

Madrid RIO / West 8 and Mrio Arquitectos

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By Kelly Minner



photo by Jeroen Musch

In 2005, an invited international competition was announced for a design of the reclaimed area above a tunnel holding a section of the M30 ring motorway immediately adjacent to the old city centre. West 8 and Mrio Arquitectos proposed to resolve the urban situation exclusively by means of landscape architecture, and were the winning submission. The design is founded on the idea »3 + 30« – a concept which proposes dividing the 80 hectare urban development into a trilogy of initial strategic projects that establish a basic structure which then serves as a solid foundation for a number of further projects, initiated in part by the municipality as well as by private investors and residents.

A total of 47 subprojects with a combined total budget of 280 million Euros have since been developed, the most important of which include: the Salón de Pinos, Avenida de Portugal, Huerta de la Partida, Jardines de Puente de Segovia, Jardines de Puente de Toledo, Jardines de la Virgen del Puerto and the Parque de la Arganzuela. In addition to the various squares, boulevards and parks, a family of bridges were realised that

improve connections between the urban districts along the river. The first subprojects were realised in spring 2007. The realization of the whole project is planned for spring 2011.

Puentes Cascara (realization 2010)

In contrary to usually technical and pragmatic pedestrian infrastructural bridges they create a place where the river is really experienced. They are designed as a massive concrete dome with a rough texture. The bridges have the scale of park elements and not of the infrastructure. More than one hundred cables resembling whale baleens wearing the slim steel deck. The fine detailing becomes visible when entering the bridge. The ceilings have a mosaic of the Spanish artist Daniel Canogar. In the edge of the ceiling the lighting is included which illuminates the artwork and the deck by reflection.
