REFLECTION

TABLE OF CONTENT

1. INTRODUCTION

This reflection paper is part of the graduation studio named 'Disclosing the Military City Lisbon'[1] as part of the chair Heritage and Architecture at the TU Delft. The studio assignment and project is initiated in collaboration with DOCOMOMO (International committee for documentation and conservation of buildings, sites and neighbourhoods of the modern movement) The start of the project was done by attending the 14th International DOCOMOMO Conference and joining the organised on-site workshop in Lisbon.

The graduation project is focused on the 'South' part of the Manutençao Militar Complex in Lisbon. (Figure 1)

When visiting the site the building that struck me the most was the silos. Because of it's height, contrasting shape and standing at the end of a long street it immediately caught my eye. I have chosen the silos to focus my graduation on due to its key role as landmark, as face of the site (and surroundings), its vital role in my strategy for the complex and the fact that I am fascinated by the building.

In this reflection paper I reflect on the architectonic and social relevance of my graduation project and design.

[1] Graduation Studio Manual. Retrieved may 6th 2017, from https://blackboard.tudelft.nl
[2] Docomomo internation. Retrieved may 6th 2017, from https://www.docomomo.com/
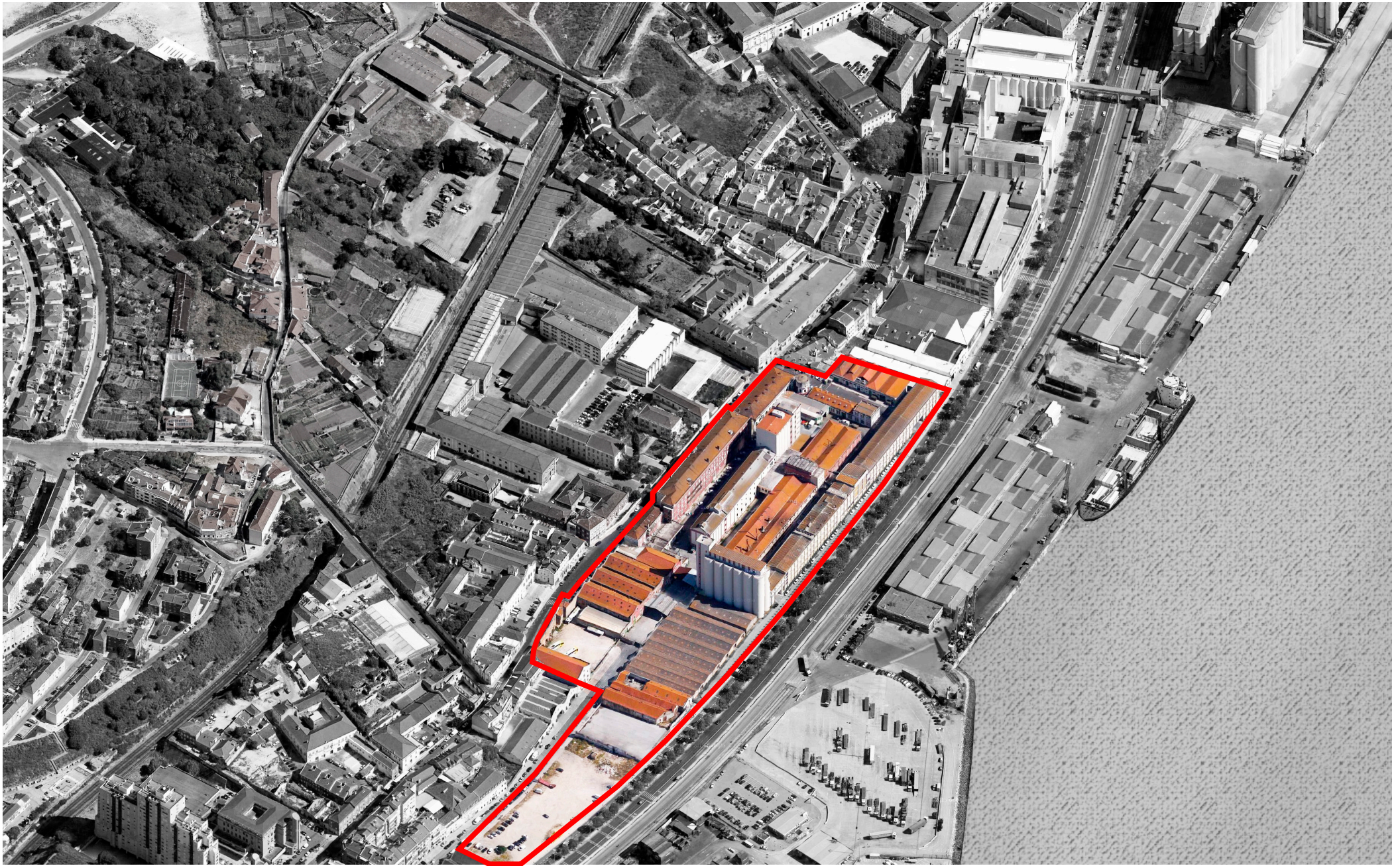
Figure 1
Focus of the studio on the 'South' part of the complex.
Illustrated in color and highlighted (own illustration
based on google earth image, 2017)

2. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RESEARCH AND DESIGN

Design by research and research by design

The Lisbon studio, as being part of the chair of Heritage and Architecture, starts with an existing build environment and context. In which the task is set to transform and adoptively re-use the existing and to preserve the existing values by giving it a new future. Since this task is about transformation and re-use of the existing build environment, the existing has to be analysed and researched if it contains certain cultural values and when present these need to be stated. In the design these values need to be addressed and shown how you deal with these as a designer. So before a design can be made, these values must be documented and considered. As a designer as much information and knowledge has to be gathered in order to come up with a suitable design which is an answer to the task ahead. This does not mean that this process of research and design is a linear process. In the contrary, it is an ongoing process of analysing and designing. As can be seen in figure 2. This figure illustrates the work method I used and is a schematic way of illustrating the process of design, but also the relationship between research and design. The architectural, technical and cultural analyses together with the brief (social and economics) are input for the transformation framework. This transformation framework is the starting point for designing multiple scenarios. These scenarios are outcomes of what is stated in the transformation framework and are a response on a architectural, technical, cultural and socio-economical level. When designing these scenarios, still questions will arise. So you refer back to the analyses and transformation framework to get the answers. This process goes back and forth until you find the 'right' answer c.q. design which suites the design assignment.
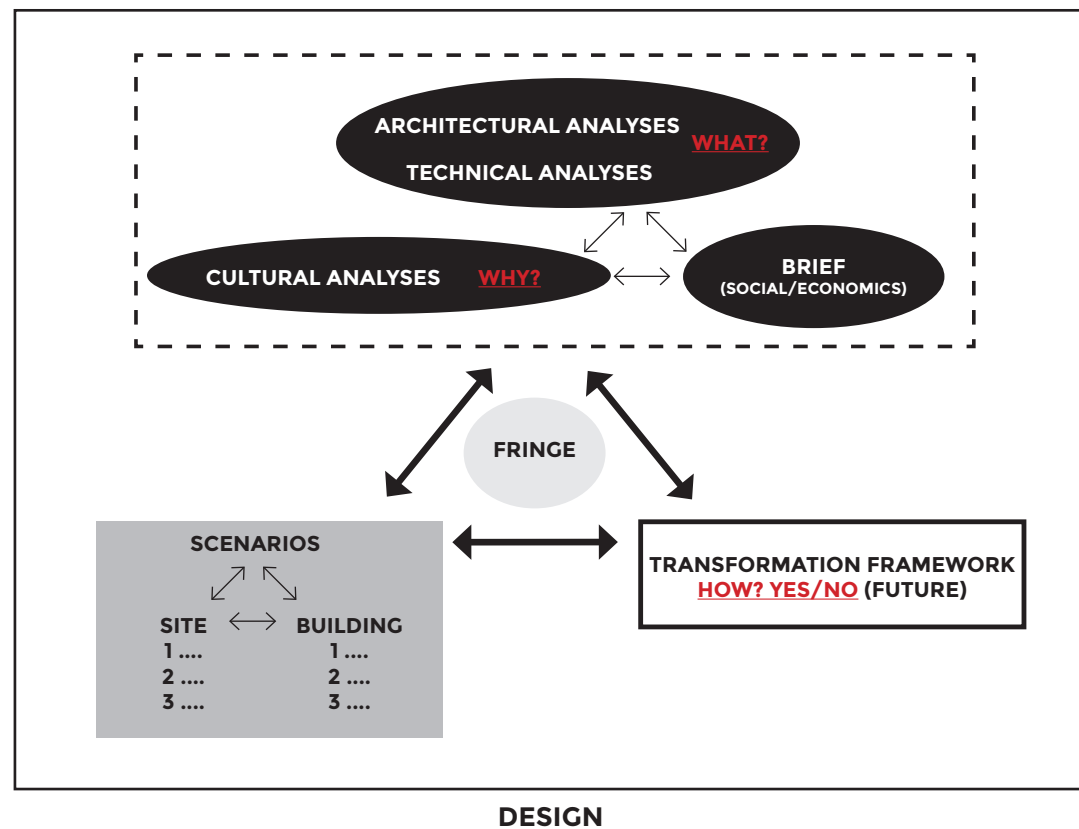
Figure 2
Work method which is used during the Lisbon studio by
Daan Masmeijer (own illustration, 2016)

3. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE THEME OF THE GRADUATION LAB AND THE SUBJECT CHOSEN BY THE STUDENT WITHIN THIS FRAMEWORK

Heritage and architecture
My graduation project is part of the Heritage and Architecture Lisbon studio. The theme of the graduation studio is already made clear on the cover of the graduation studio manual in the subtitle, called: "Disclosing the Military City Lisbon". In this studio we are faced with the task of redeveloping an abandoned military complex. This is achieved through research and design and results in a detailed design which focuses on one or more buildings. A challenging task, since the Manutencao Militar Complex (MMC) is industrial heritage, is connected to the Portuguese history, located in between the city centre and the Expo '98 area and is part of the Lisbon riverside.
As student of this studio I found myself fascinated especially by the iconic silos building. This building stands out due to its height, closeness and round shapes whereas the other buildings and the organisation of the complex is linear and rectangular. Analysing the complex and visiting the site made clear to me, what was also stated in the subtitle already: that the core task ahead was finding a strategy and making a design which dealt with disclosing the complex. The MMC has always been closed of from its surroundings and even before that time also the monastery was. So the area where the MMC is located, has always been unaccessible for the public. The combination of an enclosed site and my fascination for the closed and mono-functional silos building made me formulate my research question as followed: 'What strategy can one use to intervene in a monofunctional structure in order to regenerate the building (site) and connect it to the city? This research question makes clear that the assignment and quest I have set for myself is not solely about disclosing the military site but also to find a strategy in which the site is connected and integrate in the city itself. (From the smaller scale of the neighbourhood to the larger scale of the city.
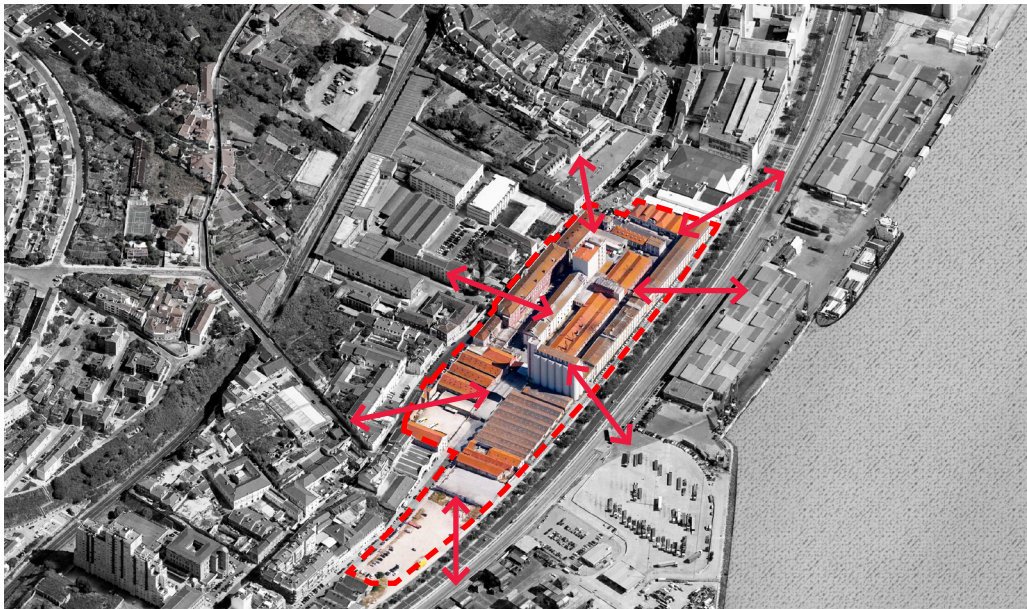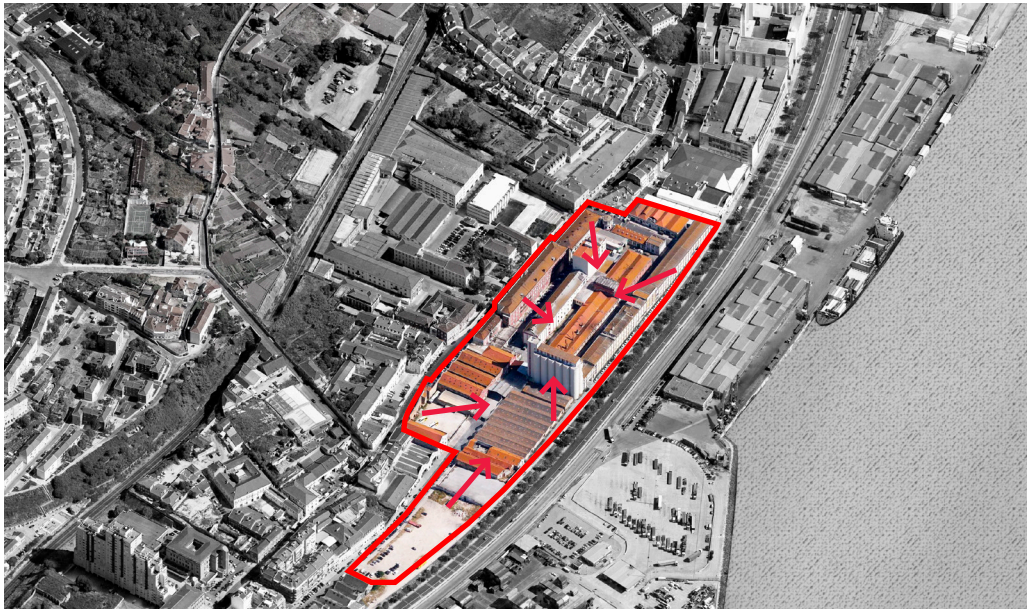
Figure 3
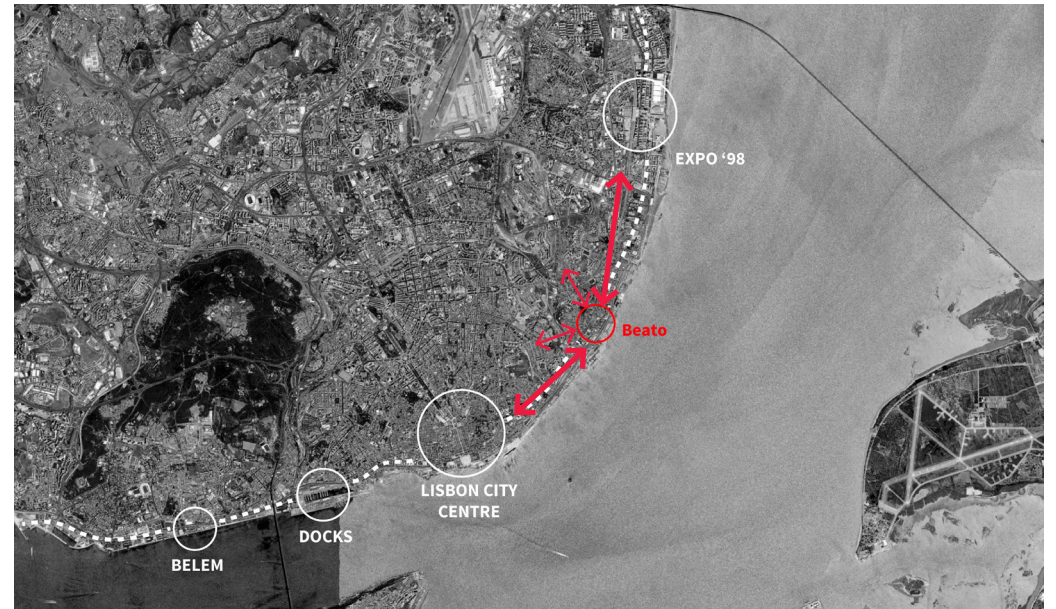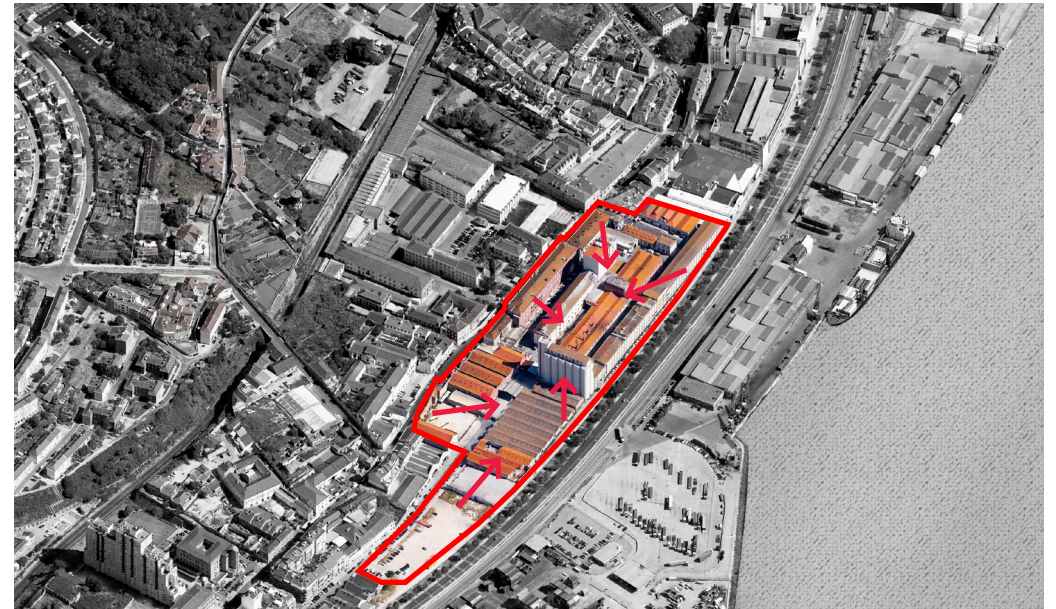Theme of the graduation lab: 'Disclosing the Military City
Lisbon'

