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Spanish, French, English

10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Monday to Friday

EUROPAN 16. LIVING CITIES

Competition Brief

Almendralejo

Alzira

Barcelona

Beizama

Esparraguera/Colonia Sedó

Madrid

Roquetas de Mar

EUROPAN 16 SPAIN, "LIVING CITIES"

The objective of EUROPAN is to bring to the fore Europe's young architecture and urban design professionals, and to present and develop their ideas.

It is also about helping cities and developers who provided sites to find innovative architectural and urban solutions for the transformation of urban locations and help them to implement. The open competition is an anonymous and public call for ideas on a European scale.

The aim of EUROPAN Spain is to implement the projects chosen by EUROPAN 16 national jury. In order to facilitate contracting of the proposals by public administrations participating in EUROPAN Spain as the core of the Competition, the Ministry of Transports, Mobility and Urban Agenda shall call for the Competition in Spain, establishing its Rules by a bidding document that shall comply with the procedure of Juried Design Competitions as provided in section 183 et seq of the LCSP. This will ensure compliance with the conditions established in the EUROPAN Internal Procedures and in the aforementioned Law.

Therefore, in case of entering any of the Spanish sites, it is important to get familiar with the "Rules of the EUROPAN 16 Juried Design Competition", published in the Official Public Tender Platform by accessing the following link:

EUROPAN/ESPAÑA NATIONAL COMMITTEE

President: Ministry of Transports, Mobility and Urban Agenda (Ministerio de Transportes, Movilidad y Agenda Urbana)

Members

General Direction of Urban Agenda and Architecture, Ministry of Transports, Mobility and Urban Agenda (Ministerio de Transportes, Movilidad y Agenda Urbana)/ Consejo Superior de Colegios de Arquitectos de España (CSCAE)

City of Barcelona / City of Madrid / City of Roquetas de Mar / General Direction of Housing and Architecture, Regional Government of Cantabria / General Direction of Architecture, Regional Government of Extremadura / General Direction of Ecological Innovation in Construction, Regional Government of Valencia/ General Direction of Architecture and Housing, Basque Regional Government/ INCASOL

City of Almendralejo/ City of Alzira/ City of Beizama / City of Esperreguera/ADIF

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT EUROPAN España

Carmen Imbernón, General Secretary

Begoña Fernández-Shaw, Vice Secretary in charge of implementations follow-up

EUROPAN ESPAÑA JURY

- Iñiqui Carnicero, architect, EUROPAN Spain President. General Director of Urban Agenda and Architecture of the Ministry of Transports, Mobility and Urban Agenda.

-Rocío Peña, architect, San Sebastian. www.ganchegui.com.

-Eva Luque, architect, teacher. Almería. www.elap.es.

-Enrique Krahe, architect. Former winner of European Spain. (Delft/Madrid) www.enriquekrahe.com.

-Mariona Benedito, architect, teacher. Barcelona www.mim-a.com.

-Eduard Bru, architect, urban planner, teacher. Barcelona

-Niek Hazendonk. Landscaper. The Netherlands

-Socrates Stratis. Architect, urban planner, teacher. Member of the Scientific Committee. Cyprus. www.socratesstratis.com

- Tina Gregoric (SL) <https://www.dekleva-gregoric.com/profile>

Substitute: Arancha Ozaeta, Architect, teacher. www.tallerde2.com

PRIZES

EUROPAN/España intends to award 7 first prizes and 7 second prizes, in addition to the special mentions. The winner and runner-up teams receive a prize of €12,000 and €6,000 respectively.

LEGAL PROVISIONS

For nationals from EU and EES countries in possession of a diploma in accordance with EU Directive 2005/36/EC and wishing to practice on a provision of services basis (occasional), they must be legally established in a Member State for the purpose of pursuing the same profession in Spain. They must ask for an authorization to the competent authority, the Ministry of Transports, Mobility and Urban Agenda (Ministerio de Transportes, Movilidad y Agenda Urbana, Subdirección de Normativa y Estudios Técnicos. Secretaría General Técnica. Paseo de la Castellana, 67 – 28071 Madrid).

For nationals in possession of a diploma from other countries, please contact the Ministry of Education.

SITE PARTICULARITIES REGARDING THE ORGANISATION OF THE COMPETITION

Site Representative

Agustín Martínez Aparicio, City architect. Registration number nº 299 in Almeria's Architects Association.

Profile of the Team Representative

Architect

Expected skills regarding the site's issues and characteristics.

The main goal is to design two buildings and the public spaces around them taking into account the special urban environment, on which a reflection is proposed.

Communication and Publicity

The Launching of the competition and the Results of EUROPAN 16/Spain will be published in the State Contracting Platform (<https://contrataciondelestado.es>), the B.O.E (Official State Gazette) as well as in a national newspaper. The results of EUROPAN /SPAIN will be published in a catalogue. All the EUROPAN 16 projects awarded and specially mentioned by the Jury will be displayed in a travelling exhibition. The teams rewarded in EUROPAN Spain will be invited to present their work in forums and workshops, both at national and international level.

