

Renewal of Industrial Cityscape. Case Study in Covilha, Portugal

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Odnowiony krajobraz poprzemysłowy. Studium przypadku w Covilha, Portugalia

Fig. 1b. The slightly built-up cityscape of Covilha (from the west): The upper part of the industrial district Distrito da Ribeira da Goldra. Marked white: Part of the complex of woollen factories about 1900, (marked grey): The Royal Cloth Factory.

Sources: The photo made in the UBI University – Faculty of Civil Engineering (photo of poster)

Ryc. 1b. W niewielkiej części zabudowany krajobraz Covilha (od strony zachodniej). Górna część dzielnicy przemysłowej Distrito da Ribeira da Goldra. Na biało zaznaczono: fragment kompleksu fabryk wełny około roku 1900. Na szaro zaznaczono: Królewską Fabrykę Odzieży.

Źródła: Fotografia posteru na Uniwersytecie UBI – Wydział Budownictwa

Introduction

Wstęp

The paper presents the problem of transformation of the industrial cityscape in Portugal. This kind of cityscape in Europe is broadly described also by German authors. On one hand, the history of development, urban structure and appearance meant as maintaining the historical picture of the building heritage is shown in Berlin's overview of the metropolis [Senatsverwaltung fuer Stadtentwick-

lung 2009]. Similarly, the revitalization of architecture and generally its re-use is to be observed in the analysis of historical towns with little industrial history [Santifaller, 2008]. On the other hand the well known monuments in Great Britain were precisely researched by English authors, who familiarized us with many elements of cityscape in form of industrial archaeology [Stratton, Trinder 1997]. Besides, literature discusses as well the subject of landscape in form of garden-cities connected with urban industrialization [Czyżewski 2009].

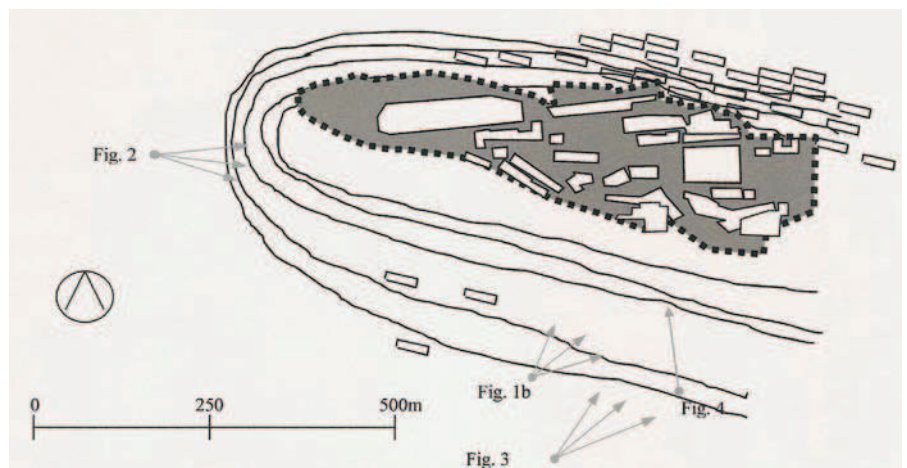
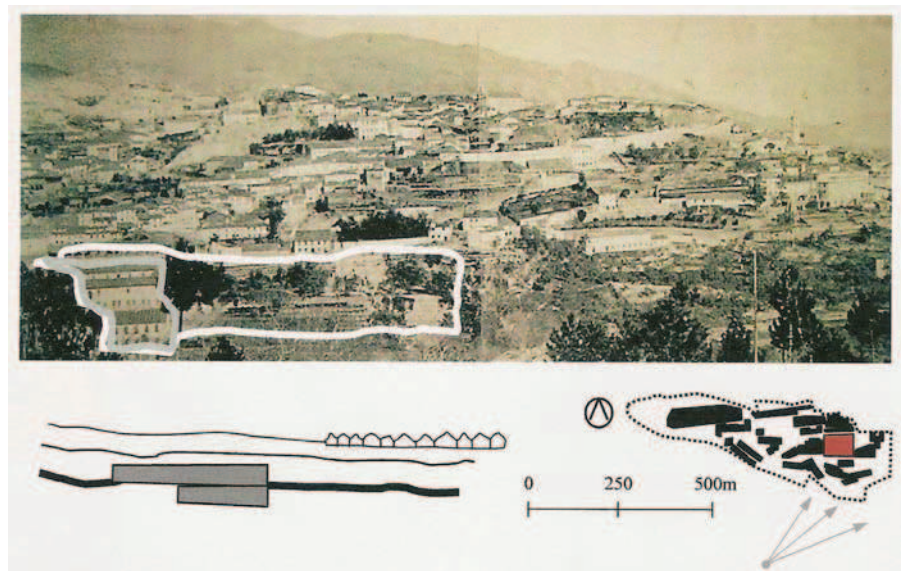