Figure 4
Subject of my graduation project: not only disclosing the
Military City Lisbon and integrate it on the neighbourhood
scale but also to integrate the complex on the scale of the city.

4. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE METHODICAL LINE OF APPROACH OF THE GRADUATION LAB AND THE METHOD CHOSEN BY THE STUDENT IN THIS FRAMEWORK

Approach of the graduation lab
Inherent to the graduation lab being Heritage and Architecture is the combination of design, technology and cultural value into one approach. (figure 5) Since the graduation lab and its projects concern transformation and adaptive re-use existing sites and buildings.

Students approach and work method
The work method I used as a student in this graduation lab (figure 6) is based on the work method as sketched out by one of my tutors: Job Roos. One of the things I added in order to make the scheme more clear to myself is the addition of the what, why and how questions. To me the architectural and technical analyses is about gathering knowledge and information by asking the question 'What?'. The cultural analyses is about asking the question 'Why?'. Next to this the transformation framework sums up the 'How?' with the addition of leaving the question unanswered and possibilities open. In which the scenarios are fully about answering the question 'How?'. This on-going process of going back and forth between analyses, transformation framework and scenarios leads to a design. By doing so the decisions made to come to the design are underpinned and profound by the research which is done.

Comparison approach of the graduation lab with my approach and work method
When comparing the approach of the graduation lab with my personal approach it is visible that the three aspects addressed by the graduation lab: design, technical and cultural value are also integrated in my personal approach only in this more elaborated and distinguished. However the essence of combining design, technical and cultural value is the same.

Reflection on the used approach and work method
Part of my approach and work method is developing alternatives and scenarios for design questions from mass studies(abstract and large scale question) to details(technical and 'smaller' scale question). I found it a great way to show my thoughts and thinking and an approach in which you can make clear what you have researched and why you have chosen for this solution instead of a different one. However in this alternative research it is very important to have a framework, a set of parameters or concept on which you are capable of making decisions and chooses. Otherwise everything is possible and you will not proceed in your process. In my process, which has led me to the design I have now, I have faced a lot of moments in which I was doubting what the right decision or solution would be. So maybe I didn't had my goal and way of thinking straight at that time to make a decision. I also had moments that I asked myself the question: 'Is this the right way to go?' and 'Why am I doing it this way?'. Eventually it has ended me up with the design I have today and in this process I have learned a lot and gained experience which is very useful in future design projects. So in a next design project I will have more experience in this process and hopefully be better equipped in decision making, since I believe the approach I used is how I work in general and should work in order to convince the audience, tutor, colleague or client of my architecture.

