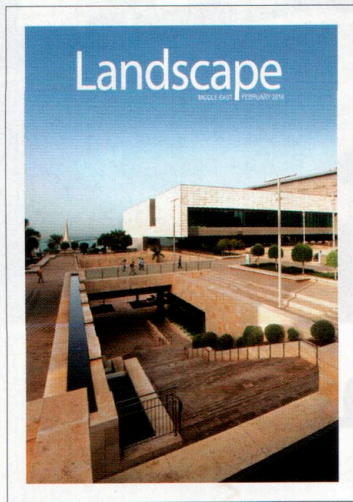


Landscape

MIDDLE EAST FEBRUARY 2014





The Great Outdoors

The weather is perfect at the minute for gardening and really getting the most out of your garden if your fortunate enough to have one, and of course it's also the time of year landscape professionals are able to make great progress on their projects. We have some interesting exhibitions and shows coming up in the coming weeks and months if you're a landscape enthusiast so watch the space for announcements in our March issue!

However, let's not forget what we have in store for you in the February issue, we take you to Warsaw in Poland to review the new design plans for a vast city park known as the 21st Century Garden at the Park and Royal Lazienki Museum. (Page 38)

Andre Van Heerden, Managing Partner of Cape Reed writes in our Green column about the environmental importance of using Thatch as a sustainable roofing choice. (Page 16) And we preview Singapore's newly openly multisensory children's park- Garden's by the Bay. (Page 30).

Saudi Arabia also takes center stage in this issue with the historic Al-Bujairy project. (Page 50) I'll let you read for yourself and discover much more!

Enjoy the issue!

John Hampton

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The First Specialised Landscape magazine in the Middle East

PUBLISHED BY:

MEMEDIA
Publishing

MEMedia Publishing FZ LLC
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PO Box 485005, Dubai, UAE
Telephone: +971 4 4470927
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| Printed by: **Al Nisr Publishing LLC** | Webmaster: **www.pdinventive.com**

Landscape is distributed free of charge in KSA, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Jordan, Egypt, and Lebanon by Emirates Post UAE



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TRANSFORMATION

“Requalificação das Arribas” is the first project in Portugal’s Foz do Arelho dedicated entirely to the rehabilitation of the cliffs and dunes of the coast, as well as the transformation of the degraded areas – once used as unsafe parking spaces for decades, with no regard for it’s character and ecological aspects – that will create new spaces to allow different forms of connections for visitors to the natural landscape, whilst preserving it’s intrinsic values and dramatic nature.

It’s well known that cliffs and dunes have an enormous ecological sensitivity and are subjected to natural erosion caused by the weather. However, over the years it’s become evident along the coastline that erosion was largely accelerated by the misuse of

these areas. The access to vehicles, the devastation of its vegetation, the large amounts of water coming from the new built surroundings without any control, among other factors, led to its gradual destruction and created dangerous conditions that put visitors at risk.

It was clear that this part of the coastline was in dire need of repair. There was no drainage; natural vegetation needed to be reestablished to promote erosion control and practical structures had to be put in place to make the landscape more tourist friendly.

PORTUGAL’S CLIFF’S LIVE ON

By **Nádia Schilling**





Walkway different levels and lookout M3



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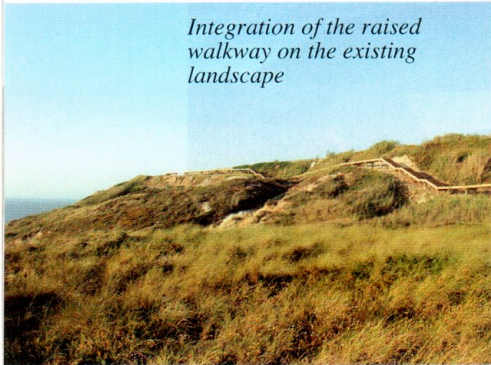
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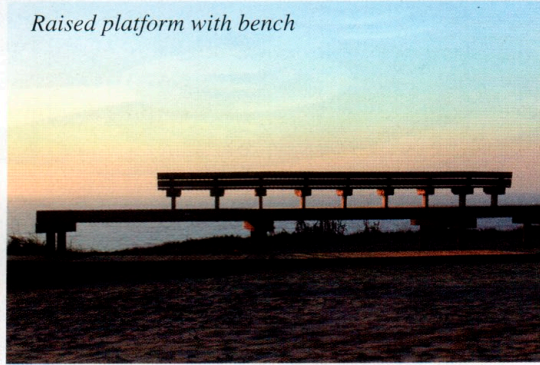
مركز إدارة النفايات أبوظبي
The Center of Waste Management - Abu Dhabi

