

OUR COMMON FUTURE IN URBAN MORPHOLOGY [Vol 1]

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Campo Alegre, 1940-1994. The evolution and persistence of a territorial intend

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The work we propose to present is about Campo Alegre¹, in the city of Oporto. It focuses a set of urban plans designed between the 40's and the 90's for the area. Our objective is to review each of these plans by considering the overlapping layers that have built Campo Alegre throughout time. Although these plans propose a complete change of Campo Alegre's form, we believe that they always interpret the character of the existing area - certain features of Campo Alegre persist through time, even if its form changes. Campo Alegre is a large area of high, flat land, on Douro's riverbank. In the first half of the 20th century, Campo Alegre was chosen as the site for a new bridge over Douro, which was part of the major national motorway network. The plans we plan to study aimed to design the bridge, its links to the local road network and the access to the motorway. They also planned to transform Campo Alegre from rural into urban: design a new city center, a fresh image of Oporto. Renowned architects participate in these plans, namely Giovanni Muzio, Fernando Távora and Januário Godinho, which represent different views on the construction of urban fabric. Our work is informed by contemporary published documentation and archival documents. For the interpretation of each of these documents, we resort to graphic representation. By redesigning each of the Campo Alegre's plans over its predated situation, we analyze the evolution of its urban form throughout the last century.

Key Words: Porto, contemporary architecture, urban morphology, design.