Jury – 1st evaluation

In the first jury meeting, the site representatives participate with voice and vote.

Post-Competition Procedure

Soon after the results announcement, winning teams in the Spanish sites will be invited to a meeting with the site Representatives in order to present their proposals. This presentation will be followed by round tables in which jury members are invited.

Provided procedure for the contract following the Juried Design Competition.

EUROPAN Competition is in compliance with the EU directive for procurement Directive 2014/24/EU and with Spanish National Law. The Public Administrations that take part in the competition as members of the National Committee, or any other entity in which they may delegate (Local Entities, Autonomous Communities or, where appropriate, Public Law Entities) are recognised as contracting authorities, to proceed in each of the sites to award the service contract by means of a negotiated procedure, without prior publication, to the winner or one of the winners of the design contest. In the latter case, all the winners (winners and runners-up) must be invited to participate in the negotiations

Commission after Competition:

Architectural and urban development of the project according to the award-winning proposal.

MAIN AIMS OF THE PROPOSAL

We look forward that the proposals to the contest help to solve some of the urban problems spread over the whole urban structure. Unless they should be projected taking into consideration those problems, which are:

- 1) There is a strong competition between urban soil and agricultural uses. The land occupied by greenhouses reaches the border of the residential units, inducing tensions in the urban structure and market. The project site is placed adjacent to this border, and the competitors must propose clever solutions to integrate both types of soil.
- 2) Along this border the urban edges show symptoms of degradation in some sections, shaping a chaotic periphery. The projects should also provide order and regeneration in the project area.
- 3) Some urban voids may be found in the urban tissue, offering opportunities for revitalization. The project site is a piece of land in one of these voids, and consequently the proposals must recognize this fact as an opportunity to regenerate the area.
- 4) There is some segregation and inequalities between different parts of the town. The neighbourhoods built to North and to East (between the original historic core of the town and the coastline) are ordered and integrated by buildings and open spaces (streets, squares, gardens, and so on) of quality. On the contrary, the enlargements of the historic core to West are more marginal and disordered. The urban void that includes the project area is placed between Las Lomas district, one of the Eastern neighbourhoods of quality, and La Molina, that belongs to the Western marginal developments. To join these two areas of so different character is another aim for the contest.
- 5) The urban landscape needs landmarks, identity and visual references. The proposals must achieve this improvement in the project area.
- 6) A model of sustainable construction and social integration is also required, according to the aims of the European16 contest (*Urban Metabolism and Social Integration in Living Cities*). The agricultural uses provide sustainability because greenhouses act as sinks of CO₂ and reduce global warming by reflecting the sunrays off them, diminishing the temperature in the region around 2°C.
The buildings and open space foreseen in this area must incorporate technical solutions to induce energy efficiency, exploitation of renewable sources (mainly thermo solar), systems for recycling water and waste, urban orchards, and any other ingenious means to provide sustainability.
On the other hand, they must achieve also social integration in a town that seeks this matter as a relevant permanent objective, due to its peculiar social circumstances derived from the singular composition of its population.

In relation with the proposed Reflection Area, the entries should ponder the effect of the competition between urban and agricultural uses, suggesting methods to relieve tensions and achieve certain order in the chaos. There are three different existing situations for this competition: pressure on developed ordered urban tissue (in the North and Central Areas), on marginal messy urban soil (to the West), and on the tourist district along the Southern coastline. As it is said, the Project Site is placed adjacent to the centre of this border, and the Reflection Area widens around it, including the urban void where it is placed.



Roquetas de Mar is a town placed in the South-East corner of Spain, on the Western coastline of the Gulf of Almeria, and on the Eastern side of a plain extended at the foot of the Gador Mountain Range, foothill of the Penibetic Chain where the highest peaks of the Iberian Peninsula are found (Sierra Nevada, around 17.000 feet)

The main traditional activity in the plain was agriculture, despite the land was unproductive enough with lack of water, extracted from the subsoil by low-yield dwells, because of the rain shortage and the dry weather. The excess of solar radiation (more than 3.000 hours of sunlight a year) burnt the crops and provided a desert environment. But in the 1950s some discoveries and technical advances were achieved and a true agricultural revolution got underway: the Roquetas farmers invented a local variety of greenhouses, covered with plastic to protect the plants from the excess of radiation. At the same time the preparation of the soil with layers of sand and cotton that made possible the plants to grow with aerial roots. The beneficial effect of the heath produced by the intense exposure to sun light, and the rational use of wind and water (irrigation systems by drops), allowed to get several harvests a year, with an extraordinary yield in every one. Shortly after, important water reserves were discovered at depths never explored before, and then the new agricultural activity spread quickly over the whole region, providing wealth, opportunities of job, and very high rates of growth population, due to an intense and permanent stream of immigration. In a few years the spread of this land occupation shaped what has been called "The Plastic Sea" the only manmade structure identifiable from the outer space (with the Great China Wall).