Fig. 1a. Location – marking of the distant landscapes

Ryc. 1a. Lokalizacja – zaznaczenie krajobrazów odległych



Nevertheless, in Covilha in the period of industry, at the beginning of the 20th century (cf. Fig. 1a, 1b) the style of architecture within the district cityscape was harmoniously composed with the surrounding topography. In the following decades this image changed [Włodarczyk 2009].

In the period of post-industrial degradation, advanced building technology and a growing number of inhabitants led to a vertical urban densification (cf. the background of the overview Fig. 2). The prevailing character of the vernacular architecture was affected by new styles of housing, losing the harmony it had, i.e. the natural mountainous horizontal line. In addition, the degradation of the old factories caused the spatial transformation of the original industrial overview. This process started slowly and spontaneously. The rehabilitation process that followed, by contrast, rapidly changed the urban fabric of the remaining factories.

The period of post-industrial rehabilitation

Okres rehabilitacji postindustrialnej

The analysis is researched as based on two kinds of cityscapes in Covilha: Remote and adjacent cityscapes [Włodarczyk 2009].

The remote views take in almost the total UBI Area and its nearest surroundings. The adjacent views take

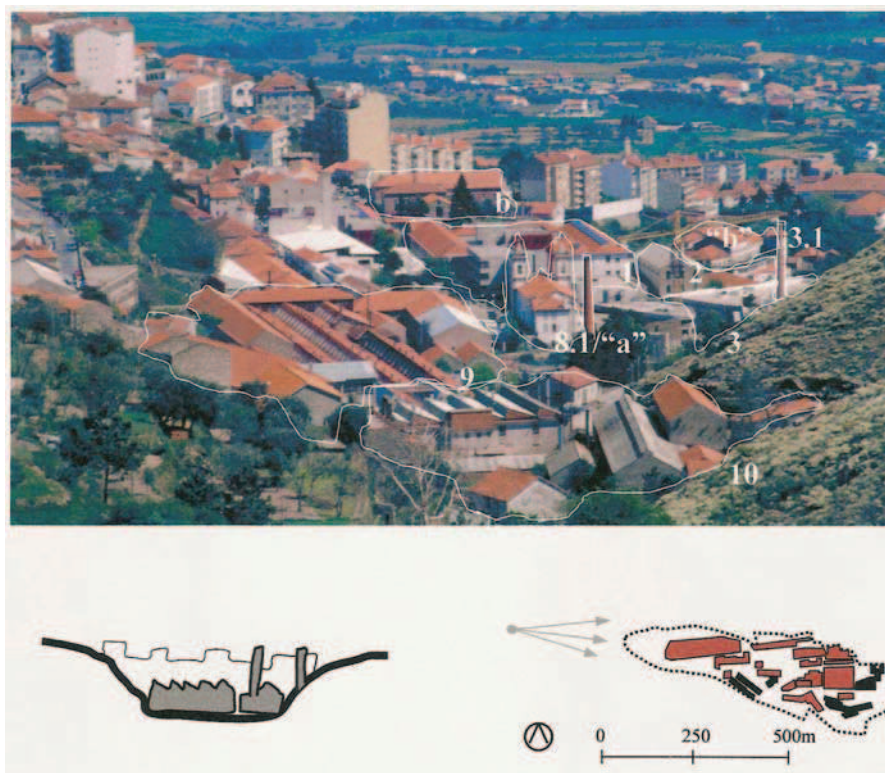


Fig. 2. The industrial complex of woollen factories in the upper part of the Ribeira da Goldra river valley in the 1980s. The complex is placed in the typical mountainous conditions of Covilha. It is to see, that the buildings in the foreground are properly matched to the rough shape of the ground. They seem to fulfil the valley completely.

View from the west. In the foreground (on the left): The UBI University and (on the right) two smokestacks as characteristic dominating cityscape features. In the background: The modern shapes of housing estates built in the 1970s. Denotations (Fig. 2):

Nos. 1-3, 9, 10: A group of former factories which has been transformed into university buildings and new university structures; No. 10: An operating textile factory

Nos. 3.1, 8.1: The historical smokestacks of the transformed factories, which serve as visually dominant orientation points in the district,

a, b: The listed chapels of the district

Sources: The author's analysis on the photo – slide scanned in CREA, UBI University, The Museum of Wool Manufacturing