DESIGN

HA

CULTURAL VALUE   TECHNOLOGY
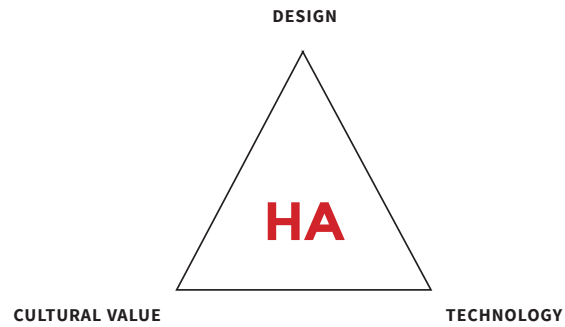
"Heritage & Architecture brings together the fields of cultural history, technology, and architectural design in a single holistic approach."[1]

1   Quist, W., Roos, J., Zijlstra, H., & Kuipers, M. (2016, October 05). Graduation Studio Manual - Heritage & Architecture: 'Disclosing the Military City Lisbon'. Retrieved from https://blackboard.tudelft.nl

Figure 5
Studio approach Heritage and Architecture: combining design, technology and cultural value.
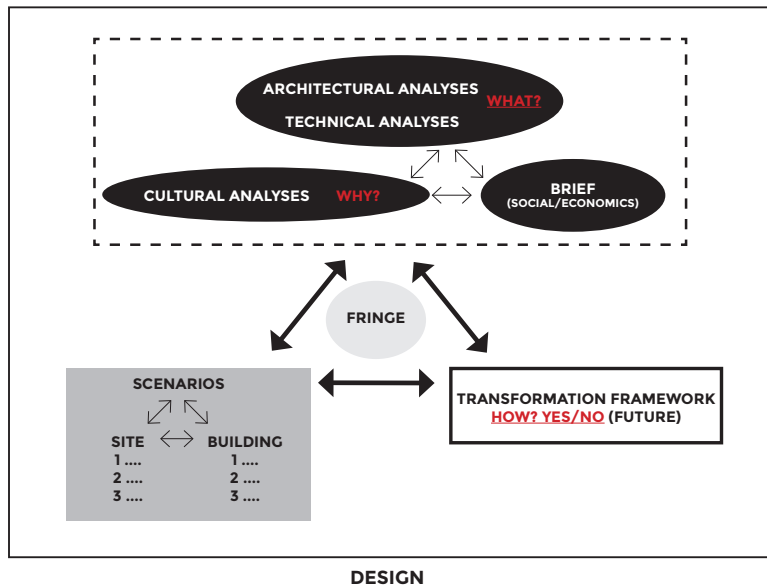(Quist, W., Roos, J., Zijlstra, H., & Kuipers, M. , 2016)

