San Martín de la Mar Square
Landscaping recovery by transforming a forgotten, unstructured and disused public space at Santander

Description of Intervention

The strategy of the new plaza consisted of an urban seam stitched by means of a series of tensed platform and banks built as stands, whose geometry solved the different levels of the site and the link with its limits. These platforms sat if f the topographic gap by means of slight level changes and generated a new and continuous territory connected to the city. A new space, open and flexible, the ensemble of different situations, levels, spatial dimensions and materials, designed to be discovered by the user, a spatial and material system with multiple possibilities of use and interpretation, a hybrid between stand, plaza and park.

The topography and differences in level were achieved by building small concrete walls, planted with wooden slats, with a polished top used as a seat. The system of stands and platforms was conceived as a park: spaces with grass and a finish of ecological paving stone, allowing intermediate situations between which is nature and artificial, facilitating the growth of vegetation as well as a natural drainage.

In the lower spaces two horizontal areas were created, more spacious and slightly embedded, termed “ludic platforms.” The first one, larger in size, was conceived as an urban stage for games and events with the bay serving as a backdrop. The wooden surface enables people to play ball games, skate or simply sit and use it as a meeting place among other things; the second one, a small and more protected space adequate for children’s activities, is surrounded by trees and vegetation and has been provided with a rubber flooring and swings.