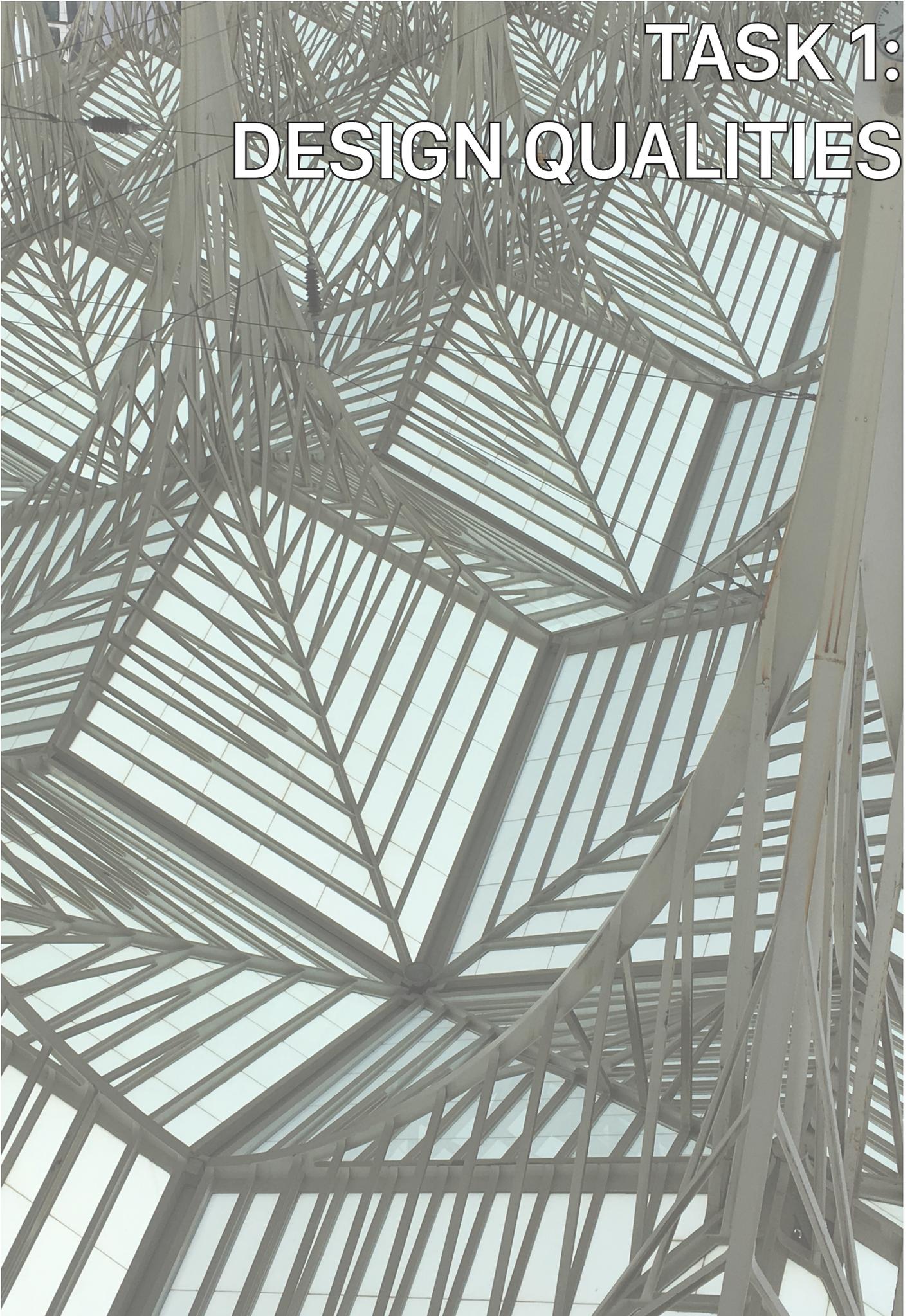


LISBON: ALAVALDE | REVITALIZATION



TASK 1: DESIGN QUALITIES





Walking through the streets of Alfama district in Lisbon, one learns that every turning is a mystery. The smallest of streets lead up to majestic views, stores and restaurants which are not visible at first. Exploring this neighborhood can be exciting because no building, sidewalk or view is alike. They all have their unique aspects - some with windows from the 80s and some with painted doors, but each with their own character. There are also many small alleyways which connect to larger streets and each reveal new arches, passages and architecture. Moreover, looking up the hills in Alfama, there is no clear line of sight, which is a part of element of surprise - one does not know what to expect. The sketch shows the view looking away from the Lisbon Cathedral or otherwise known as Sé. The buildings block most of the view, and the road seems to come to an end but around the corner, the street continues downhill to the Praça de Comércio.

VITALITY AND ROBUSTNESS

Every plaza, street and square has a great sense of place in Lisbon. During the day, the city is crowded with those who want to bask in the sun and enjoy the vistas. In the evenings, the streets light up with markets where tourists and locals alike can kick-back and relax after a long day. Drinks, food and music bring the city together. The streets and plazas become useful places to walk, take pictures, explore, drink, eat and sketch all in the same space, which makes it more robust. As I was walking up the hill in Bairro Alto, I came across the Chafariz de Carmo which had an old fountain - now not in use - in the middle of the square. There was a kiosk which served food and drinks and the trees around the neighborhood provide shade to those who wanted to escape the sunlight. The steps around the fountain, the benches and the dining chairs and tables gave the public a place to take a break from their long walks. There was also a church located adjacent to the square, where many tourists were huddled together to capture the perfect picture.



ENCLOSURE AND LINKAGES

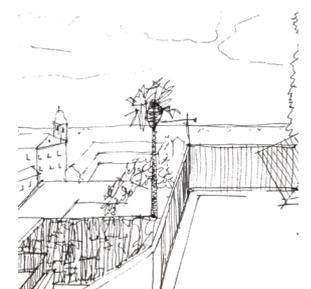
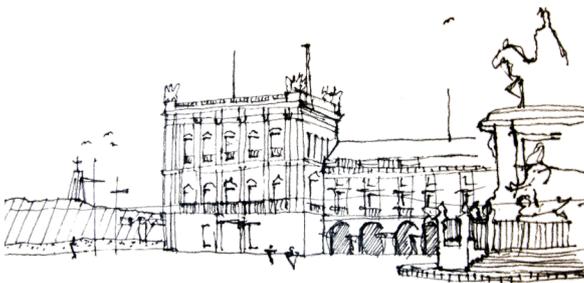


People use the streets of Lisbon everyday, so it is important that there are no barriers and that one could truly breathe in the beauty of Lisbon architecture and urban design qualities. The streets are all connected or intertwined in unexpected ways, but no street truly comes to an end. Even a sharp turning, like the one shown in the picture to the left has seamless curves. Although not every street and turning has a clear line of sight, they are all built to make the pedestrians feel comfortable. As mentioned above, there is always an element of surprise. The streets in the Alfama district are a great example. The buildings are closely packed but provide small passages to get away from a crowd. They all have beautiful architectural designs and are built on a human scale - they are not too grand. The streets are well connected with stairs and slopes to allow people to get around. Most importantly, they are all looped together to reach the same place so if one gets lost, they know that they will have an opportunity to get back on track. All these aspects make Alfama very walkable and makes the pedestrians feel safer.