Ryc. 2. Przemysłowy kompleks fabryk wełny w górnej części doliny rzeki Ribeira da Goldra w latach 1980. Zespół znajduje się w typowych górskich warunkach Covilha. Można zauważyć, że budynki z przodu fotografii są dopasowane do nierównego kształtu gruntu. Zdają się one wypełniać dolinę całkowicie.

Widok od strony zachodniej. Z przodu fotografii (po lewej stronie) Uniwersytet UBI oraz (po prawej stronie) dwa kominy jako charakterystyczne dominujące pionowe cechy krajobrazowe. W tle: kształty współczesnych zespołów mieszkaniowych wzniesionych w latach 1970.

Oznaczenia (Ryc. 2):

Nr 1-3, 9, 10: grupa dawnych fabryk, które zostały przekształcone w budynki uniwersytetu oraz w inne struktury z nimi związane.

Nr 10: Działająca jeszcze fabryka tekstylna

Nr 3.1, 8.1: Historyczne kominy przekształconych fabryk, które służą jako wizualnie dominujące punkty orientacyjne w dzielnicy

a, b: chronione zabytkowe kaplice.

Źródła: analizy autorskie na fotografii, przezrocze pochodzące z Uniwersytetu UBI, Muzeum Manufaktury Wełny

in parts of the remote view while the remainder of the researched space becomes the nearest surroundings. The first type of cityscape is necessary to show the quantitative features, distinguishing between the amount of original and new elements in the UBI Area. The second type of cityscape presents qualitative features, discovering the type of adjacent views. They permit new perceptions of the UBI Area, which consist of visual breaks and cityscape windows.

Most photographs of the remote cityscapes are taken with the camera facing south. They are considered to be the most representative pictures of the case study, and take into account the hilly topography of the investigated area and the typical (in these conditions) way of building.

The photographs of the visual break (cf. Fig. 5a) and the cityscape window (cf. Fig. 5b) are taken from the northeast as the most representative examples as well, considering the location and mountainous nature of the topography. Other kinds of photographs might also have been taken (from the east or north), but geographic conditions and the architectural composition would make the view difficult to read. Therefore, the photographs and cityscapes of the UBI Area have been analysed from the north and partially from the west and southwest. Furthermore, it should be mentioned that the marked cityscape window was neither planned nor protected during the period of degradation. It still exists, however,

during the period of post-industrial rehabilitation. The view is situated near the investigated area.