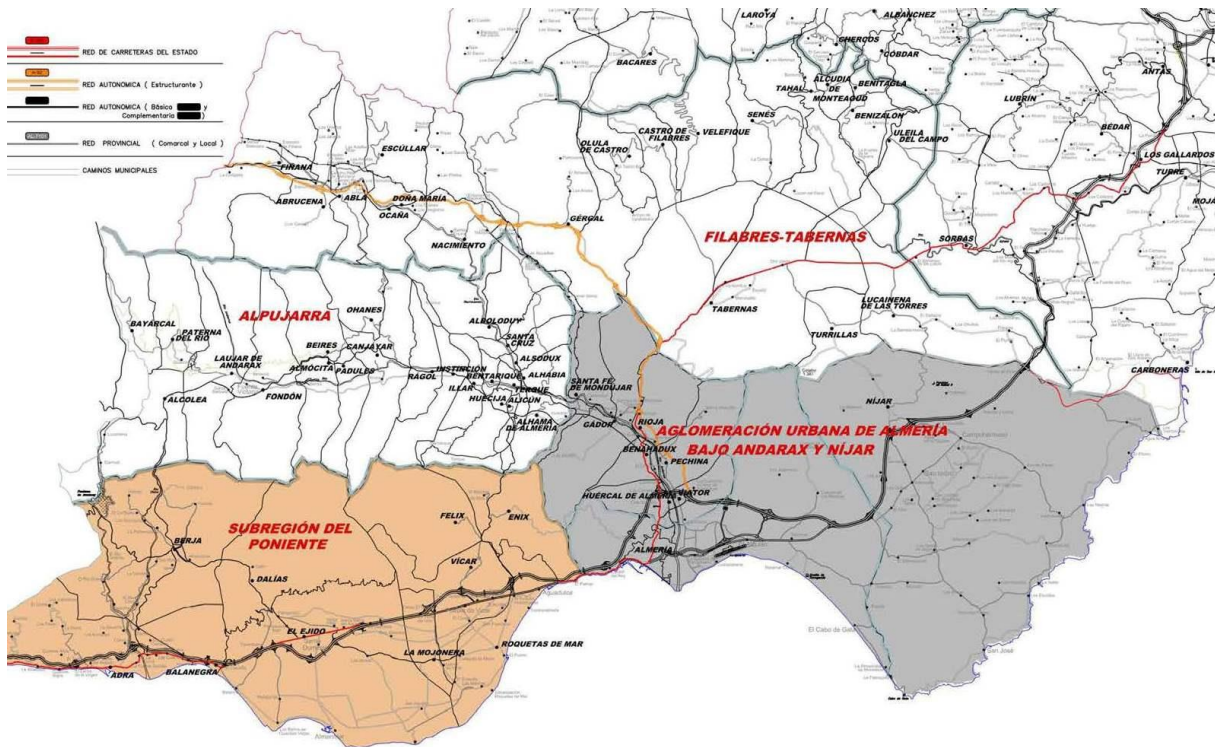


Land Uses in Western Region in 1965

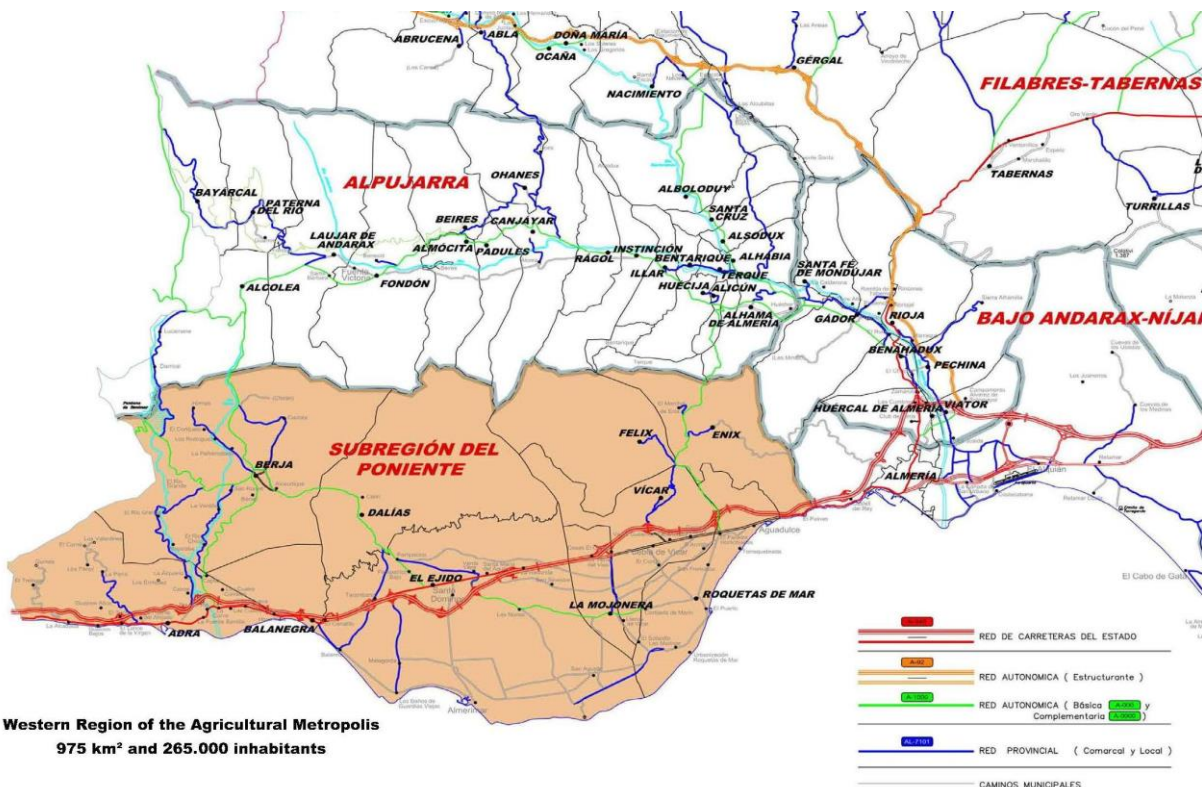


Land Uses in Western Region in 2015

The spread of the greenhouses along all the South of the Almeria province, have generated a conurbation divided into two halves: at the Eastern it includes the capital, and has 1.160 km² and 260.000 inhabitants. The Western Region is known as The Agricultural City, and its functional capital is Roquetas de Mar, where this economic “miracle” started. It has 975 km² and a population of 265.000.



The “Agricultural Metropolis” is a conurbation with a surface of 2.135 km² and a population of 525.000 people
It is divided into two regions: Eastern (Almeria, Bajo Andarax and Nijar) and Western (Poniente)



Western Region of the Agricultural Metropolis
975 km² and 265.000 inhabitants

The municipal territory of Roquetas de Mar has a surface of 60 km² and up to 100.000 inhabitants, the half of them living in the Central Core, and the rest in several others founded in the 1960s as Colonization New Towns. Although the principal activity is the agriculture, an important touristic development has also taken place.



BETWEEN TWO SEAS

The central core has grown around the historic city, occupying a narrow fringe of land between two seas: the Mediterranean to the West and the Plastic Sea to the West. Besides the historic district, the urban structure is composed by other four areas:

- To the East, the shoreline neighbourhoods, along La Romanilla Beach and the harbour.
- To the North new districts with important facilities: a mall, a cultural centre, a sports palace, a bullring, the Public Market, the Bus Station and a little further an Aquarium and a Congress Hall.
- To the West marginal settlements breaking through the Plastic Sea with certain disorder and chaos.
- And to the South a narrow but long touristic district with hotels, a golf course, and other facilities



ECONOMIC FACTS

Roquetas de Mar is the functional capital of the Agro-City or Agro-Metropolis, since it is the biggest town in the Western region of the conurbation of Almería, the place where the greenhouse was invented and the starting point of the agricultural “miracle” or revolution that has transformed this land in a few years:

