

**LISBON**

Studio Sergison  
Diploma 2025

Lisbon, south shore: the estuary at the centre.





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Aerial view of Lisbon metropolitan area



## Introduction

The site we have been assigned, the town of Montijo, lies to the south site of the river Tagus. While Lisbon has a population of just over 0.5 million people, our site forms part of the wider metropolis and a population of nearly 3 million people. Lisbon is one of the oldest cities in the world, and this can be in part explained by the favourable geographic conditions it holds.





Montijo is rather typical of the settlements that lie along the southern shore of the river estuary. The Vasco da Gama bridge completed in 1998 and ferry crossings ensures that the residents can find employment in the Portugese capital city. The urban morphology of this settlement reveals a loosefit rather unplanned building fabric. The settlement has expanded to the west in more recent times, and to the south west wetlands and a ferry terminal.

Our work will focus on the need to offer a clearer urban structure and to attend to a number of themes that might contribute to improving this place in the future.

Areal view of Montijo







Location plan of  
the area under investigation



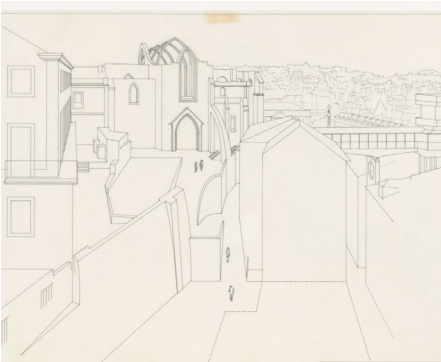




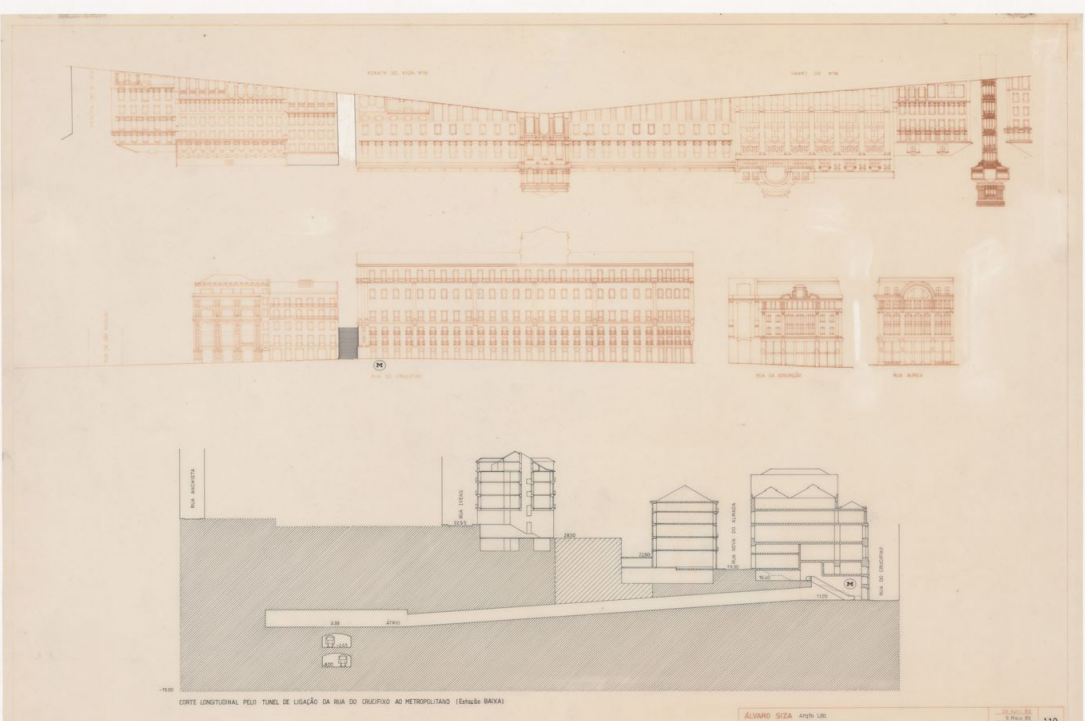




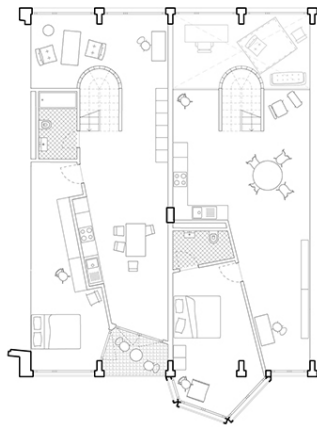
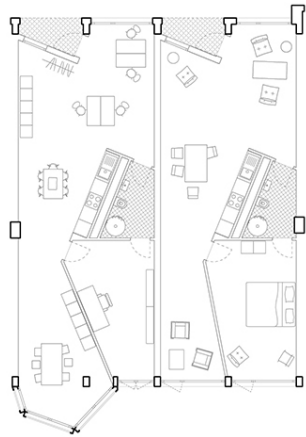
The first theme is re-use. The possibility to remodel existing buildings that can be found within the existing urban ensemble. There are currently many structures in Montijo that lie in different states of abandonment or delapidation.



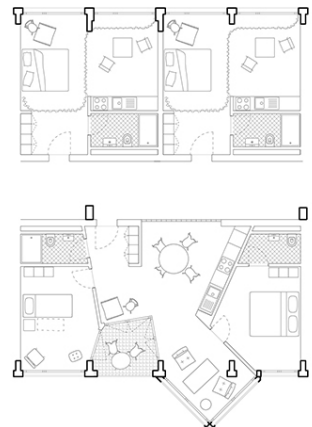
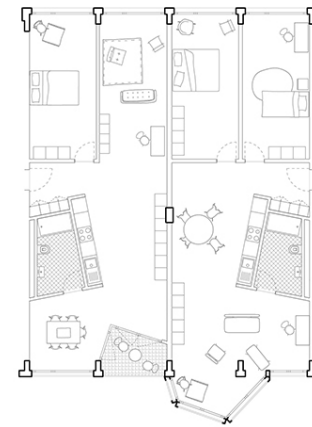
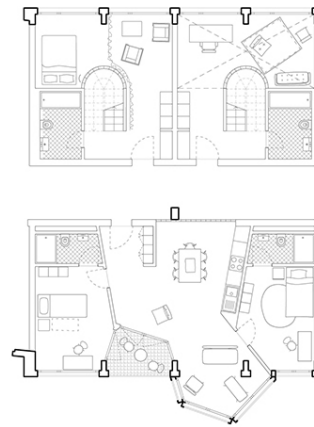
1, 2, 3  
Reconstruction of Chiado district  
1988-2013  
Álvaro Siza Vieira







