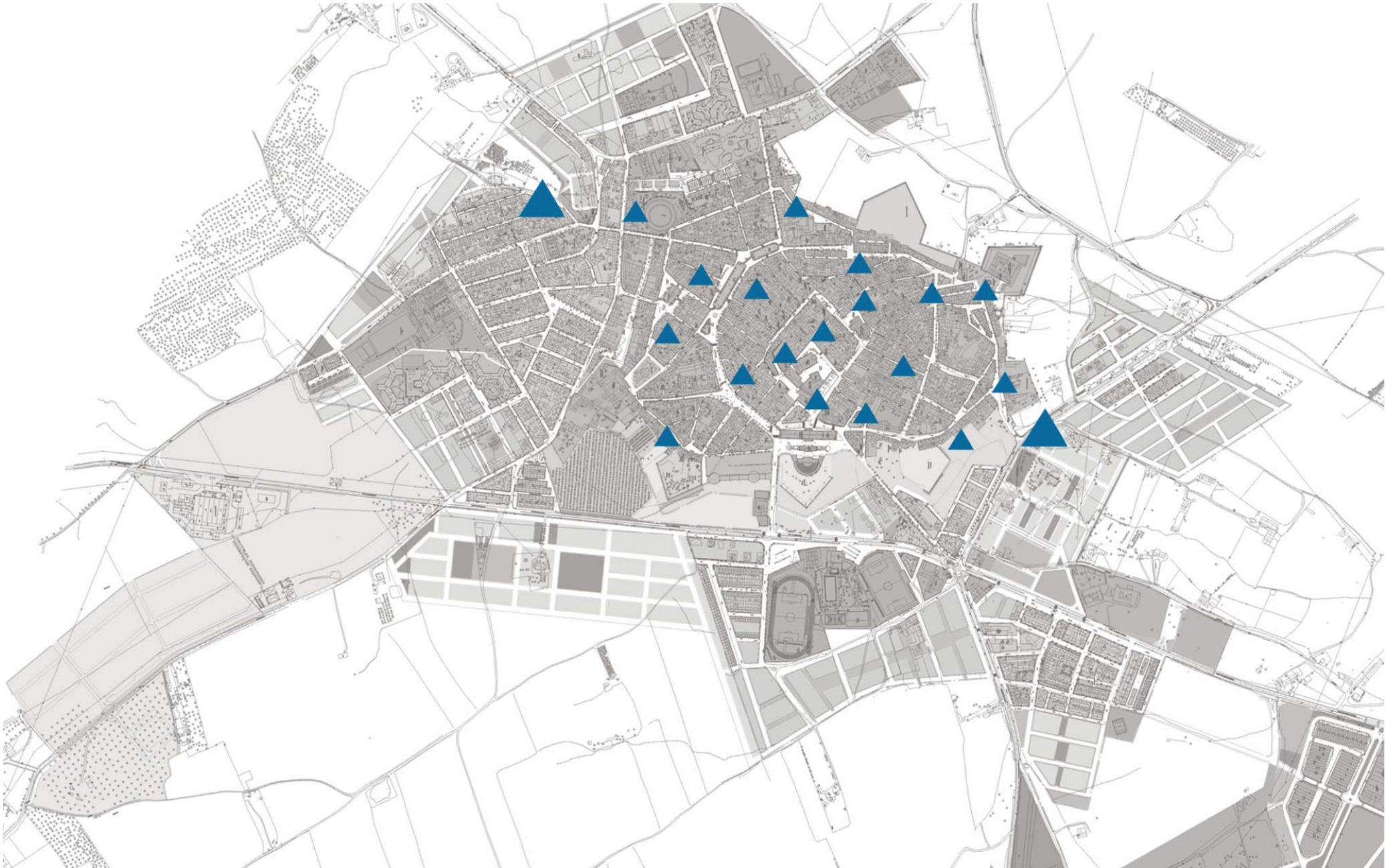
WATER: ORIGIN OF OLIVENZA

EL AGUA: ORIGEN DE OLIVENZA



UNUSED WELLS AND FOUNTAINS

POZOS Y FUENTES EN DESUSO



DEHESA AZUL: JOINING TWO POTENTIALS

JUNTANDO DOS POTENCIALES

