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Professor Doutor Pedro Rodrigues

[ijup@reit.up.pt](mailto:ijup@reit.up.pt)

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## Arnelas, archive of time and memories: architectural [inter]actions for the valorization of a riverside place

*Silva, Miriam, Faculdade de Arquitectura*

*Alves Costa, Ana, Faculdade de Arquitectura*

*Garrido de Oliveira, Carla, Faculdade de Arquitectura*

### Abstract

The aim of this survey, research and design is to create a public space that generates a reinterpretation of the uses linked to the river, without interfering with the landscape, promoting the participatory role of the population of Arnelas. Once, this typical village located on the left bank of the Douro River, held a strategic position in the trade of products between the Alto Douro region and the coastal territories. This position allowed it to establish itself as an important territory, in the 16th century. Although, the connection to the river is increasingly compromised by the disregard and consequent estrangement of people, as a result of the social, urban and economic disengagement. With its values threatened, the place requires immediate adaptation to meet the needs of contemporary society.

Considering the context, the Douro Litoral' territory, the proposal intends to design a platform to ensure sustainable dynamism, while preserving the identity of the place. The intention is to re-approach the population to the river, not copying the past, but adapting the place to the present's needs. The priority is to take advantage of the possibilities that the river offers. For this, it is imperative to design a space that promotes a new approach to the river, for development and conviviality, that ensures the preservation of history and built heritage.

The urban and architectural design, first ephemeral but permanent if effective, emerges from the context of the Festival, which takes place once a year. Almost as a manifesto, that like the *barcas de passagem*, the *valboeiros* or even, the *Rabelo* moves on the river and in the territory, regardless of its formal conception, representing the movements in the landscape, but above all people's contact with this landscape. It intends to give people a participative role in the place in order to build a common space, in harmony with the landscape, without forgetting tradition: (in)formally, building a space of freedom.



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