1



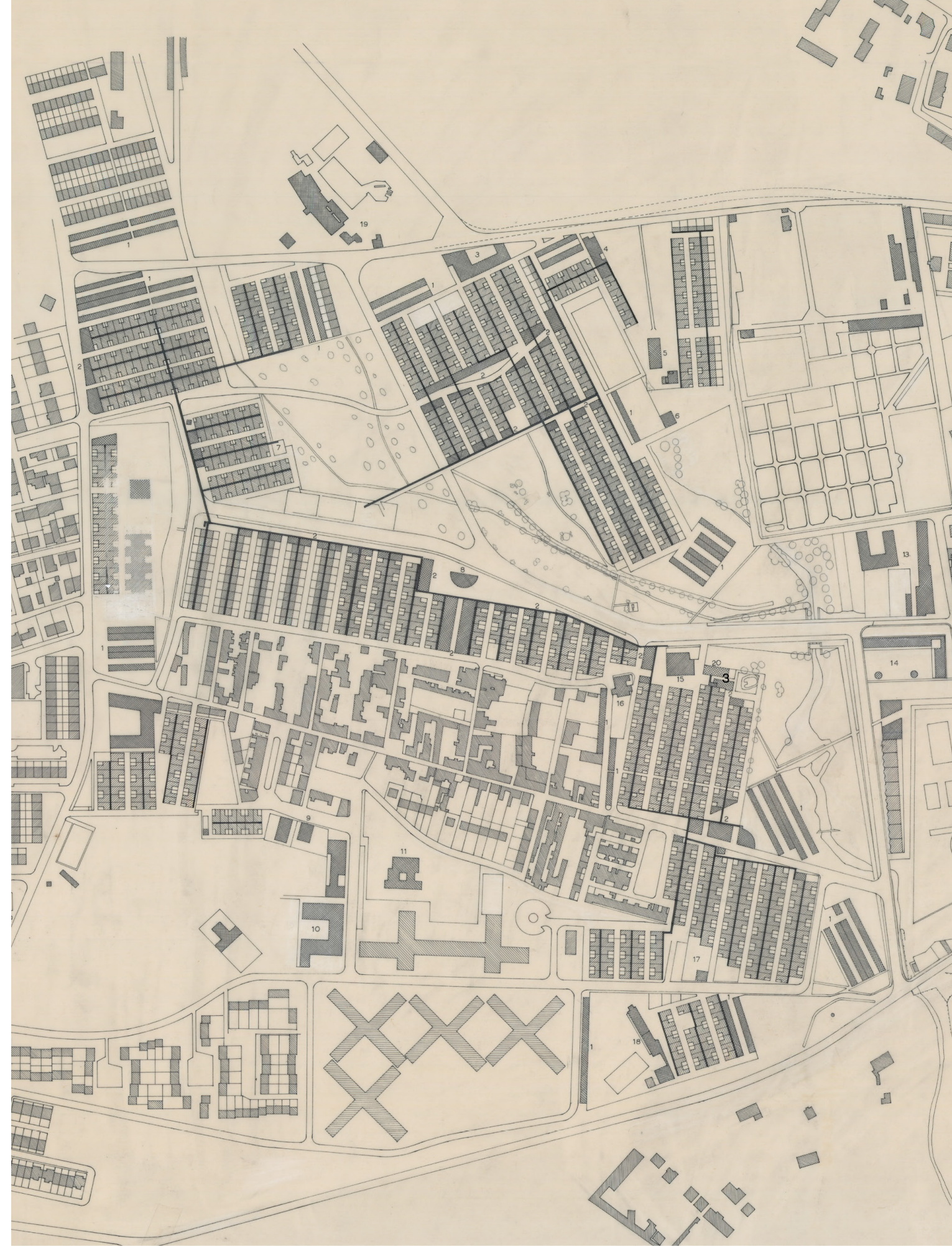
2

1, 2  
The courtyard effect:  
the potential of negative space  
Diploma, 2024  
Marina Bruno



## The street

The second theme is street. The neighbourhood of Malagueira, an extension of Evora, is a new settlement created over many decades by Alvaro Siza, working with landscape architect Joao Gomes de Silva. This is an important example of settlement making where housing types have been developed taking account of existing examples. And the application of an network of aquaducts that as an infrastructures that services the neighbourhoods. In this instance refering to the older one that can be found in Evora. The plan that has been developed is conceived of as a series of short streets. The theme of the place inbetween is felt in terms of blocks of neighbourhoods and amenity.



Quinta da Malagueira Housing  
1973-1977  
Alvaro Siza Vieira





1  
Social housing SAAL bouca  
1973-1978  
Álvaro Siza Vieira



The third theme is ground floor uses. The need to question how building programme can act as a threshold between public and private spaces. Again Evora helps in this understanding. The small courtyard spaces are a way of dealing with this question.