VOID + WATER = DEHESA AZUL

TRADITIONAL DEHESA LANDSCAPE

PAISAJE DE DEHESA TRADICIONAL



DEHESA AS A SOCIAL SPACE



LA DEHESA COMO PAISAJE SOCIAL



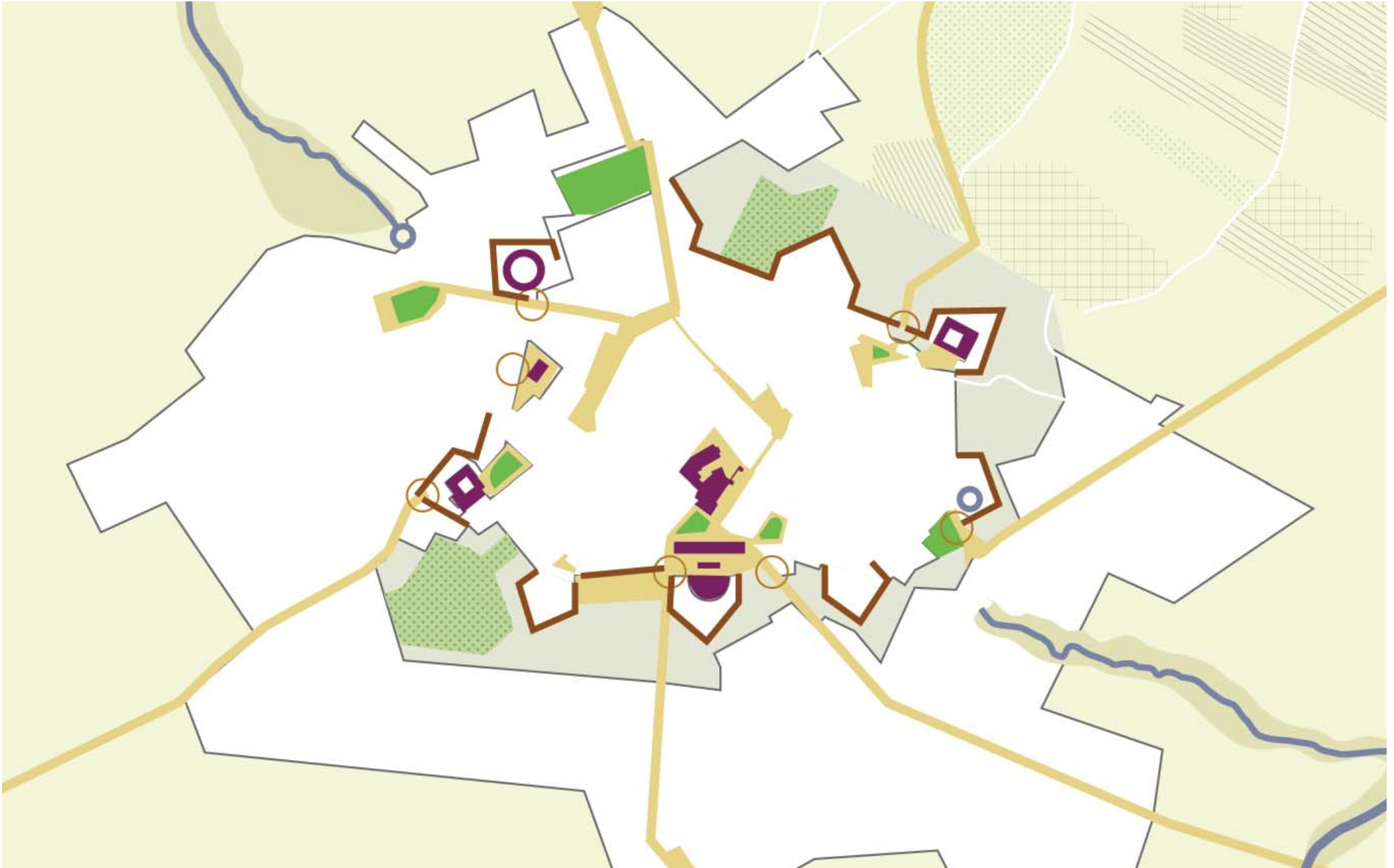
WATER AS PRODUCTIVE & SOCIAL SPACE

