POST-CONSTRUCTION ASSESSMENT

The construction occurred in the most critical period of Portuguese financial rescue with many subcontractors going bankrupt creating great delays and the whole process particularly painfully for both local commerce and residents, in addition to severe construction defaults.

For a while this created a negative perception of the whole project. However, when people started using the promenade and benefiting for less car traffic pressure the place changed. In fact, giving priority to a pedestrian and cycling strategy is certainly the most valuable asset of the project. The large stone-slab river promenade with its tree shaded areas and benches, increased the centrality of the riverbank in city life into actually becoming its main pedestrian circulation axis.

Other facilities, such as the playground and the tourist office fostered the urban concentration of restaurants, cafes and kiosks, giving this renovated riverfront in a coherent and lively presence.