The cityscape analysis begins with a historical view over the city in about 1900 (cf. Fig. 1b). The typical feature of this photo is a harmonious line created by the low and long industrial architectural structures and by some surrounding buildings. The industrial architecture is matched to the hills in the Ribeira da Goldra river valley (cf. Fig. 2).

The situation of the industrial complex along the river valley is visible in the photo in Fig. 3 and 4. Here the horizontal line of the factories typical for the woollen industry of Covilha is evident. The historical flat and small-scale style of the city's architecture has to be compared with the large-scale, high-rise structures

built in the 1970s (cf. Fig.3 and 4), which changed the horizontal character to a vertical one.

Besides, the projects of the architectural re-use and re-integration resulted in brand-new forms either growing out of the old buildings or simply being added to the destroyed industrial structures (cf. Fig. 4, 6a). These technical and aesthetic changes currently influence not only the general industrial cityscape but also the character of the surrounding open areas. It is therefore possible to observe a loss of vernacular local values within the built environment. New open space created by distinctly transformed architecture has a vertical spatial style (cf. Fig. 4) in contrast to existing original areas, which have largely horizontal lines (cf. Fig. 1b). Moreover, enjoying the view of the

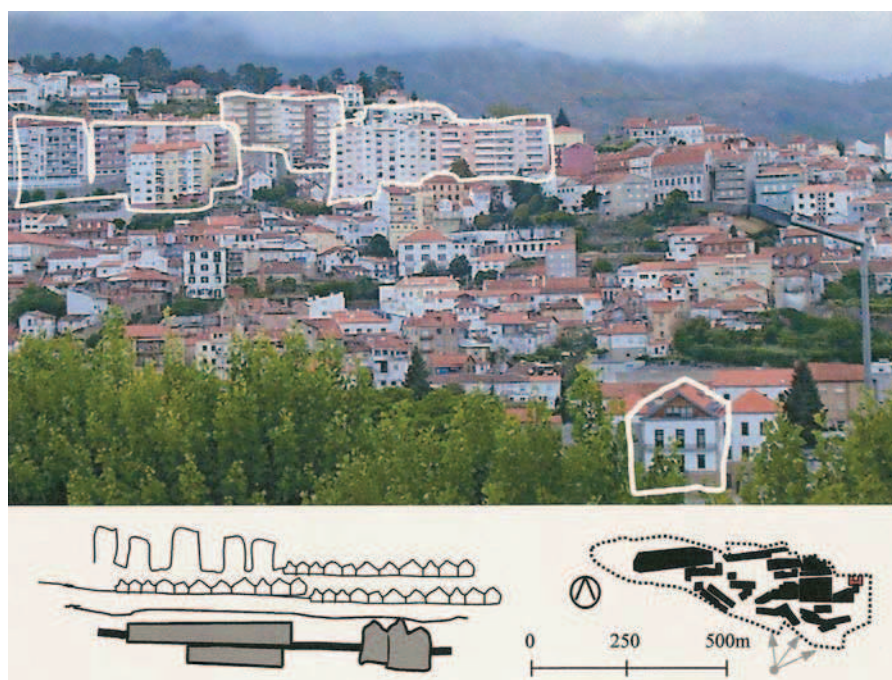


Fig. 3. The intensively built-up cityscape of Covilha in 2004 (on the left: marked white, viewed from the west): The upper part of the industrial district Distrito da Ribeira da Goldra. On the right: The former industrial residence, now re-used as a part of the university library. Photo: The author

Ryc. 3. Intensywnie zabudowany krajobraz Covilha w roku 2004 (po lewej stronie: zaznaczony na biało widok od strony zachodniej): górna okolica dzielnicy przemysłowej Distrito da Ribeira da Goldra. Po prawej stronie: dawna rezydencja przemysłowa obecnie zaadaptowana funkcjonalnie jako część biblioteki uniwersyteckiej. Fotografia: Autorka

UBI Area it is possible to perceive that the spatial upgrading of the industrial areas leans more toward the currently international building style than toward the original indigenous character of the industrial settlements (cf. Fig. 3 and 4). Moreover, a perception of the remote view of the city is often possible thanks to the spaces of streets and the surrounding hills (cf. Figs. 6a-6b).

