

Córdoba

heritage and nature

Dr. Arch. Fernando Osuna-Pérez. ferospe@ugr.es

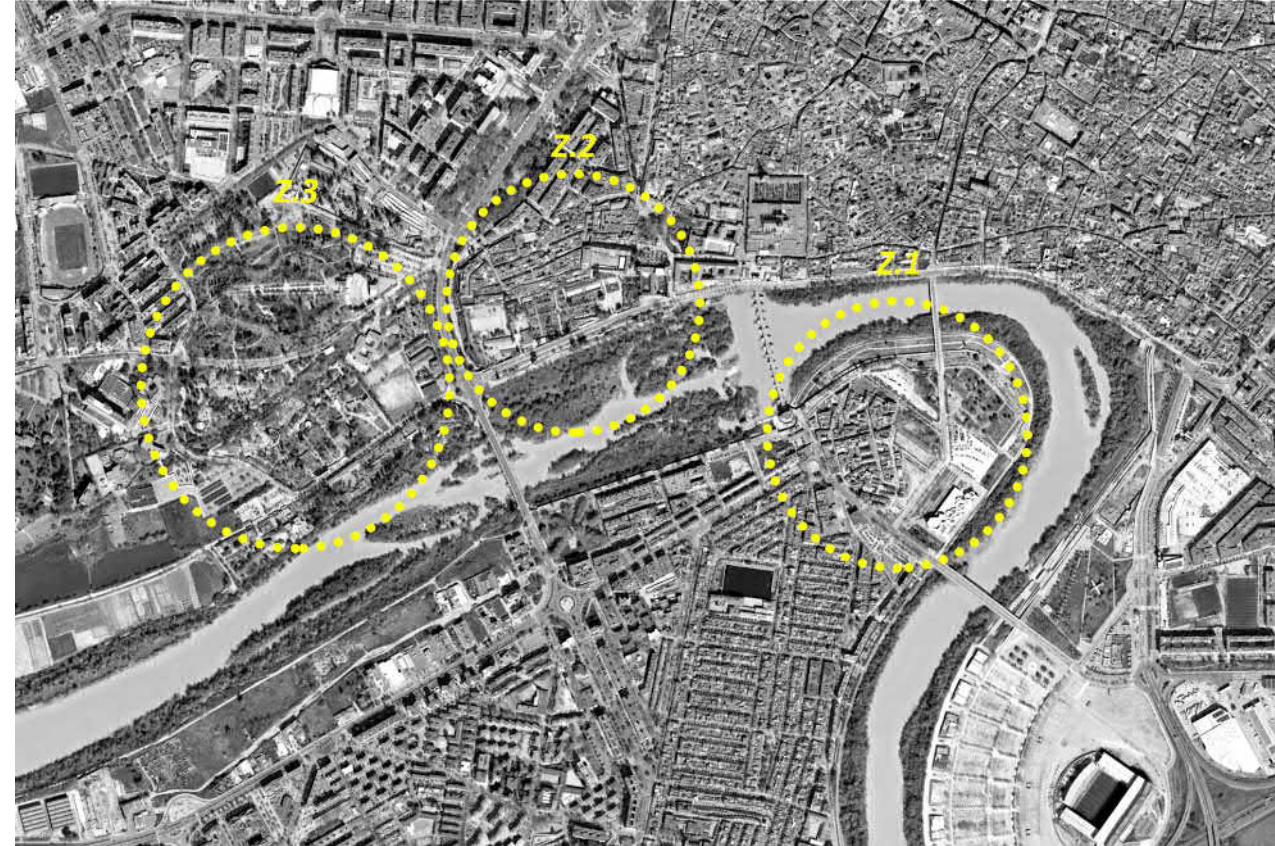
University of Granada

February, 2026

City and river:

Córdoba and Guadalquivir river

coexistence - The study area focuses on the urban reach of the Guadalquivir River as it passes through Córdoba, a space where the dialectic between nature and urbanity has defined the city's identity for millennia. The river serves not merely as a geographical boundary but as the backbone of a blue and green infrastructure that underpins the Outstanding Universal Value of its historic center and the surround of the Mosque-Cathedral.



Zone 1:

Miraflores, Campo de la Verdad, and the Sacunda Suburb - Located on the left bank, this sector represents the first southward urban expansion. The Sacunda suburb was a vibrant hub during the Emiral period until the 818 AD uprising led to its destruction and a subsequent ban on building, relegating it to historical marginality or agricultural use. The regeneration project must address the transition between the archaeological void, the traditional Campo de la Verdad neighbourhood, and the new Miraflores Park. It should also consider urban and heritage vistas and the incorporation of planned facilities, seeking an ecosystemic 'stitching' that respects the site's memory.



Zone 2:

The Alcázares of Córdoba and the Sotos de la Albolafia - This area constitutes the heart of the city's civil and religious power. However, the historic permeability between the Alcázar de los Reyes Cristianos and the river was fractured in the 20th century by the San Rafael Bridge project and the opening of Avenida del Alcázar, which acts as a physical and visual barrier. The objective is to propose solutions that restore this link by integrating the Sotos de la Albolafia—a Natural Monument serving as a biodiversity refuge in the urban core—where riparian vegetation and birdlife coexist with the ancient mill structures of the Culeb weir.



Zone 3:

Roman Córdoba: Colina de los Quemados and the "Green Block" - The city's origins lie at the western end within the Iberian oppidum of the Colina de los Quemados. This geographical landmark visually dominates the Guadalquivir and is associated with historic military sites, such as Hannibal's -or Julius Caesar- campaigns. Nearby lies the "Green Block" (Manzana Verde), an area of high environmental potential encompassing Cruz Conde Park, the "Children's City", the Zoo, and the Botanical Garden, alongside the mills of the Alhadra weir. This sector requires a strategy for ecosystemic and physical continuity, linking the most ancient archaeological substrate with contemporary green infrastructure.



GREEN-ACTION workshop

Sustainable & Green Public Spaces in the Historic City of Córdoba

Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programme



Seven bridges of Cordoba (by Javier Gómez Moreno)



Córdoba

is a city with a normal river



Guadalquivir river in Cordoba

GREEN-ACTION workshop

Sustainable & Green Public Spaces in the Historic City of Córdoba

Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programme



Tourist in Córdoba (by Álvaro Carmona for ABC journal)

GREEN-ACTION workshop

Sustainable & Green Public Spaces in the Historic City of Córdoba

Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programme



People from Cordoba near the Guadalquivir river

GREEN-ACTION workshop

Sustainable & Green Public Spaces in the Historic City of Córdoba

Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programme



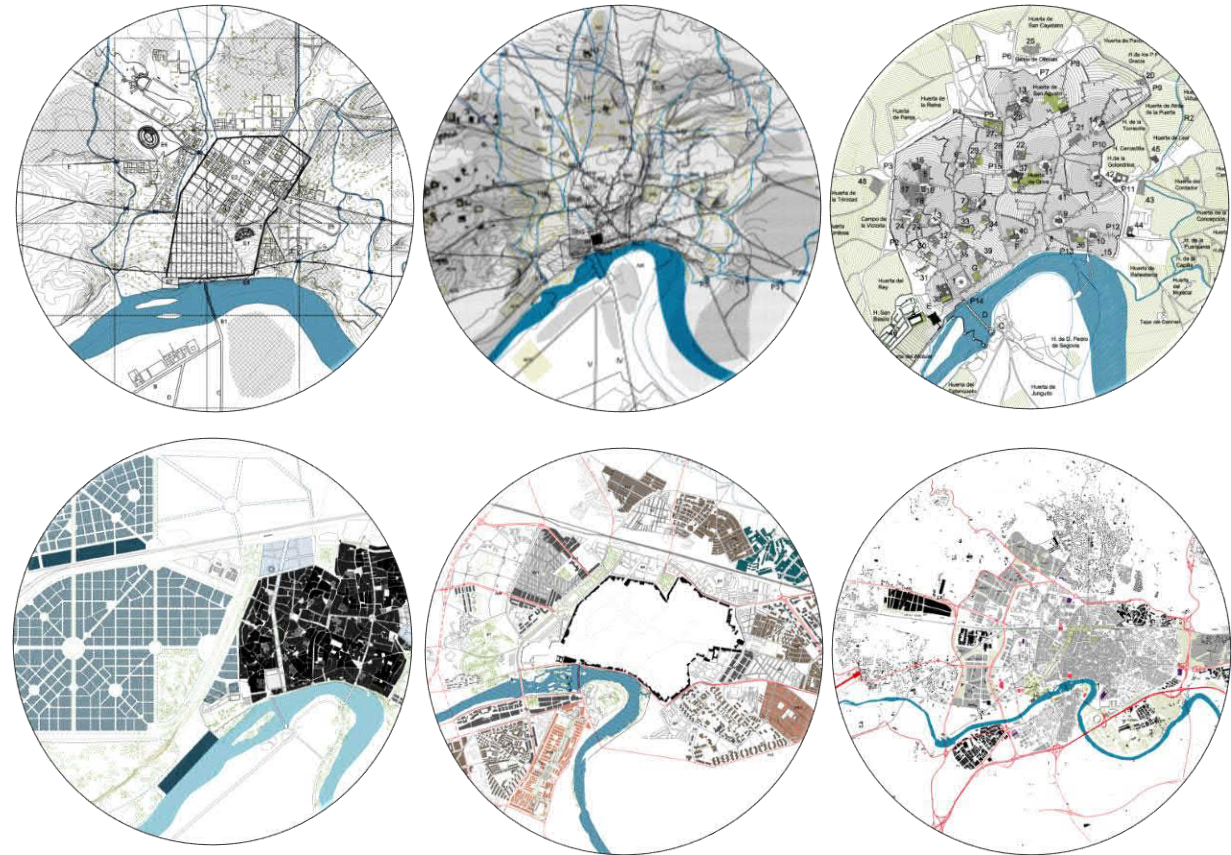
Another inhabitants of Cordoba's river

Córdoba

is a city with IMPORTANT past



Córdoba (Alfred Guesdon, 1853)



Layers of the history of the city

Córdoba

is a city with heritage



Churches and squares
(San Pedro)



Convents
(Santa Clara)



Historic Gardens and orchards
Courtyards and hallways
(Orive)



