



LISBON:
MARGINS AND PERIPHERY

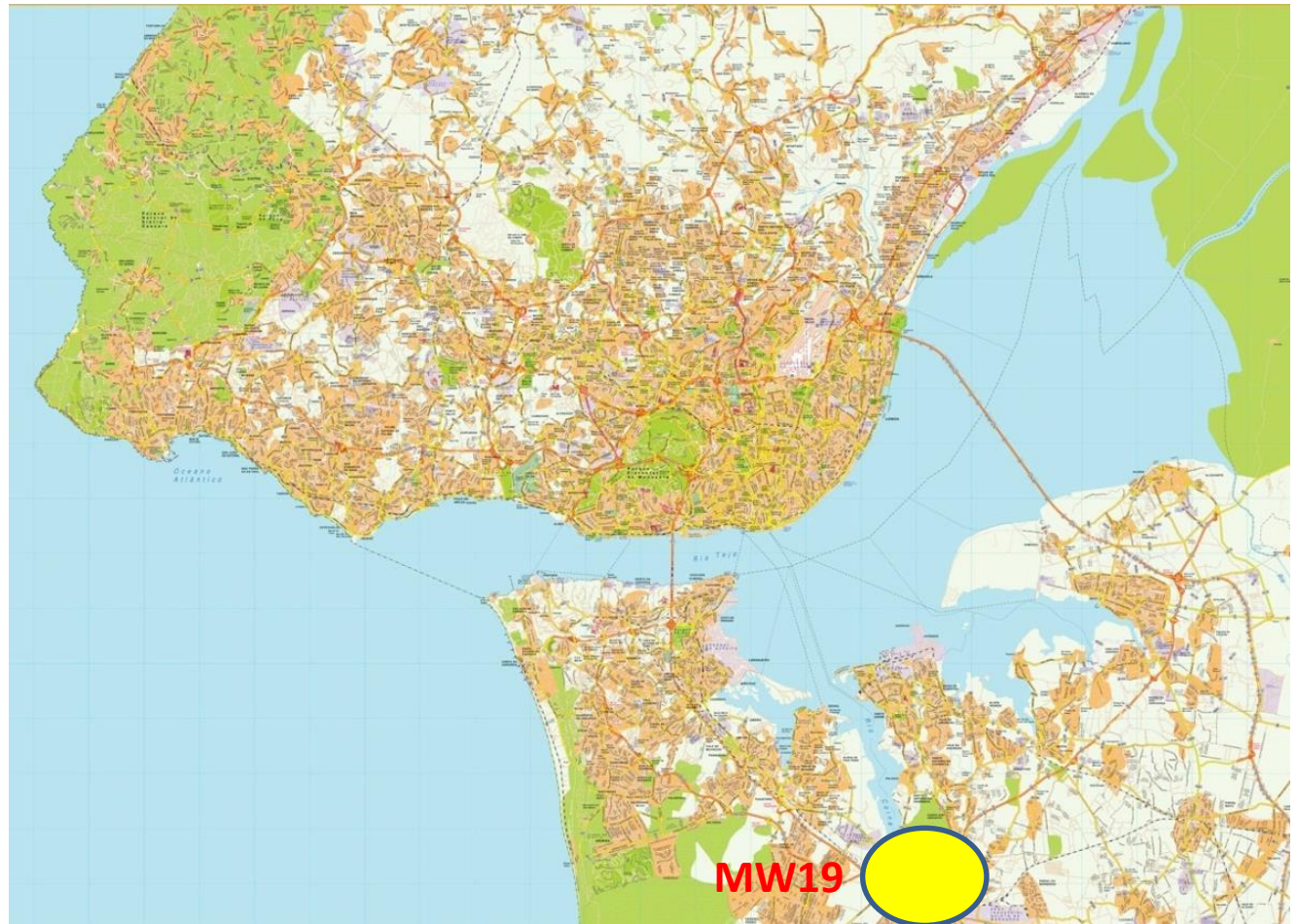
Mobile Workshop

MW19

Fernão Ferro / Quinta do Conde:
from illegal neighbourhoods to urban regeneration



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Fernão Ferro/ Quinta do Conde is an outstanding example of one of the processes by which the Metropolitan Area of Lisbon grew and developed in the late sixties, but, more intensely, in the post revolutionary period (25th of April 1974).

The land was bought from a traditional family, by a well known developer named Xavier de Lima (XL). XL had the vision to understand that the newly built (1966) bridge over the Tagus, together with a sharp rise in income for the working-class, after 1974, was creating a market which the neither the central or local governments was capable of supplying. The product in question was a little plot of land capable of receiving a medium sized free-standing house. After obtaining legal permission to divide the land and create plots, in order to diminish costs, he sold the plots and the responsibility for financing the infrastructures to a large number of working and lower middle classes families, eager to solve their housing problem and who hardly read the contracts. He himself was supposed, by law, to build the infrastructures but he ...forgot!!!

When people started to complain the municipal authorities (who also forgot to check on XL's obligations...) called a team of planners (Bruno Soares, Fonseca Ferreira et alii) to unravel the situation. Physically almost everything remained the same but the budget for the infrastructures had to be calculated and divided by the owners, the municipality and, in a minute percentage, XL. In the process it came up that XL had also forgotten to open the roads with the width stated in the project and instead of 8 they had 6 meters between plots... A small mistake, which had the consequence of making all the 18 kilometers of streets all one way only. The owners never agreed to give up one meter of their plot's frontage to enlarge the roads.

All this adventure took place in the early 80's. 35 years later we will be visiting the urban landscape that resulted from the process.