TRANSPARENCY AND VISTAS



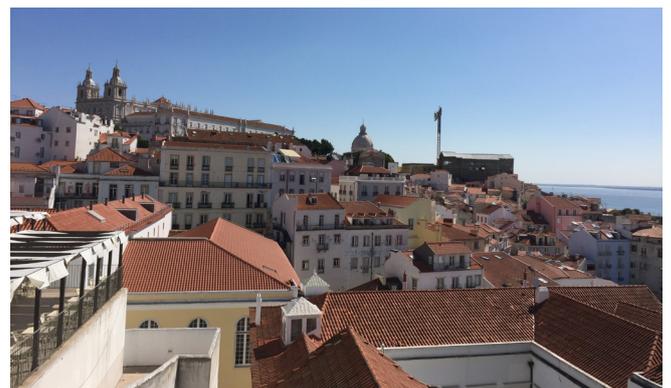
Lisbon's streets and public squares are often visually connected because of the topography. On higher elevation in Alfama, right behind the Visigothic Wall for example, the walls of buildings that usually frame the streets break open and allows views down to the river and the Praca do Comercio. Those views from higher points within the city help the visitors and citizens to find landmarks and other magnificent points of orientation. Often those piazzas can be found next to points of interest. The castle up on the hill for example is surrounded by platforms that open up views into several directions to get an overall idea of elevations and distances within the city. It allows glimpses from bird perspectives and normally private areas such as courtyards or roof terraces can be discovered. Restaurants take advantage of those amazing and inspiring views as well. They often offer seating for dining on balconies at the back of the house above the buildings in the next row below them. Transparency and having the chance to see beyond the nearby space opens opportunities to become interested in areas that are not observable while being in enclosed spaces. Also while getting lost vistas can help to track oneself and find back into the right direction.



LEGIBILITY AND COHERENCE



Like most European cities, Lisbon portrays an organic growth pattern complete with winding roads and small streets that take you in every which way throughout the city. While this adds a sense of complexity and interest when walking through the city, it leaves much to be desired when it comes to legibility. I often found myself walking the completely wrong direction, and it seemed to take much longer to get anywhere. Fortunately, Lisbon's hilly topography provides legibility for the rest of the city, but only when you are at a high elevation. After the earthquake, tsunami and fire in 1775, the historic area of the city around Praça do Comércio was rebuilt in a grid pattern and it has since allowed for a much more legible and coherent area. Tourists and locals alike now have a much easier time getting from main city centers to the surrounding shopping district and restaurants. The Expo 98' redesign has also allowed for a much more readable cityscape since it was actually planned for, though this area still leaves much to be desired in its connections with the rest of the city. The waterfront walk in particular from the Orient station is vast and straight allowing for easy access to apartment complexes and gives one a sense of direction with the Rio Tejo.



ARCHITECTURAL RICHNESS



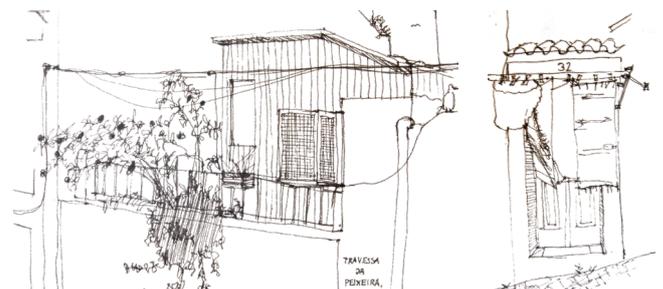
Lisbon is without a doubt one of the most architecturally rich cities in the world, the old stone structures and individualistic styles present throughout the city portray an organic growth from which the city was created and allows one experience a myriad of different environments throughout. The hilly terrain of Lisbon provide incredible viewpoints from which to look down over the city where one can truly experience the colors, tiles, and unique decor of each building, though this is often not the case in some of the newer areas of Lisbon. While the Expo 98' area on the eastern side of Lisbon is new and complete with contemporary designs, there is a lack of richness in the designs and decor. The grandeur of some of the apartment complexes allow for numerous people to live there though it leaves much to be desired when it comes to creating a sense of place. With the spread out buildings, bland colors, blank walls, and cheap materials, this area has become nothing more than a place to sleep and rarely anybody could be seen walking around or enjoying the architecture. Fortunately, the tile sidewalks complete with numerous trees and monuments create a beautiful streetscape which is both legible and pleasing to the eye. The city also has a variety of monuments, graffiti, and activities which add to the vibrancy of the city.



PERSONALIZATION AND COMMUNITY VALUES

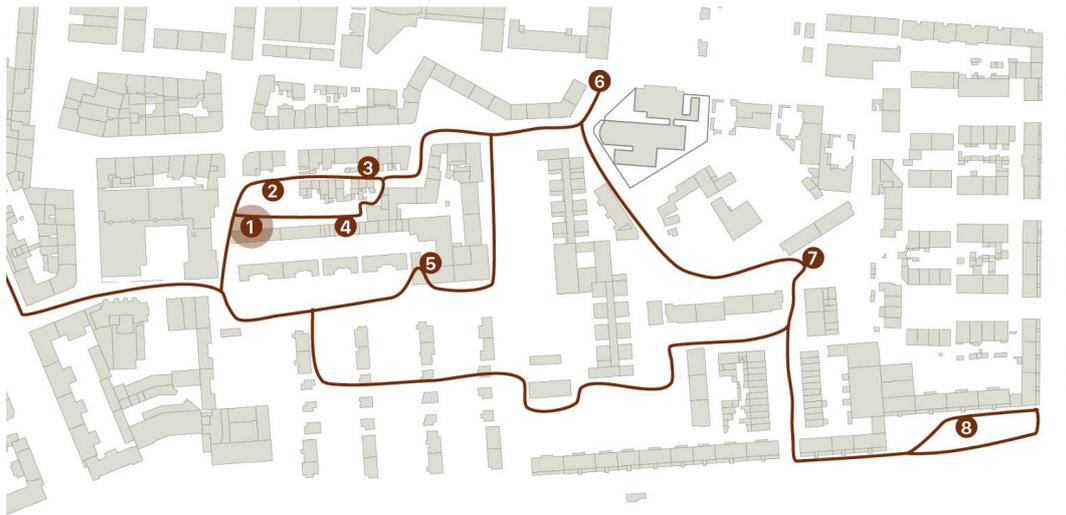


There are signs of individuality all over the city of Lisbon. Bars and cafés open up their facades towards the sidewalk to attract people or to use the window sill as a bench, take over the sidewalks for their tables and chairs and offer their cherry liquor made from scratch. Open windows allow the aroma of different food to take passerby to another world, another home with a cd-player sitting on the window bench introduces the life on the streets to listen to new music or curtains are closed to allow privacy and less sunlight within the building. People hang their laundry right below their windows to let it dry, cables and wires are connecting the houses with each other. Some alleyways turn into corridors while festoons and light chains build a festive and translucent roof and join the houses vis-à-vis to each other. Some facades have graffiti on the walls, others religious images, demanding attention by framing them with festoons. People's balconies allow outdoor space to place and grow plants and flowers and seem to appear like horizontal, hanging gardens. Roof terraces and terrace spaces in between buildings give space for residents to do urban farming or to use outdoor spaces as private leisure areas. In some houses the backsides are protected by walls which protect individual outside spaces from the views of passerby. Some low buildings with walls protecting their courtyard in the back of the property are linked to either sheds, garages or tiny apartments with access to the street behind them. The façades of the houses and their different tiles with their details and colors allow design differentiations and identification with a place. It also helps locals for orientation.



TASK 2: UNDERSTANDING THE PROJECT AREA





CHALLENGES

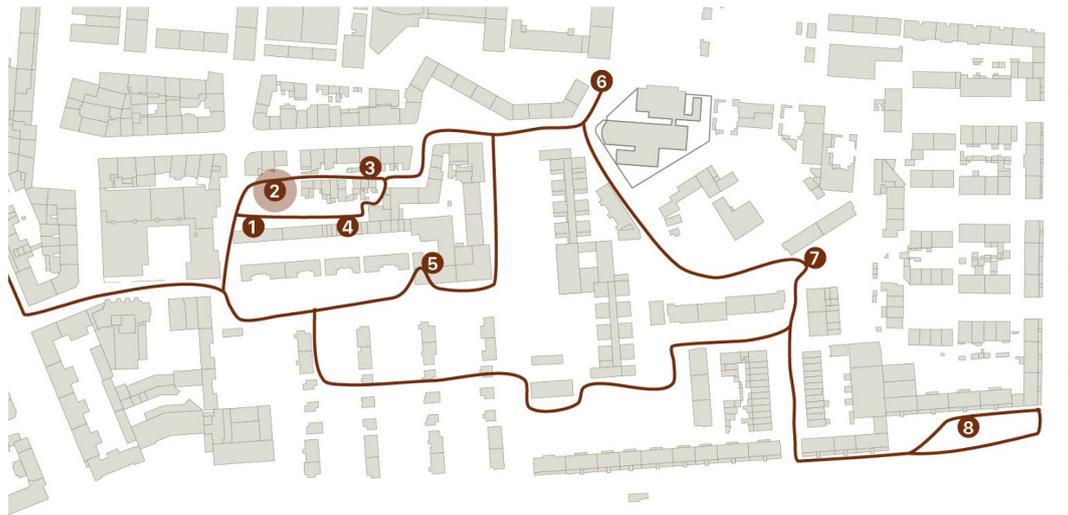
- **Dirty/abandoned:** Many of the areas on the project site are outdated and rundown. Some structures have not had maintenance in years and are falling apart, while other buildings that are still in use lack basic upkeep where pathways are degrading and paint is peeling.
- **Lack of commercial and recreational activities:** A recurring trend throughout our project site is the lack of commercial and recreational activities available to the public and its residents. Empty storefront can be seen on every corner while many outdoor spaces are underutilized due to a lack of upkeep and amenities to attract uses.