One visual break and one cityscape window have been chosen (mentioned above) from many possible cases. They look into the research area from the outside, from the north. These adjacent cityscapes offer a view of the UBI Area (cf. Fig. 5b) and of industrial buildings nearby (cf. Fig. 5a), illustrating in an appropriate way the character of the places from where these buildings are viewed.

New industrial cityscape: Remote and near views

Nowy industrialny pejzaż w oddaleniu i bliskości widoków

In the terrain surrounding the industrial space some remote cityscapes were identified (cf. Figs. 1a and 6a-6b). The map (cf. Fig. 1a) presents these views as seen on the site adjacent to the UBI Area.

Several scientific discussions have taken place concerning the upgrading processes of the industrial areas along the Ribeira da Goldra River. These deliberations, however, refer mostly to the new functions that the transformed factories have, and analyse current university and museum offers [Mathias 1999, Fonseca 2007].

Other analyses focus on newer existing buildings and on planned ones, as well as on the infrastructure surrounding the industrial sites [Programa Polis 2001].

Strictly rehabilitation-related programmes are presented by the UBI University, the Projecto Rota de La Translana, the Programa Polis, and Smas, City Council of Covilha. Themes are urban planning problems on a city and regional scale, as well as the transformation of industrial architecture. The upgrading of the