Córdoba

with EXCEPTIONAL heritage



WH Mezquita-Catedral & Historic Centre
1984 & 1994

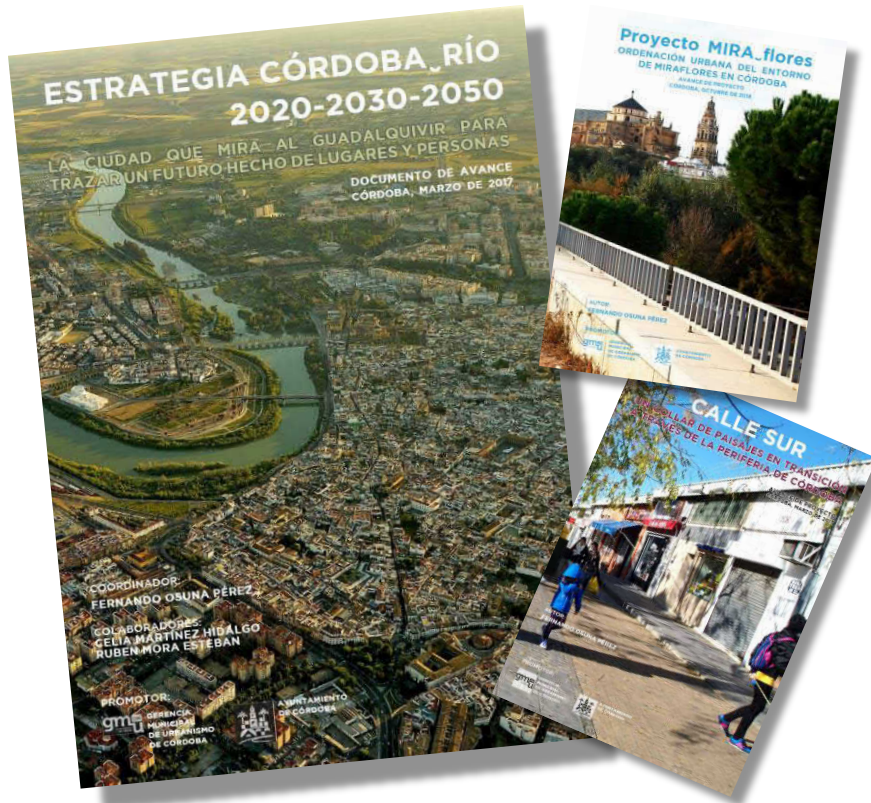


WH Califal City of Madinat al-Zahra
2018

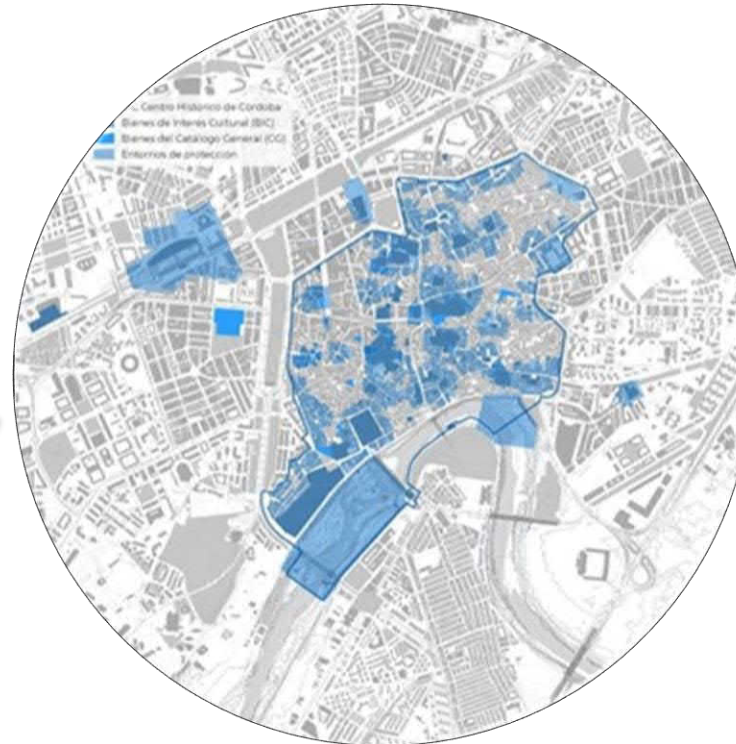


ICH Fiesta of the patios
2012

How can we Improve a city? ...when the past is MOST than the present



Cordoba-River Strategy

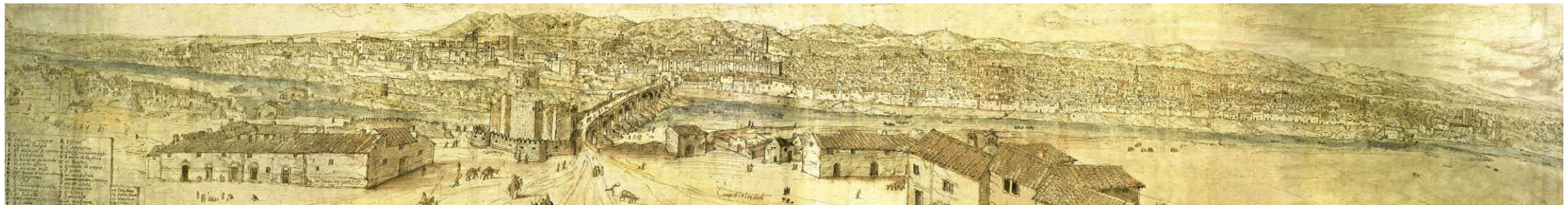
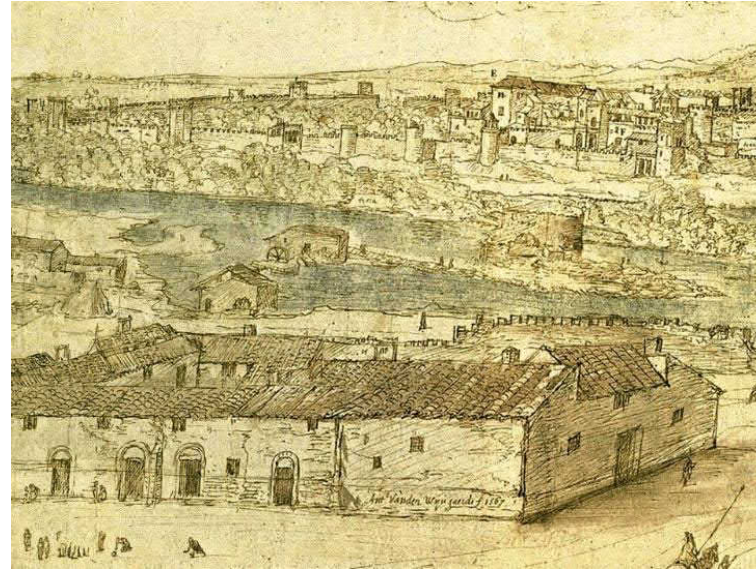


UNESCO Management Plan for the world heritage site Historic City Centre



Landscape Project for the world heritage site Califal city of Madinat al-Zahra

20. Plaza Mayor
 21. Calle de los Reyes
 22. Plaza de la Catedral
 23. Plaza de la Villa
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 100. Plaza de la Catedral



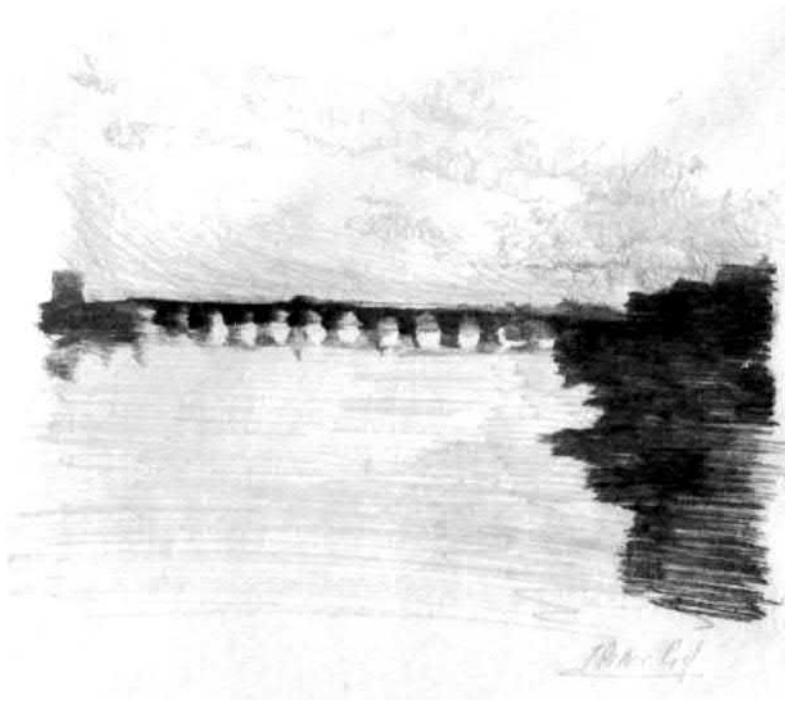


 Co-funded by the European Union
 Participants:

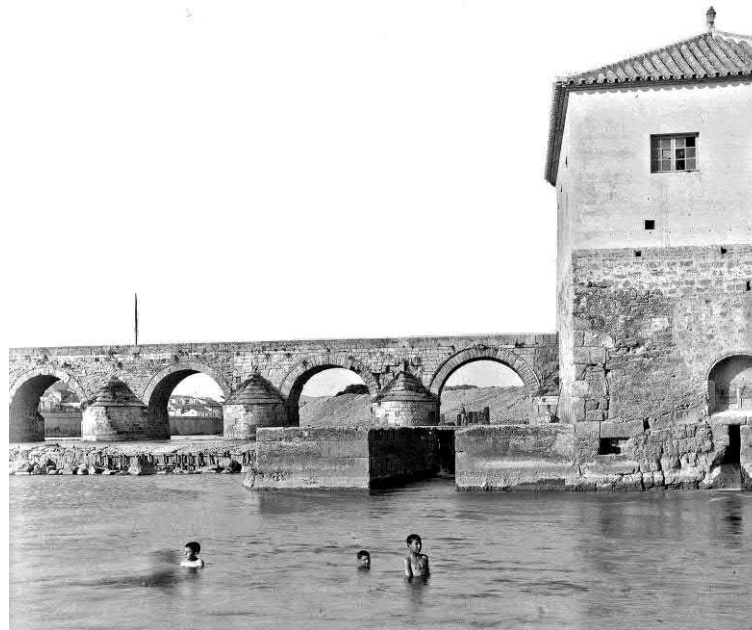
 UNIVERSIDAD DE GRANADA
 
 POLITECHNIKA LUBELSKA
LUBLIN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
 
 UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES IN NYSA
 
 UNIVERSITY OF ARCHITECTURE, CIVIL ENGINEERING AND GEODESY (UACEG)
 
 YTU YILDIZ TEKNİK UNIVERSİTESİ

Córdoba-River

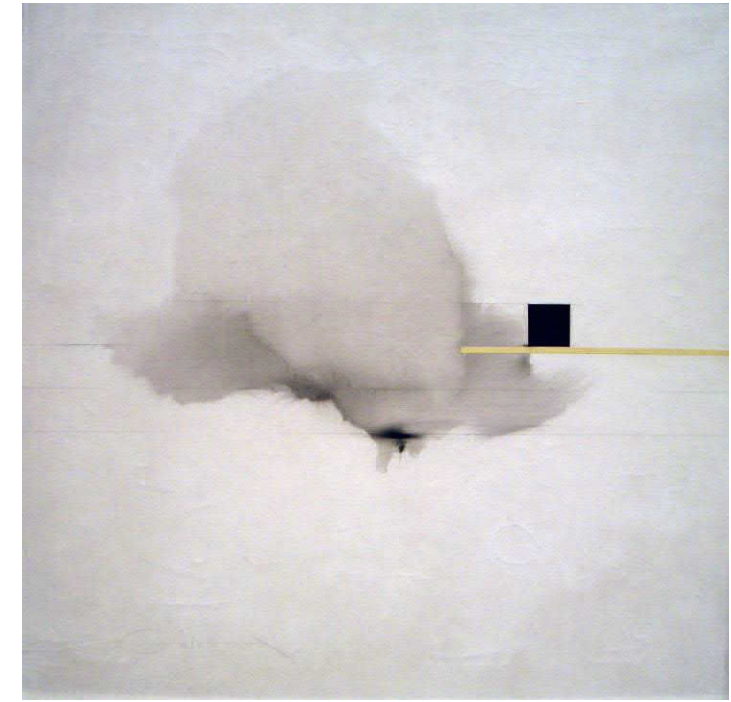
Coexistence between river & city



J. Pedro Gil Moreno (1900?)



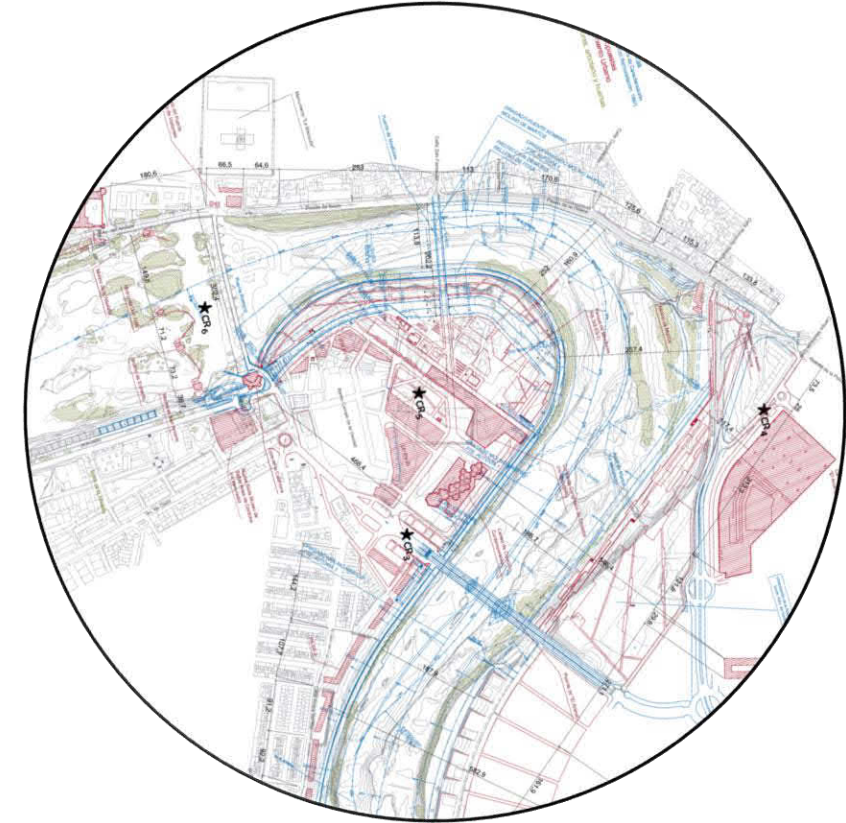
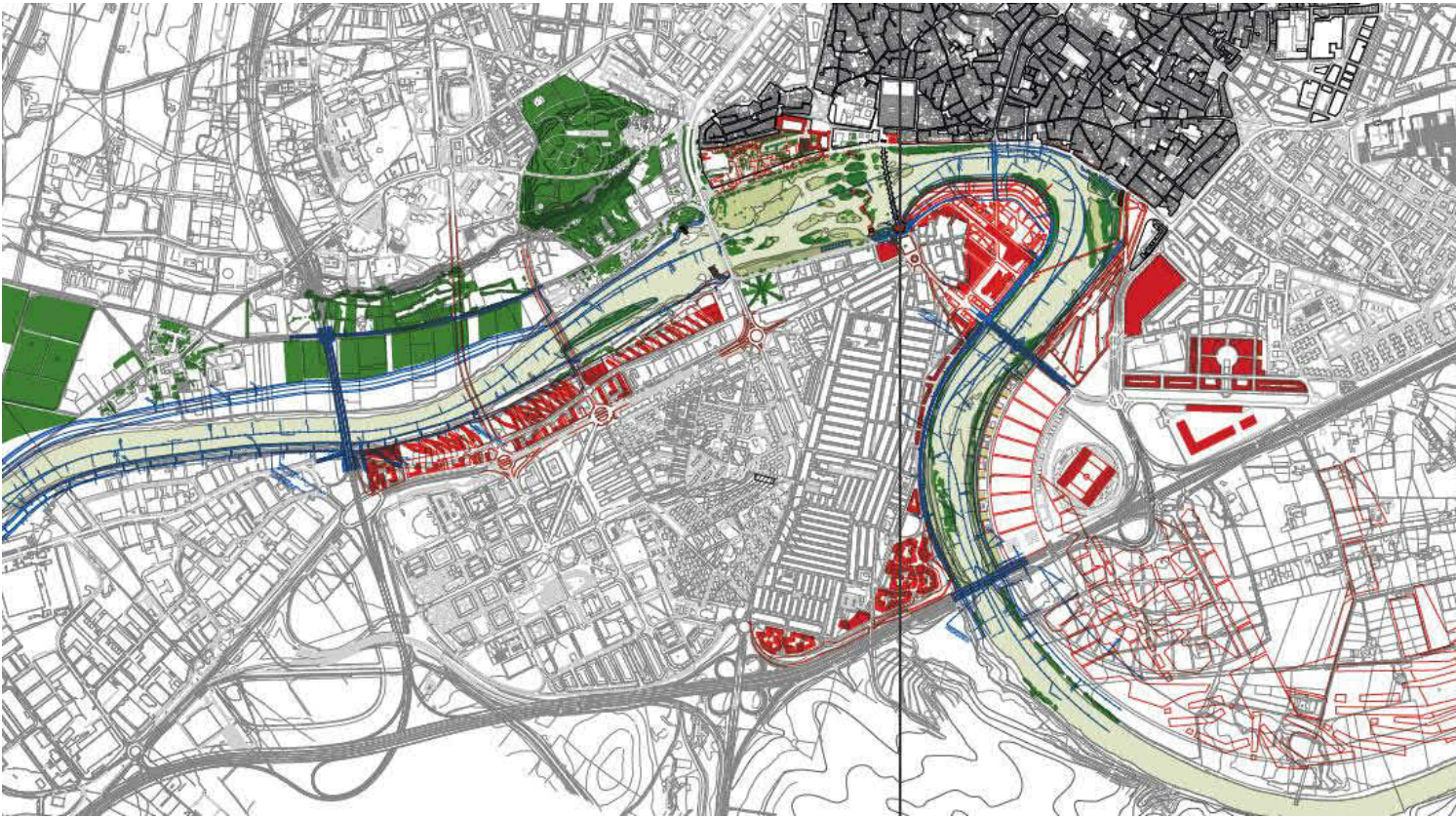
Rafael Seán (1905)



