

The Gymnastics Training Center of Guimarães, located at the East limit of the city park, was conceived for the practice and training of high performance gymnastics. Result of an initiative of the Guimarães Town Hall to create a new sports equipment that regenerates a “residual” area of the city, the building followed a series of strategies to create a meeting moment thinking, not only in gymnasts, but also in all the people who use the city park daily. The building, connected with the Ecovia, is a key point in the new mobility network that crosses and unifies the whole city. Sitting between two pre-existing streets - one at a higher level that is the main street, and other, on a lower level, that limits the city park and is used for exclusive access to the Training Center – the building looks for

scale and references on the surroundings, using its volumetric presence to create another element that integrates the walking paths in the park. The intervention has a clear urban nature since the building itself is public space. Starting at the higher level, the roofed square becomes an amazing terrace over the city allowing a view of some of Guimarães most important historical monuments. From this point, two stairs allow the access to the lower level: one that crosses the building in the middle and gives the access to the main entrance and another, next to the north façade, that gives access to the main square – the place of permanence par excellence, with a clear configuration, punctuated by benches and trees. From this square the walking paths,

around the building, are drawn and the green areas established. In the south, the presence of the pond seems to culminate the water lines path that crosses the park and serves also the refrigeration system of the building. The public spaces of the Gymnastics Training Center, with a generous dimension and different spatial qualities, allow a lot of experiences and attract people throughout the year thanks to its versatility. The presence of the building in the landscape and the light that radiates from the covered square in the late afternoon and during the night becoming it a new city symbol and encouraging a harmonious relationship with the peripheral areas and adjoining natural settings.



before the intervention



after the intervention