OPPORTUNITIES

- **Good location for commercial use:** While many of the storefronts in this area are empty and underutilized, there is nevertheless a valuable opportunity to move in new businesses with ease, it's just a matter of determining what the residents want and/or need.
- **Majority of the land is public:** According to the representatives of Junta de Fregeusia de Alvalade much of the land in our project site is providing a great opportunity for us to quickly convert land and structures for public use.





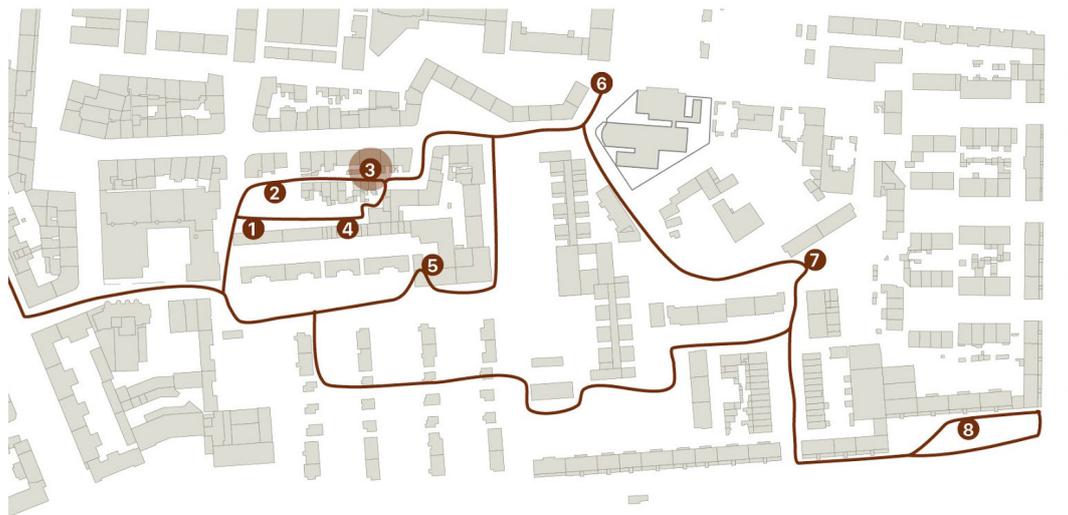
CHALLENGES

- **Privately owned structures in center restricts development:** Due to the unconventional mix of private and public uses in our project site, we have come across private structures that thwart development in our site. One structure in particular off of Villa Afifense is privately owned but completely abandoned and run down preventing development in an otherwise publicly owned area.
- **Underutilized area:** This area of our site is underutilized and is lacking in both commercial and recreational uses leaving streets and alleyways dilapidated and unattractive.

OPPORTUNITIES

- **Empty lots allow for easy conversion to commercial or recreational purposes:** Fortunately, this area has many empty rooftops and parking lots that can be converted to urban farms or used more efficiently for parking.





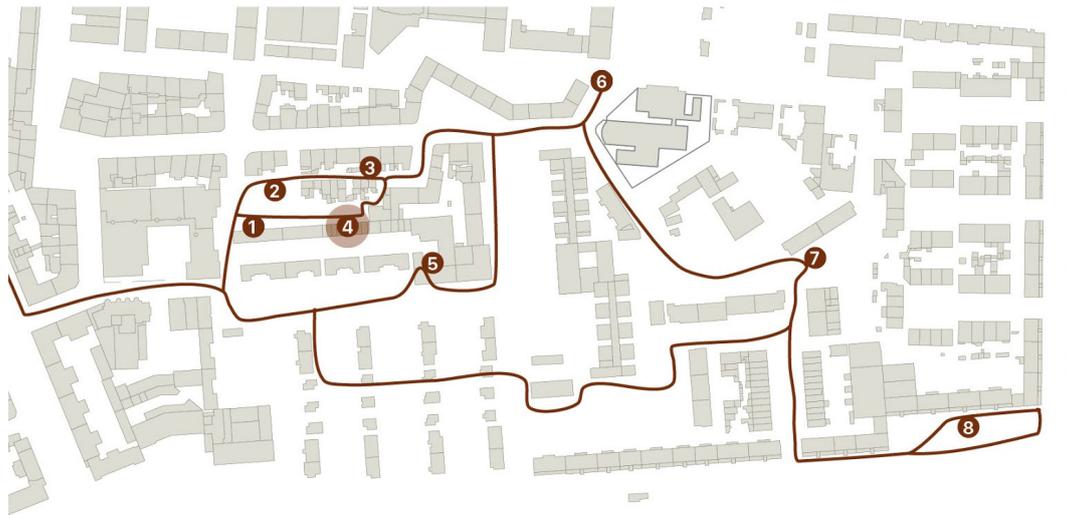
CHALLENGES

- **Difficult mix of private and public land:** While most of the buildings and land were publicly owned, a small segment of a building was privately owned, which made matters more confusing as to how they could put the building to use.
- **Non-existent activity:** This stop, in particular had a huge plot of land which was not being put to use. There were no stores or markets which attracted the public which made the area seem dull.
- **Uninviting alleyway:** Villa Afifense is an unattractive and run down street which deters activity and circulation. The road is not paved, covered in trash, and does not lead to anywhere worth visiting.



OPPORTUNITIES

- **Mostly public land:** As mentioned for Stop #1, public land can easily be converted into something useful. This area has a lot of space for improvement.



CHALLENGES

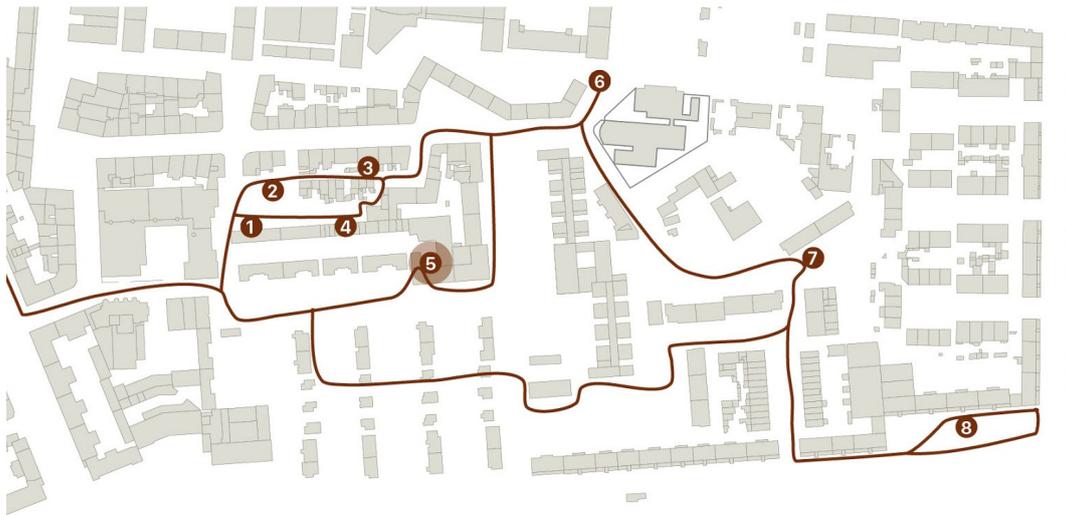
- **Underutilized by public:** Parallel to Villa Afifense runs an alleyway to nowhere. The area houses graffiti and dumpsters and is very blocked of from the public meaning rarely anyone can be seen walking down it.
- **Rooftops look barren:** Along this alleyway runs a wall with a fence on top, blocking access to a vast empty roof. It is our hope to convert these rooftops for a public function, though structural aspects and its private land designation will create roadblocks for us.
- **No attractions:** Not unlike much of our project site, this alleyway is completely void of commercial and recreational uses meaning that it is currently underutilized by the public and is also very uninviting.