Quinta da Malagueira Housing  
1973-1977  
Álvaro Siza Vieira







1

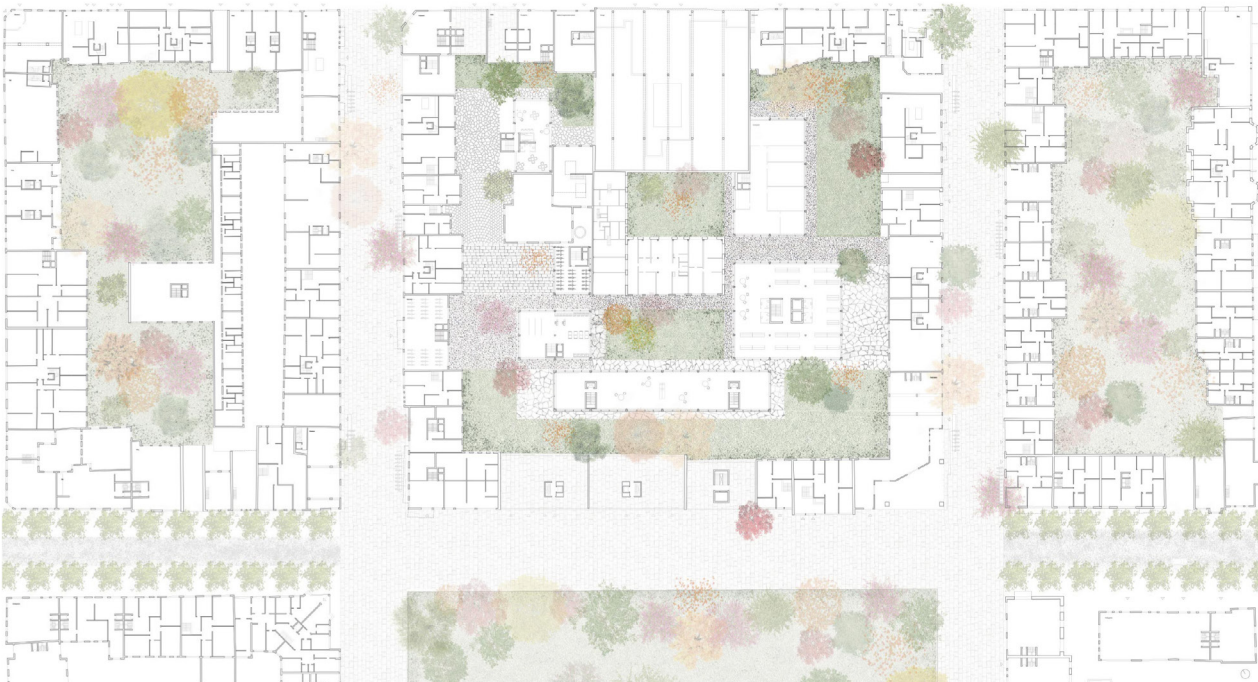


2

1  
Rua da Vitoria  
Lisbon  
2  
Social housing SAAL bouca  
1973-1978  
Álvaro Siza Vieira



The fourth theme is greening the city. The need to manage efficiently water collection and to create more unbound surfaces in urban situations. And the need to plant trees that are resilient to the hot and dry summers in Portugal and offer shade and cooling.



Living inside the block  
Diploma, 2024  
Tahnee Rutter





1

1  
075  
2017-2019  
Fala Atelier  
2  
O'Higgins 1625  
2020-2024  
Adamo Faiden



2



In contemporary terms the way we live and where we work is shifting. In part aided by advances made in communication technology. But also lifestyle choices.  
Projects should take acoount of this and the wider needs of the community that lives and works in Montijo.



1

- 1  
Casa estudio en castelo de vide  
2024  
Atelier Landauer
- 2  
Casa 0006  
2022  
Taller11
- 3  
Casa 088  
2018  
Fala Atelier



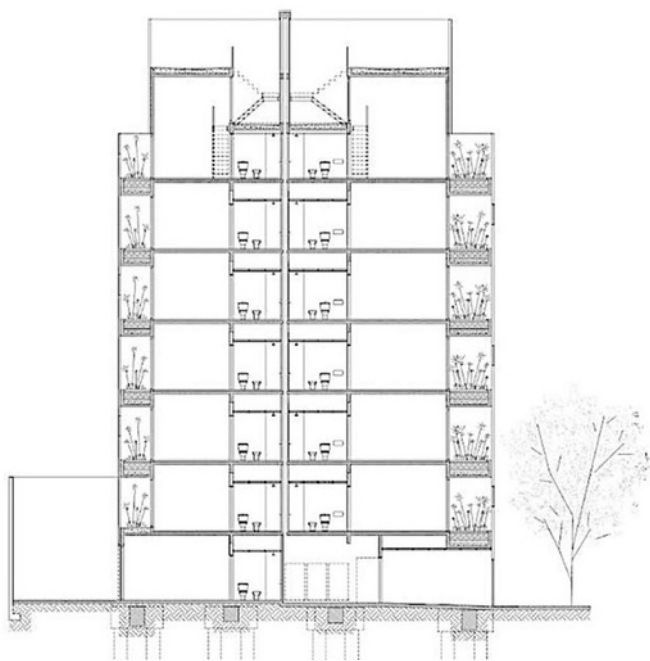
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3



The last theme is to build responsibly. When it is necessary to build a new structure, it is necessary to conceive of its construction carefully. To consider the act of building and longer term maintenance in relation to environmental impact. To use material efficiently and sparingly.