TRANSFORMATION

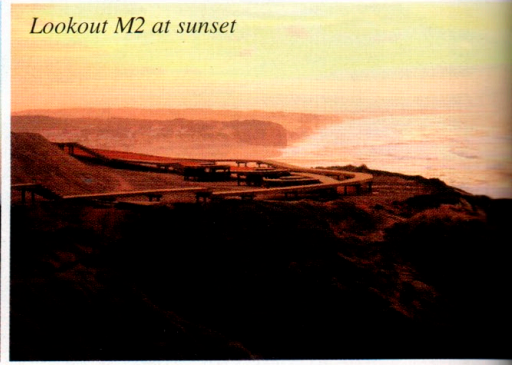
Integration of the raised walkway on the existing landscape



Raised platform with bench



Lookout M2 at sunset



Before advancing with sketches, a study was conducted by the University of Lisbon, commissioned by the Municipality of Caldas da Rainha, which defined the cliffs risk range. It was only based on that information, along with a survey of all the constraints, that the main plan was developed.

The plan was based on the idea that the problems occurred mostly around the lookouts so with a raised wooden walkway that would define paths for people to walk along safely, while also acting as a barrier to the more sensitive areas, visitors could easily access the area.

As a result, cars would be prohibited from

entering the area, with the exception of a few on severely cold winter days-some locations would allow a small number of cars still go to secure areas near the main road so they could enjoy the view- and a controlled drainage system would be installed to aid the recovery of it's biophysical dynamics, as the first step in restoring the native vegetation.

When planning the raised wooden walkway, it was crucial to merge the artificial structure with the natural elements. (All materials and construction techniques were chosen considering the ecological aspects, safety and the structure's durability.) The walkway should adapt to the existing topography and

be almost invisible from the surroundings. This way, and although the recent vegetation will still grow and turn the structure more discrete, the design was developed with simple patterns in mind, so distinctive of the natural cliff and dune systems: the fractals.

Cliffs are particularly looked as contemplative and reflection spaces. This way, the organic path was built so it could hold different areas of contemplation with different levels, allowing visitors to get to higher vantage points and merge with the landscape in more discrete spots. The wide lookouts now divided into small high platforms, allow each individual to have

Lookout M2 – North view



TRANSFORMATION

South view over Óbidos lagoon and the sea



Foz do Arelho's cliffs seen from one of the high platforms

PROJECT NAME

Projecto de Requalificação das Arribas

LOCATION

Foz do Arelho – Portugal

CREDITS:

Concept and design by Nádía Schilling
All images by João Pombeiro

YEAR OF THE CONSTRUCTION

First phase: 2012 – 2013
Second phase: 2014

PLAN AREA

32000m²

CLIENT

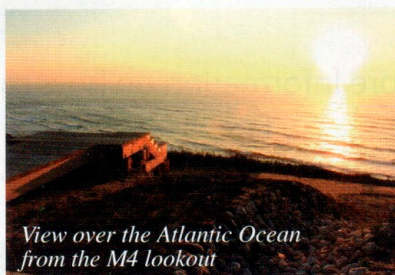
Caldas da Rainha Municipality
Portuguese Environmental Agency

its own space, some privacy, and will include a swivel chair, so that the user can choose where to look.

This project was an important step in the rebirth of degraded areas, and created conditions for its recovery, which included the replanting of native vegetation. Unfortunately, there's still a lot to do, especially when it comes to controlling invasive species but only time will tell if the project will stand the test of time!

SHORT BIO

Born in 1982, in Caldas da Rainha, Portugal, Nádía Schilling studied landscape architecture in Évora University and in the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. Since 2005, works as a freelancer with several studios, companies, private and public entities, developing research, design, planning and environmental projects. For more info, please visit: www.nadiaschilling.com



View over the Atlantic Ocean from the M4 lookout



Lookout M4