Fernando Zóbel (1975)

Córdoba-River Strategy

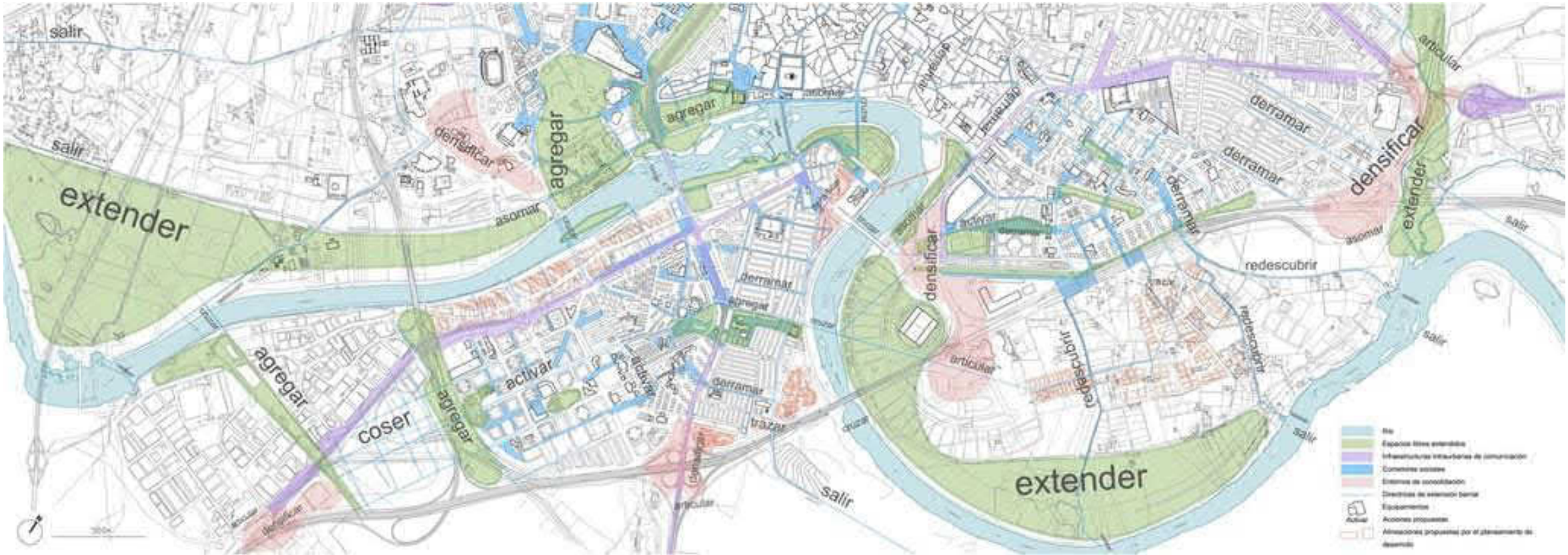
Infrastructure-Architecture-Landscape relations



Blue: infrastructure / Red: architecture & urban planning / Green: river & nearby natural spaces

Córdoba-River Strategy

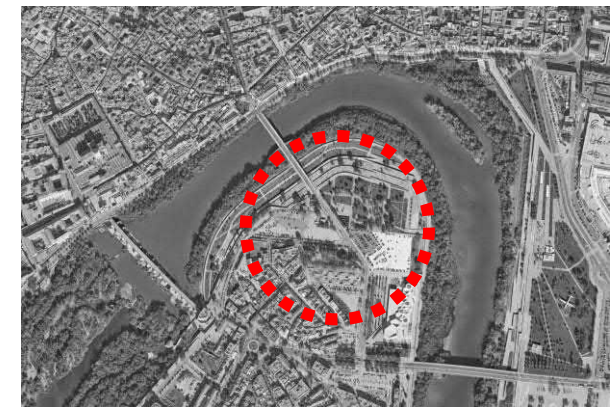
Intentions for City-River coexistence



Green: extended open spaces / violet: urban infrastructure / Blue: social corridors / Rose: consolidation areas

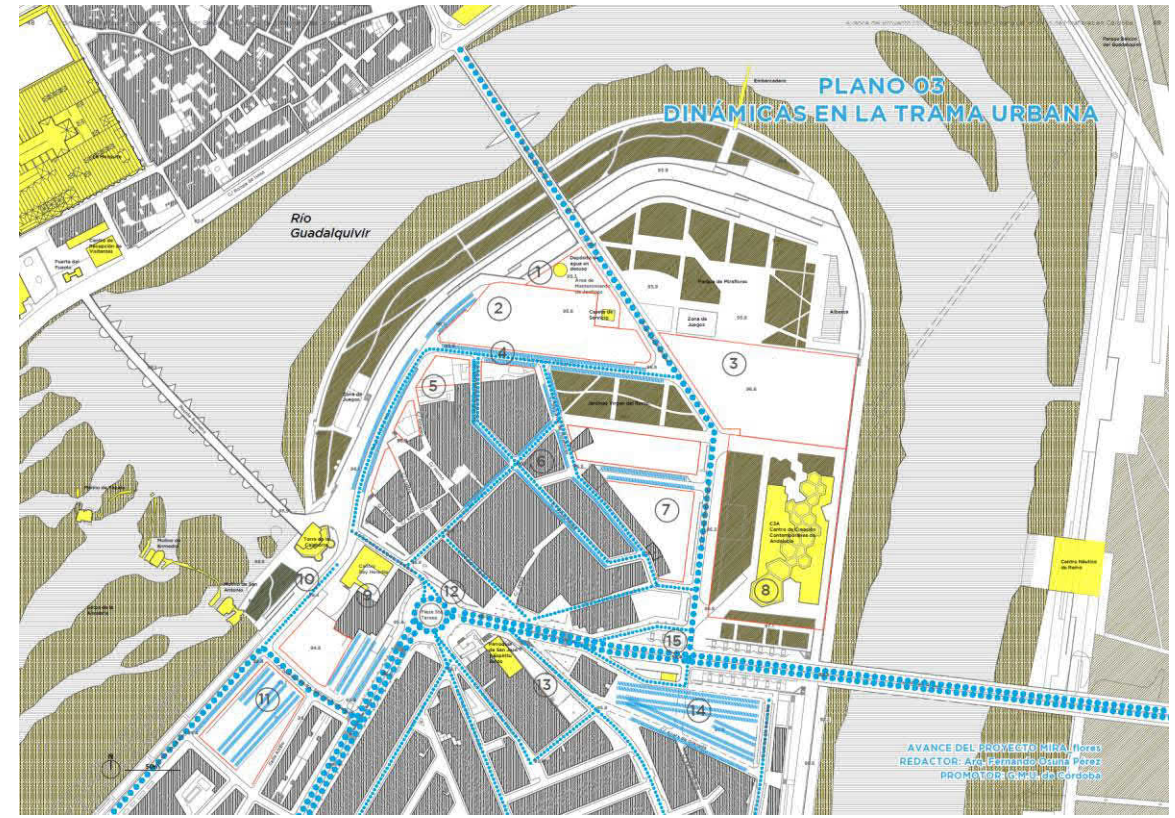
Córdoba-River Strategy

Mira_flores urban project



Córdoba-River Strategy

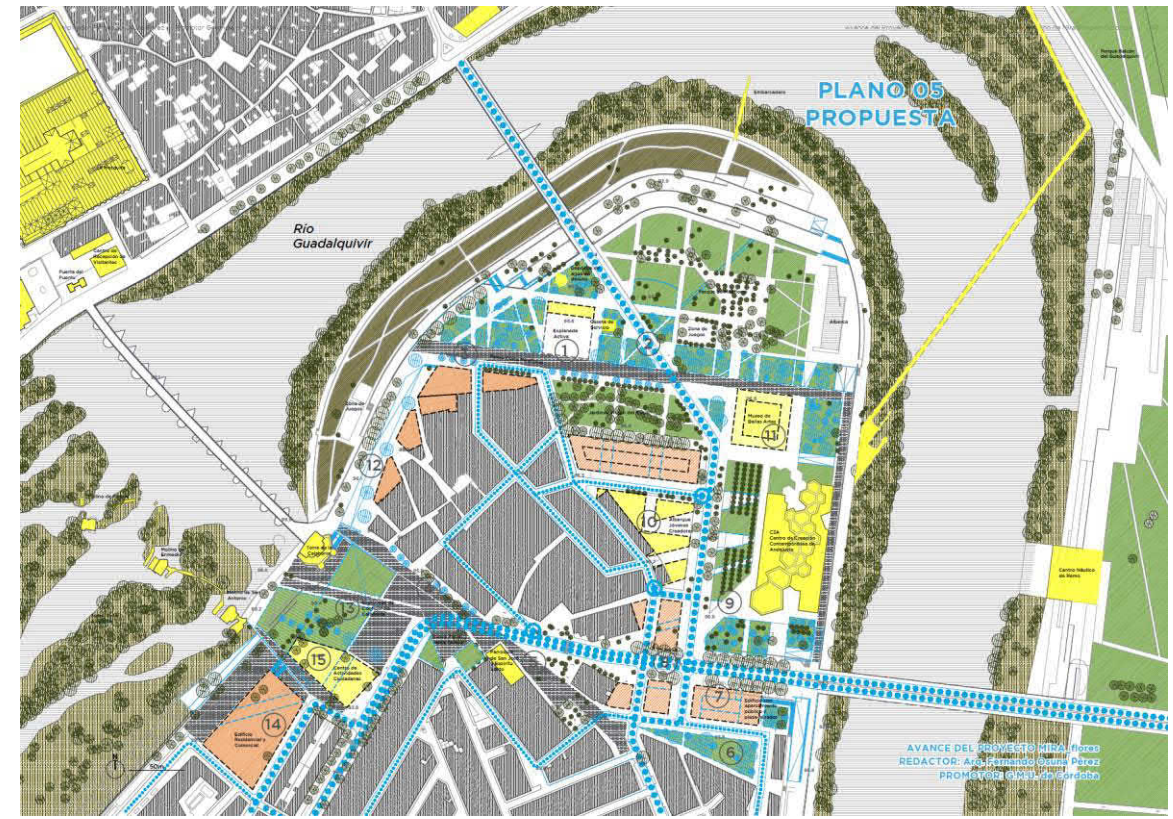
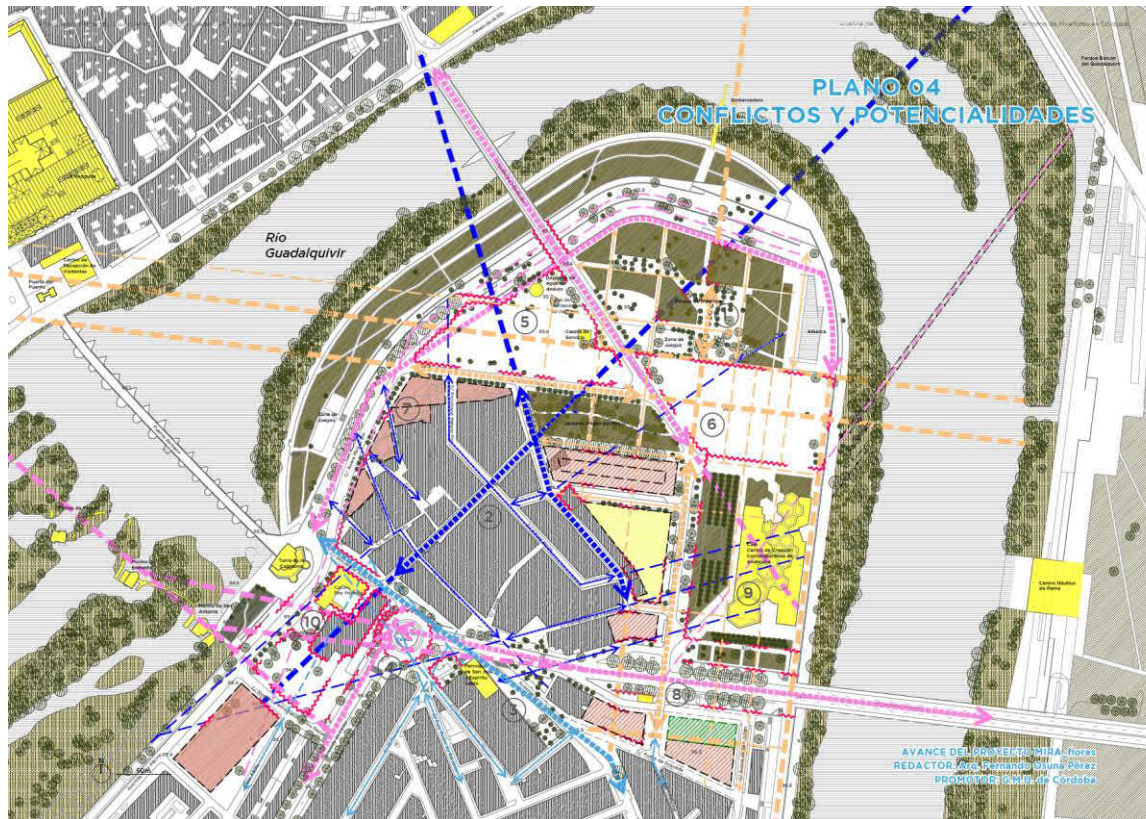
Mira_flores urban project



