

36.

USING INFRASTRUCTURE
AS A WAY TO TRANSFORM
HERITAGE INTO LEGACY.

**THE CABLECAR PROJECT
OF MENOS É MAIS IN PORTO.**

What should the form of transport infrastructure be in a heritage city?

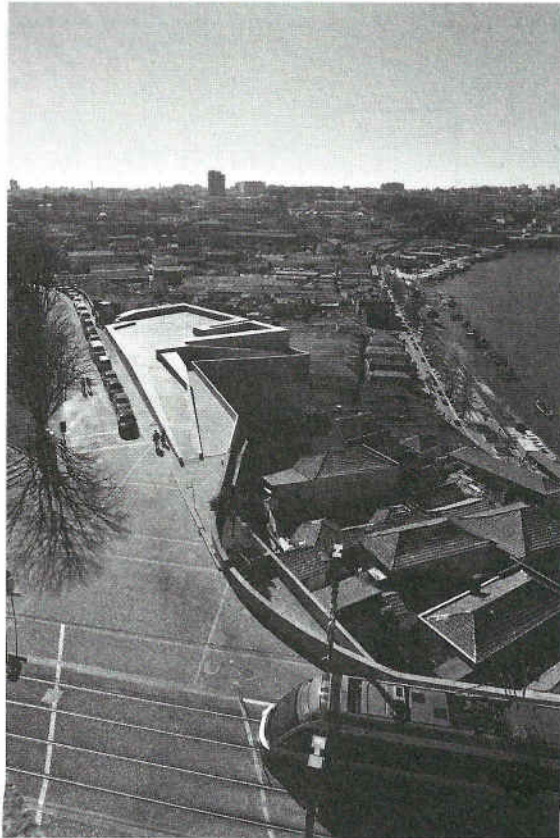
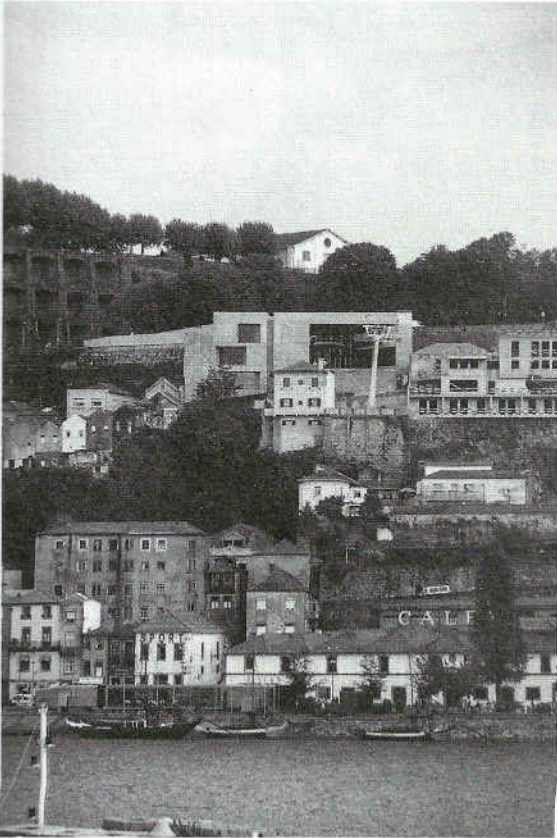
It is obvious that infrastructure has a huge impact in shaping public space, both for the good and for the bad. Infrastructure is needed to channel and nurture the dynamics of development; heritage is normally seen as a resistance to it. So, transport infrastructure in a context of valuable heritage may need to shift its paradigms, be able to blend into the existing, pay homage to the tradition of the place, and simultaneously reflect the time we are living, becoming a legacy that speaks to the moment it was created.

The Gaia Cablecar project in Porto is exemplary in the way it responds to the challenge of integrating forces moving in opposite directions. The project was a private commission responding to a demand; the architects saw in it an opportunity to advocate for public space. The battle of Menos é Mais was to use the infrastructure as a driver of heritage enhancement by improving the way citizens of Porto can move within the city without affecting the existent constructions.

This capacity requires respect for the context, conscience of public space, but at the same time a profound knowledge of technique. As they explain, it was a matter of "nesting" two large machines in the cityscape with minimum impact.

