

agriCULTURAL
landscapes

30 years of landscape
architecture education
in Nitra

BOOK OF
ABSTRACTS

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**REGENERATIVE LANDSCAPE DESIGN
AT QUINTA DE SALGUEIROS, PORTO**

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Quinta de Salgueiros is an innovative landscape architecture project showcasing the adaptive reuse of a historic agricultural estate and ruin in Porto, Portugal. Embracing a regenerative approach, the design restores a culturally and ecologically significant site that had fallen into socio-ecological degradation . The 6.3-hectare property, is being transformed into a resilient urban green space. The project aims to revive the estate's streams, woodlands, and meadows to enhance biodiversity, ecosystem services, and climate resilience . It serves as a demonstration area for innovative nature-based solutions (NBS) in an urban context.

A recent ecological assessment identified 27 distinct habitat types, 28 bird species, 1 reptile, 11 butterfly species, and 66 vascular plant taxa on site, highlighting the area's significant ecological value. At the same time, the study revealed pressing challenges, including the widespread presence of invasive plant species and the fragmentation of natural habitats. The surrounding highway infrastructure further disrupts ecological connectivity, acting as a barrier to wildlife movement. These findings informed a design strategy focused on restoring native ecosystems and enhancing habitat connectivity. Initial on-site works prioritized the removal of invasive species and the rehabilitation of existing trees, setting the groundwork for the phased reintroduction of native vegetation.

The resulting design prioritizes native vegetation, ecological resilience, and climate adaptation. Degraded woodlands will be regenerated with native tree species (e.g. oak and willow) , strengthening habitat complexity. Former agricultural fields are reimagined as biodiverse meadows and community gardens to support

pollinators and local food production, thereby enhancing ecosystem services. Two degraded streams will be renaturalized to restore riparian habitats and improve on-site water management. A buffer of new tree belts is planned to screen pollution and noise from adjacent highways.

Crucially, the design integrates the estate's built heritage as a functional part of the landscape. The ruins of the old manor house and chapel have been stabilized and preserved as central features. Rather than reconstructing them, these ruins serve as open-air educational spaces showcasing the site's history and ecology. By treating the ruin as an “outdoor laboratory,” the project creates opportunities for environmental education and interpretation within the restored landscape.

Quinta de Salgueiros exemplifies a multifunctional landscape design that weaves together biodiversity restoration, water management, cultural heritage conservation, and community recreation. The new park-laboratory will provide ecosystem services and public amenities while functioning as a living laboratory for urban ecology and climate adaptation. The project is part of a broader urban ecological regeneration strategy in Porto, strengthening a green corridor network in eastern Porto . As an experimental site, it actively involves universities, local residents, and policymakers in co-creating and testing NBS . As such, Quinta de Salgueiros demonstrates that innovative landscape practices can transform an agricultural heritage landscape into a resilient urban nature laboratory, advancing both environmental sustainability and social well-being.