

## Through new urban riverscapes: the study cases in Madrid and Lisbon

**Track:** d. Water and land in the landscape project

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**keywords:** *riverscape, urban regeneration, public space*

*"I fiumi mi han sempre attirato. Il fascino è forse in quel loro continuo passare rimanendo immutati, in quell'andarsene restando, in quel loro essere una sorta di rappresentazione fisica della storia, che è, in quanto passa. I fiumi sono la Storia." (Tiziano Terzani, Buonanotte, signor Lenin, 1992)*

The riverscapes, due to the length and variability of the waterway, change enormously their features in relation to natural and anthropic conditions that the river meets along the way.

The paper will look at the specific condition of riverscape in urban areas, where the relationship between the built and water is more strong and direct. Since their foundation, the river towns owe their existence and development to the river resource as water supply and as a means of communication. Because of this feature of infrastructure related to trade, large portions of river landscapes in the city have been occupied throughout history by industrial plants, ports or military bases, which have profoundly marked the landscape degradation of these areas and move away parts of the city from the river shores.

Many of these areas, in recent years, have been decommissioned from the industrial and port function, rediscovering the strategic, the landscape and the urban quality these areas close to the water.

It is so configured a very important occasion for the city to redevelop large degraded areas and rethink its riverscape regaining its relationship with the river.

The paper so proposes, as emblematic examples, the two study cases of the Parque Rio Manzanares in Madrid and the project for the area of the Expo 1998 in Lisbon. Both areas was degraded before the project and have been the subject of two different design strategies that likewise have been able to revalue the strategically important sites in the urban setting of the two cities.

The first study case, in Madrid, has the signature of a pool of leading architects, such as the Dutch West 8, which was formed specifically for this project and is called Equipe M-Rio. The extensive requalification plan occupies a large and central area and give back to Madrid a large urban park near the river, where before there was a massive infrastructure strip formed by M-30, now partially buried.

The second case concerns the Expo in Lisbon on 1998, whose masterplan involved an old industrial area on the banks of the Tagus in the north of the city center. The Expo's opportunity allowed to redevelop the area through an urban project in which the construction of the pavilions is combined with the design of a vast public space next to the water, which made this area a destination for the leisure, the commerce and tourism, underlining the success after years of the operation.

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