



photomap of the project in its urban context



In 2003 Madrid City Council decided to bury a 8km stretch of the city's first Ring Road, known as the M30, which runs around the city with its West section running through both banks of the river Manzanares. The Madrid Río project was part of the main engineering traffic renewal operation of the entire M30, which also involved a large set of construction works in different locations of the city

In 2005, half way through the construction process, the City Council held an open international competition to solve the enormous public open space that the tunneling of the motorway and its nodes had left vacant.

Our team regarded the project as a great geographical intervention, much bigger in scale than just the area left vacant by the burying of the motorway. It was essential to envision, understand, draw, and walk the river as a whole, from its source at the Sierras in the North of Madrid, to the plateaus and meadows in the South and somehow incorporate this experience and geographical reality into the project.

The Madrid Río project consists of the reorganization and the urban design of 6 miles of public space along the banks of the river, parts of the city of Madrid through which it flows.

The design of this big park with a surface of over 145 Ha is the visual consequence, or more precisely its materialization, which includes:

- 12 new pedestrian-bridges
- 6 Ha of public and sports facilities, social, communal and artistic amenities
- An urban beach
- Children's areas
- The restoration of the river's hydraulic architectural heritage.

Madrid Río as a whole is one of the biggest "urban mat-building" in the world. Vegetation was the main material used on top of it to create a dense and ecological environment, a living landscape on an inert underground substrate. It is perhaps one of the projects that best integrates large infrastructures and the built urban fabric with the natural environment that surround them.

The aim of the project was to make place where the landscape, the city, the architecture and the urban infrastructures combine to create a more diverse environment and a greener and more inhabitable city.