

**Horta City Seafront Requalification**

Horta City Seafront Requalification

**Name of work in English**  
Horta City Seafront Requalification

**Name of work in original language**  
Frente de Mar da Horta

**Placement**  
Nominee

**Prize year**  
2022

**Location**  
Horta, Portugal

**Year completed**  
2020 (Year began 2018)

**Studios**  
[extastudio](#); [Oficina dos jardins](#); [SPR](#)

**Authors**  
Ferrão João (1975 Portugal);  
Costa Ribeiro João (1976 Portugal)

**Collaborators**

**Collaborator (office):** Rita Rodrigues, Madalena Atouguia, Sónia Oliveira, Daniela Lajes, Nuno Simas, Sonia Hernansanz Martinez, Mariana Ivens Brandão

**Graphic design:** Rui Penedo, Amor Paulino **Structural engineering:** Adriano Rosa, Paulo Cardoso **Lighting:** Geraldo Simões **Architect:** Albino Pinho

**Engineering:** João Mira, Luis Mira **Consulting:** Maria João Oliveira, João Sousa Vitruvius Fablab

**Collaborator (external):** João Semblano, Inês Polónio

**Program**  
Urban planning

**Labels**

Public Space, Redevelopment, Waterfront

**Total area**  
140 m2

**Buildable floor area**  
140 m2

**Cost**  
127,51 €/m2

**Client**  
Municipal da Horta

**Project Type**  
Public

**Map**  
Lat/Lng: (38.53237258379166, -28.62660920793458)



**Plaza**  
© Filipe Gonçalves



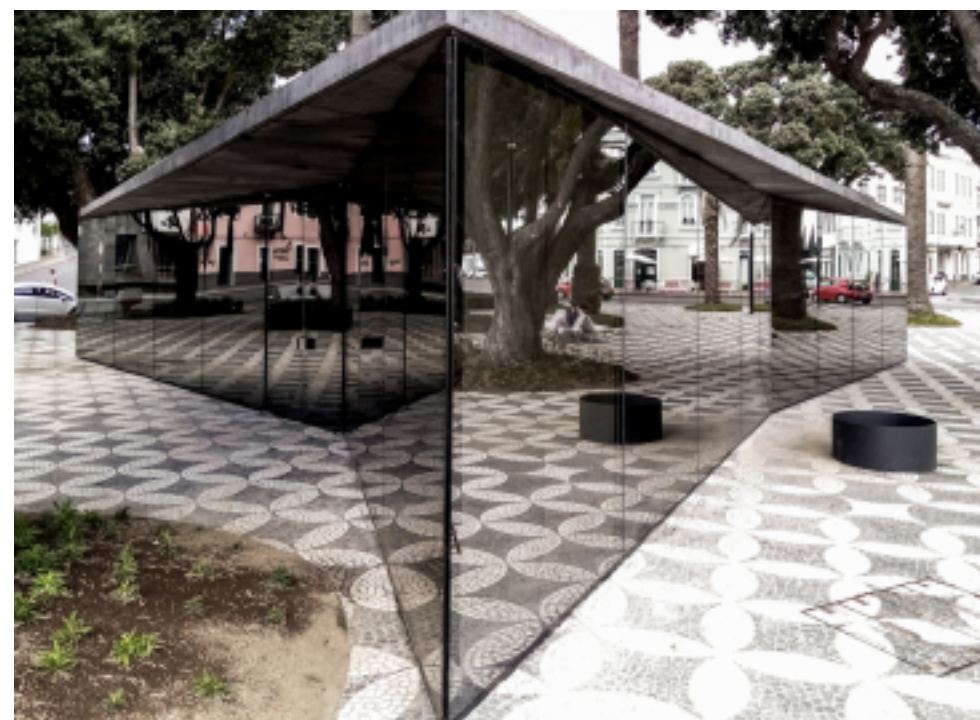
**Aerial view**  
© Filipe Gonçalves



**Plaza II**  
© Filipe Gonçalves



**Plaza III**  
© Filipe Gonçalves



**Information Center I**  
© Rita Rodrigues



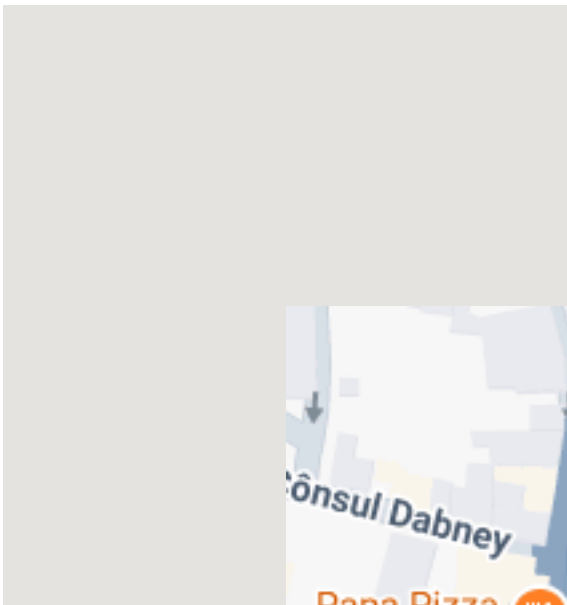
**Plaza IV**  
© Rita Rodrigues



**Information Center II**  
© Rita Rodrigues



**Information Center III**  
© Rita Rodrigues



**Information Center IV**  
© Albino Pinho



**Information Center V**  
© Albino Pinho



**Information Center VI**  
© Albino Pinho



**Plan**



**Pattern**

Set on the island of Faial, in the Azores, the project comprises the first phase on the renewal of the public spaces along Horta's city seafront.

With the world's 4th most visited marina, Horta is a mandatory stop for yachts traveling across the North Atlantic. Located in the central group of the Azores archipelago, the city is arranged as a large amphitheater facing Pico, the highest volcano in Portugal. Following a public competition aiming to renew all the city's seafront, the proposal's main ambition is to achieve a requalified, attractive and cohesive urban seafront, which promotes new commercial, tourism, and leisure activities, to have a positive socio-economic impact throughout the city. Developed under a huge financial crisis in Portugal, the project proposes very simple actions; the re-profiling of roads, so that cars, pedestrians, and bicycles have similar importance in a shared space, and the use of a single, continuous basalt pavement. Reinterpreting historical patterns, this material differentiates pedestrian and traffic areas, using gradients in different intensities.

The first built area is Largo do Infante, the city's main public space, where families gather under old pohutukawa trees, and which had been changed countless times as the city developed. Being a historical area, the materials selected for the intervention have here a more refined quality. Instead of a basalt and limestone, black-and-white pattern, the white cobblestones are here is made with marble, giving the whole area a different light.

When asked to build an Information Centre in the middle of the public space, we selected mirrored glass to create a phantom building. Simultaneously present and absent, it reflects the sea and city life around it in a kaleidoscopic way.