Actual planning (left) / actual urban structure (right)

Córdoba-River Strategy

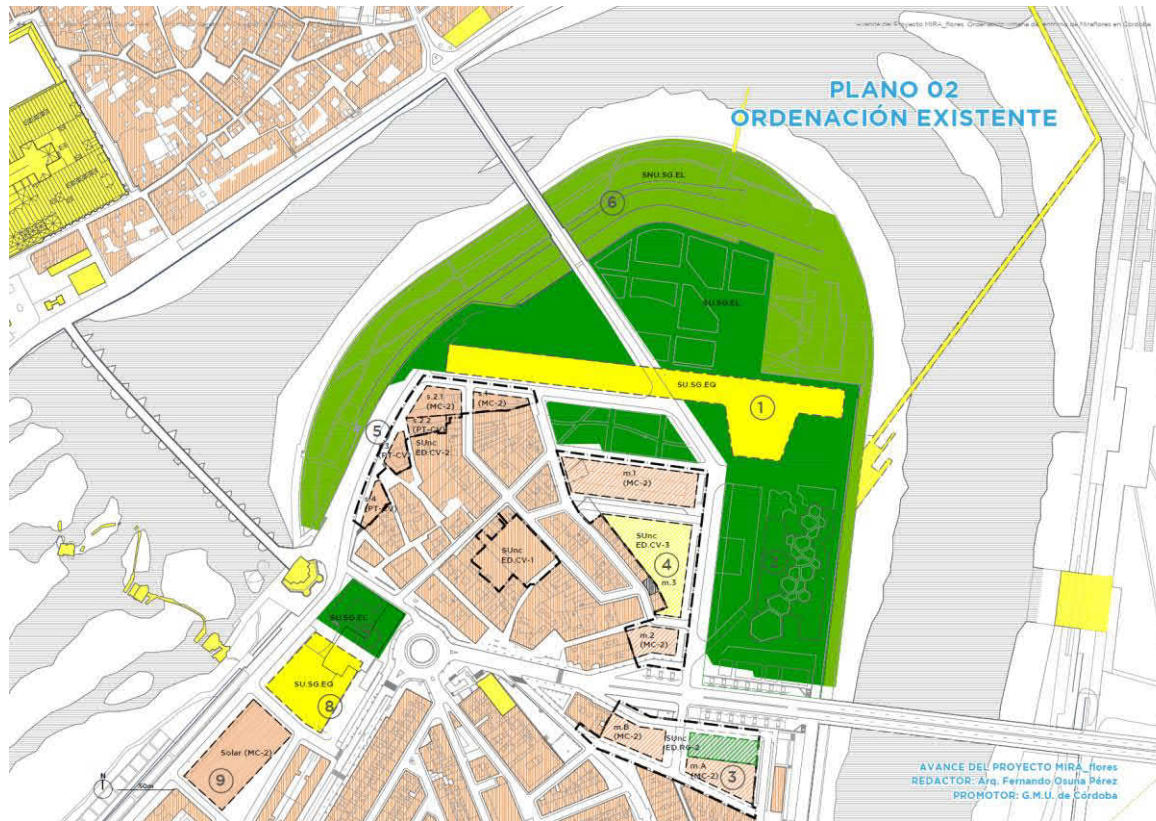
Mira_flores urban project



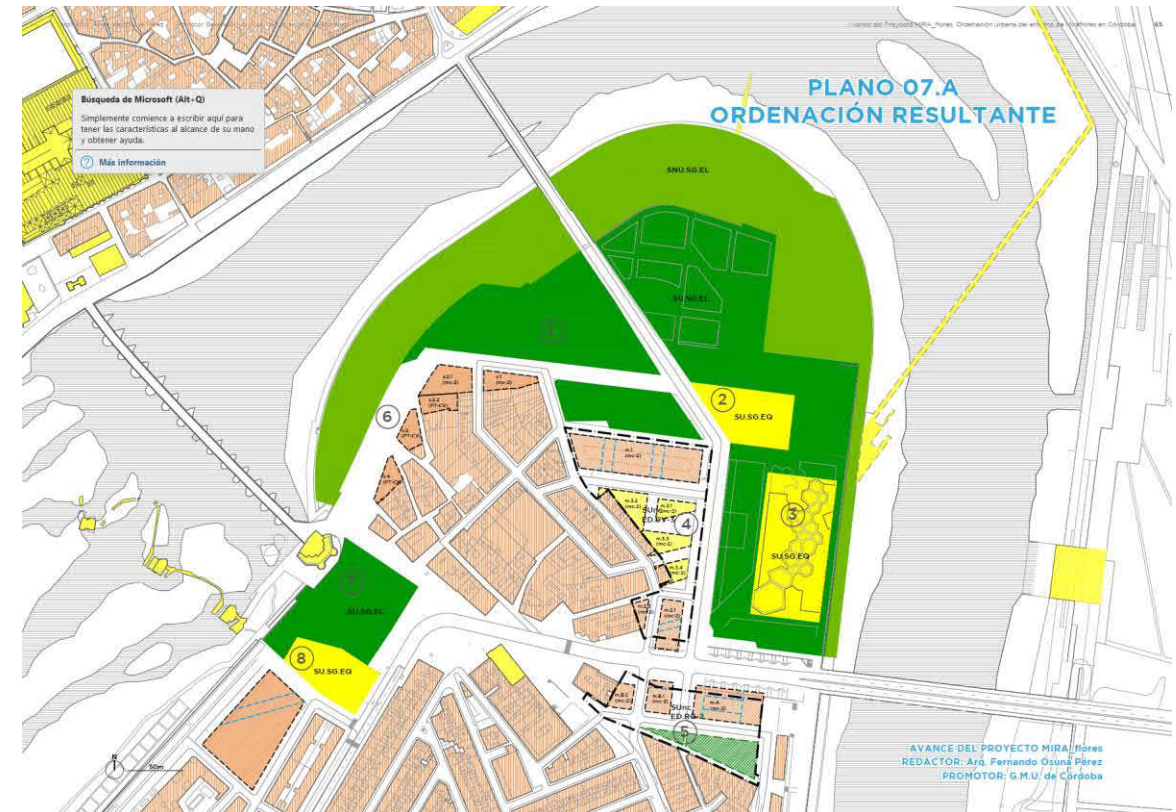
Inserting continuities & disruptions (left) / proposal (right)

Córdoba-River Strategy

Mira_flores urban project



Actual planning

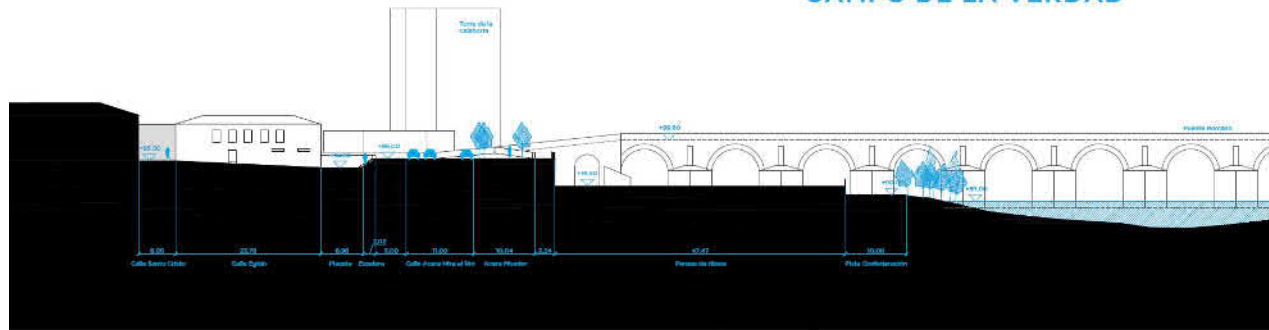


Proposed planning

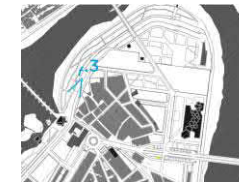
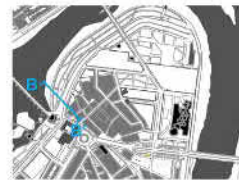
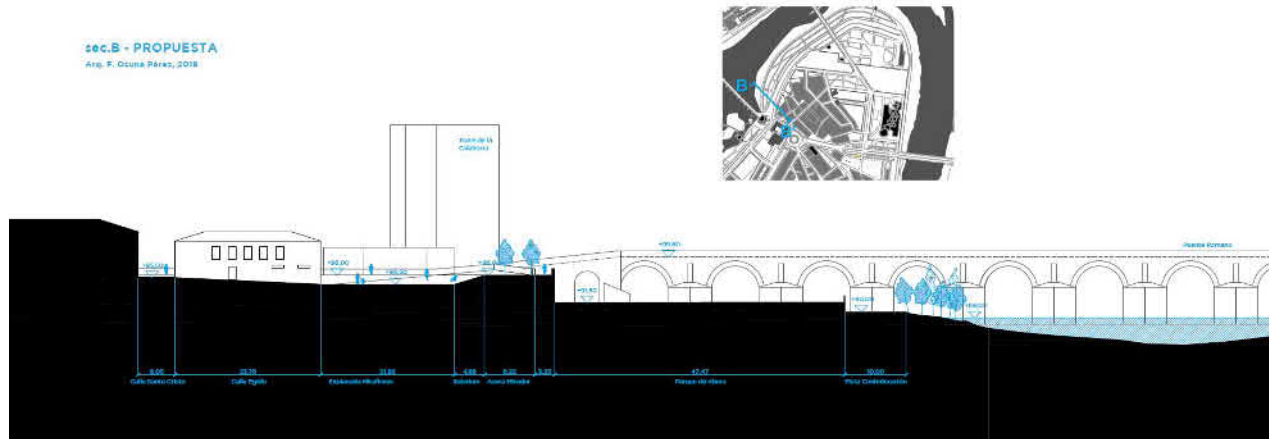
Córdoba-River Strategy