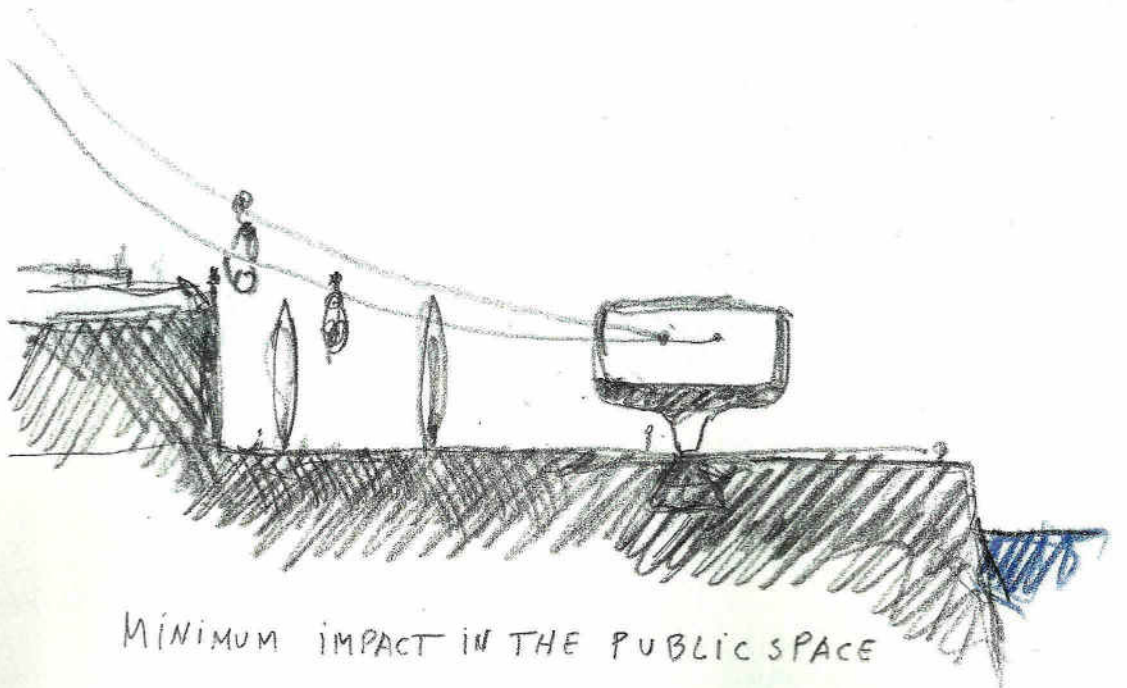
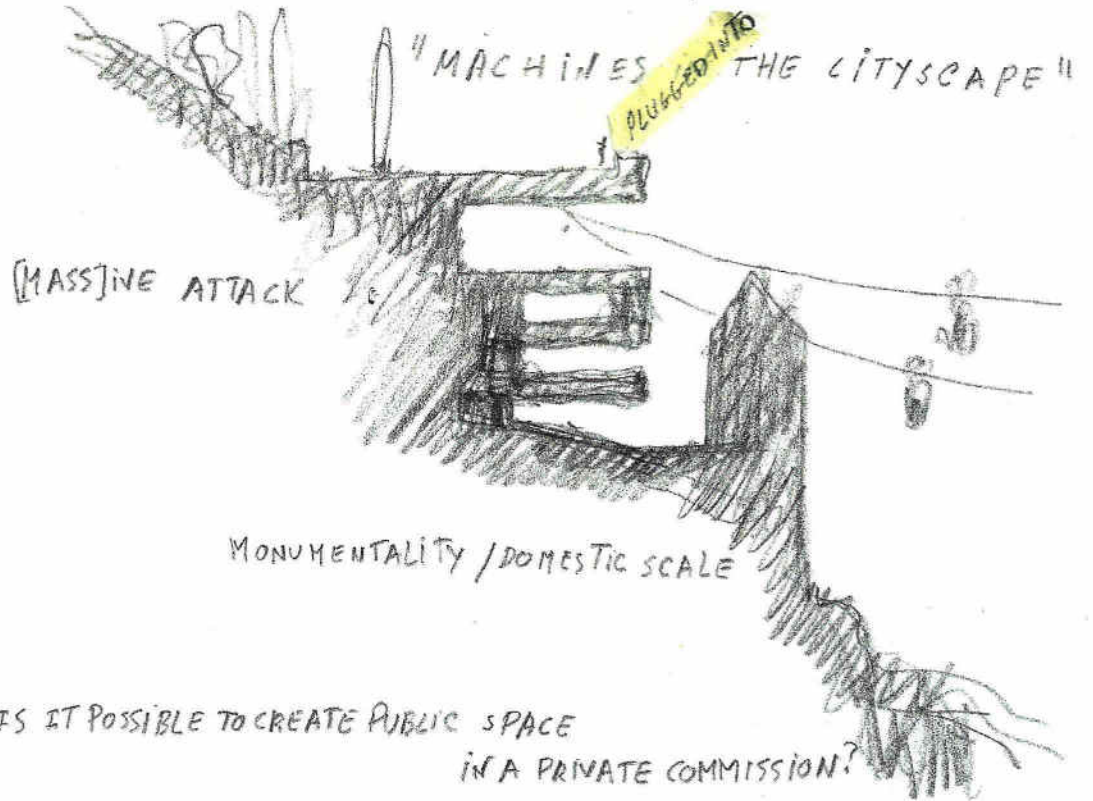
These are the kinds of lessons that are capable of delivering powerful design responses to complex questions.