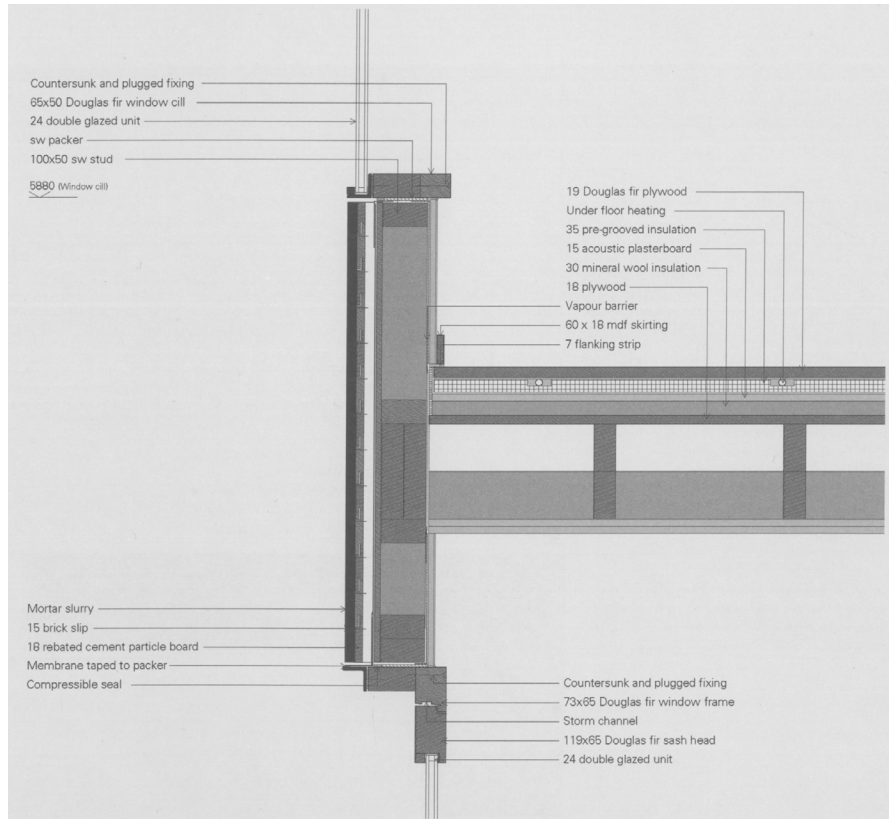
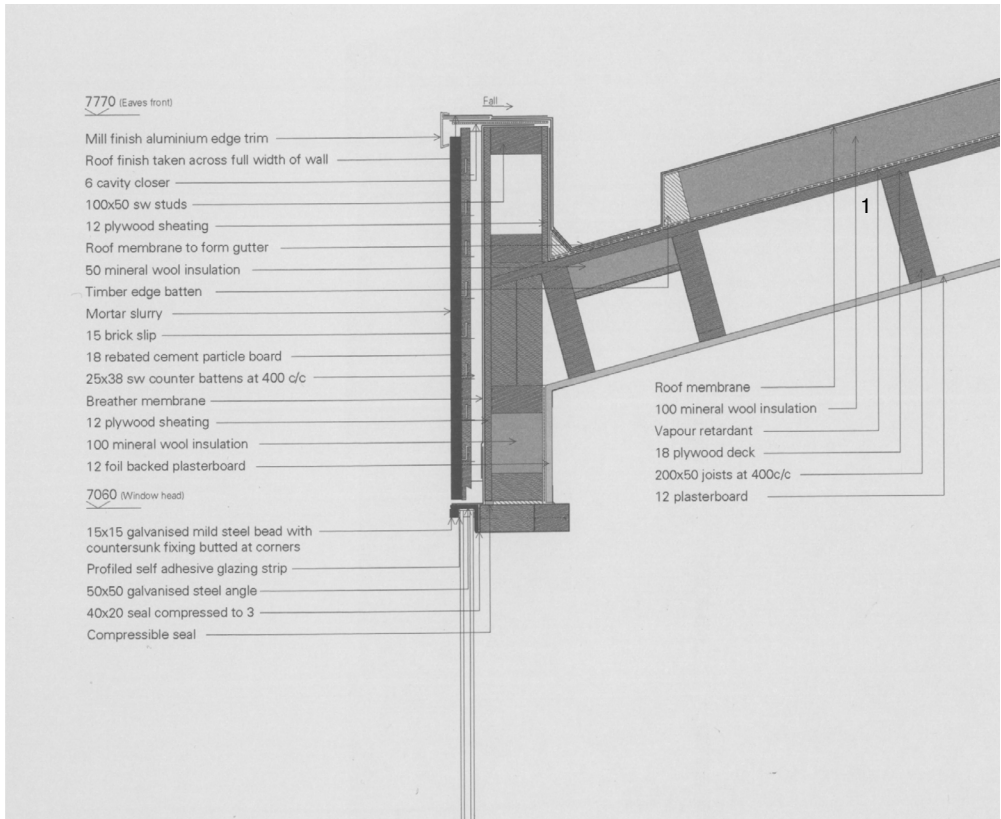