Figure 6
Work method which is used during the Lisbon studio by Daan Masmeijer (own illustration, 2016)
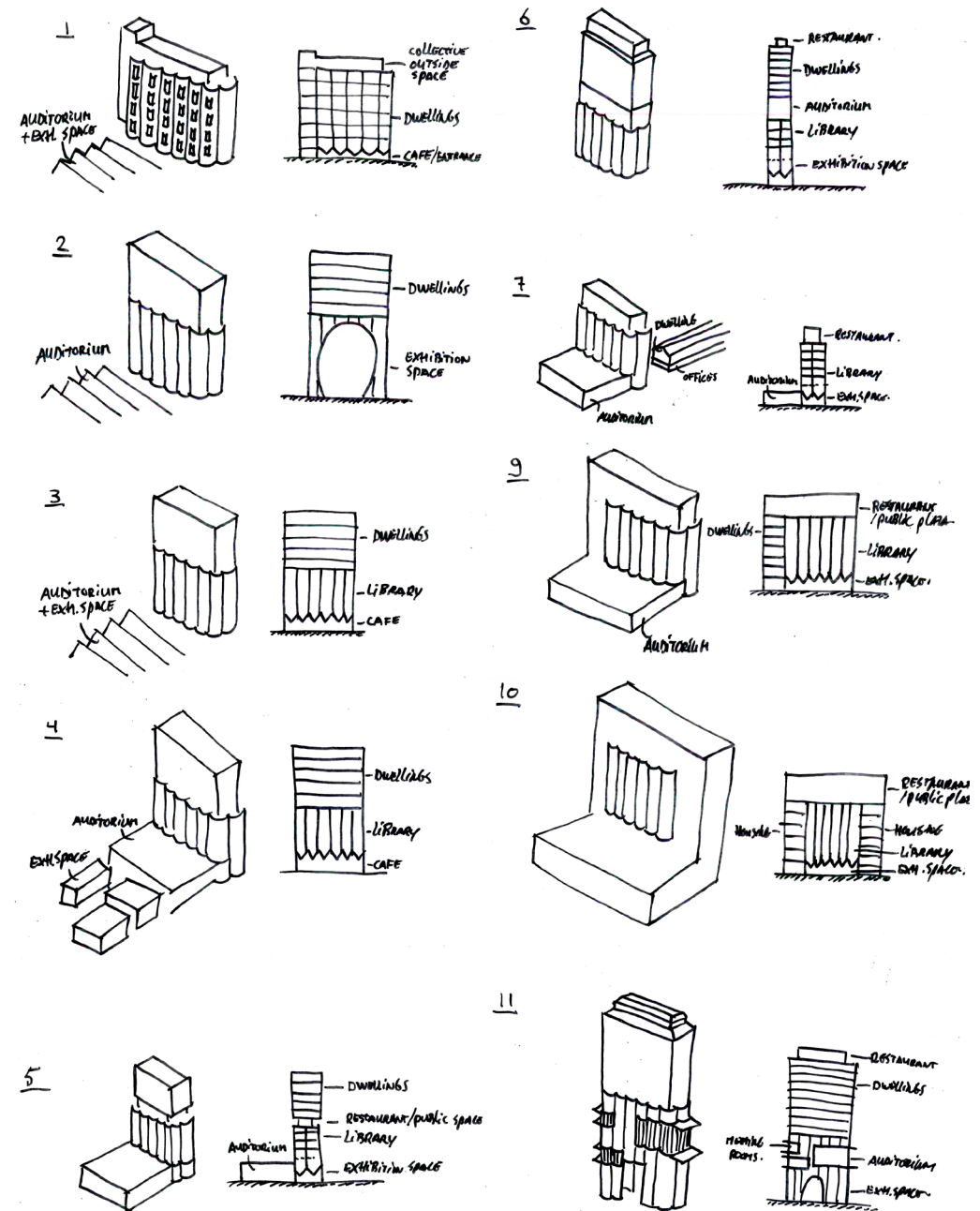

Figure 7
Creating different scenarios for incorporating multiple functions in the silos and how to deal with the silos in relation to to be added space. (own illustration, 2016)

5. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PROJECT AND THE WIDER SOCIAL CONTEXT

Gentrification

The graduation project of the studio is located in Beato, Lisbon (Portugal). The analyses and visiting the site made clear that the area is an in between zone, between the city centre and the expo'98 area which are two hot spots and important areas in Lisbon. Looking at the demographics of Beato in relation to the city of Lisbon makes clear that the demographics in Beato are unbalanced. The aging population is made very clear in Beato, since the group of inhabitants consists mainly out of elderly and the group of youngsters is fairly outnumbered. Next to this phenomenon is the level of education which in Beato is significantly lower than general in Lisbon. Main goal of my strategy in this graduation project is to balance the demographics by attracting a variety of target groups in order to activate the neighbourhood.

By doing so the term 'gentrification' could be used, since other groups of people are attracted to a 'lower class neighbourhood' to achieve urban renewal. Gentrification is not a new phenomenon, but can also be seen in other cities and countries around the world for some time now. So in this the project is related to the social context of Lisbon, but also related to phenomenons globally.

All these social changes are aimed to end up with an area where mixed groups of people live and work and which even will remain attracting more and more people after the redevelopment of the MMC. In this creating housing for different target groups is not enough. To accommodate the growth in population public functions and public space must be extended in order to create a working lively neighbourhood, a place to stay and which is attractive. Two large interventions in my strategy (figure 8) is creating a large public rooftop park and extending the existing silos. In this strategy the silos will contain a layering of functions, both public and private. In the top extension 'high-end' residents will be housed where as the existing silos will be made usable for a restaurant, cafes, library and archive. So this new silos building will provide the site with people which will make use of the public functions and public space. The public rooftop park will be made to enhance the public space in Beato for leisure and relaxation which is needed.