OPPORTUNITIES

- **Parking lots and garages to the south can easily be developed/converted:** Parking is a problem in the neighborhood, especially because there are many cars but not enough parking spots. The area next to the rooftops could be converted into a parking lot, putting the plot of land to a good use.
- **Adding green space on the rooftops:** This area in general lacks shade and green space. Adding urban farms on the rooftops will solve the problem of liveliness, add a little more color to this dull neighborhood and also allow the public to efficiently use of this abandoned space.





CHALLENGES

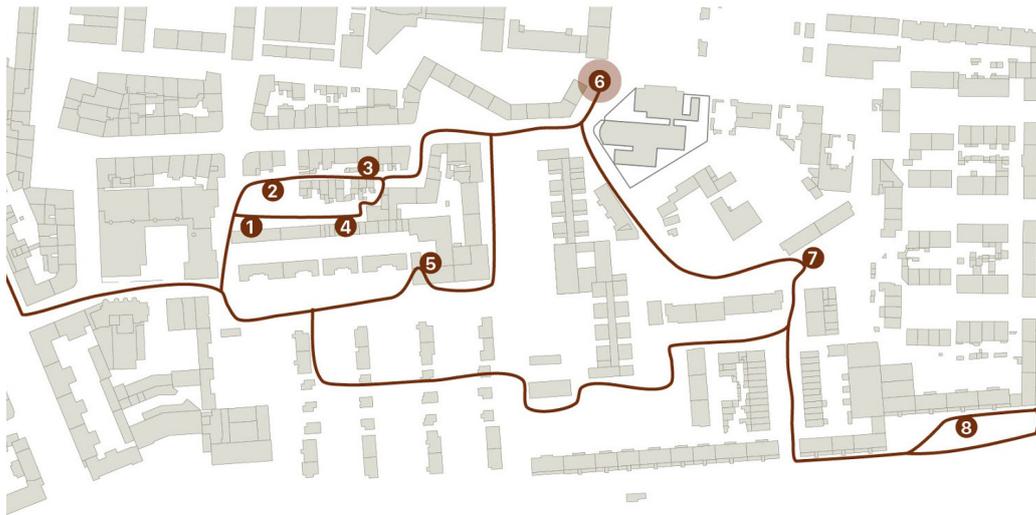
- **Existing structures are bland:** As mentioned earlier, the exteriors of many buildings are falling apart; the paint is peeling and the facade is run-down.



OPPORTUNITIES

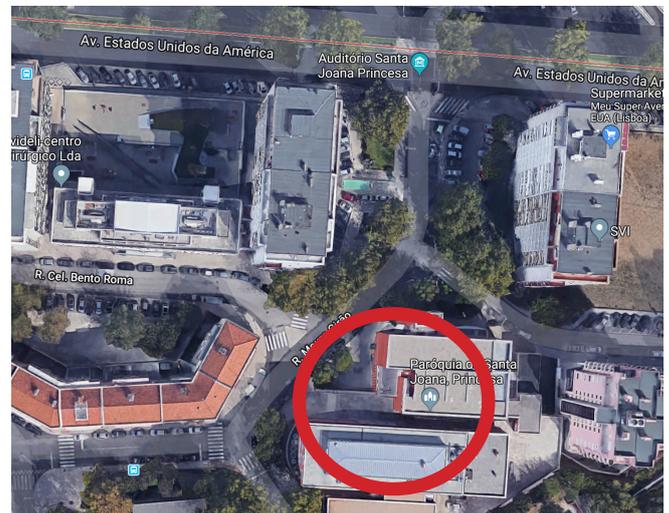
- **Plenty of space for commercial uses:** Many storefronts on the ground floor are currently empty. This could be because there are not enough people living in the area. A relatively easy fix can be to bring in more stores but first, there have to be more people living in the neighborhood.
- **Adequate parking and circulation:** Although there are no designated parking lots, there are empty plots of land which are not in use. Converting those plots to parking lots and structures could lessen the competition to find parking.
- **Wide sidewalks:** The sidewalks are wide enough to host markets during the nights. This could bring the community together and also make the streets more lively.





CHALLENGES

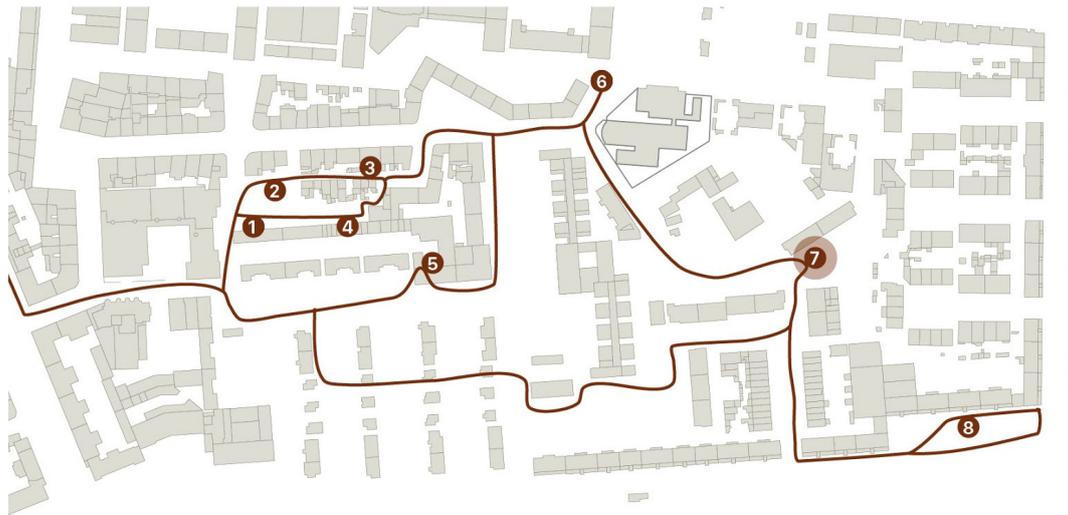
- **Lack of economic opportunities Paroquia de Santa Joana, Princesa:** According to Junta de Freguesia de Alvalade, the church in the center of this area does not have enough economic activity and needs to have more uses throughout the week in order to be viable. This leaves the area underutilized and inactive on weekdays.
- **Inadequate parking:** One of the issues in this area is the lack of parking available to the residents and visitors. Since cars are cheap, people do not utilize public transportation to the best of its ability and it leads to a congestion of parked cars. This becomes an issue when we include more commercial uses since customers will not be able to easily access the storefronts.



OPPORTUNITIES

- **Easy access to Avenida Estados Unidos da America:** This section of the site has direct access to Avenida Estados Unidos da America, one of the main arterials going through Alvalade. It is our hope to increase the connection from our project site to this road and bring in foot traffic and business opportunities.
- **Adequate landscaping provides shade and interest to the area:** Fortunately, the roads surrounding the church have good landscaping and large trees which provide aesthetic value and shade making it more inviting to the public.