Mira_flores urban project

sec.B - ACTUAL
Arq. F. Osuna Pérez, 2018



sec.B - PROPUESTA
Arq. F. Osuna Pérez, 2018



Recovering historic city levels near the flood defense walls

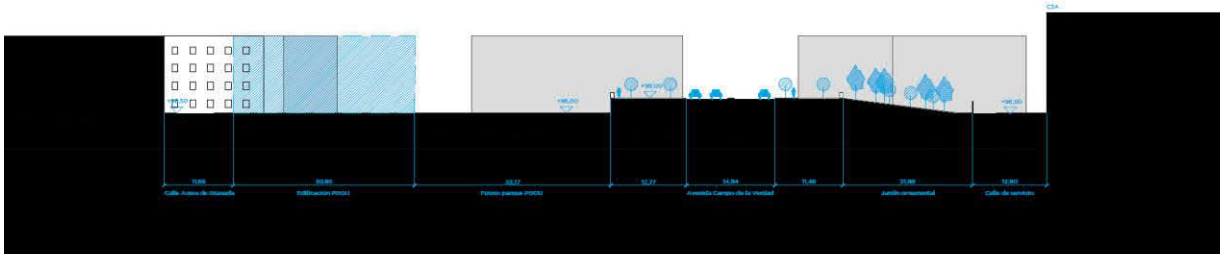
Córdoba-River Strategy

Mira_flores urban project

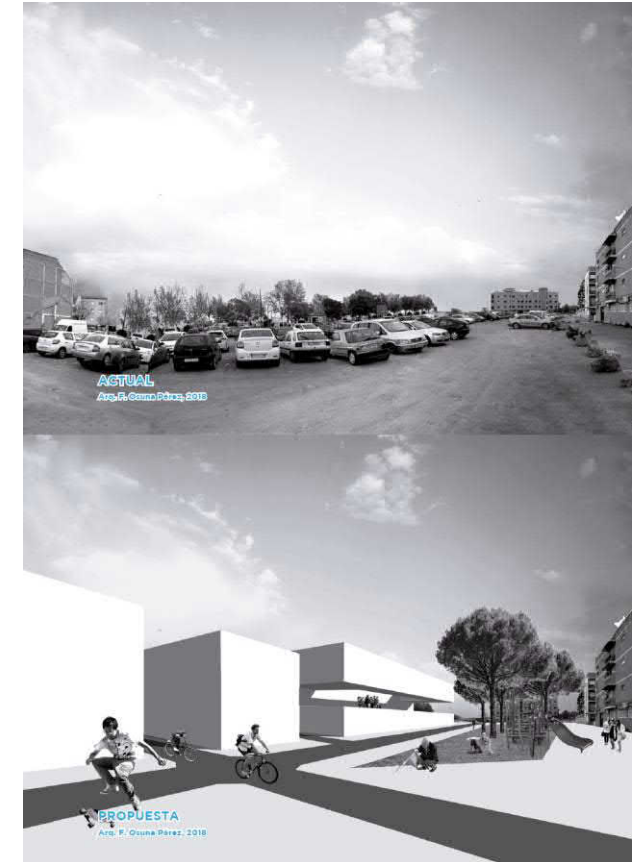
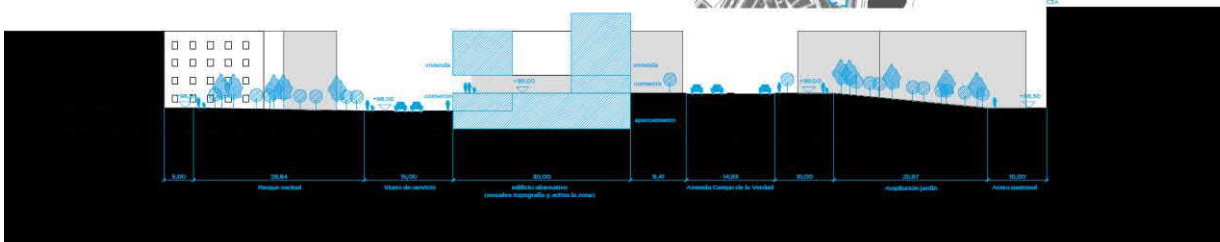
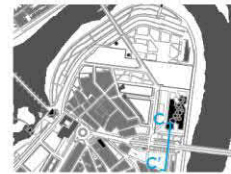
74. Coordinador: Fernando Osuna Pérez. Promotor: Secretaría Municipal de Urbanismo de Córdoba.

sec.C - ACTUAL
Arg. F. Osuna Pérez, 2018

SECCIÓN C
ESPACIO VECINAL Y EDIFICACIÓN
ACTIVA EN ENTORNO SAN JULIÁN



sec.C - PROPUESTA
Arg. F. Osuna Pérez, 2018



Transforming a generic garden in a public space for the local community and a singular building

Córdoba-River Strategy

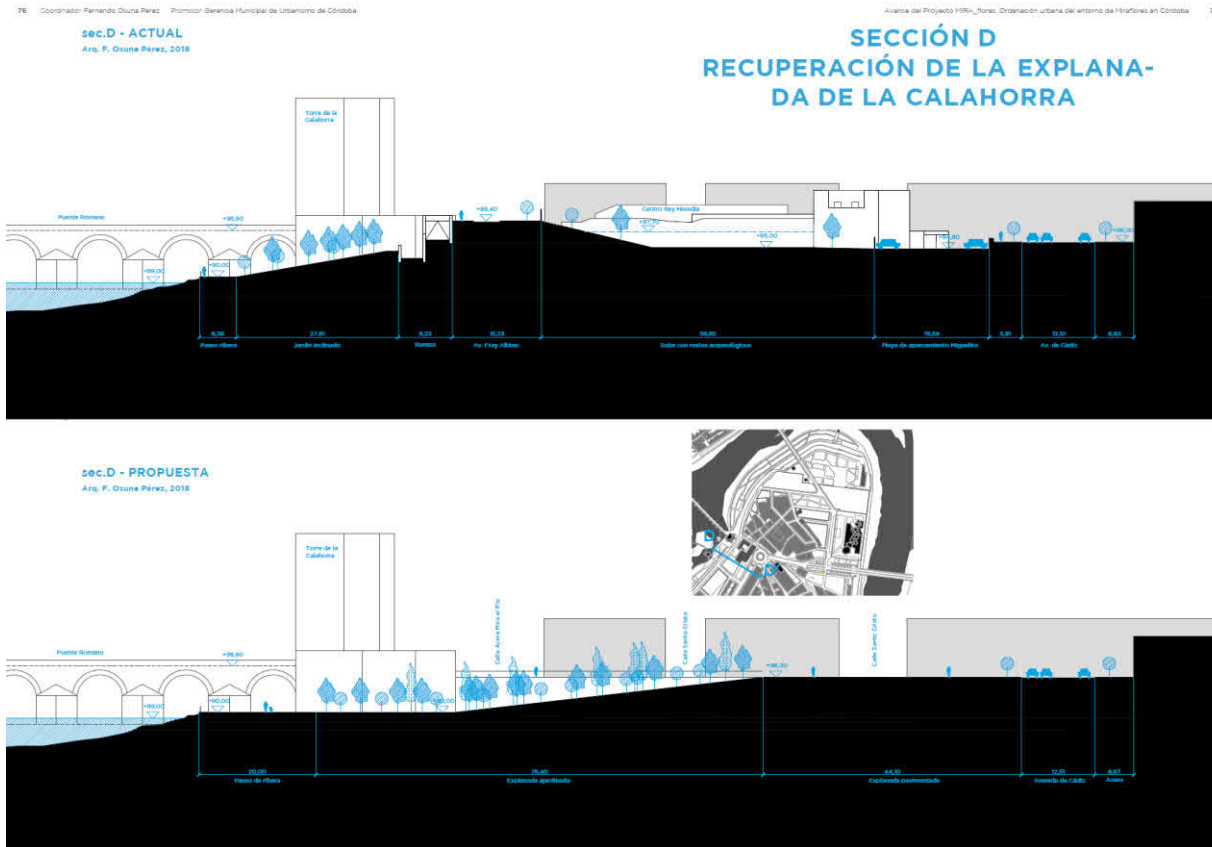
Mira_flores urban project



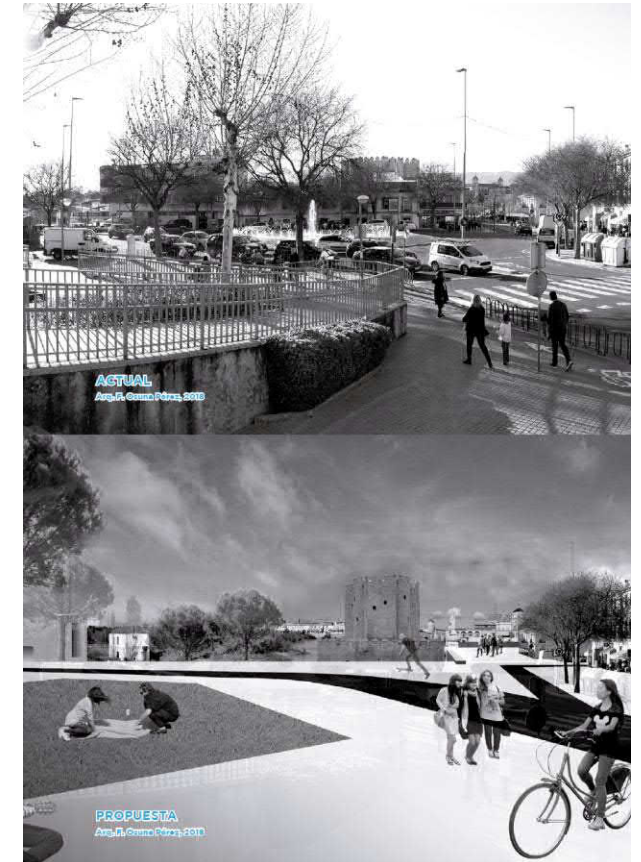
Increasing the public and natural space for people

Córdoba-River Strategy

Mira_flores urban project

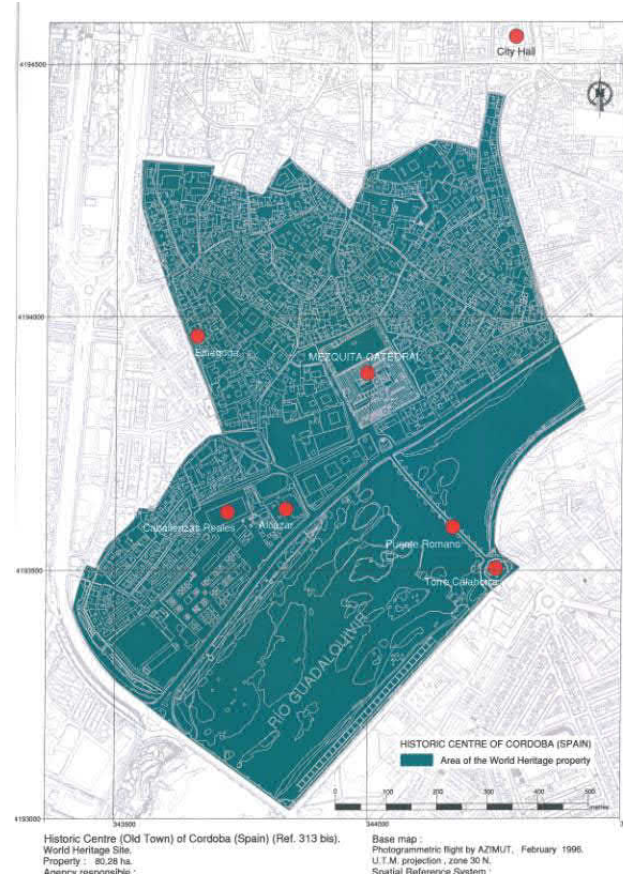
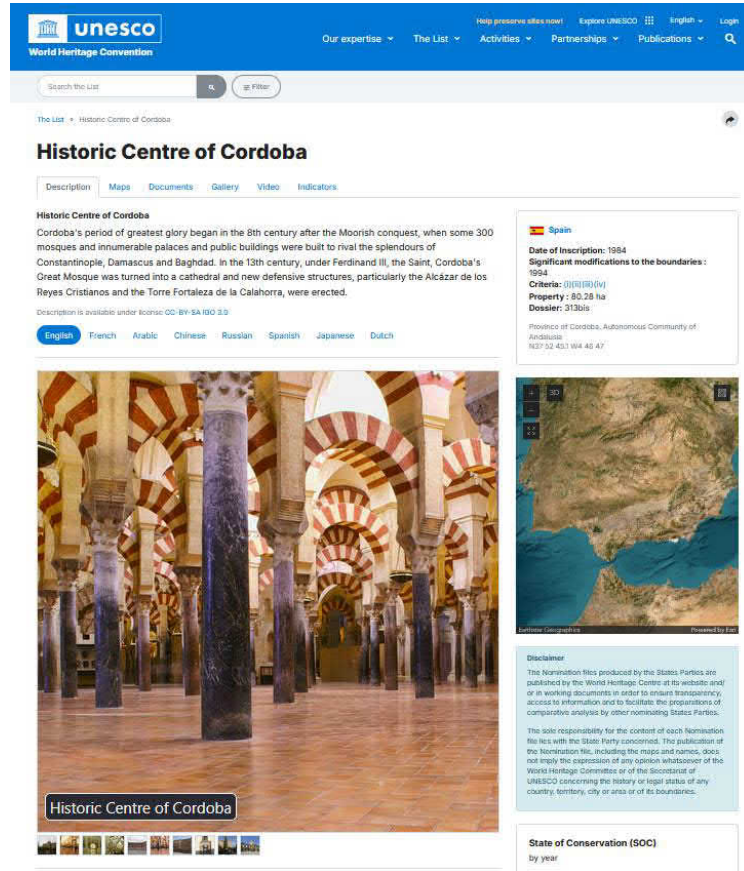