65 +

0-30

ELDERLY INCREASING VS YOUNGSTERS MOVING OUT

33%

LISBON

22%

BEATO

LEVEL OF EDUCATION IN BEATO SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER THAN GENERAL IN LISBON

MUNICIPALITY ASKS FOR CREATIVE HUB

ELDERLY

STUDENTS

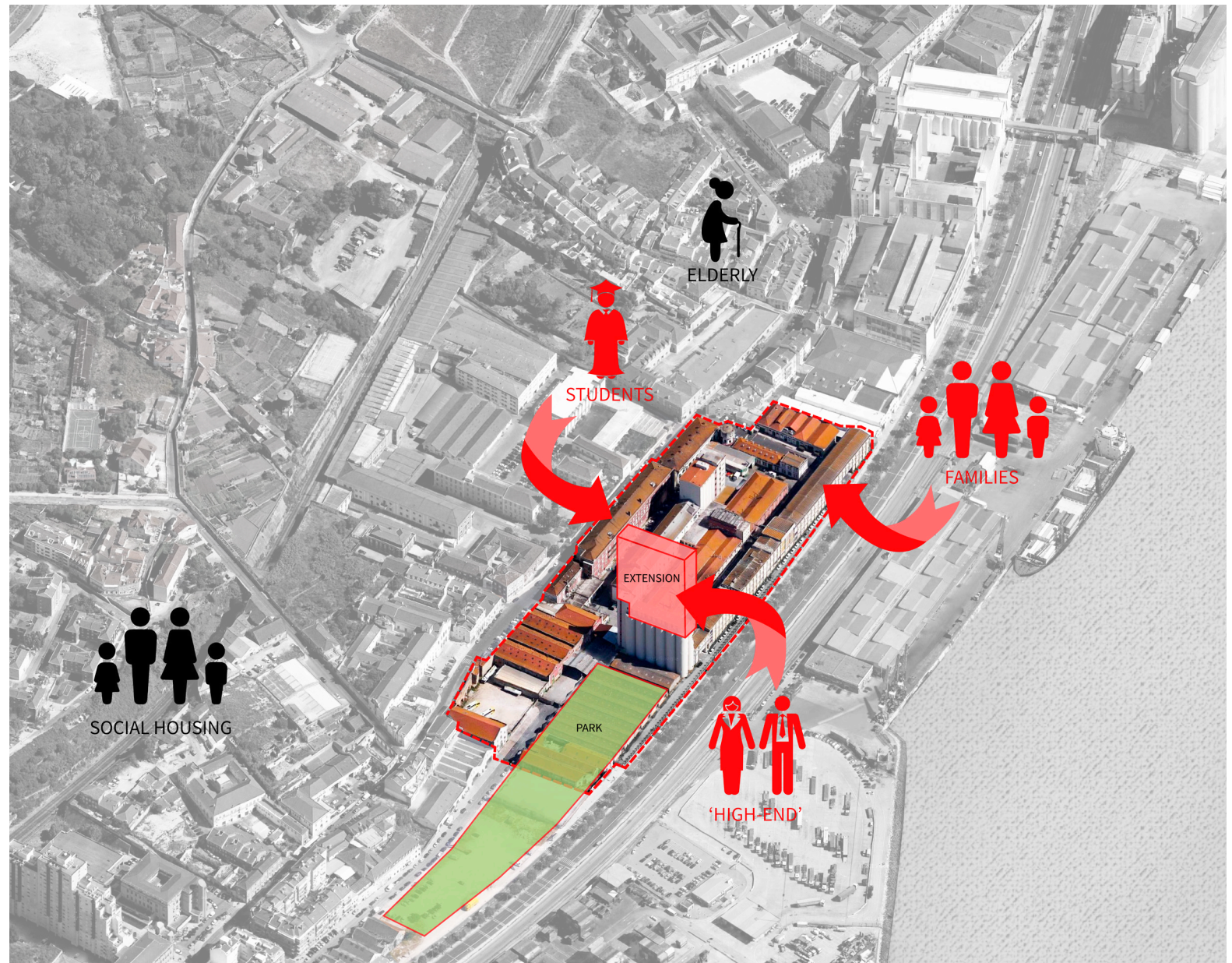FAMILIES

EXTENSION

SOCIAL HOUSING

PARK

'HIGH-END'

Figure 8

Schematic demographics of Beato (area where the site is located) and the vision of the municipality of Lisbon for the site. Next to my strategy on a social level. (own illustration, 2016)