- This agriculture provides 40% of the provincial GDP (Gross Domestic Product) and 22% of total employment
- This area has the record of national horticultural exports, and worldwide in some vegetable products
- Almería’s greenhouses spend 22 times less energy than similar plantations in Central Europe
- The Plastic Sea acts as a huge CO₂ sink of 300 km² and reduce the temperature by reflecting sunrays
- The use of water is 12 times more efficient than in traditional agriculture by drop irrigation systems
- Innovation techniques have achieved biological pest control and traceability for food quality and security

At the same time, Roquetas de Mar has become an attractive international touristic centre.

- The municipal core of Aguadulce was the first place in Spain classified as of National Tourist Interest (1963)
- The tourist establishments in Roquetas agglutinate 80% of employment and 40% of total rooms in Almería
- The tourist stay is higher than the National and Andalusian averages
- 25% of total visitors are foreigners, highlighting the family tourism model



SOCIAL SINGULARITY

These economic strengths have induced some peculiarities in social structure. First of all, spectacular rates of population growth: in 1960 there were 7.013 inhabitants in the municipality, and in 2020 this figure had increased to 100.662. That means an average rate of 4,54% a year, six or seven times the national average, sustained for 60 years. It is for long the Spanish municipality that grows the most, due above all to immigration. The rate of foreign population is 32%, triple than Spanish average, belonging to 102 different countries: about 1/3 come from outside the European Union, 1/3 from the North of Africa (mainly Morocco) and the remaining 1/3 from the rest of Africa. More than 200 different languages are spoken, since in these countries there are several dialects in use. In 2011 the Ministry of Development classified Spanish towns by a “foreigner ship index”. Of course, Roquetas de Mar was the first in the row, very far from the second whose index was 26,76%. The average index in Spain was 7,39%, four times less than in Roquetas.