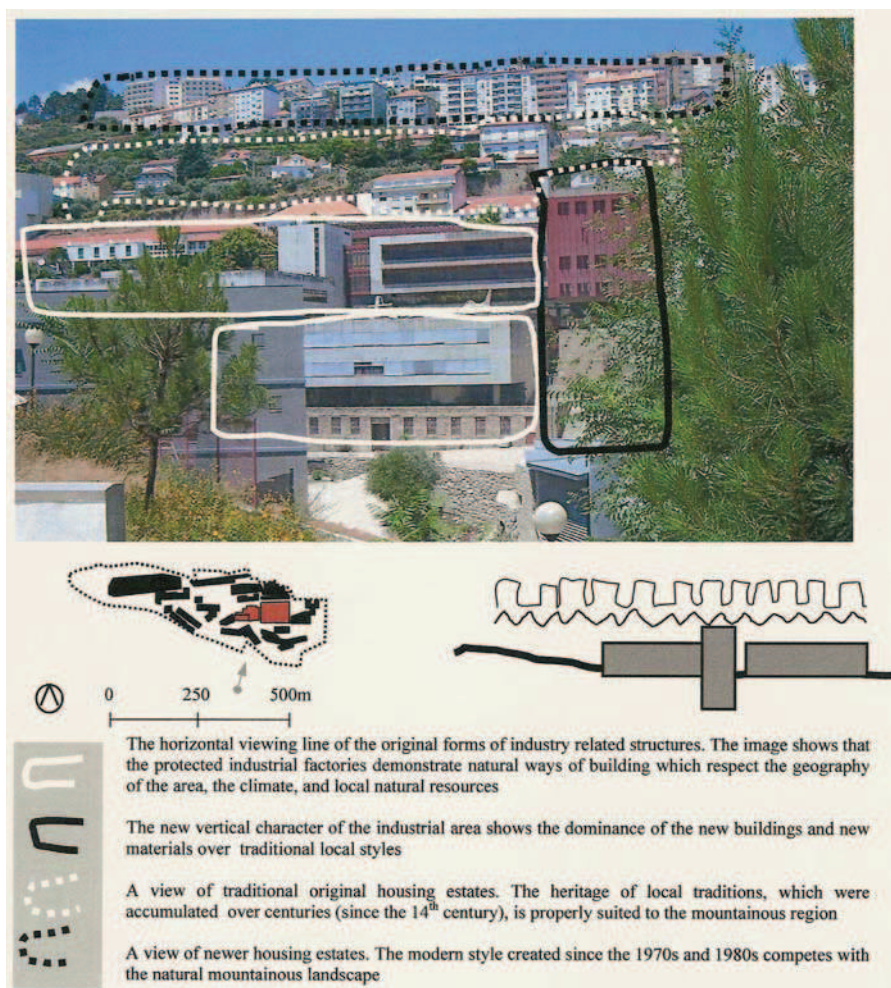


Fig. 4. Looking from the south toward the UBI Area: The massiveness of new buildings in comparison with the small scale of the vernacular ones. On the left (thick white line) new buildings constructed in place of the demolished former industrial buildings are visible. The present character of the site and its buildings differs from the original genius loci created by the former inhabitants. Photo: The author

Ryc. 4. Patrząc z południa w kierunku Obszaru UBI masywność nowych budynków w porównaniu z małą skalą budynków tradycyjnych. Po lewej stronie widoczne są (gruba biała linia) nowe obiekty wzniesione w miejsce wyburzonych dawnych fabryk. Obecny charakter obszaru oraz jego budowli różni się od pierwotnego genius loci wytworzonego przez mieszkańców. Fotografia: Autorka

riverbanks for open space is also acknowledged [Programa Polis 2001].

A remark about the "...conservation of the landscape and natural values in the Serra da Estrella and the safeguarding of its architectural and cultural heritage area..." ("Conservation of the landscape and natural values in the Serra da Estrella and the safeguarding of its architectural and

cultural heritage area is dependent on sustainable development to vitalize economic and cultural activities and prevent deterioration of the environment", Mathias, 1999, p. 72) is considered significant. Nevertheless, the investigated sources do not address the subject of cityscape planning in the industrial areas. Appropriate enquiries are missing regarding the

analysis and planning decisions made about the remote and adjacent views of the former factories considering the protection of the industrial structures.

During the period of post-industrial rehabilitation the analysed cityscape of the former wool factories presents the structure of the largely upgraded UBI Area. A view of it had been observed from various surrounding points, especially from the adjacent surroundings in Distrito Ribeira da Goldra. It is also highly visible from within the city, from well-known and accessible viewing points in Covilha, mountain paths close to the city centre Centro Historico, and from the district's neighbouring areas (cf. Figs. 3 and 6a-6b). The cityscape of the present UBI Area shows densely built former factories which together constitute an architectural composition specific to the woollen industry of the 18th century in the region.

The area is situated on the side of the mountain complex belonging to the Serra de Estrella. The mountainous shape of the district creates open space which facilitates the perception of the remote view from south-eastern parts of the city. These conditions also allow for an adjacent view from western paths along the hillside and from eastern paths leading to the city centre.

In conclusion, urban connections and the geographic layout (i.e., the mountains) ensure the visibility of the industrial cityscape in