CHALLENGES

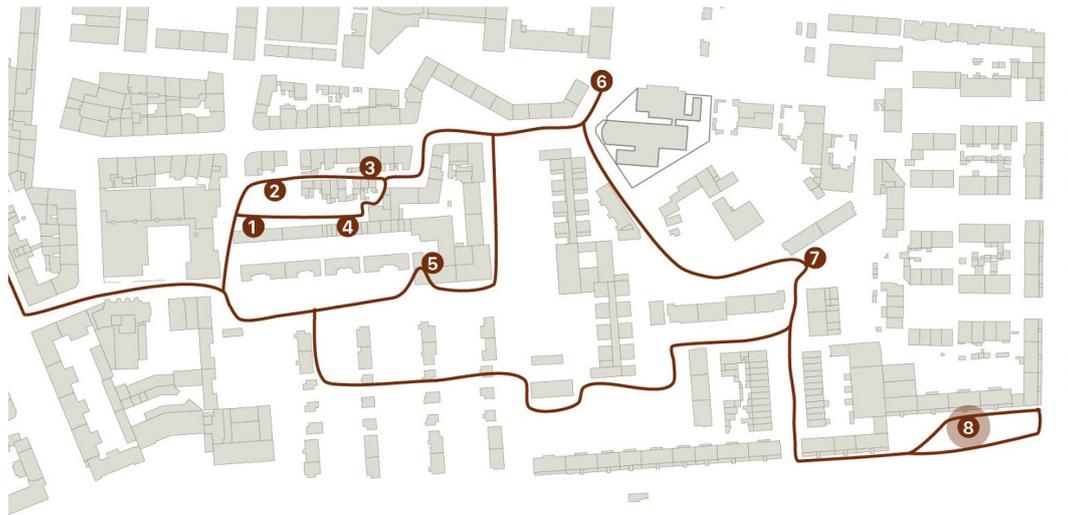
- **Lack of activity:** Once again, this area lacks a crowd, any interesting sights or recreational activities. This makes the area very dull.
- **Blocked off from residential development:** The residential neighborhoods are not well-connected to the streets. Some of the buildings are also blocking the view of the general neighborhood because most buildings are two or three storeys while a couple are taller than six storeys.



OPPORTUNITIES

- **Empty lots could easily be converted into pocket parks:** The small plots of land which are not big enough for parking lots, like the one shown below, could be used as pocket parks. This will help add some more green space to the project site. Adding more benches to sit will also make this area more pedestrian friendly.
- **Add stores or a community space on the ground floor:** The ground floor of the blue building shown in the picture is currently not in use. Converting this space to a community space or a laundry service can be helpful for those living in the apartments but also the others living in this neighborhood. This space could also be used for private parking garages for those living in the apartments.





CHALLENGES

- **Blocked off from the Roma-Areeiro rail line:** The southern portion of the site is blocked off by the Roma-Areeiro station and rail line. This prevents easy pedestrian access to our site and surrounding neighborhoods. Understanding the need for soundproofing and security along the station walls will be needed but we hope to find an elegant solution which will provide residents and visitors circulation in and out of our site.
- **Lack of transparency:** The Roma-Areeiro station and rail also prevent visual transparency across the rail, and while the rail line is often not visually pleasing, it makes Avenida Frei Miguel Contreiras feel enclosed and unappealing.
- **Inadequate public access:** This area has many opportunities for public uses though its placement in the corner of the site enclosed by buildings and the rail line make public access difficult.



OPPORTUNITIES

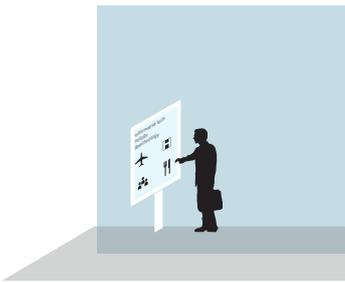
- **Quaint area with nice park:** This section of the project site has a quaint park that is inviting to the public though lacks some activities. We hope to increase public use of this area by including more seating, better pathways, and urban farming opportunities.
- **Corner seemed to be used by public:** Unlike many areas in our project site, the corner of Avenida Frei Miguel Contreiras and Rue Guilhermina Suggia is rather active and people can be seen outside sitting in cafes or walking around.
- **Commercial storefront:** Due to the moderate activity in this area, more commercial storefronts could be very valuable and bring even more activity to this corner of the site.



TASK 3: DESIGNING FOR ALVALADE

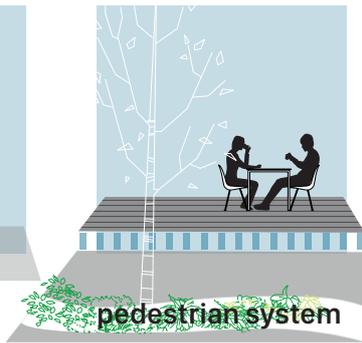


BREAKING THE ISOLATION



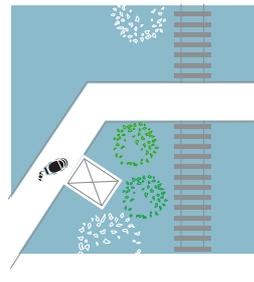
informative technology

Information kiosks placed strategically on the site could provide helpful information and local activities to residents and visitors.



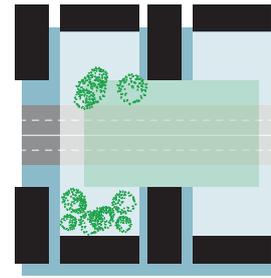
pedestrian system

A strong network of sidewalks could help improve mobility, safety and lead to healthier communities.



linkage over traintracks

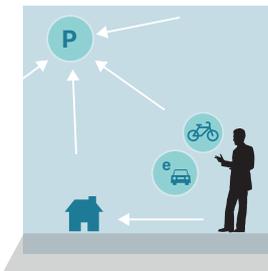
Adding a walkway over the railway tracks can help connect the two sides of the street which are otherwise separated.



connection to the other side of the road

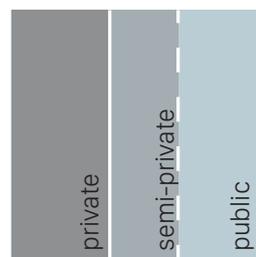
Connecting two roads with a green space (a pocket park) can help make the place look more lively, but also not restrict vehicles. W

BALANCE BETWEEN PRIVATE AND PUBLIC



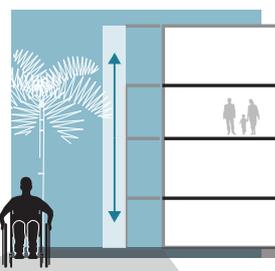
parking

Converting empty plots of land into parking lots could help create more parking and make use of the underutilized land.



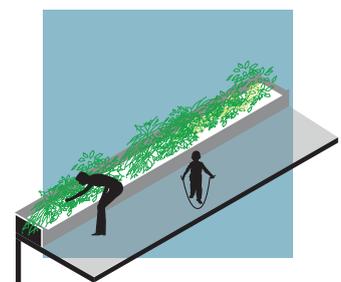
changes of land use

A more distinct separation of private and public land could reduce the confusion over land ownership.



vertical connection

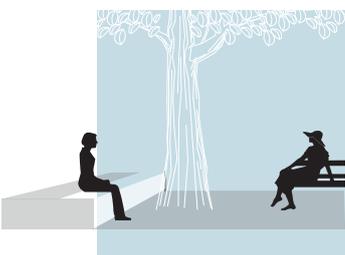
Providing an elevator for taller buildings will make them more accessible and also increase the property value.



rooftop usage

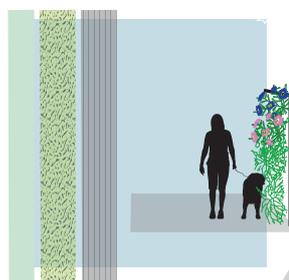
Converting empty rooftops into urban farms could increase green space and also help utilize abandoned spaces.