To integrate so complex population is therefore the most complicated challenge for the town. The success of the integration policies has made Roquetas de Mar to become a reference in a way of key interest for Europe since the experience with immigration is relevance for what other countries receiving the arrival of many foreign people will face in next future. According to this immigration pressure, in many social studies Roquetas has been qualified as one of the most vulnerable town in Spain. The *Spanish Municipalities Vulnerability Report* (elaborated in 2015 by a government entity) concluded that Roquetas was the second town in Spain at risk of a theoretical economic crisis, consideration that has been denied by reality and by the following facts:

- At least 60% of immigrants is considered “fairly or very integrated” in the local society and half of total foreigners want to stay and live here forever (University of Almeria Report, 2011)
- The crime rate per capita is lower than the average for Andalusia, and about half that of other national tourist locations and towns with a high rate of immigrant population (according to the General Council of the Judiciary Report, 2017)

URBAN PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES

The speed of growth and its special economic and social circumstances generate serious, peculiar problems in the urban tissue and structure, but at the same time they offer opportunities for interesting urban innovations. The most relevant problems have been mentioned in the paragraph *Main Aims of the Proposal*, and they are:

- Intense land occupation and strong competition between agricultural greenhouses on the one hand, and residential units and tourist areas on the other. The pressure of urban and agricultural uses is permanent along the borderline between both from North to South.
- In some sections of this border there are symptoms of degradation of urban edges and chaotic periphery
- There are huge urban voids in the urban tissue. The project site is part of one of them.
- The urban landscape needs landmarks, identity and social integration. Conceived as references in a too uniform and flat urban reality, with too many depersonalized examples, and only a few of outstanding cases
- A housing model of sustainable construction and social integration is also needed. Recycling, efficiency, renewable energies and similar concepts must be achieved to urban and architectural actions.
- Any architectural and urban operation must contribute to fight against existing segregation and inequalities between neighborhoods. It has been remarked that the buildings and open spaces of best quality occupy the North and the East areas of the town, while the developments to West are marginal and disordered. Finally, the touristic district occupies a Southern, long, narrow fringe along the Mediterranean shoreline and limited by the Plastic Sea at the other side. Notice the constriction of this area in the North, where both seas approach until almost touching each other.



5: AN INTERESTING TERRITORY FOR URBAN INNOVATION

fight against segregation and inequalities between neighborhoods

urban voids as opportunities for revitalization

degradation of urban edges and chaotic periphery

the urban landscape needs landmarks, identity and visual references

a housing model of sustainable construction and social integration is needed.

intense land occupation competition between agricultural greenhouses, residential units and tourist areas. >>



ROQUETAS DE MAR (ALMERÍA)