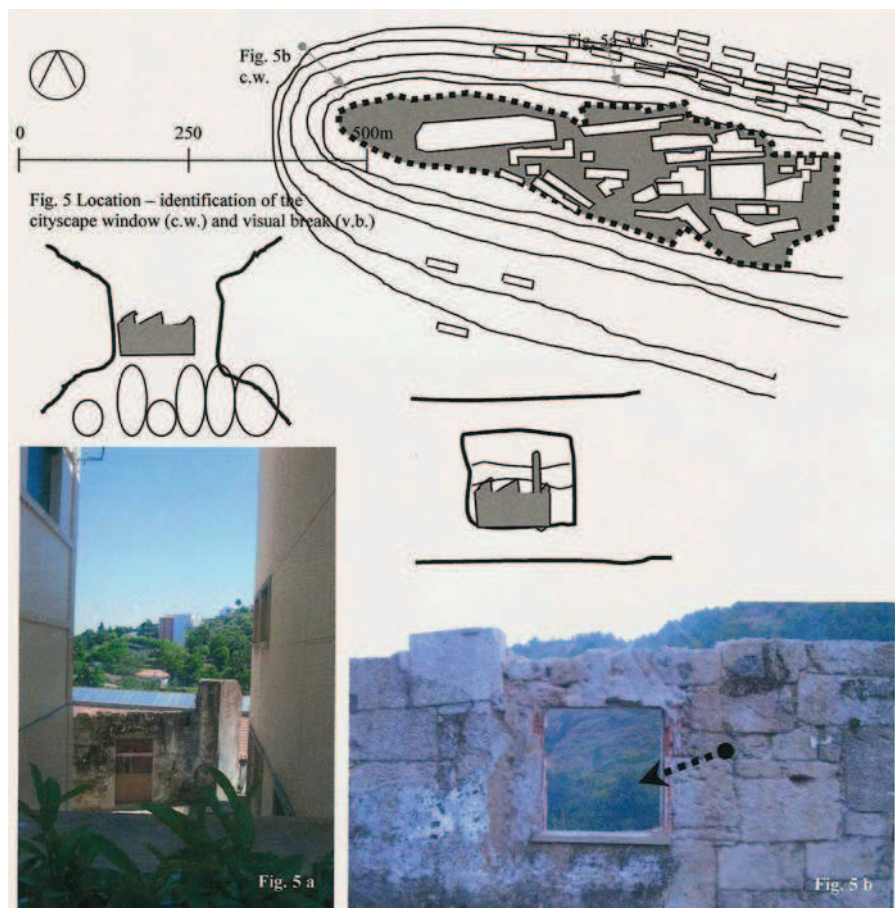


Fig. 5. Location – placement of landscape window (c.w.) and the observation interval (v.b.)

Fig. 5a. Visual break: The locations of some of the modern housing blocks up the Ribeira da Goldra river valley provide only limited views towards the neighbouring old woollen factories (the view from the north towards the river valley is marked)

Fig. 5b. Cityscape window: The old industrial areas can be seen via the existing ruins of the historical buildings along the path up and to the northwest of the UBI Area (the view towards the UBI Area is marked). Both views (cf. Figs. 5a-5b) were created spontaneously: Neither were they planned as cityscape elements, nor are they presently researched as such, nor protected for future visual observations. Photos (5a-5b): The author

Ryc. 5. Lokalizacja – umiejscowienie okna krajobrazowego (c.w.) oraz przerwy widokowej (v.b.)

Ryc. 5a. Przerwa wizualna: lokalizacja kilku współczesnych bloków mieszkalnych w górze doliny rzeki Ribeira da Goldra umożliwia tylko ograniczone widoki w kierunku sąsiadujących starych fabryk wełny. Zaznaczony jest widok z północy w kierunku doliny rzeki.