Connecting the city with river and heritage



MANAGEMENT PLAN

UNESCO world heritage site Historic Center of Cordoba



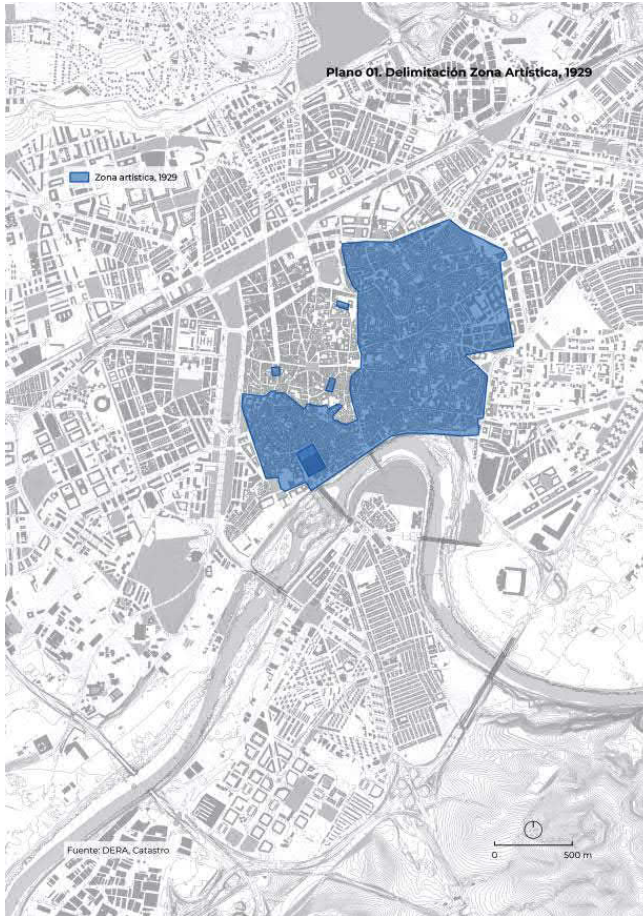
OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE - OUV

- *Founded by the Romans in the 2nd century BC, Cordoba gained importance during the period of Augustus.*
- *In the 8th century the city became the capital of the emirate of al-Andalus depending on Damascus.*
- *In 10th century Abderraman III establishes an independent Caliphate, period of glory, with the construction of numerous mosques and palaces.*
- *The Great mosque was built and extended between 8th and 10th century. In 13th century was turned into a cathedral.*
- *The Historic Centre includes the streets around the Great Mosque and extends to the River Guadalquivir.*

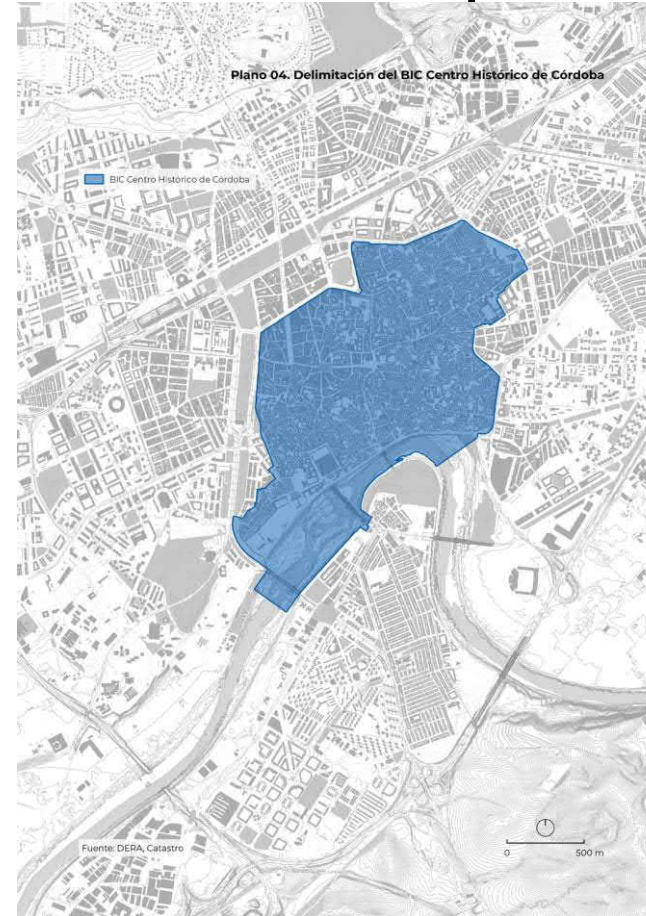
Historic Centre of Cordoba world heritage site: UNESCO web, official delimitation & OUV

MANAGEMENT PLAN

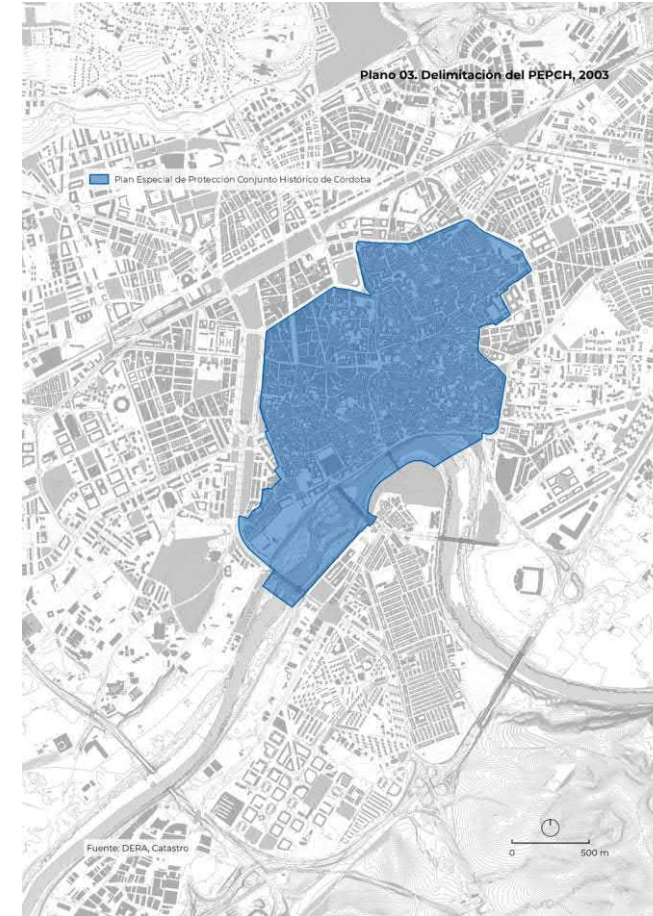
Delimitations: National and local protection



Zona Artística, 1929



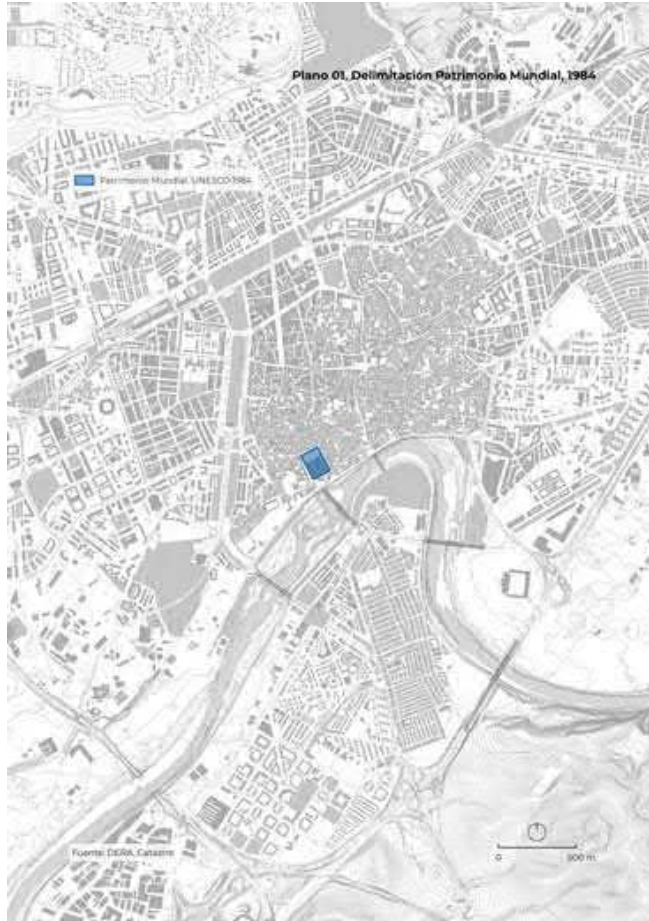
Bien de Interés Cultural, 2003



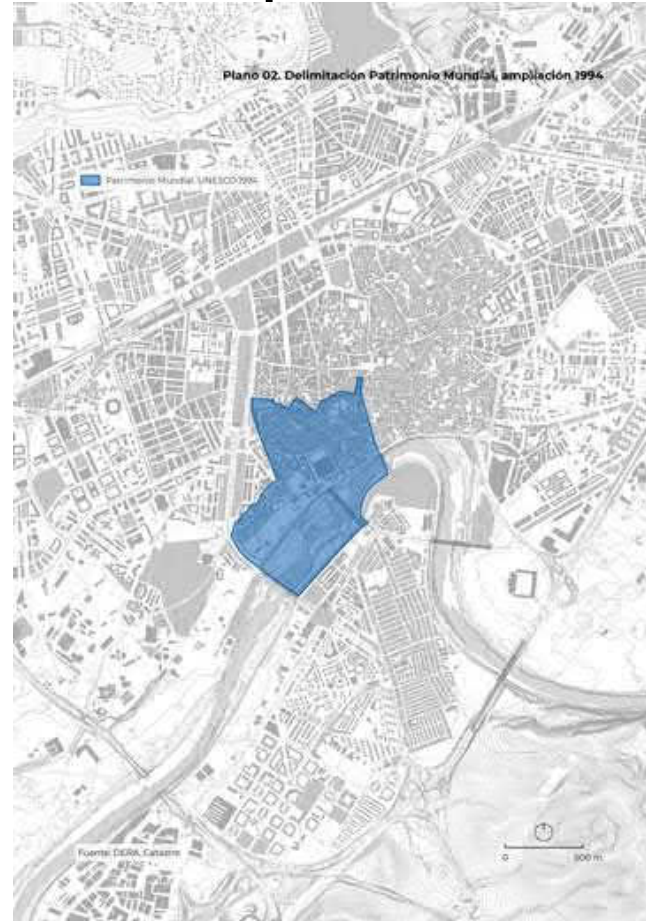
Plan Especial Protección CH, 2003

MANAGEMENT PLAN

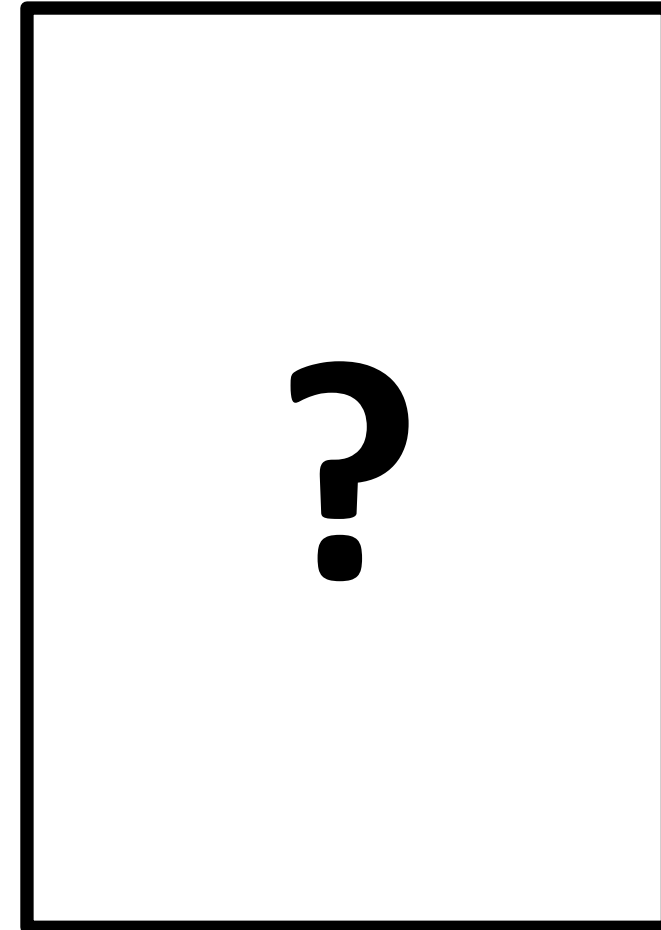
Delimitations: International protection



World Heritage Mezquita, 1984



W.H. extension Historic Centre, 1994



World Heritage site Management Plan , 2024

MANAGEMENT PLAN

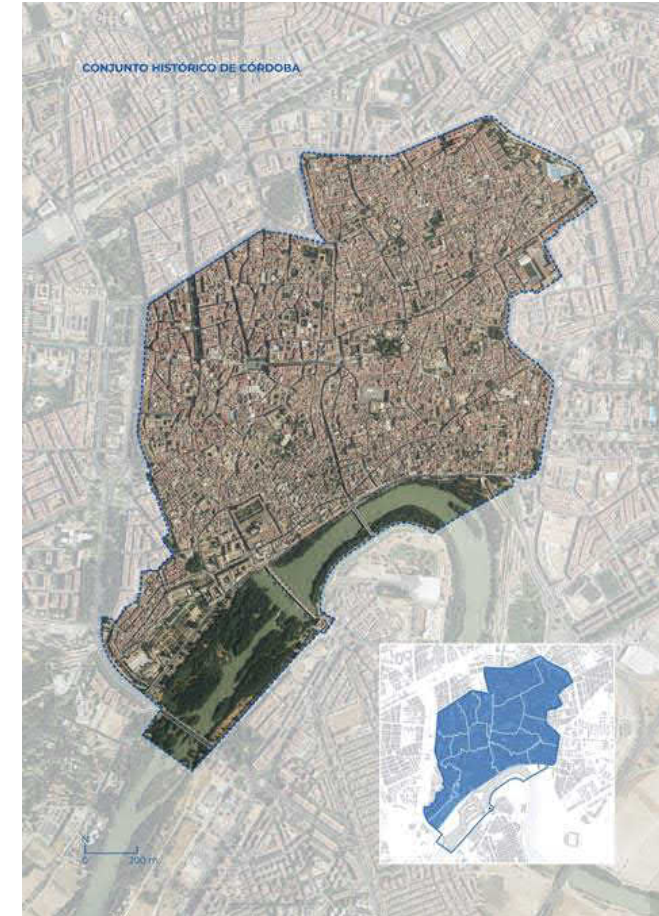
Comparison: International & Local delimitation