main urban challenges

ALFONSO RUBÍ CASSINELLO _architect | PABLO GARCÍA-FELICER _architect

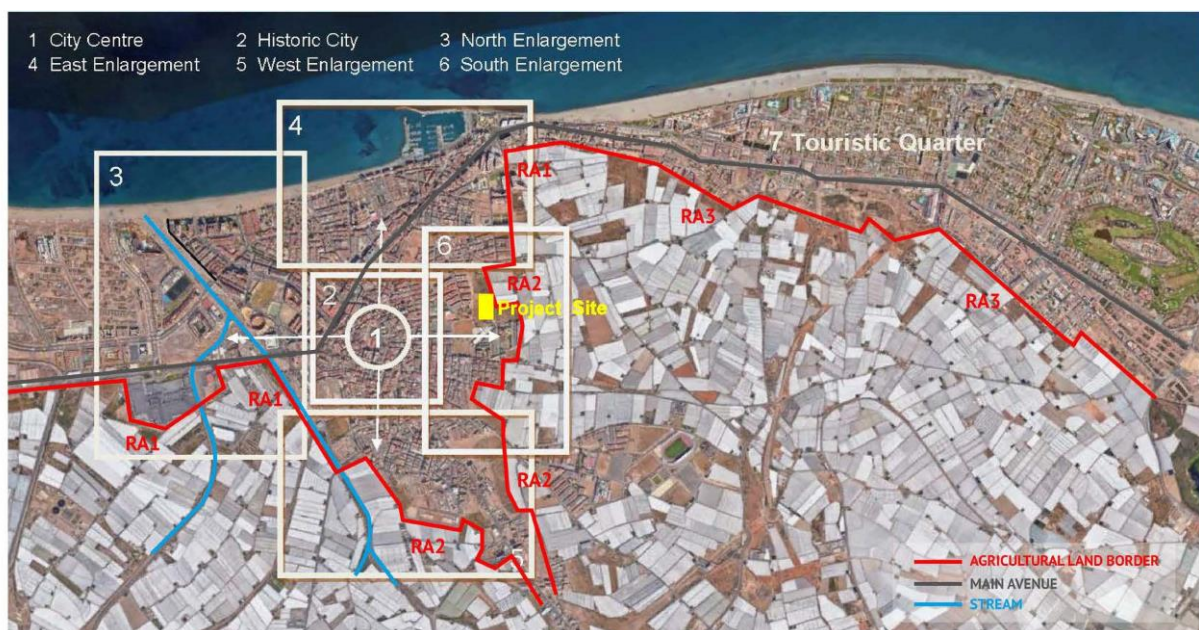


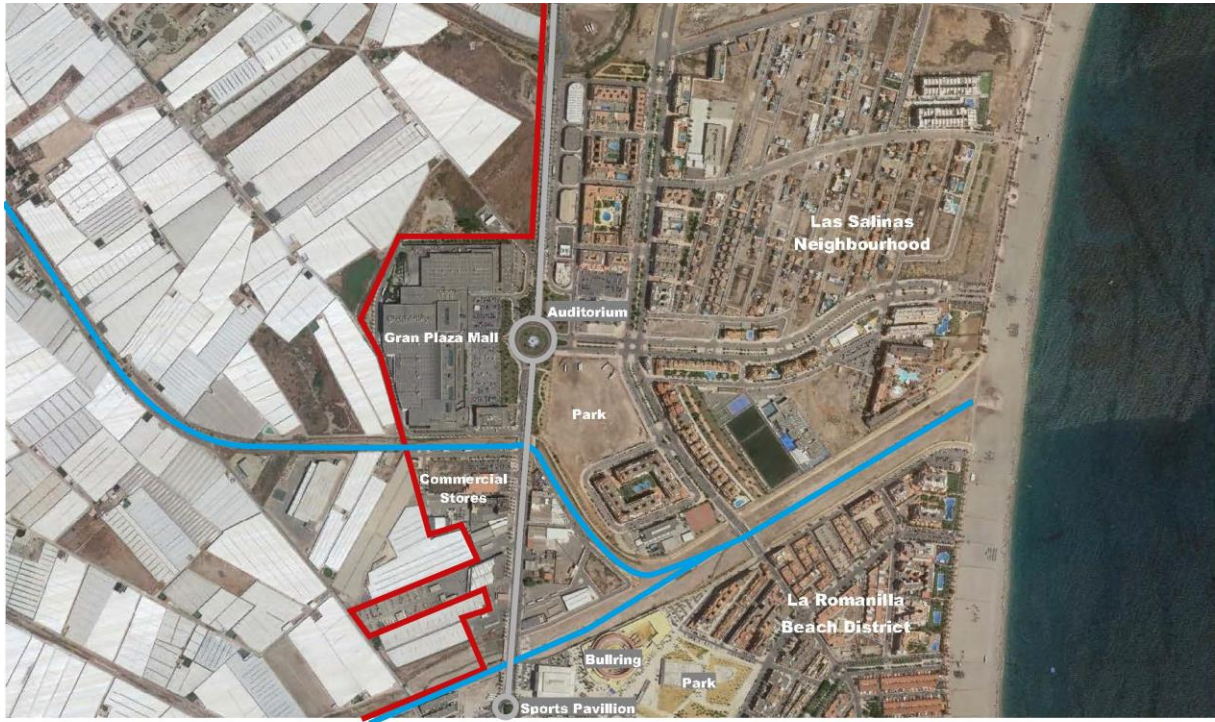
Aerial view of the conurbation

URBAN STRUCTURE

The original core of the town is where the City Centre or Downtown is placed. From it, the town is growing in the four directions of the compass rose:

- To North outstanding services have been built: the Public Market, the bull ring, the biggest park of the city, the Bus Station, a Sports Hall, the Mall (Gran Plaza) in the middle of a commercial area, a very lively cultural centre,... and some residential areas of modern comfortable houses, close to the shoreline occupied by a long beach. Further north we find an Aquarium and a Congress Palace.
- To East there are also residential units composed mainly of single-family homes with private swimming pools and gardens. Another section of urban quality linked to coast line until the harbor and the Santa Ana Castle built between 1501 and 1522 as a defensive fortress against attacks of pirates and other dangers coming through the sea. Beside it there were an old Fisher's Quarter substituted by the new housing.
- To West more marginal, disordered neighborhoods have been built, most of them inhabited by immigrants. Their growth has opened a gap in the Plastic Sea, in the form of a narrow linear strip to Southwest.
- To South there is a transition area between the Western and Eastern Sections, pressing to the agricultural uses. This extension of greenhouses arrives close to the harbor, almost closing the urban tissue, forming unless a constriction for developments to South along the coastline.
- From that point to South a Touristic Quarter has developed. Hotels, Apartments, a Golf Course and other facilities, as well as single family homes, with a long beach of fine-grained sand occupying the shoreline.