They were able to distill the form of the infrastructure so elegantly that the new pieces of machinery became part of the identity of a city without relinquishing their efficiency.

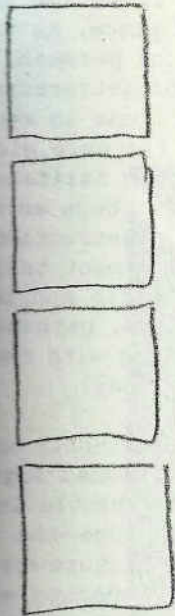


Left: Menos é Mais, upper station overview, Gaia cablecar, Vila Nova de Gaia, Porto, Portugal, 2011.
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Right: Menos é Mais, upper station access and creation of public space on terrace, Gaia cablecar, Vila Nova de Gaia, Porto, Portugal, 2011. © Alberto Plácido



"MACHINES ^{PLUGGED INTO} THE CITYSCAPE"

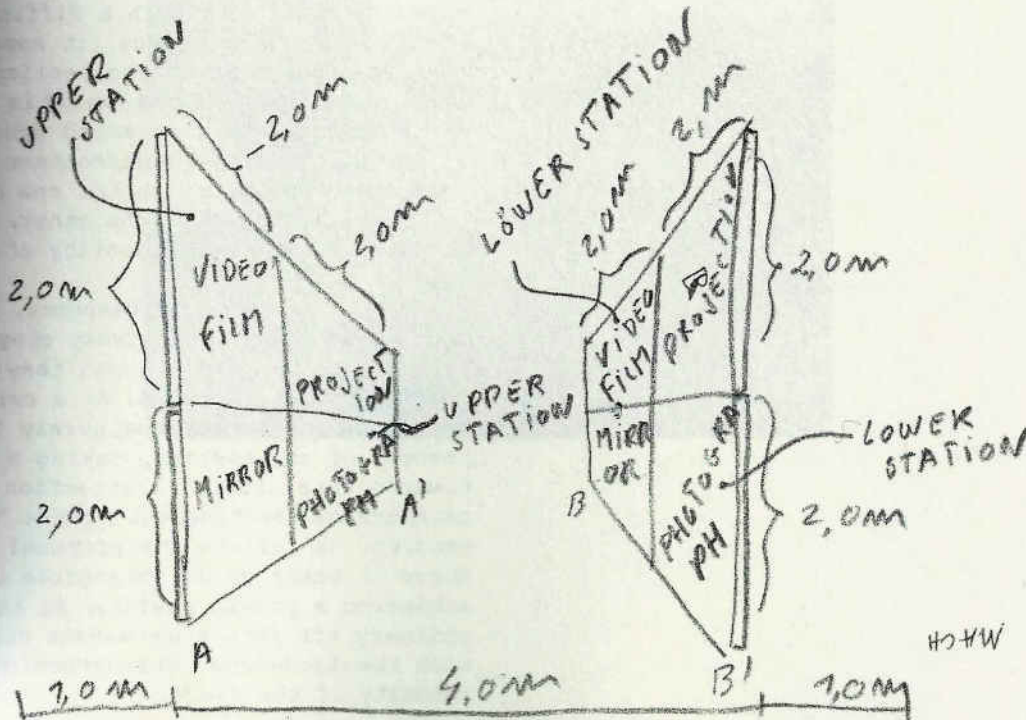
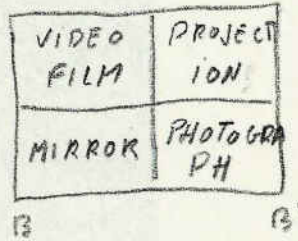
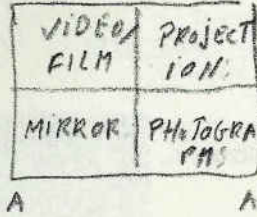


2 X MIRRORS

2 X VIDEOS/FILMS

2 X PHOTOGRAPHS

2 X PROJECTIONS



HOW