1  
Bonpland 2169 building  
2016 - 2018  
Adamo Faiden

2  
Transformation of Nørrehus Courtyard  
2014- 2016  
Johansen Skovsted







1, 2  
Studio House  
2000-2024  
Sergison Bates architects



In this studio we hold the position that invention is a necessary ambition in architecture, but it rarely emerges by spontaneous intuition. In general, architects only develop truly unique proposals after many years of study and reflection. It is questionable if true originality can in fact be achieved, in view of the wealth of examples the history of world architecture offers.

To help you understand the task that you will be attending to this semester we would like you to undertake a survey at the scale of the city. This will ensure a clearer understanding of what you are engaging with and help design a building that is suited to its purpose.

You will work in pairs to investigate key themes, including history, the relationship between bound and unbound surfaces, the public realm and its spaces, housing as a typology, embodied energy, public-use buildings, and the wider urban territory. These surveys will serve as a critical foundation for your work throughout the semester, shaping your understanding of the site and informing the role your project may ultimately play within the city.

Survey of uses  
Diploma 2024  
Atelier Sergison





The first component of the work to be undertaken this semester requires you to develop a strategy plan. This can be understood as a typological and massing study. The principal tool to assist you in this exercise will be a 1:100 model. This will be made collectively and will encompass a wider area than the site in which your work is situated.

We ask you to begin by exploring a range of solutions that would allow the site you are studying to be developed to a reasonably high density with a suitable urban morphology, while giving priority to reuse.

Each study or option you propose should be recorded photographically and then critically appraised to test the density it yields. This, in turn, should be further developed, refined or discarded as appropriate.

This should be understood as an iterative process that will help you develop the idea for the project you will be working on throughout the semester. Our study trip should be used as an opportunity to understand the scale and existing urban structure of the city.



Pasajes residenciales  
2017  
Palafito arquitectura



The results of previous studies should now be reappraised and drawn upon to produce the next instalment of this semester's work. We would now like you to develop a more precise concept for a building or buildings in relation to the wider context.

The principal tool we ask you to use is a 1:200 study or sketch model, which should include an appropriate portion of the urban context. This is really the start of the piece of work you will be producing this semester. We are interested in the qualities of the buildings you design and how they are expressed through the organisation of the facades.

Your work should concentrate on the critical appraisal and further refinement of your earlier studies. While a model will be the key element, we expect you to develop study plans, elevations, sections, and sketches of your project. It is also important that you measure the density of your proposal.

In Between the Existing  
A spatial and social connection  
Diploma, 2024  
Irene d'Alessandro





At this stage of the semester you should already have a rudimentary understanding of your project in plan and section, and we now ask you to develop and test your ideas for building's facades within the framework of the strategy you have developed. The facades of your building(s) should be drawn as unwrapped elevations at scale 1:100 and translated into three-dimensional models. This piece of work should be undertaken with a clear concept of the image of your buildings in mind. What materials is the building made from? How do you intend to approach the arrangement of window openings? How does the building meet the ground, and how is the top of the building resolved? These are some of the many questions you should be asking yourself about the facade of your building.

Terraços de Bragança  
1992 - 2004  
Alvaro Siza Vieira





The next exercise requires you to produce two images. No specific graphic technique is prescribed, although you should be able to explain why you consider the technique you choose appropriate.

These images should represent the presence and atmosphere of your building. One of the images should depict the exterior and its relationship with the existing urban fabric, and the site of the project within the city and its immediate context. The second image should represent the interior and its qualities as a partly public, partly private space.