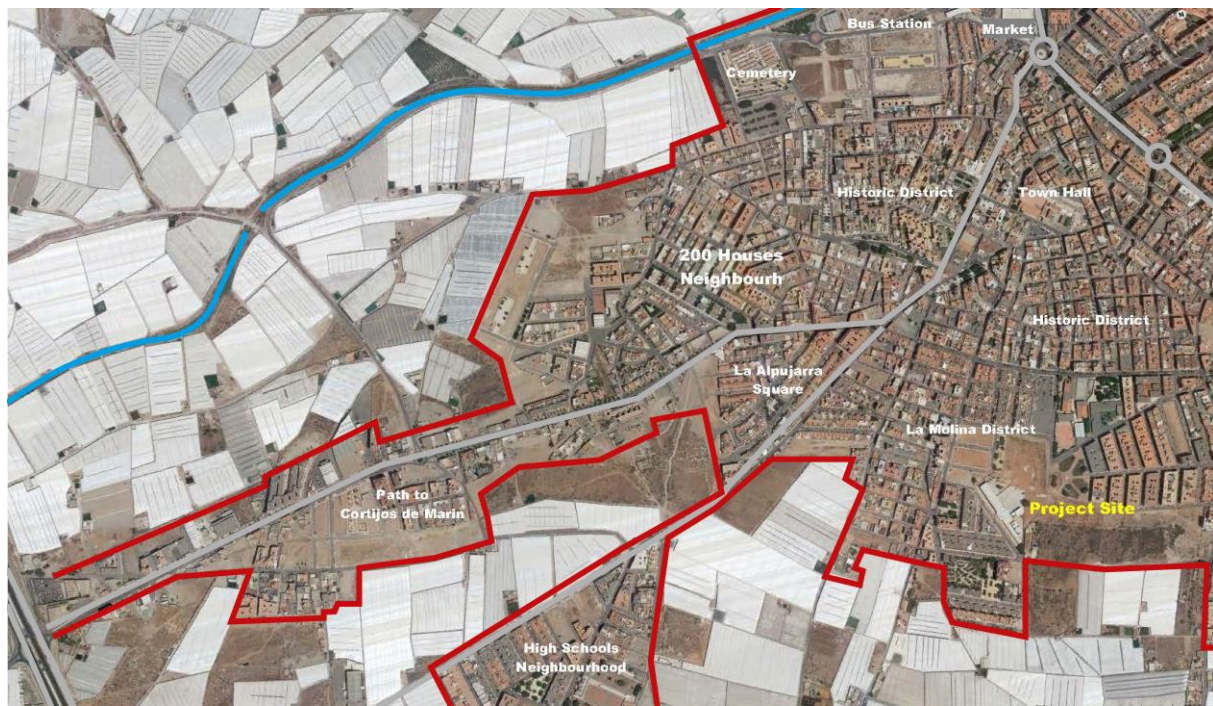




NORTH ENLARGEMENT



EAST ENLARGEMENT



WEST ENLARGEMENT



AERIAL VIEW OF SOUTH ENLARGEMENT AROUND THE HARBOR, NORTH SECTION OF THE TOURISTIC QUARTER, AND CONSTRICTION OF THE URBAN TISSUE PRODUCED BY THE PLASTIC SEA OF GREENHOUSES AT THIS POINT

STUDY SITE

First of all, the borderline between urban and agricultural soil reflects the strong pressure exercised by each other. This is one of the prominent factors in the growth and development of the town, and it is produced along the whole inner limit of the town from North to South, with three different cases:

- RA1 on developed, ordered urban tissue (North Enlargement and harbor section of East Enlargement). In these areas the border is formed by straight segments, as the pressure on the agricultural soil is made by big spacious actions, subjected to rational plans.
- RA2 on the more marginal messy neighborhoods existing in the West Enlargement. The border in these areas is a broken line, since it is the result of smaller invasive actions. There are symptoms of degradation and chaos in some points expecting regeneration.
- RA3 finally, on the Tourist District settled from the Harbor to South, that is also ordered

This borderline is not a fixed limit since the pressure provokes variations moving it forward or back in function of oscillations in the real-estate market, driven by competition of urban development and intensive agriculture. A reflection about these facts is proposed as one of the aims of this competition. Some proposals to solve or at least diminish and order the situation are expected.



The Project Site is a land adjacent to that border line of pressure in a singular position, between the West and East Enlargement, and it is affected by this phenomenon. One of the effects of the ensemble to build there should be to stop the advance of agricultural soil in the area through a unique real-estate operation.

It is part of an urban void where there are some singular elements, mainly three educative centers:

- A Kindergarten ("*La Rosaleda*") with 130 children, almost all of them immigrants (97%)
- A Middle School ("*La Molina*") with 720 pupils, being immigrants 75% of them
- A High School ("*Algazul*") with 660 students, where the proportion of immigrants reaches 1/3 (65%)

Other elements in the area are a small park (or landscaped square) "*los Comediantes*" and a small but interesting Botanic Garden, besides several empty land plots. Because of its situation in the urban structure this set may become a link between marginal settlements existing to West, and those of more quality to East. Looking forward ideas about how to fulfill this role, the linear Reflection Area described above, widens at this place, embracing all the void around the Project Site.



