

TAVARES MARTINS, Ana Maria, VIRTUDES, Ana Lúcia, ALMEIDA Filipa (Department of Civil Engineering and Architecture, University of Beira Interior): “Humanizing old industrial areas: a rehabilitation case study”.

## Resumen

The subject of this article is the case study of an old industrial area in decline in the city of Covilhã. They were losing their “raison d’être” (functional, social and spatial) and were becoming urban spaces, void of meaning in the urban landscape and in the human sense.

The city can be understood as a text, so the urban voids are missing phrases or words unadjusted to the global text. In this sense these old industrial areas, which are an important part of the urban voids of Covilhã, should not be assessed individually since it is with their clarification that the city, as a global text, gains consistency and a new dimension. That is rethinking and reconsidering the city as a whole and that is the planner’s and the architect’s role to reintegrate and interpret their unbounded potential and their place not only on the global text, which is the city, but also in the urban cultural context.

The city is not only a set of urban elements but especially a set of relations between them and of human memories. The opportunity to study this case produces expectations about its human sense of reintegration in the city of 21<sup>st</sup> Century. What would the urban design be like, taking into account the meaning of the form of city elements, an innovative way of reintegration of old industrial areas? How would urban design play a key role in reorganising the urban structure and in what way would it combine practical functions and the city elements? How can architecture and urban design reintegrate the human function in this area? In the global context, these often represent the last chance for spatial and social reconsideration, reintegration, rehabilitation and planning.