

AIM OF THE INTERVENTION

The public space of the Paseo de la Ría is a gift to the City of Huelva from the Huelva Port Authority. It is the new waterfront of the future urban extension of the town, now at its first stage of construction. At the same time, the new promenade is introducing in the memory of the citizens a new green image that will counteract the previous one of the polluted activities that were invading a significant territory close to the town.

This is the first time that the citizens have an opportunity to use a wide pedestrian leisure space along the waters of the Odiel River. Previously, the harbour docks had been inaccessible to the public since they were built. Now the main shipping activities have been moved far away from the central front of the town and the docks are more accessible.

DESCRIPTION

This public space reclaimed to the water is divided into two zones. The longitudinal zone close to Avenida Montenegro is occupied by different amoebic-shaped islands -25.000sq m - with undulating green dunes where 1000 high pines (pinus pinea), grow - which recreate the landscape of the protected wetland park located on the right riverbank. Among these dunes, street lights, benches, kiosks for toilets, bars and other different activities, are inserted. Four differently shaped undulating elevations stand out. Each one forms a three-grade amphitheatre partly covered by fine concrete pergolas supported by steel columns shaped as floating amoebas.

The other zone, which has no parterres or kiosks, has a width of 25 meters to walk freely next to the water. The railing is a replica of the existing one in the old harbour.

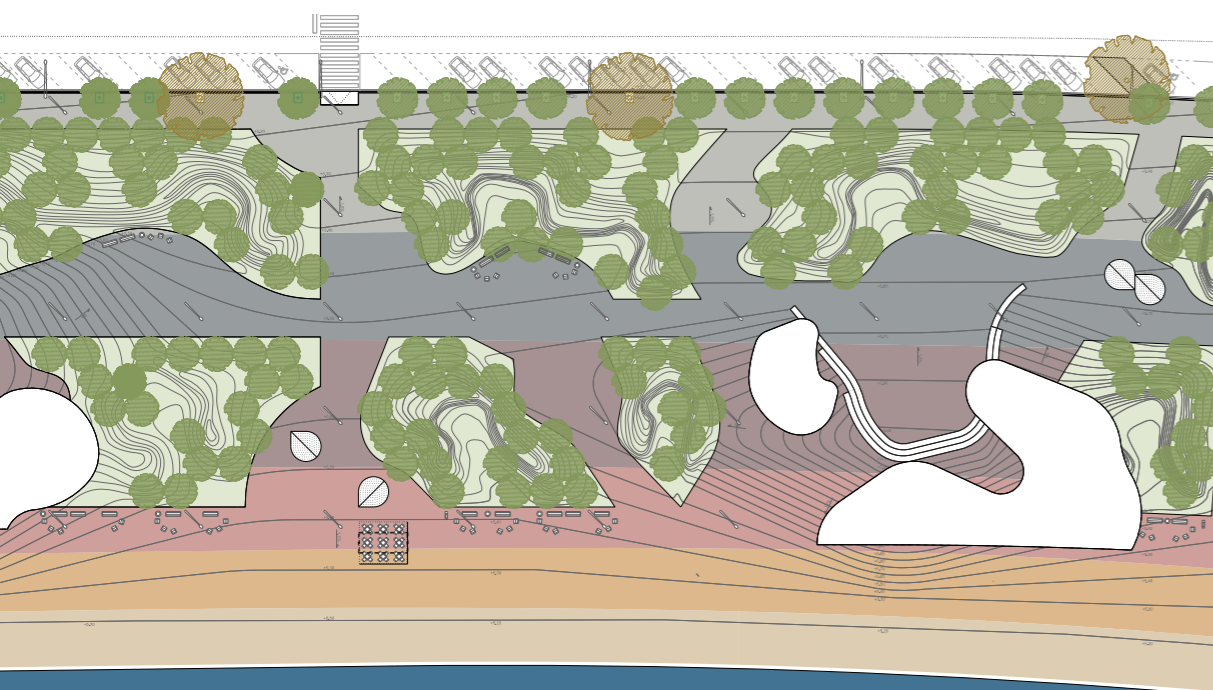
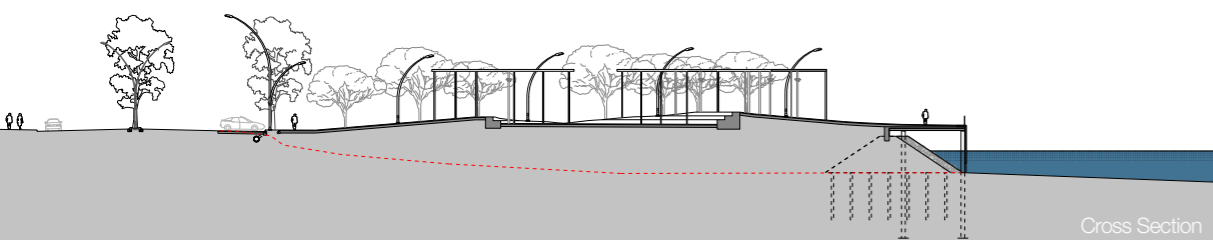
All the spaces not occupied by the green dunes are paved with pavers arranged in strips of five different colours that evoke the ones of the soil of the Mines of Rio Tinto. These bands are superimposed as if they were a festoon. The width of the walk decreases and is curled when it meets the ancient Río Tinto Mine Mineral Charger, a protected industrial landmark in order to accentuate and respect its presence.

ASSESSMENT

The Paseo de la Ría has appeared as a new unexpected and pleasant city communal living space. Since its opening day, the promenade has become the biggest park-gathering public space in town, and the most used one. The amphitheatres are being active with music concerts, children performances and small theatre plays; some kiosks offer "tapas" and drinks, and they are open until late at night in summertime, other ones offer rental bike service, children's games, and souvenirs from Huelva.



M.C.



L.J.

