

GETAFE [ES]

ALL-RING. A square for all

INTRODUCTION AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The project begins with a building of enormous latent potential: the Getafe bullring, an urban void that in its current state is not just a disused building, but a scar on the city's fabric. The proposal transcends mere rehabilitation to put forward the transformation of this enclave into a *social condenser and climate refuge*; a strategic piece of infrastructure that simultaneously responds to two of the most urgent challenges of our time: the climate emergency and the need to strengthen community bonds.

The intervention is based on the recovery and activation of a *dual memory*:

1. *The productive and climatic memory*: The agricultural and rural legacy of the periurban territory is recovered, along with the traces of the old livestock trails and fair routes that structured the social and economic life of the region. This memory is updated to provide a contemporary response to the threat of the heat island effect and rising temperatures.
2. *The social and cultural memory*: Starting from the pre-existence of the bullring as a cultural center and reference for the city, assuming both its historical value and the contradictions and controversies that its original use provokes.

This dual foundation allows us to approach the theme of *re-sourcing* not as a slogan, but as a methodology. The proposal requalifies the building to serve three scales—local, urban, and metropolitan—and does so by *re-connecting** the territory's latent resources: its ecology, its productive history, and its social capital. The project thus resolves the apparent contradiction posed by the brief: to generate a new point of reference and, at the same time, an expansive fabric that connects dispersed areas. The bullring becomes a *hinge architecture** that induces a second life, acting as a catalyst whose regenerative energy radiates beyond its physical limits to heal the urban fragmentation.

URBAN AND TERRITORIAL STRATEGY: FROM SCAR TO ECOSYSTEM

The project unfolds through two overlapping operational systems that organize the territory from the urban to the territorial scale, transforming a condition of fracture into an ecosystem of opportunities.

1. The concentric system: Mosaic of landscapes and climate refuge

Responding to the climate emergency, the project positions Getafe as a hub of resilience. Using the bullring's circular geometry as an epicenter, a system of radii is designed to organize a *mosaic of landscapes*. These radii act as a thermodynamic infrastructure that generates its own microclimate through a sequence of diverse environments. The system integrates:

- *Dense shade areas*: Created by planting large trees for comfort in summer.
- *Sheets of water and misting systems*: Elements that use evaporative cooling to reduce the ambient temperature.
- *Topography and native vegetation*: The terrain is shaped and low-water-requirement flora is used to create resilient spaces for rest and strolling.

2. The centrifugal system: Ecological and social corridors

The second system is centrifugal and expansive in nature. The traces of existing urban fabrics and old paths are projected to generate a new *network of ecological and social corridors*. These lines connect areas that today remain disconnected, stitching together residential neighborhoods, the industrial estate, and new developments.

Within this network, one axis becomes the protagonist: a *large linear fair street**, 30 meters wide, that absorbs, reorganizes, and enhances the existing fair and commercial uses. This axis not only becomes a versatile space for ephemeral events but also generates a vital physical and programmatic connection on both sides of the railway line that currently divides the city.

Both systems, the concentric and the centrifugal, converge at the bullring, which stands as the programmatic and social heart of the ensemble.

ARCHITECTURAL SCALE: THE SOCIAL CONDENSER

At the architectural scale, the building is transformed into a *social condenser*. The architecture is conceived as a support for human activity, a flexible and porous system designed to welcome the diversity of the Getafe community. Its internal organization is based on the superposition of three systemic elements:

- *The rings (support and service)*: An inner perimeter ring that condenses all the services and infrastructure necessary for the proper functioning of the complex, both for its use as an open-air amphitheater and for the rest of the incorporated programs.
- *The lines (civic and flexible structure)*: A system of linear elements that fulfill a dual function: on one hand, they are the main load-bearing structure of the new building, and on the other, they house the civic and social programs (training rooms, citizen guidance center, community workshops), aimed at a diversity of ages and groups. These lines, in turn, act as a system of mobile divisions that allow for the continuous reconfiguration of the space, adapting to events of different scales.
- *The points (cultural and productive nodes)*: These are specific elements or equipment positioned as programmatic points within the large covered space. Each point is identified with a clear geometry and function, materializing the cultural and productive programs:
 - Scenic and audiovisual area.
 - Media library and library.
 - Marketing area for local agricultural products.
 - Business incubator and co-working spaces.

The leftover space, the *area of interchange* generated between these three systems, functions as an indeterminate link. It is here that spontaneous interaction occurs between the users of the civic programs and the attendees of cultural events, fostering synergy and citizen encounter.

VISION AND IMPLEMENTATION: A SECOND LIFE IN STAGES

This project represents not only the recovery of a building but the reactivation of a strategic enclave for Getafe. It is a proposal that hybridizes ecology and sociology, infrastructure and landscape, memory and future. Its implementation is conceived as a phased and adaptive process, ensuring its viability and progressive appropriation by the citizens.

Phase 1: Heal and activate (0-2 years)

The first step is the structural repair of the building through micropile underpinning, a solution already studied as viable. Simultaneously, the site is secured and tactical urbanism actions are deployed: markets, screenings, and community events that immediately reopen the space to the public, creating an early bond and building social demand for the complete transformation. In parallel, the basic and execution projects are drafted.

Phase 2: Materialize the condenser and its oasis (2-5 years)

This phase addresses the main architectural intervention. The new roof and envelope are built, and the systems of "ring, lines, and points" that make up the social condenser are implemented. At the same time, the mosaic of landscapes is executed in the immediate vicinity, creating the climate refuge and radically improving pedestrian connection with the El Casar station.

Phase 3: Radiate the regeneration (5+ years)

The final phase focuses on the territorial scale. The ecological and social corridors are developed to consolidate the connection with the surrounding neighborhoods and the industrial estate. The redevelopment of adjacent spaces, such as the current fairgrounds, is integrated into the new cultural ecosystem.

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

The final goal is to transform the ruin into a landmark; an urban scar into a green and social lung; a place of memory into an engine of progress and resilience. We seek to provide Getafe with a cutting-edge public facility, a replicable model of typological transformation that responds with boldness and sensitivity to the great challenges of the 21st century.