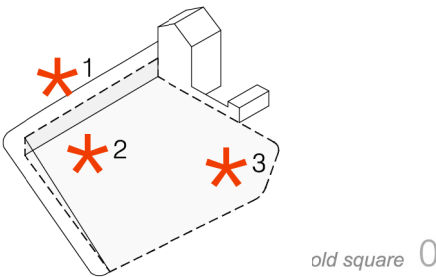


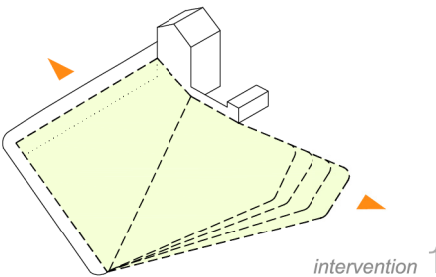


prior and subsequent to the intervention



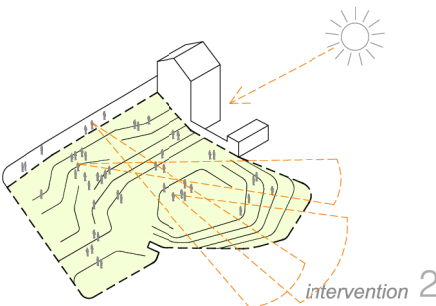
old square 0

(1) Limits: 5 meter slope, inaccessibility (2) Disused space, lack of accesses and places to stop at (3) Visual barriers, non-existent connection with the bay in the south, hidden places in the shade.



intervention 1

Land extension: elimination of the existing unevenness by means of walls and compacted fillings / Creation of accesses and interior routes.



intervention 2

Creation of stands-stairs to generate a visual opening, obtain views as well as places to stop at / Configuration of ludic platforms: areas for play and urban shows / Contribution to sunlight exposure in the winter by means of its orientation towards the south.

san martín de la mar square

landscape recovery by transforming a forgotten, unstructured and disused public space at santander

01 European Prize for Urban Public Space 2016
zigzag arquitectura bernardo angelini & david casino

J004

site _____ avenida reina victoria 28. santander, cantabria, spain
client _____ Santander City Council
gross area _____ 1.770 m2
budget _____ 167.780 € - 95 €/m2
building time _____ from 15.07.2014 to 31.08.2014 - 45 days

Previous estate

The space is situated on a side of Reina Victoria Avenue, one of the most important streets in Santander, which follows the south city contour and joins the historic centre with the beaches and the Sardinero area. In its ascent, the road is boxed amid high-rise buildings whose volume blocks the sight towards the bay. It is precisely at this point where the space referred to is located.

The old plaza, a forgotten place, was made up of paving asphalt, a very small space covered with grass, a disused bowling area, and some benches, hardly utilized due to the strong topographic unevenness of its perimeter, 5 metres high at some points. This difference in level produced a disconnection and isolation which hindered access to the place as well as its public and ludic use. Furthermore, it created security problems as it generated large visually isolated areas. The existing vegetation blocked the sight towards the bay, preventing any visual escape in this place surrounded by high-rise buildings and lacking any high quality public spaces.



site plan

Aim of intervention

The commission came from the Santander City Council who, from the start, expressed their views on the disuse and the problems of security and views existing in the place. At the same time, the 2014 Sailing World Championship in Santander was in sight. Hundreds of sailors would meet there as the competitions were to take place in the area of the bay located below Plaza de San Martín del Mar.

Some of the requirements to start the commission were the activation of the space through the substitution of very specific, rigid and underutilized programmes such as the existing bowling area, with more versatile, flexible and feasible uses for wider sectors of the population. The plaza was also to serve as a resting place for sailors who parked their sailboats below it, as well as for the public who would be able to watch the sports event from a privileged place. Once the Sailing World Championship had finished the space was supposed to continue being useful for the inhabitants of the city. The main objective was to obtain a better access to the place and provide it with the conditions of both park and plaza. On the other hand, the project needed to be defined in a very short period of time and built very rapidly and efficiently. The budget available for the works was of only 167.780 € for a surface of 1,770 m2 (95€/m2) and the time given for the building was only 45 days.