PROJECT SITE

The Project Site is public land, owned by Roquetas City Council. In previous comments, it has been set up that it is located in the Southern Area of the Central Core of the town, between *La Molina* and *Las Lomas* Districts. The first is a neighborhood included in the West Enlargement, that therefore shares the disorder and chaos of surface characteristic of this part of the town, and the other belongs to the East Enlargement, much more ordered and with higher quality buildings and open spaces. As it has been said, this position allows to consider the project as an element that must link these two so different urban areas, acting as a referential landmark in the urban tissue and in the borderline where pressure on competing urban and agricultural uses, takes place.



Its total surface is about 12.000 m², and the land is roughly plain. Official planning has divided the Site into three plots for different uses: a residential one for housing, a parcel for social facilities (both with trapezoidal shape), and a L-shaped green area for outdoor activities. This one and the residential plot are separated by a street that may be of exclusive pedestrian use. This ordination (including the form and position of the three plots) is normative, what means that has been transacted and approved by official urban entities, and that any change must be submitted to new processing and approval.

The official plan establishes a maximum volume to build for every use, that can't be exceeded in any case:

- The residential plot has a surface of 1.858 m² and a six storeys block may be built on it: ground floor and four high storeys occupying the whole plot, and an attic whose fronts must be three meters back of the outer alignments of the block.
- The Social Equipment has a plot of 3.602 m² where two complete storeys may be built.
- The open space occupies 5.401 m² and the street that may be pedestrian is 72 m long and 12 m wide.

This project site is part of an urban ensemble named UE-78.2.B. The rest of the plots are destined to private houses. The UE-78.2.A is adjacent, and the project site may include the plots of Open space (1.049 m²) and Social Equipment (1.165 m²). Although this inclusion would improve the urban and architectural solution, it would complicate the process to approve changes in the official planning.



Aerial view of the Project Site from North West



UE-78.2.B

Plots areas

Residential (Housing).....	1.858 m2 s (gf + 4 + attic)
Open Space (Green Area)	5.401 m2 s
Social Equipment.....	3.602 m2 s (x 2 storeys)

The maximum Residential block volume is 9.399 built m2 in 6 storeys (ground floor + 4 high levels + attic) Basements are allowed besides

PROJECT AREA



View of the Project Site from South East corner looking to North West



View of the Project Site from South West corner looking to North East



View of the Project Site from North East corner looking to South West



View of the Project Site from North West corner looking to South East

NEEDS PROGRAM

The residential block may be projected with any type of houses (even lofts) complemented with spaces for work (co-working type, for instance, mainly in the ground floor). The maximum built volume allowed above ground is 9.399 m². Besides, basements for car parking spaces are also authorized. These elements will be offered preferably to young people to live and work here.

The two storeys social equipment will contain an International Integration Centre, neighborhood relationship facilities, a games library, spaces for leisure, and similar amenities. Although ideas and free compositions will be welcome, it is suggested that the building will make possible to develop activities as the following:

- Education for everybody by groups (seniors, young people, children, families...) through lessons, lectures, seminars and courses in History, Art, Literature, Languages... Digital literacy, health (motherhood, sexuality, healthy habits, food advice...), awareness for family connivance... Library, conference halls and classrooms.
- Specific education for immigrants: Spanish language, cultural immersion in customs, traditions and values: respect, tolerance, communication, diversity, cohesion, equality, solidarity and any subject to help them to increase their integration in local communities.
- Information about all kind of existing resources in neighborhoods and at municipal and regional levels.
- Directed and assisted study, preparation of exams and oppositions. Summer Schools and Urban Camps. Guided visits to museums, relevant places, picnics to know local environment... Formation in recycling, circular economy, global heating, energy efficiency, renewal sources, savings and consumption reduction.
- Permanent education for adults, tutoring for schoolchildren, job orientation helping to look for occupations and training to improve professional skills. Attention for unemployed. Vocational guidance for youth.
- Occupational therapy and leisure: workshops for cooking, manual activities and crafts, theatre, music, dancing... Psychological support for mental diseases, addictions, anxiety, depressions, and other disorders.
- Legal advice about social rights, gender equality, and any kind of conflicts and disputes.
- The *Game Library* means a bet mainly for children to grow as persons achieving education by ludic methods
- Offices and administrative spaces for managers, monitors, instructors, volunteers and team works.

In summary as built spaces, the Social Equipment must contain at least with an assembly hall for 200 persons (or more), standard classrooms, an ICT classroom, multipurpose room, meeting rooms, workshops for crafts, a reading hall and library, leisure and musical resources spaces, dressing rooms and of course toilets, facilities rooms and services, offices and administrative spaces. The whole building must be accessible for people with functional diversity.

The open space must be integrated in the ensemble, not only as green area but also as place for sports (at least a multipurpose sports court) games and other outdoor activities and amenities.

Finally, it is necessary to remark the aims of the competition: urban metabolism and social integration. Thus, the proposals must enhance these two aspects, as it has been exposed at the beginning of this Brief (page 4: Main Aims of the Proposals). In this way it is opportune to remember the principles of sustainable architecture, and particularly as it has been conceived and developed by Lacaton & Vassal, awarded with the last Prize Pritzker.