



TOPIC

The strategy to be developed accepts 2 different scenarios: maintaining or replacing the existing population, creating better connections to the surroundings and neighbourhood relations. A very attractive landscape and proximity of good quality architecture (University Campus). A strategic place to create new centrality.

CONURBATION

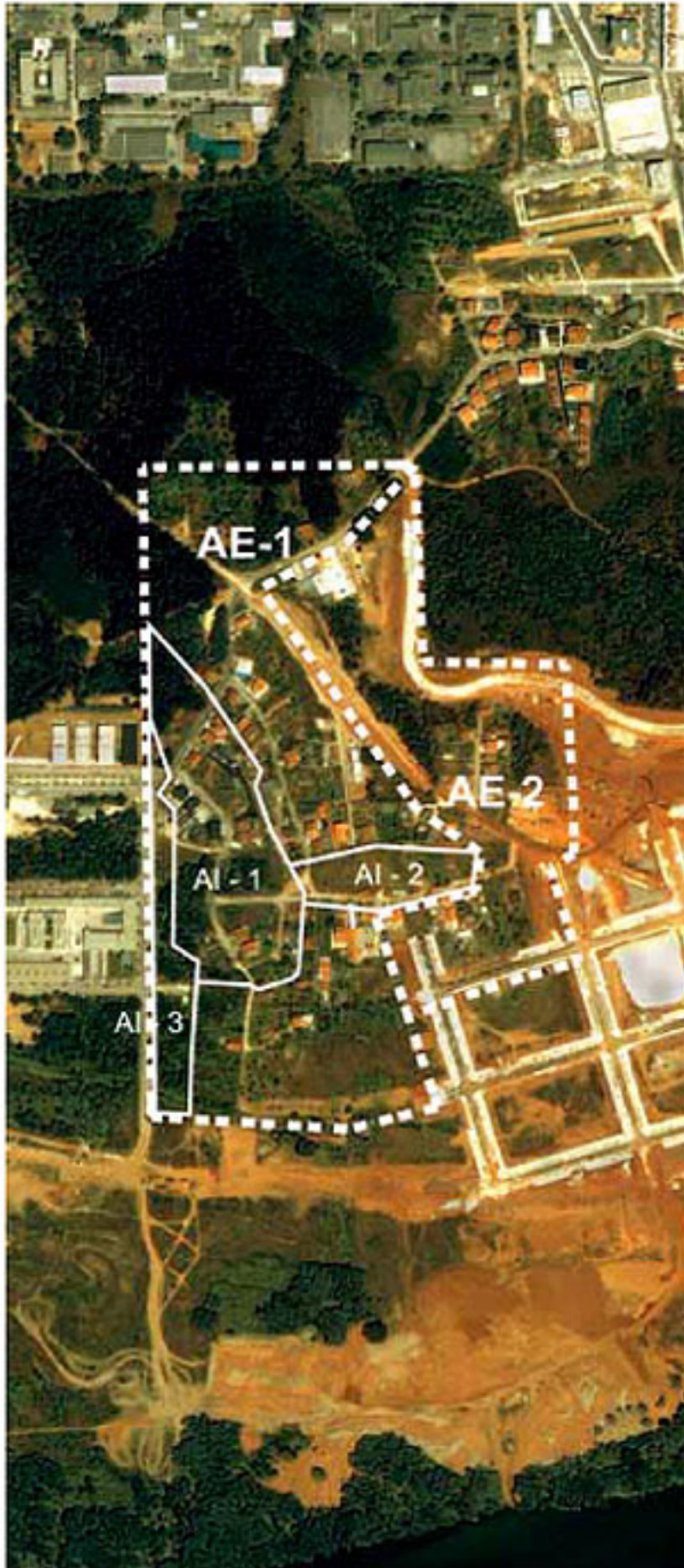
Vila Franca lies on a slope by the Mondego river, on the south side of the city. This area has been progressively occupied by illegal constructions, and today is an uncharacteristic place, lacking valorization and integration, located between the new University Campus (to the east), and a new quarter currently under construction (to the west).

SITE

Site of social, urban and architectural disqualification and underdevelopment. Mainly of clandestine residential occupation (one family illegal houses), and vacant fragments. Surrounded by new urban developments carefully planned and designed (University Campus and new housing quarter), it is a "middle ground" that has been forgotten.



Population: 101.069 (City); 218 (Vila Franca).
Study area: 20 ha
Project area: aprox.3.5 ha



PROGRAMME

Intervention Area: 3 small parts: 1. a land plot with illegal construction 2. an area to connect by road (and its surroundings) the east and west adjacent nuclei 3. an area between the University Campus and the Vila Franca nucleus. To create new housing, shops, cultural and civic spaces, leisure and facilities, that connect the two new urban tissues and offer another kind of urban identity.

Study Area: to develop a plan/project presenting alternative road nets, uses, natural and built areas, testing 2 possibilities: higher or lower density; maintaining all or the majority of the existing buildings, or replacing them.

ISSUES

Social / functional

To create social relations or interrelation between the surrounding neighbourhood.

Sensitive

Visual relation with the river. To create connecting (pedestrian) paths.

Sustainability

Integrate and relate the area with its surroundings, aiming to achieve an environmental equilibrium and the creation of a sustainable "green" structure, public spaces in a liveable safe neighbourhood.