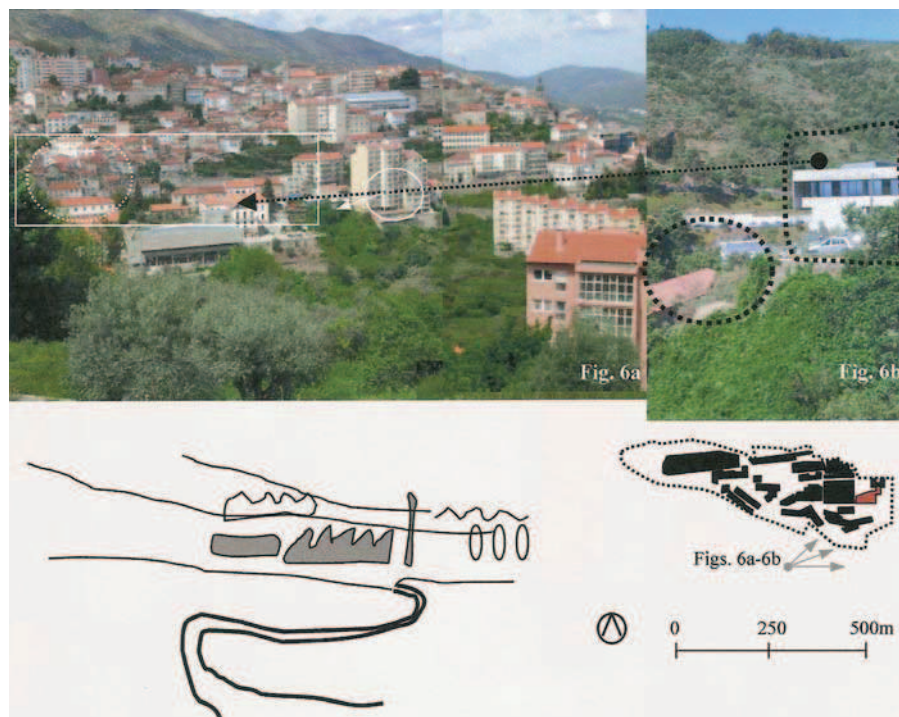
Ryc. 5b. Okno krajobrazowe: stare przemysłowe tereny można dostrzec poprzez istniejące ruiny budynków historycznych umiejscowionych wzdłuż ścieżki na jej górnym odcinku oraz w kierunku północno-zachodnim obszaru UBI (zaznaczony jest widok w kierunku Obszaru UBI). Oba widoki (patrz: ryc. 5a – ryc. 5b) utworzone zostały spontanicznie: nie były one planowane jako elementy krajobrazowe ani nie są one obecnie badane jako takie, ani też nie są chronione dla celów przyszłych obserwacji wizualnych. Fotografic (5 a – 5 b): Autorka

Fig. 6a. The paths leading from the UBI Area to the neighbouring districts are elements of the urban connections, which still create possibilities for cityscape observations. Marked is (white rectangle) the part of the re-used industrial UBI Area visible from the south-west; (white circle) the Museum of Wool Manufacturing

Fig. 6b. A north-eastern view from a terrace open for visitors (marked by a white ellipsis) of one of the block houses up the river valley; (black circle) a part of the re-used Museum of Wool Manufacturing Dye-works Centre and (black rectangular) a new building belonging to the University Library of UBI. Photos (6a-6b): The author

Ryc. 6a. Ścieżki prowadzące z Obszaru UBI do sąsiednich dzielnic są elementami powiązań urbanistycznych, które wciąż stwarzają możliwości dla obserwacji krajobrazu. Na zdjęciu zaznaczony jest (biały prostokąt) fragment przekształconego funkcjonalnie Obszaru UBI, widocznego z południowego zachodu. (Biały okrąg): Muzeum Manufaktury Wełny.

Ryc. 6b. Północno-wschodni widok z tarasu otwartego dla odwiedzających (zaznaczony białą elipsą) jednego z budynków blokowych w górze doliny rzecznej. Część przekształconego funkcjonalnie Muzeum Manufaktury Wełny – Centrum Farbowania Wełny (czarny okrąg) oraz nowy budynek należący do Biblioteki Uniwersyteckiej UBI (czarny czworobok). Fotografie(ryc.6a,6b): Autorka



the background, although views of the adjacent cityscape are partially limited by the hills.

One cityscape window (cf. Fig. 5b) and one visual break (cf. Fig. 5a) can be seen in the research area. These views (cf. Fig. 3-4) permit an adjacent and a remote perception of the various parts of the industrial site.

Summary

Podsumowanie

The paper analyses the remote and near views of former industrial areas.

Covilha is a city placed in a mountainous region of Serra da

Estrela. This is a factor, which causes a strong urban intensification of housing and factory areas.

The article operates on graphic and visual analysis of various cityscapes. Among many panoramas the most important and original one are the small views of cityscape windows and visual breaks. They are basis for the new perception of the former industrial space. The observers can discover the UBI Area as a new place, since its recovered parts are visible in different forms in-between the new and old buildings.

Additionally, the panorama of the total city is being enriched by the renewed space of science.

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