CREATING A SENSE OF PLACE



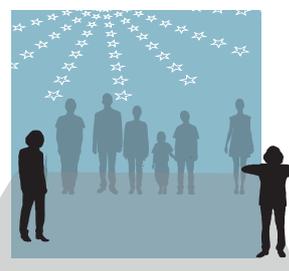
seating options

Adding more benches and grassy areas especially in residential neighborhoods can attract more people and hence make the area more active.



vegetation/ urban agriculture

Transforming bland walls into vertical gardens can add color and life to the walls and its surrounding areas.



event space

Organizing farmers' markets and workshops for the public could bring the community together, especially in areas where there is not much activity during the week.



commercial

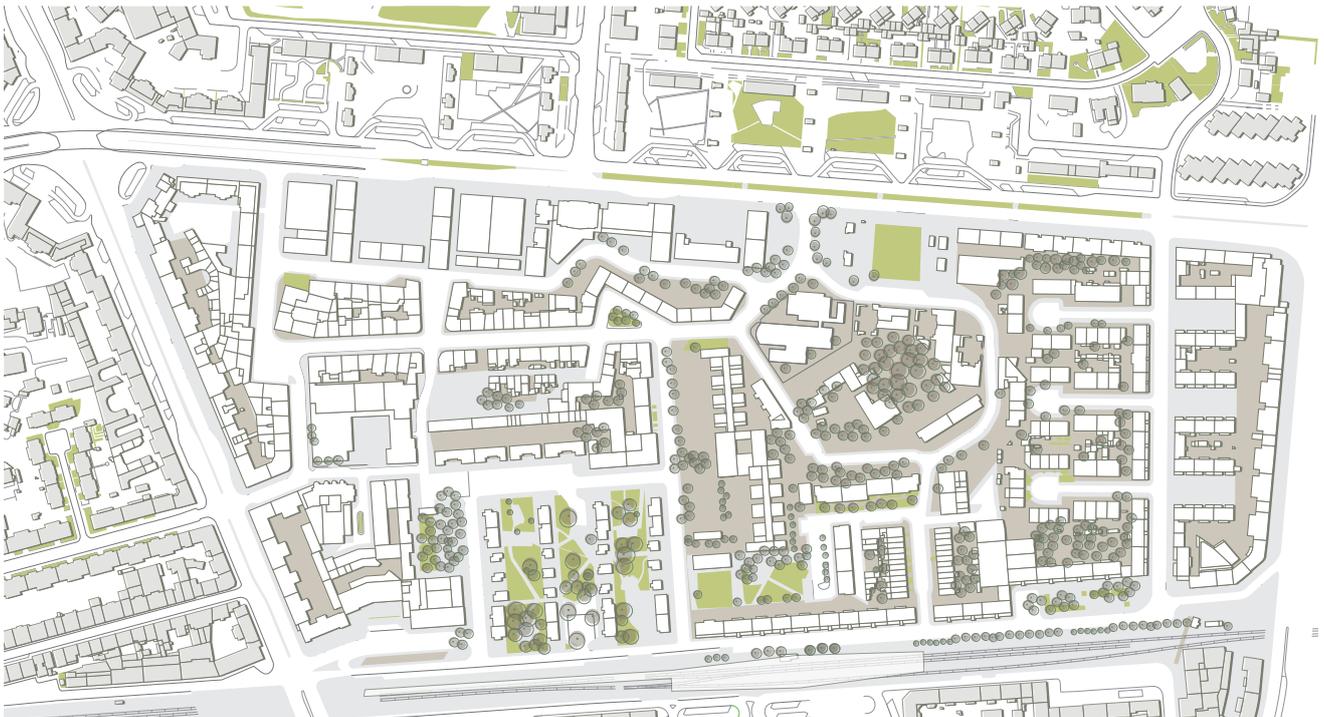
Converting empty storefronts into commercial uses could increase the economical value of the land and also provide services to the residents.

MASSING



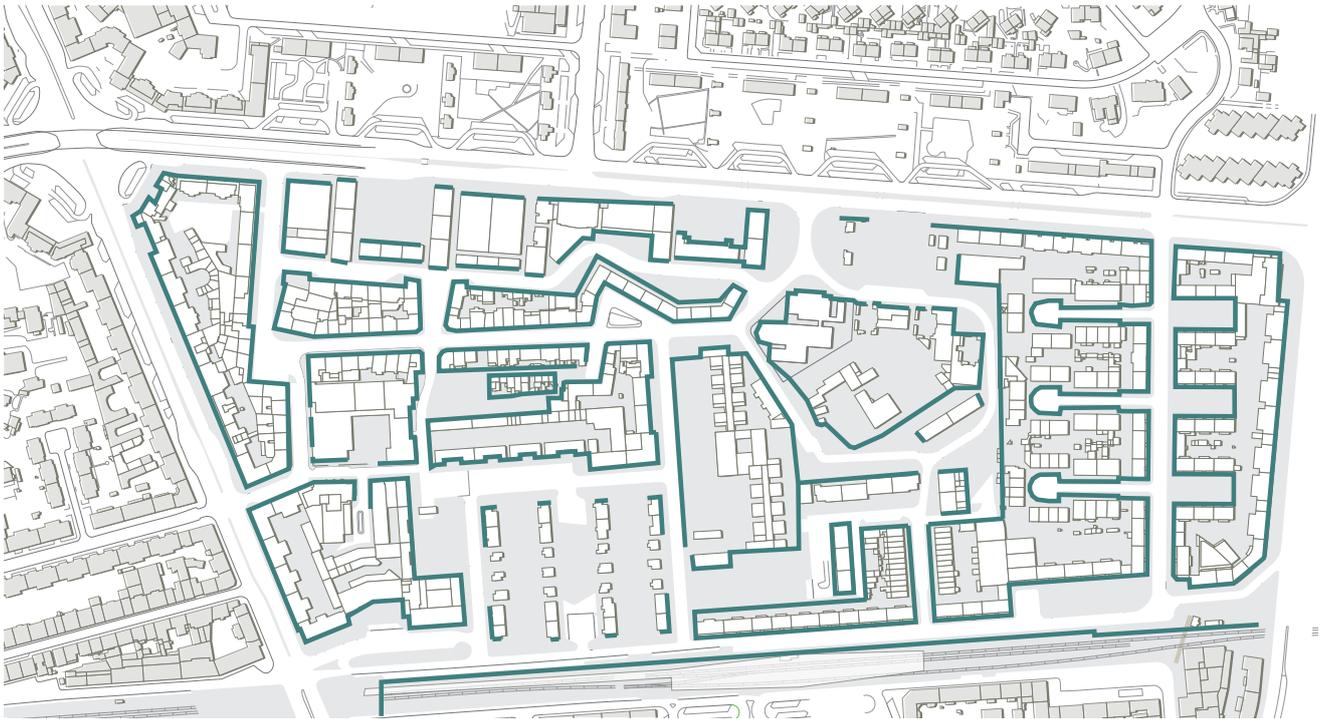
This map shows us how dense the buildings are, and how the buildings are balanced. It also shows us the relationship between free spaces and occupied land.