2  
Gundeli Commons. Cultural production  
and housing at Tellplatz  
Diploma, 2024  
Stefan Costache





As a convincing set of ideas for your building(s) emerge you will need to produce a set of drawings of some of the facades and sections of the building, all at scale 1:100.

You should also develop plans for the project at 1:200, 1:100, and at a larger scale where appropriate.

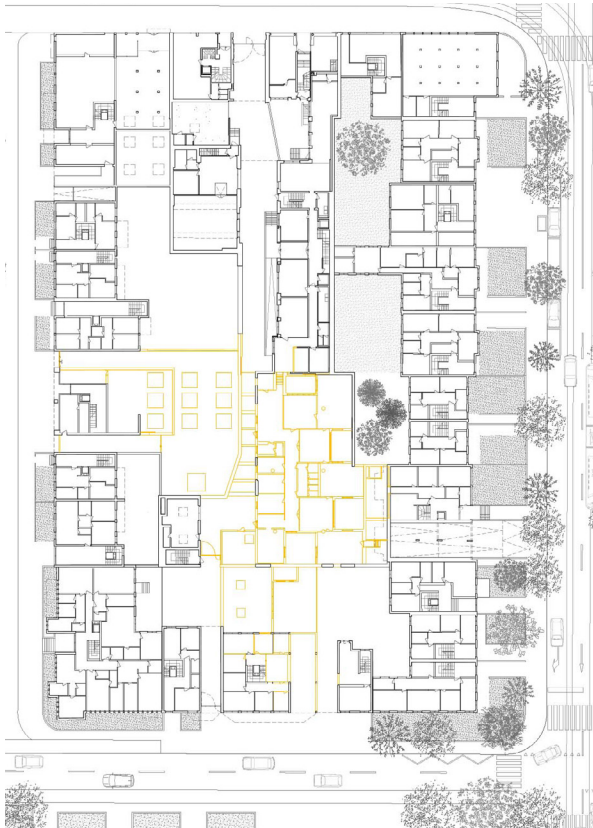
Repetition and variation in apartment plans should also be explored, together with other programmes that might be introduced, especially at ground floor level.

A landscape plan should be produced at a scale of 1:200 indicating an approach to landscaping and to the public realm in general.

The main piece of work to be completed is a final model at a suitably ambitious scale. You should choose the material for this model carefully – it should feel special!

You will also be expected to submit two ‘atmospheric’ perspectives of the final version of your project.

Finally, you should produce a .pdf or PowerPoint presentation describing your project. This should be understood as an important tool for presenting your project at the final review, to explain the development of your work and the strategy you propose.



1, 2  
The sky in the room  
Diploma, 2024  
Anna Ferrario



Date	Event	Details	Assignments
03 February	Model meeting	with Taro Sakurai (TS)	
12 February	Tutorials	Survey introduction by Jonathan Sergison and Tobias Quezado Deckker	
21 February	Tutorials	Urban studies	1:1000 model studies 1:500 plans
7 March	Tutorials	Review of urban studies	1:500 model studies 1:500 plans
14 March	Tutorials	Review of urban studies	1:500 model studies and plans Perspectives
21 March	Tutorials	Review of urban studies	1:500 / 1:200 site model 1:500 plans and sections Interior/exterior perspectives
28 March	Tutorials	Preview of all work	1:500 / 1:200 site model 1:500 plans and sections Interior/exterior perspectives
02 April	Intermediate reviews	Project reviews with Diploma commission and guest critics Review of strategy plan	A separate note to be issued
11 April	Tutorials	Review of intermediate critic revisions	1:200 plans Study models
18 April	Review	Plan studies Elevation studies	1:200 plans Study models
25 April	Easter holidays		

Date	Event	Details	Assignments
2 May	Tutorials	Plan studies Elevation studies	plans, sections and elevations Study models, perspectives
9 May	Review	Review elevations	plans, sections and elevations Study models, perspectives
16 May	Tutorials	Elevations	plans, sections and elevations Study models, perspectives
23 May	Review	Review of projects	Start final models
30 May	Tutorial	Discussion of final model	Project revisions
9 June	Final reviews	Project reviews with Diploma commission and guest critics	1:1000 / 1:500 / 1:200 site models Final models (scale to be agreed) 1:100 / 1:200 ground floor plan 1:100 / 1:200 typical plan 1:100 / 1:200 elevations and sections Interior/exterior perspectives digital presentation



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