DATA

- Surface: 81 Ha. (30%)
- Population: 3,686 inhab. (10%)
- Nr. Houses: 2,218. (15%)
- Local protect. Heritage: 625 (30%)
- National protect. Heritage: 27 (30%)

DATOS GENERALES											
C.Min	C.Max	C.Min	C.Max	C.Min	C.Max	C.Min	C.Max	C.Min	C.Max	C.Min	C.Max
5	32	80	308	533	5584	533	2797	533	2797	533	2797
Superficie (Ha)		Población (hab)		Vivienda (n°)		Densidad Vivienda (viv/Ha)		Superficie Construida (m²)		Superficie Edificada (m²)	
CH	248	PM	81	CH	16.360	PM	2.218	CH	16.360	PM	2.218
C.Min	44.200	C.Max	266.000	C.Min	122.400	C.Max	496.500	C.Min	1.661.400	C.Max	3.602.000
Superficie Construida (m²)		Superficie Edificada (m²)		Inmuebles Protegidos (n°)		BIC (n°)		Superficie Construida (m²)		Superficie Edificada (m²)	
CH	1.661.400	PM	418.500	CH	625	PM	27	CH	1.661.400	PM	418.500
INDICADORES DESTACADOS											
C.Min	C.Max	C.Min	C.Max	C.Min	C.Max	C.Min	C.Max	C.Min	C.Max	C.Min	C.Max
18,48	40,37	1959	1995	71,84	95,61	57,74	71,84	100	100	100	100
Ratio Espacios catalogados (%)		Antigüedad real del parque edificatorio (año)		Calidad silencio día (%)		Accesibilidad del espacio público (%)		Ordenes de Ejecución (n°)		Accesibilidad del espacio público (%)	
CH	36,56	PM	1959	CH	83,29	PM	57,74	CH	77	PM	81,82
C.Min	30,52	C.Max	1954	C.Min	84,86	C.Max	95,61	C.Min	1954	C.Max	1995
Aparcamiento para vehículo privado fuera de la ciudad (n°)		Densidad de la actividad económica (%)		Índice de motorización (veh/1000hab)		Densidad de población (hab/Ha)		Índice de motorización de turistas (veh/1000hab)		Ocupación zonas A.C.R.E. (%)	
CH	1.704	PM	30,2	CH	59,41	PM	45,408	CH	41,69	PM	53,62
C.Min	1.704	C.Max	30,2	C.Min	59,41	C.Max	45,408	C.Min	41,69	C.Max	53,62
Edificabilidad (m²/m²)		Variación del número de hogares (%)		Regimen de tenencia de vivienda en alquiler (%)		Renta Neta Media por hogar (€)		Zonas verdes por habitante (m²/hab)		Ratio de patios y jardines privados (%)	
CH	13,63	PM	-18,34	CH	19,75	PM	33,096	CH	2,49	PM	12,19
C.Min	13,63	C.Max	-18,34	C.Min	19,75	C.Max	33,096	C.Min	2,49	C.Max	12,19
Variación de la población (%)		Pl. apartam. turist. y albergues (pz/1000hab)		Tasa de paro (%)		Proximidad a centros sanitarios (%)		Tasa de paro (%)		Proximidad a centros administrativos (%)	
CH	-6,97	PM	10,39	CH	23,04	PM	4,63	CH	23,04	PM	72,13
C.Min	-6,97	C.Max	10,39	C.Min	23,04	C.Max	4,63	C.Min	23,04	C.Max	72,13



DATA

- Surface: 248 Ha.
- Population: 30,360 inhab.
- Nr. Houses: 16,360.
- Local protect. Heritage: 1,893
- National protect. Heritage: 104

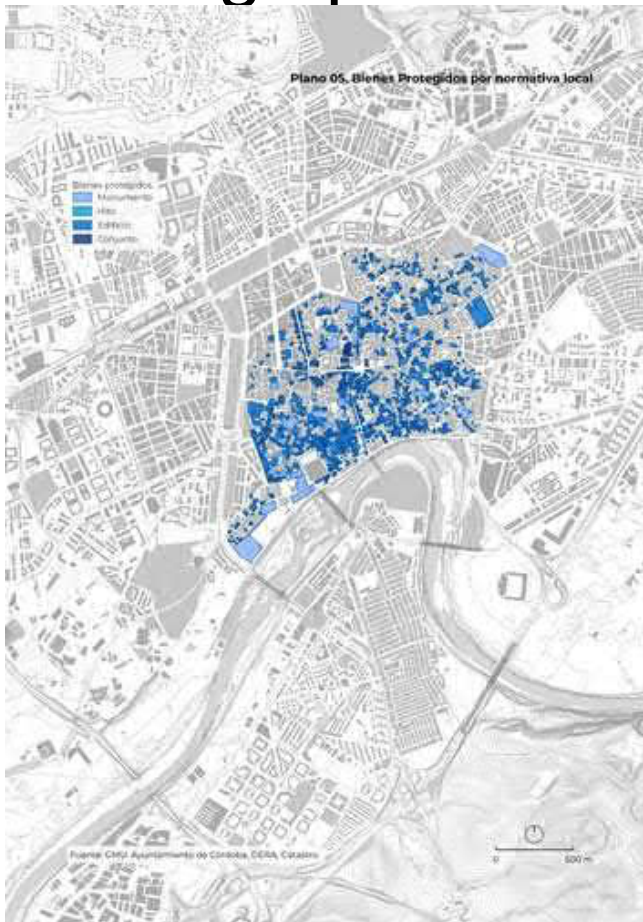
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Superficie (Ha)		Población (hab)		Vivienda (n°)		Densidad Vivienda (viv/Ha)		Superficie Construida (m²)		Superficie Edificada (m²)	
CH	248	PM	30.360	CH	16.360	PM	2.218	CH	16.360	PM	2.218
C.Min	44.200	C.Max	266.000	C.Min	122.400	C.Max	496.500	C.Min	1.661.400	C.Max	3.602.000
Superficie Construida (m²)		Superficie Edificada (m²)		Inmuebles Protegidos (n°)		BIC (n°)		Superficie Construida (m²)		Superficie Edificada (m²)	
CH	1.661.400	PM	418.500	CH	625	PM	27	CH	1.661.400	PM	418.500
INDICADORES DESTACADOS											
C.Min	C.Max	C.Min	C.Max	C.Min	C.Max	C.Min	C.Max	C.Min	C.Max	C.Min	C.Max
18,48	40,37	1959	1995	71,84	95,61	57,74	71,84	100	100	100	100
Ratio Espacios catalogados (%)		Antigüedad real del parque edificatorio (año)		Calidad silencio día (%)		Accesibilidad del espacio público (%)		Ordenes de Ejecución (n°)		Accesibilidad del espacio público (%)	
CH	36,56	PM	1959	CH	83,29	PM	57,74	CH	77	PM	81,82
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CH	1.704	PM	30,2	CH	59,41	PM	45,408	CH	41,69	PM	53,62
C.Min	1.704	C.Max	30,2	C.Min	59,41	C.Max	45,408	C.Min	41,69	C.Max	53,62
Edificabilidad (m²/m²)		Variación del número de hogares (%)		Regimen de tenencia de vivienda en alquiler (%)		Renta Neta Media por hogar (€)		Zonas verdes por habitante (m²/hab)		Ratio de patios y jardines privados (%)	
CH	13,63	PM	-18,34	CH	19,75	PM	33,096	CH	2,49	PM	12,19
C.Min	13,63	C.Max	-18,34	C.Min	19,75	C.Max	33,096	C.Min	2,49	C.Max	12,19
Variación de la población (%)		Pl. apartam. turist. y albergues (pz/1000hab)		Tasa de paro (%)		Proximidad a centros sanitarios (%)		Tasa de paro (%)		Proximidad a centros administrativos (%)	
CH	-6,97	PM	10,39	CH	23,04	PM	4,63	CH	23,04	PM	72,13
C.Min	-6,97	C.Max	10,39	C.Min	23,04	C.Max	4,63	C.Min	23,04	C.Max	72,13

World Heritage delimitation & main parameters, 1994

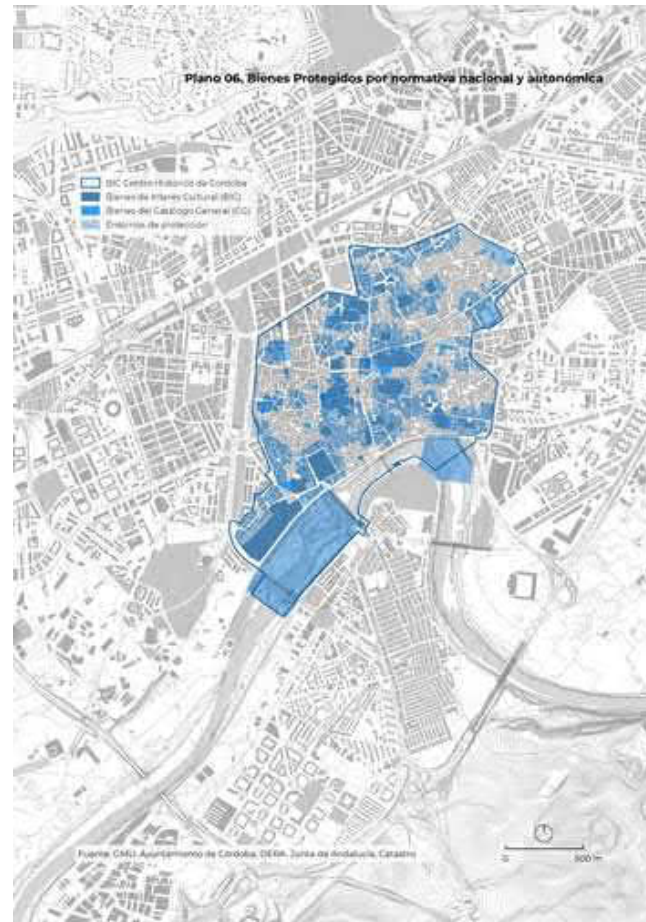
Local protection delimitation & main parameters, 2023

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Heritage protected elements



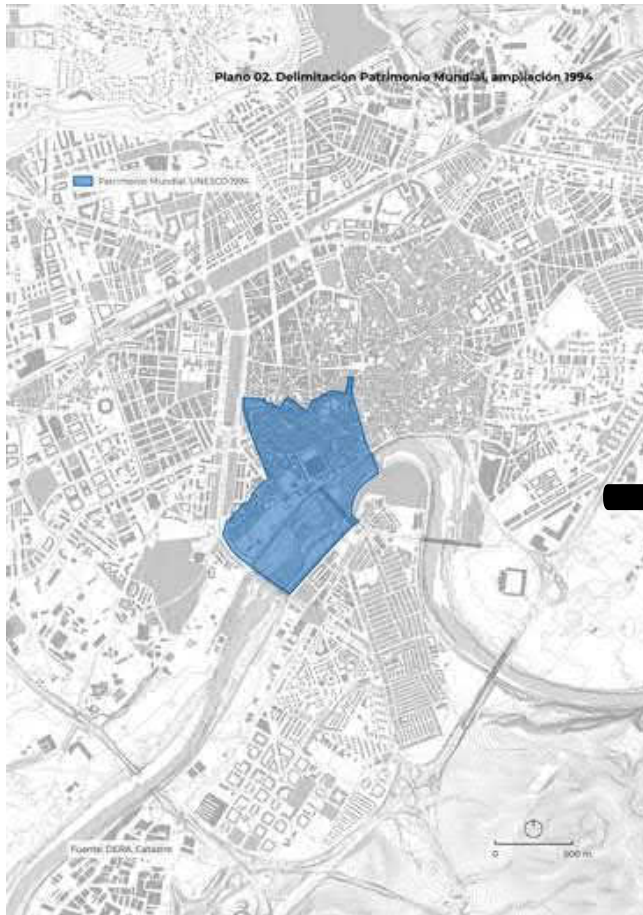
Local protection elements



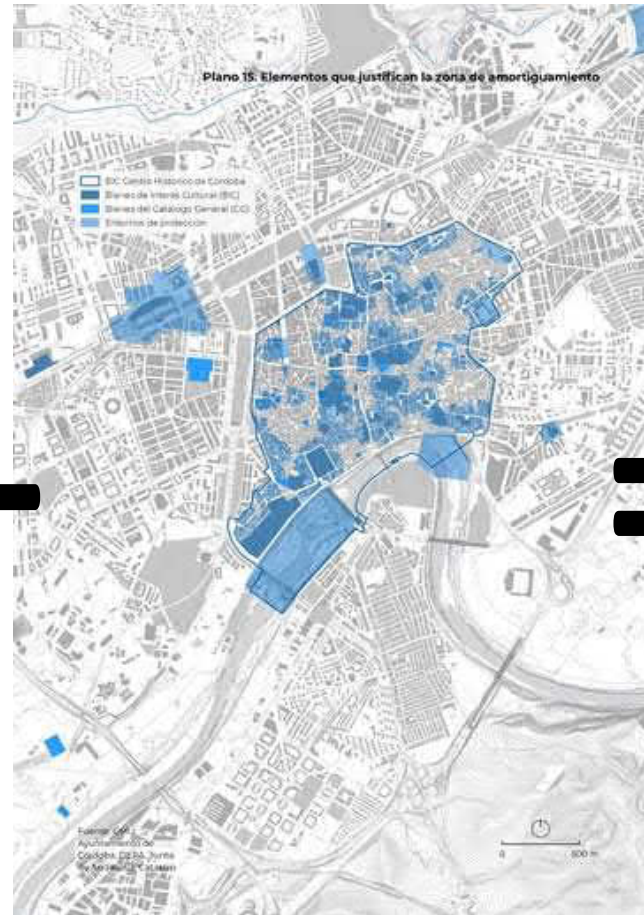
National and regional protection elements