GREEN SPACE



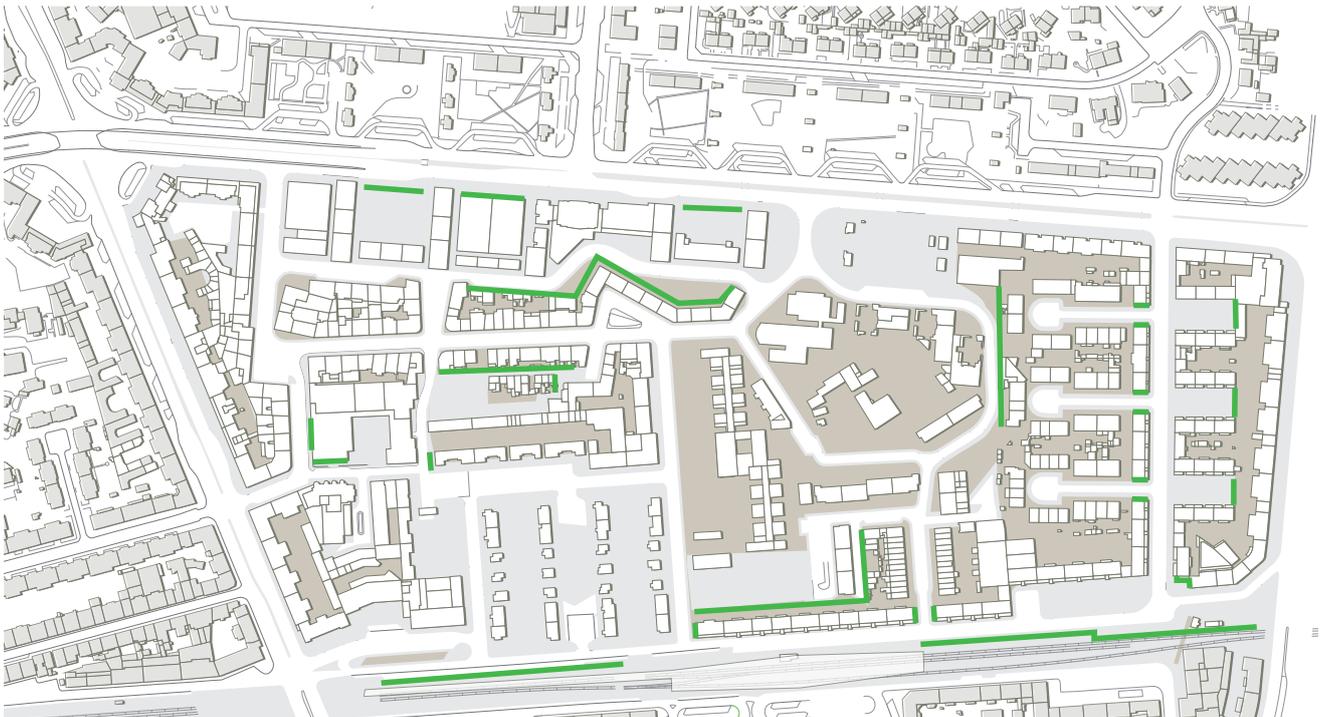
Here we see the heritage of our site in Alvalade and the environmental quality of the neighborhood.

ROOM BORDERS



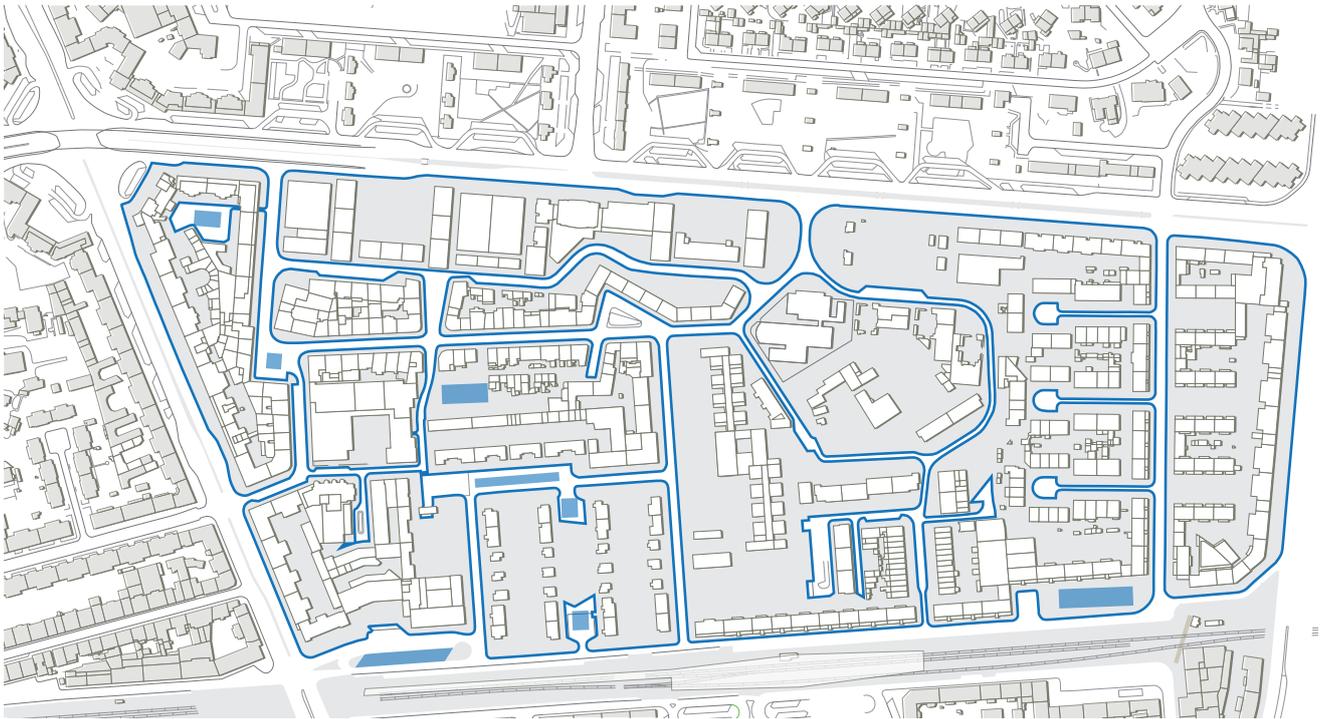
Here, the map reflects the connection between closed land and land which is accessible to the public.

GREEN WALLS



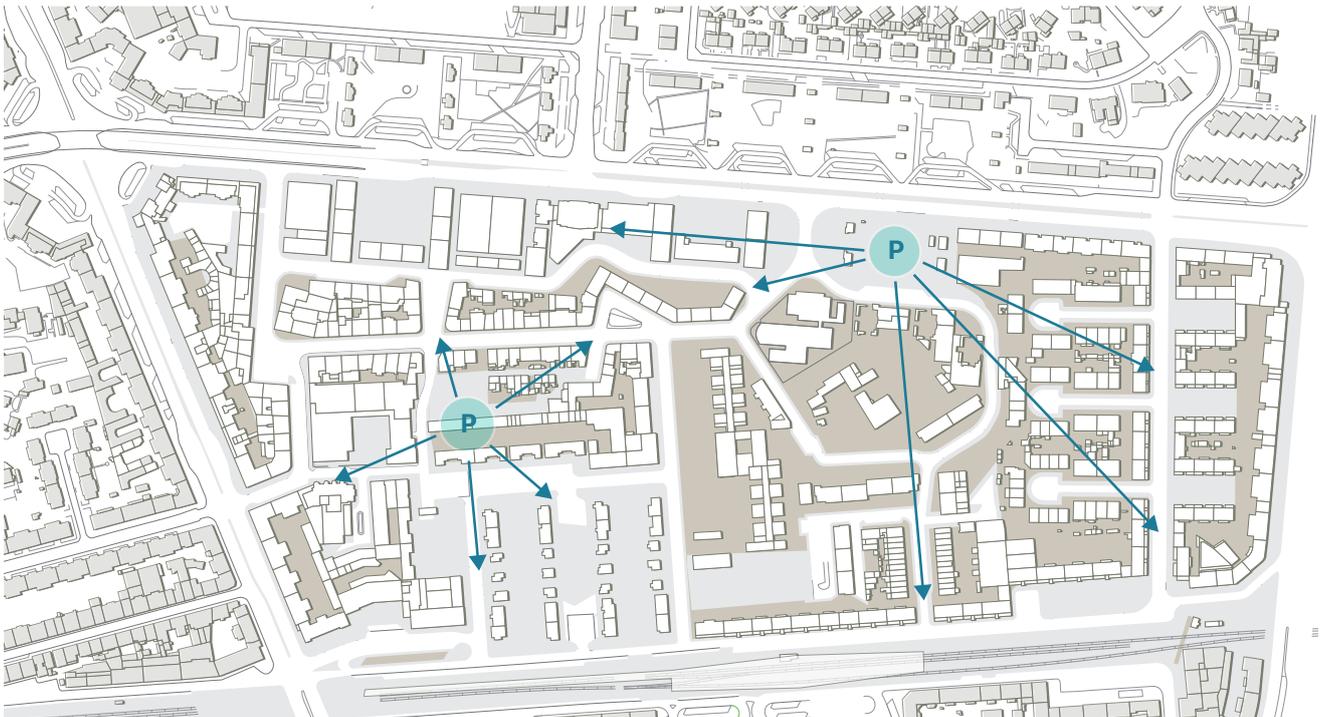
The green lines on this map show us the locations of bland and dull walls which can be converted into vertical gardens to beautify the city.

