



view of the terrain: the strategic site in first plan and the project site further away

**CATEGORY** urban/architectural

**LOCATION** Silvaes, Guimarães (north of the country)

**POPULATION** City 161 876 inhab. Conurbation 1 016 inhab.

**SRATEGIC SITE** 154,30 ha      **PROJECT SITE** 32,52 ha

**SITE PROPOSED BY** Guimarães Municipality

**OWNER OF THE SITE** private owners / public domain

**COMMISSION AFTER COMPETITION** a detailed plan for the project site. A more detailed programme (working closely with the property owners) will subsequently be the object of a negotiation process.

**TRANSFORMATION OF SITE** The intervention to be carried out is aimed at achieving three fundamental goals: regenerating the public space in the centre of the parish, strengthening the community spirit and improving the centre's role of social hub; restructuring the road network in the area, allowing for greater discipline in the traffic entering and leaving the city and increasing the traffic flow capacity; and creating an area strongly characterised by tertiary and commercial activities that complement those existing in the city centre. A green corridor is to be proposed, upgrading the area and linking it to the valley.

**CITY STRATEGY** Given the growth of the city towards its western boundaries in the direction of the River Ave, the city's urban development strategy consists of the creation of a large park in Veiga de Creixomil, the regeneration of the main road infrastructures and the establishment of dedicated areas for economic activities that attract and help to secure persons and assets. In practice, the urban character extends to the River Ave, integrating the river into the city itself and giving an urban character to spaces that, while once on the periphery, have since been effectively incorporated into the city.





aerial photo of the strategic site and its surroundings



aerial photo of the project site inside the strategic site

**SITE DEFINITION** Constituting a “point of access” to the city, a place of high visibility and strong presence in the landscape, once a place of widespread farming, the project area is today in a process of urban transformation with a view to reconciling its strong functional attraction (as it is appealing to and much sought after by tertiary and commercial activities) with the presence of a road network with a strong impact on the territory (namely, the motorway connecting Guimarães to the main cities in the north of Portugal) and the regeneration and linkage of the urban centre of the local agglomeration.

**NEW MOBILITY** Restructuring of the road network, linking the motorway junction to a number of other roads, making it possible to better discipline the traffic entering and leaving the city, while increasing traffic flow capacity; creation of an area for tertiary and commercial business activities and their connection to the neighbouring agglomerations.

**NEW WAYS OF LIFE** Guimarães is a city that combines the regeneration and excellence of its public space and heritage with intense cultural activity and the strengthening of the education and knowledge of its inhabitants, aiming at a city

brand of good quality of life and as an economic, social and cultural anchor for the region.

**NEW SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT** Conserving existing green spaces surrounding the area and integrating or generating new natural zones such as the future parks, regenerating existing water courses and introducing a design of public space that furthers new continuities; the area should be treated with urban objectives of environmental quality seeking to achieve balance with the infrastructures and new economic activities. For a more sustained routine life.



# Guimarães – Portugal – european 11



aerial view of the competition site and its surroundings



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