MANAGEMENT PLAN

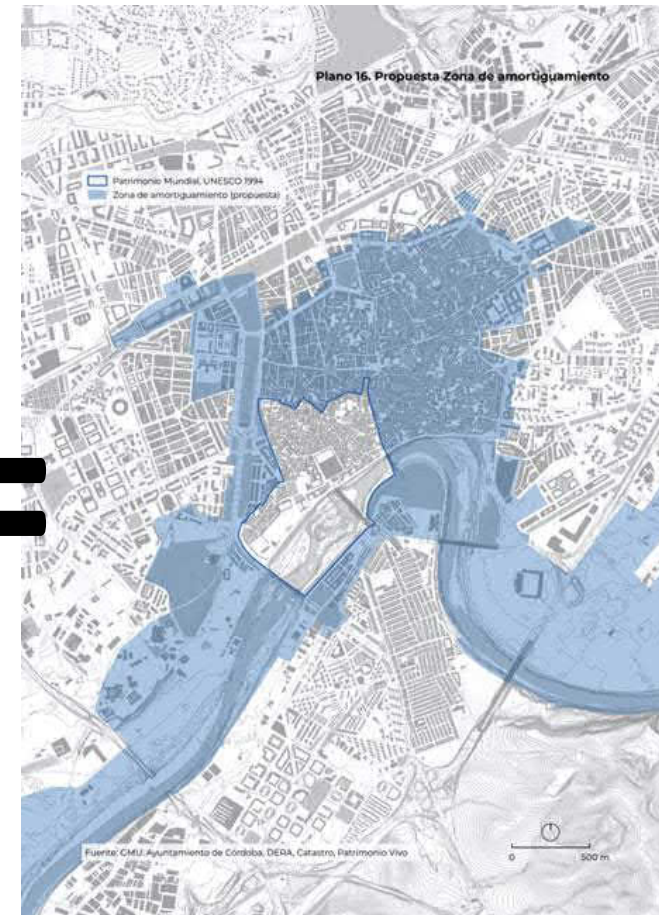
Defining a buffer zone



World Heritage Delimitation



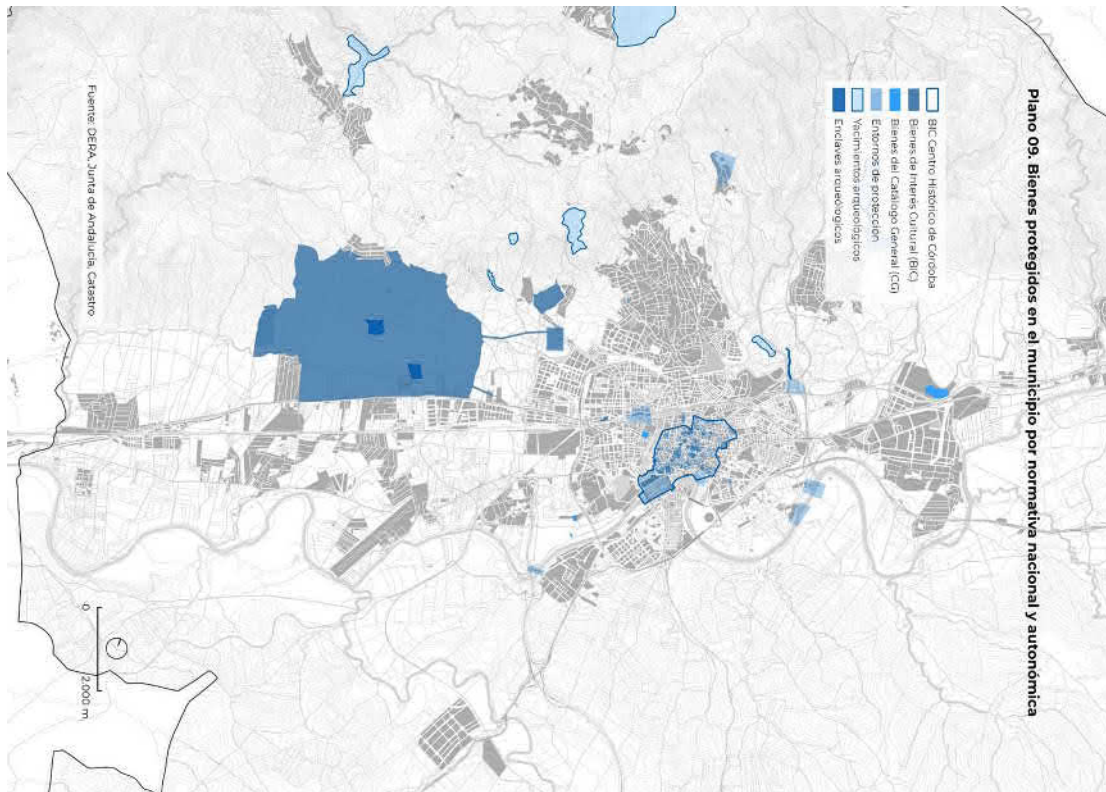
Protected heritage elements



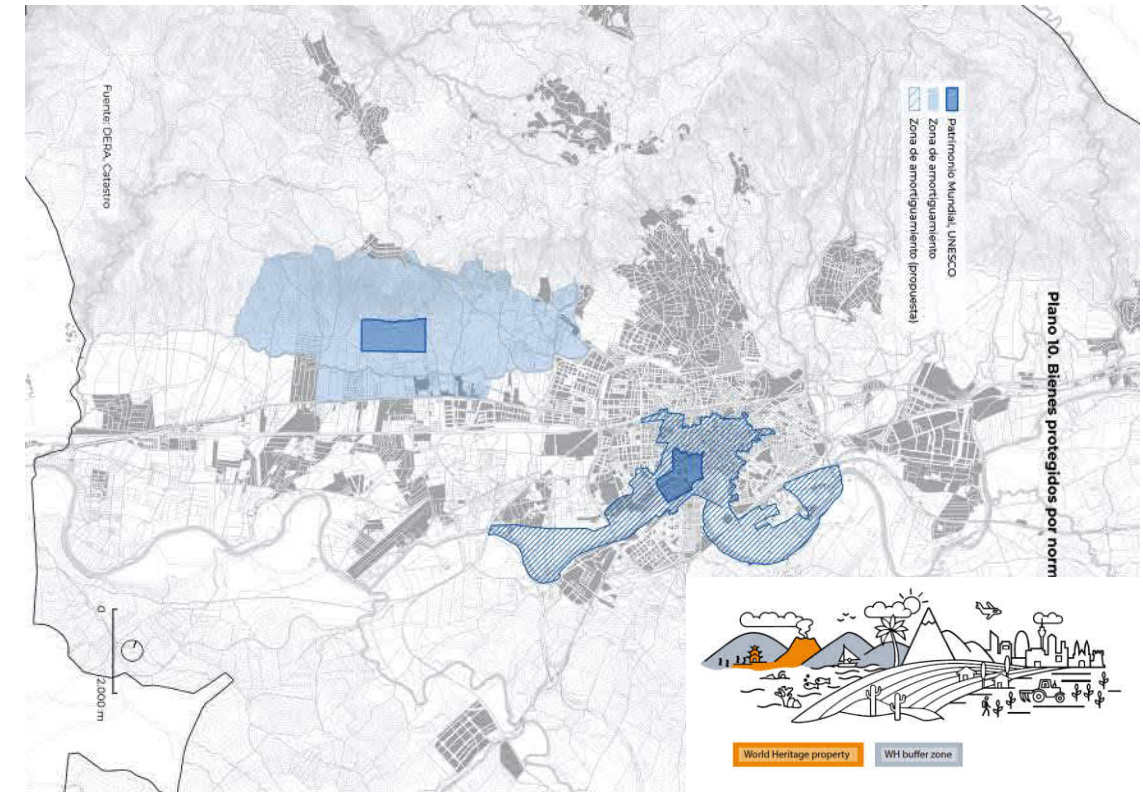
Proposed buffer zone

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Heritage protected elements in the municipality



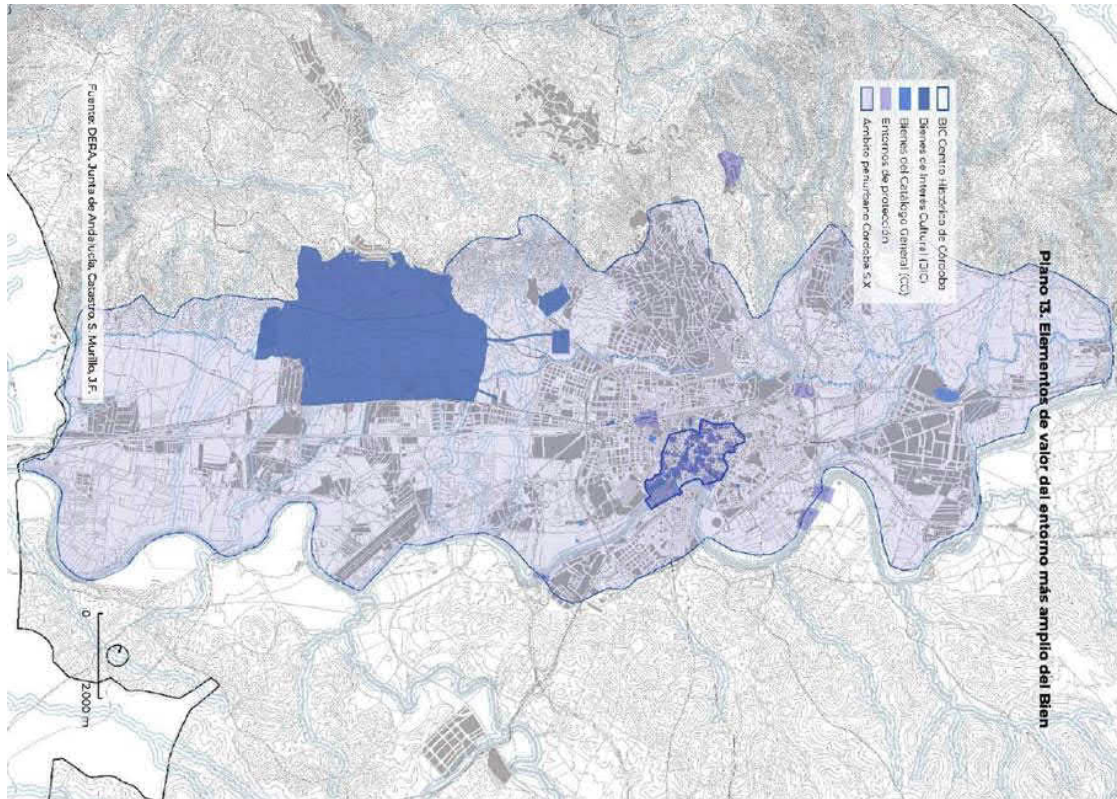
National and regional protection elements



World Heritage sites in Cordoba

MANAGEMENT PLAN

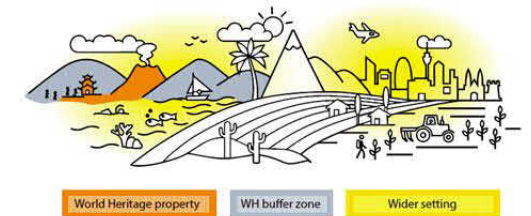
Heritage protected elements in the municipality



Extension of Córdoba city in 10th century

OUV ATTRIBUTES IDENTIFICATION

1. THE MOSQUE-CATHEDRAL OF CORDOBA. UNIVERSAL AND EXCEPTIONAL
2. GUADALQUIVIR RIVER AND THE CITY OF CORDOBA AS A TERRITORIAL CROSSROADS
3. HISTORICAL THICKNESS OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HERITAGE
4. HISTORIC URBAN LANDSCAPE OF CORDOBA
5. FROM THE COURTYARD TO THE CITY. SPATIALITY, NATURE AND WAYS OF LIFE
6. CORDOBA PARADIGM. TRANSCENDENCE, EXCEPTIONALITY, INTERCULTURALITY AND COEXISTENCE



Wider setting

GREEN-ACTION workshop

Sustainable & Green Public Spaces in the Historic City of Córdoba

Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programme

Thank You!



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