STREET PARKING



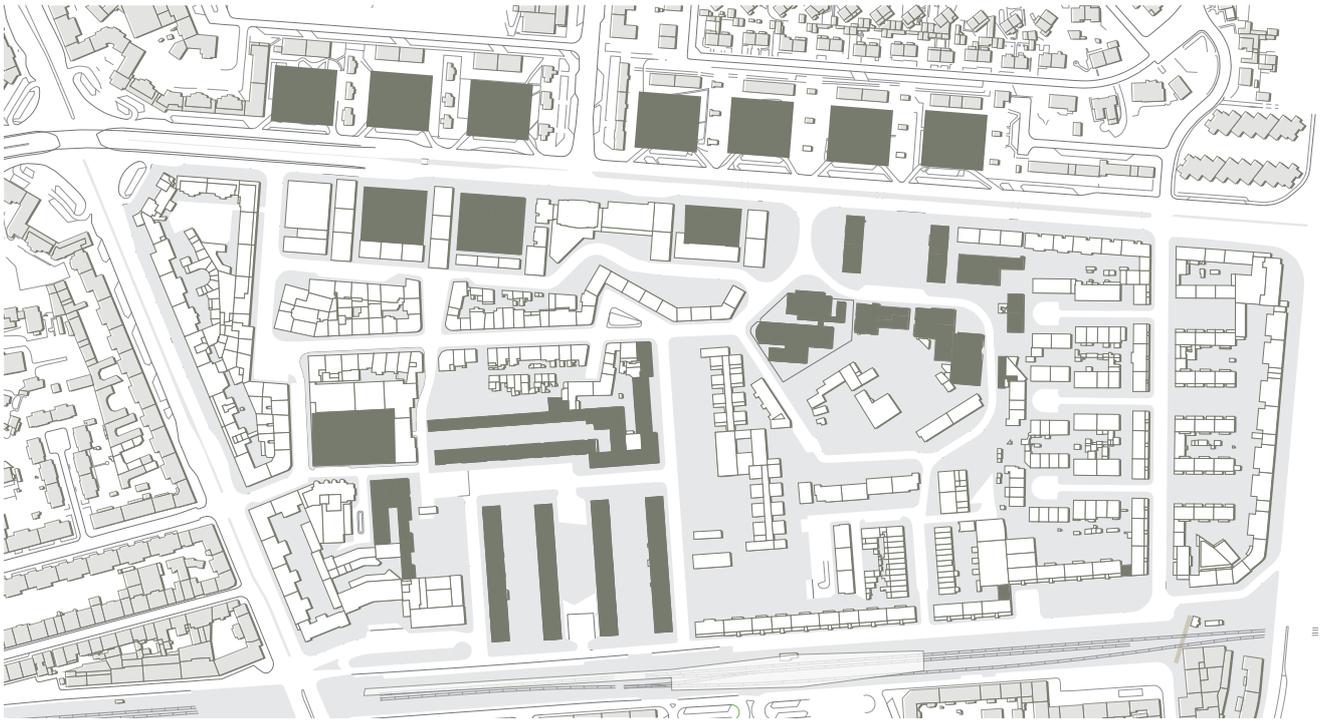
The street parking in Alvalade goes around the perimeter of the buildings and in certain places is denser than others.

CENTRAL PARKING

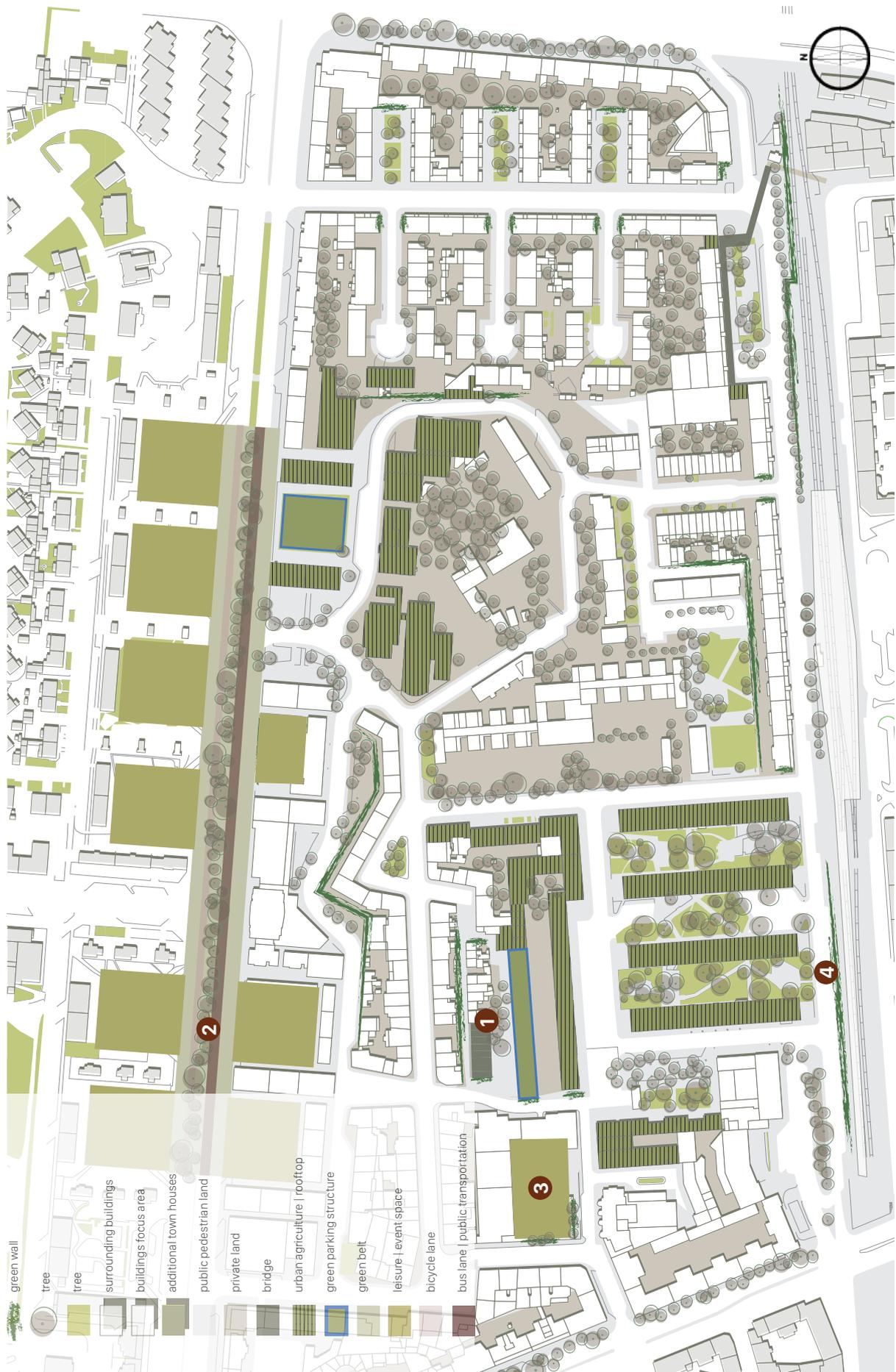


This map shows the large plots of unused land which can be converted into parking lots for the public.

ROOFTOPS



The abandoned rooftops highlighted here can be converted into urban farms and/or parking areas depending on the zoning.



1



Existing one storey parking garages may be converted into a space efficient parking structure with urbana farming on the roof. This will help meet the need for parking, provide public activities and better connect teh various elevations in the site.

2



Avenida Estados Unidos da America is one of the main arterials in our project site dividing the area and preventing public connections. Due to the streets lower elevation to adjacent buildings, there is a possibility to cap the road and provide access to public transportation.



Underutilized plazas will be revitalized to include music and other recreational activities bringing life to an otherwise quiet area.



Blank walls throughout the site prevent transparency and are displeasing to the eye. We propose to include green walls/ vertical farming on blank facades, especially along the rail line to help with sound proofing, carbon reduction and aesthetic value.