

# BAIROS unBOUNDED

## Multiscalar Duality in Lisbon's Urban and Architectural Forms

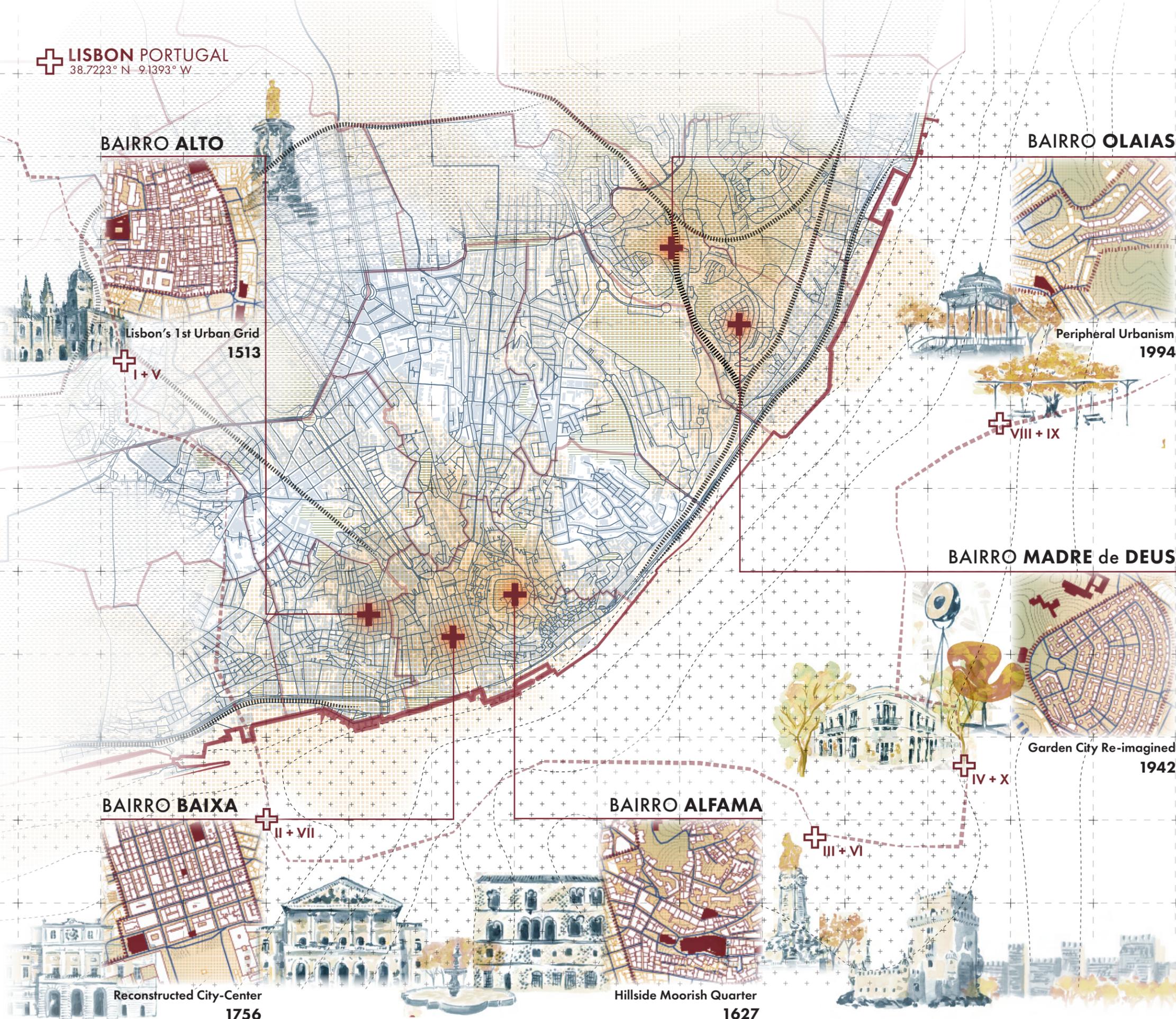
Urbanism and architecture are the mechanisms by which we shape our cities. Compared to the relative permanence of urban design decisions, architectural life cycles can be much shorter. Thus, architecture allows for the continued evolution and re-characterization of a city's lived experience based on the aspirations and desires of communities at particular points in time. In Lisbon, this duality between urban and architectural form is particularly noticeable, and provides us with an opportunity to study how architecture is informed by and adapts to Portugal's changing socio-cultural contexts.

In Portuguese, the word *Bairros* - or neighborhoods - has "a deeper meaning, encompassing a mix of administrative, historic, architectural and social characteristics tempered by a strong influence of local perception." Lisbon's *Bairros* act as urban catalogs for the planning and social principles of the time they were implemented. The city's urban structure is a testimony to successive Roman, Islamic, and Medieval settlements, as well as a response to natural disasters, socio-political pressures, and changes in demographics; all of which have created distinct neighborhood identities, such as the organic Alfama, the grids of Alto and Baixa, and the urban experiments of Mata da Madre de Deus and Olaias.

The planning ideals behind each *Bairro's* conception are reflected in their urban building blocks - the road networks, block scale, and relationship to the natural topography. From this zoomed out scale, the socio-cultural backdrop that forms neighborhoods is indiscernible, and the boundaries between them appear limited to their well-defined edges. However, the borders of Lisbon's *Bairros* aren't as static as they seem in plan as the shifting porosity of a neighborhood over time is embodied in the building scale through its materiality, fenestration, hierarchy of spaces, and daily interactions.

Although each of Lisbon's distinct *Bairros* has a storied history, culture, identity, and architectural expression; together, they form a cohesive urban fabric that provides Lisbon with a unique sense of place. Through this investigation, we seek to explore how architecture reflects and reinterprets Lisbon's evolution over time as it responds to shifting socio-cultural identities. These are themes central to RAMSA's design practice, which is rooted in research that contextualizes a neighborhood through architecture.

Our exploration is three pronged: urban, contextual and architectural. To start our explorations, we will undertake a series of urban mapping exercises overlaid with urban data analytics, like the adjacent diagram we have created. To contextualize this data, we will use photography, sketches, measured drawings, archival research, and interviews to reveal each neighborhood's unique spirit. Finally, our architectural analysis will illustrate street hierarchy, massing techniques, street sections, relationships of public and private space, fenestration details, and materiality. **Together, these form a kit of parts we can use to identify differences and commonalities between neighborhoods, a breath of knowledge that can further architectural discourse and be applied to future RAMSA projects.**



### BUDGET

FLIGHTS	1100 ea.	2200	FOOD	50/day ea.	1200
LODGING	180/night	2160	ADMISSION	75 ea.	150
TRANSPORT	60/day	720	SUPPLIES		300
			TOTAL		\$6730

### RESOURCES

The Transition Urban Planning History of Lisbon, Mendes and Borges | The Form of Form: Lisbon Architecture Triennale, Andre Tavares | Mapping Public Housing, University of Porto | The Invisible City: Existence and Resistance in the Peripheries of Lisbon, Funambulist Magazine | Lisbon Architectural Guide 1948-2021 | The Project Gutenberg EBook of Portuguese Architecture, Walter Crum Watson | Open Data, Lisbon City