Introduction

The Convent of São Francisco do Monte, located on the urban boundary of Viana do Castelo, becomes the lead object of study of the work, where the ruin will emerge as the protagonist. The intervention intends to reflect about the memory of the space, while seeking to develop a proposal capable of evoking and enhancing the character of the convent and, also, to explore the limits of a new use, in a place that no longer serves its initial purpose but, nevertheless, it's still alive and maintains a strong relationship with the population. Thus taking into account the potential of this problem as a project idea, we will try to explore the various possibilities and needs of the owner.

Based on the extension of the proposal, we formulated different scales of intervention - the convent, the community gardens, the park - and, still inserted in this last scale, the forum, the owner's already existing intention.

Objectives

The study will seek to address two issues: what is the degree of intervention in the ruin when we want it to be the protagonist, and how to build an extended program capable of recognizing these same properties.

In this sense, the question arises as how the architect should intervene in heritage and how we can endure a dialogue that encourages reflection and questioning the way we see and manage it.

The work evolves when it stops responding only to the ruin as a physical and punctual dimension and starts to be aware of its relationship with the territory and the landscape. Since the proposal is not concluded in the definitive sense of the term, it is proposed an open project, capable of growing and evolving through a phased structure, understanding that the architecture is in constant transformation and recognizing the capabilities and needs of the owner.

Structure | Methodology

The work is divided into three parts - I. Place | Circumstance, II. Program | Memory and III. Intervention | Reflection.

At first, the place is introduced through readings and analysis; in the second moment, it reflects on the meaning of reprogramming and moves forward with a program proposal where dialogues and interviews are recognized as a fundamental element in the construction of a proposal; and in the third moment, the reflection will translate into the design and materialization into an intervention project.

The Ruin, a programmatic circumstance: Intervention at the Convent of São Francisco do Monte in Viana do Castelo

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Conclusion

When intervening on a pre-existing work, we defend an intervention proposal that calls for continuity, not forgetting the knowledge inherent to the architecture of the past. This relationship should not consist only of material and immediate circumstances, therefore appealing to a strategic and silent proposal, which will introduce a new use.

We also understand that the place and proposal are aimed not only at the owner, but at all those who visit it - the community and the city. It is important to have dialogue with the various uses already attributed by usufructuaries.