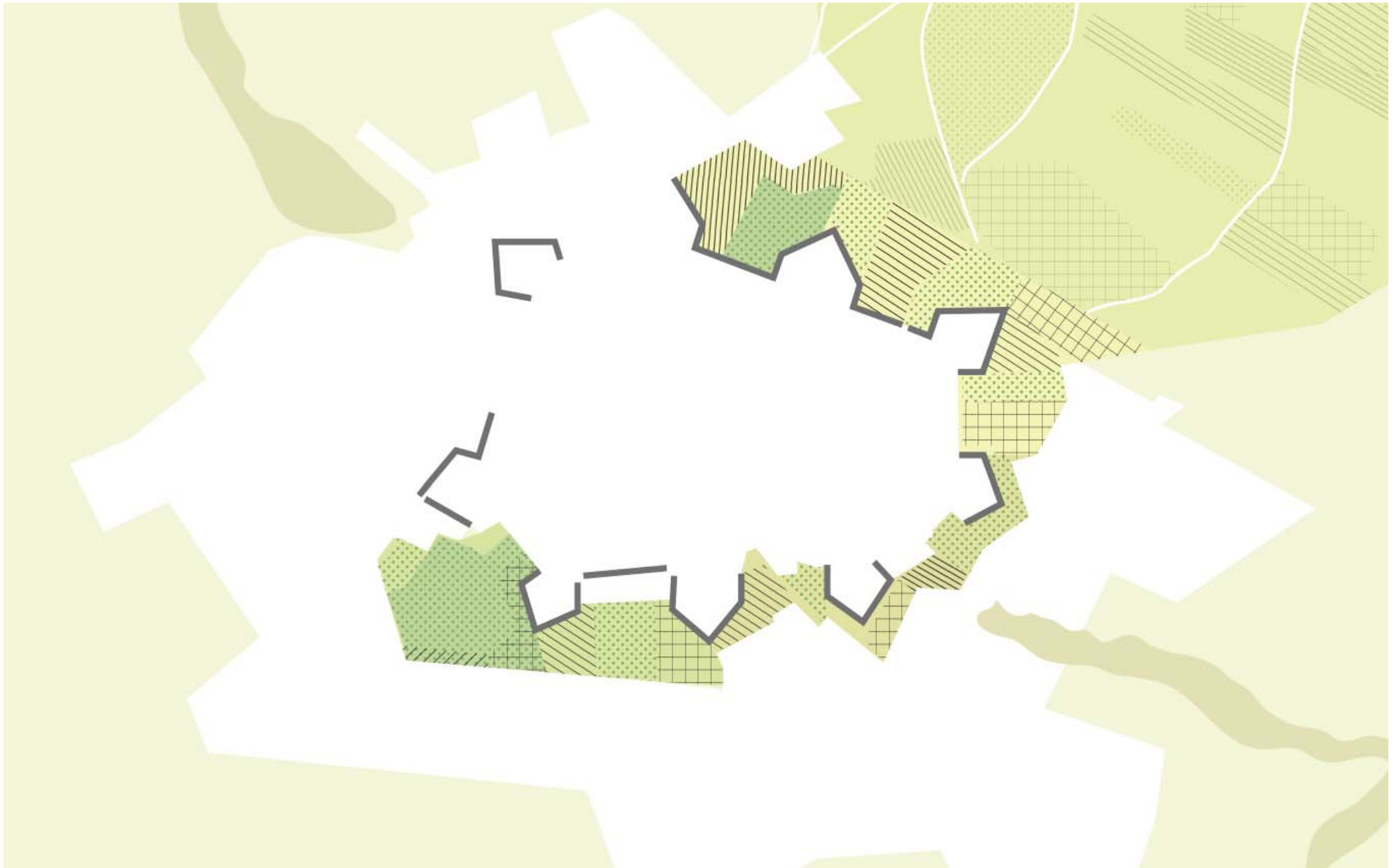
AGUA PRODUCTIVA Y SOCIAL



EXISTING FEATURES IN THE VOID

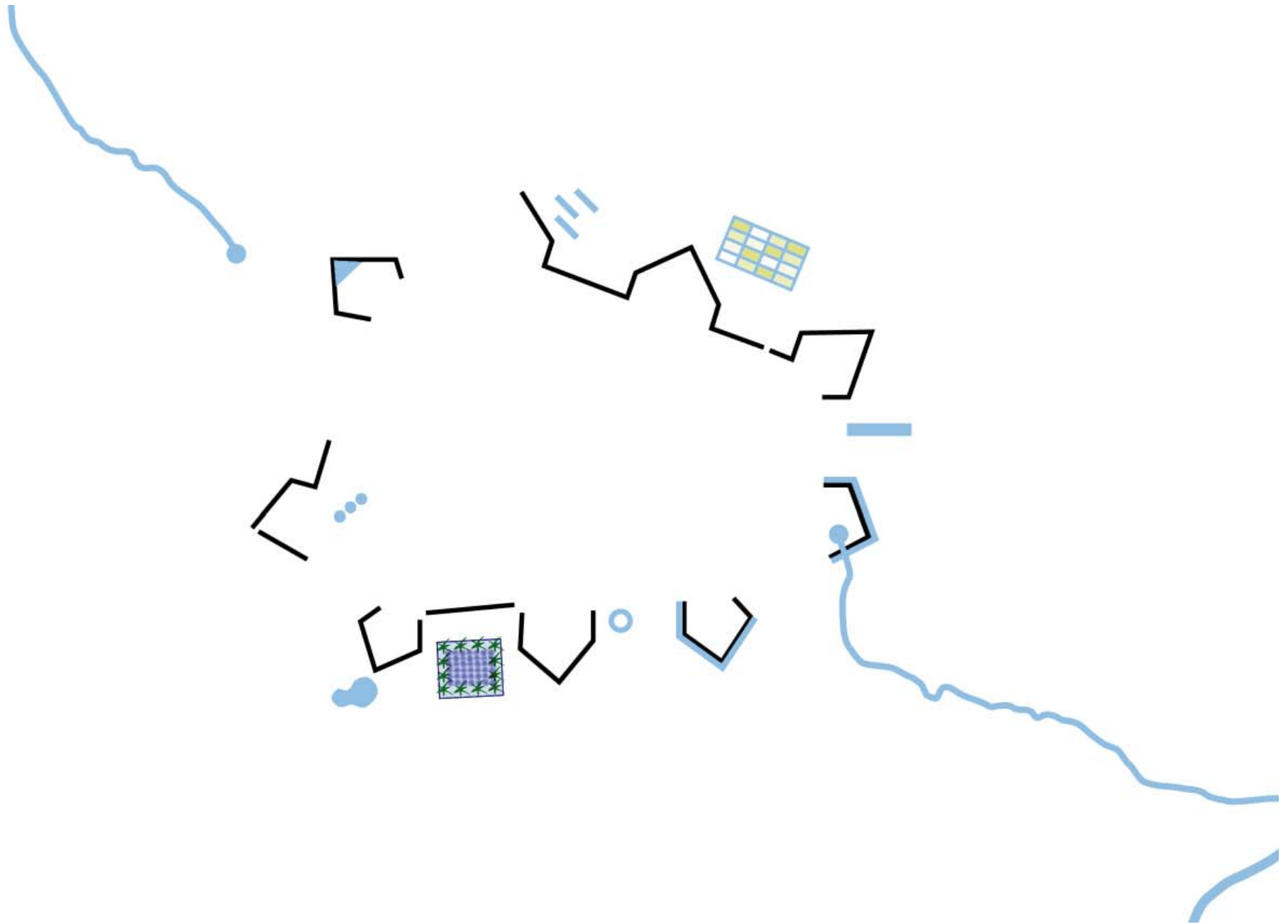
PREEXISTENCIAS EN EL VACÍO





NEW WATERSCAPES

NUEVOS PAISAJES DEL AGUA



BASTIONS PROMENADE

PASEO DE LOS BALUARTES





A FIELD OF MIST

CAMPO DE BRUMA



LA CUERNA FOUNTAIN

RECUPERACIÓN DE LA FUENTE DE LA CUERNA



BASTIONS PROMENADE, ABOVE

PASEO DE LOS BALUARTES, DESDE ARRIBA

