

Fundación RIA

Rede de Innovación Arousa

Strategic vision



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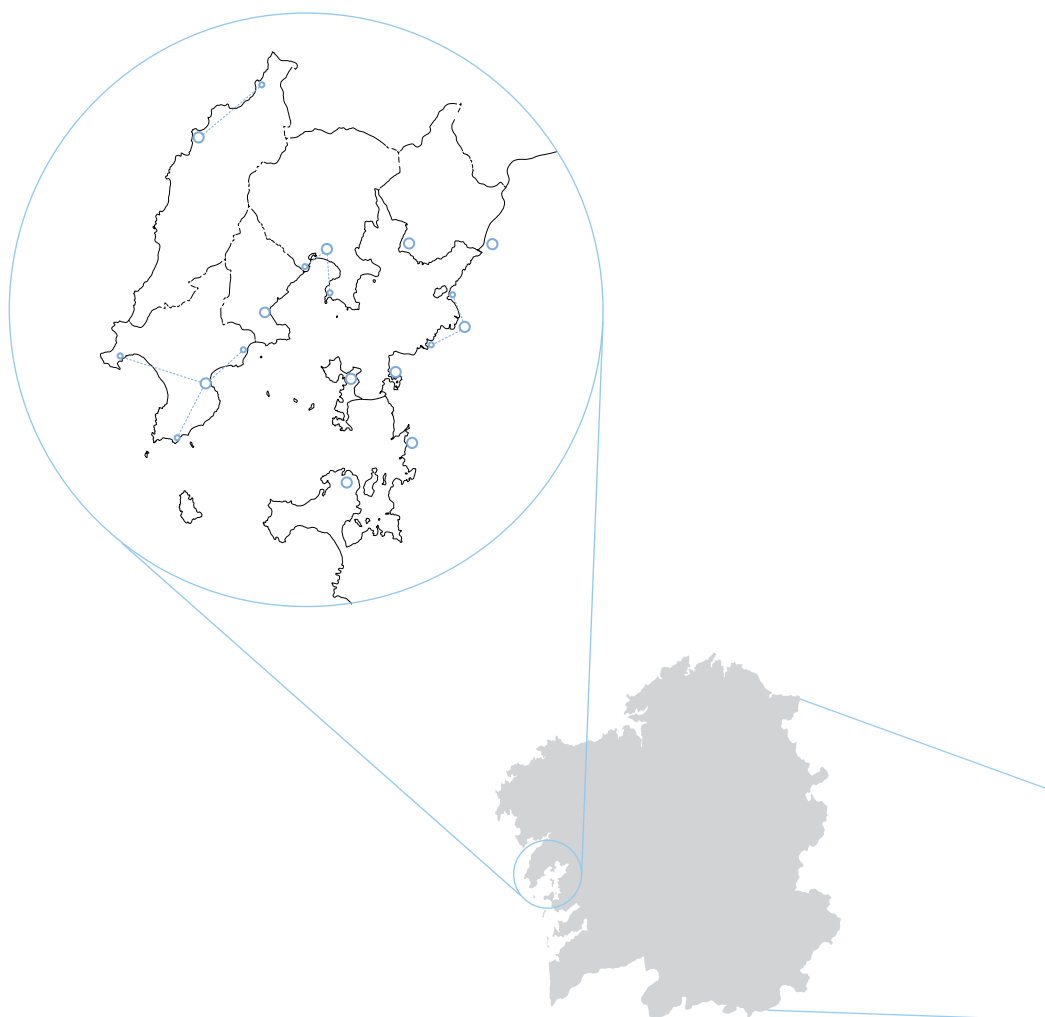
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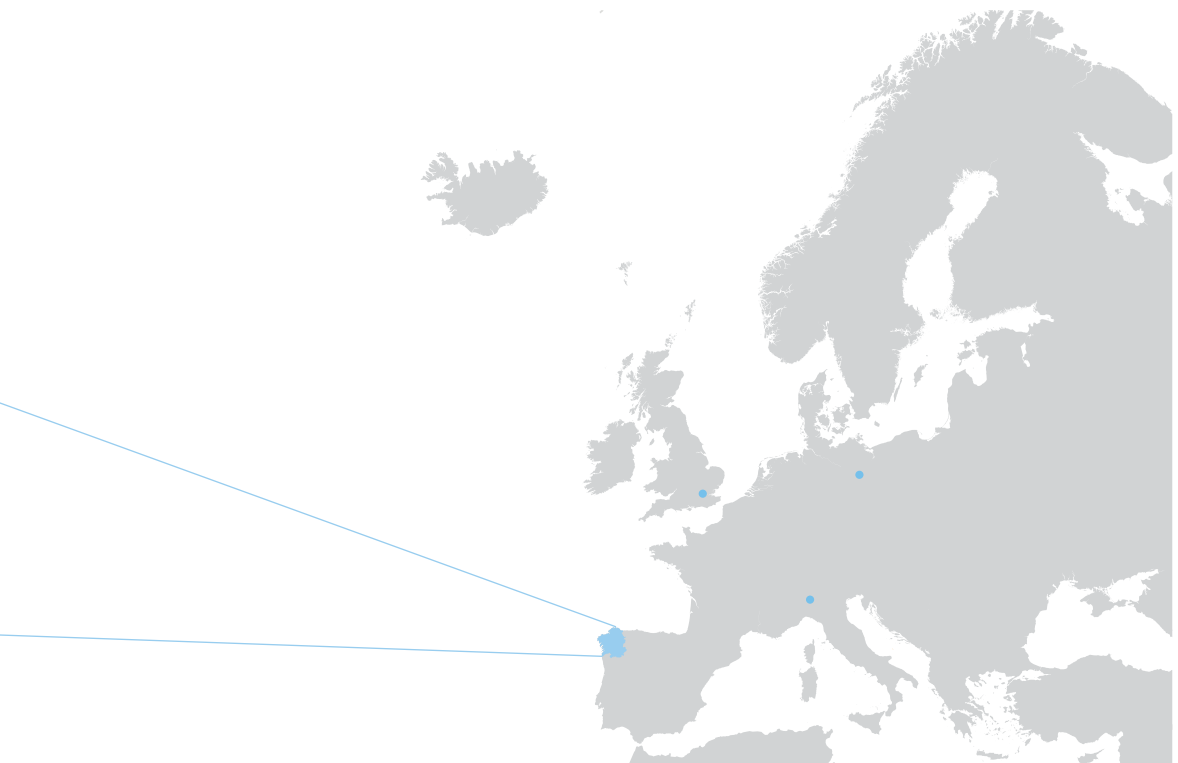


Scope of action of the Fundación RIA, and
David Chipperfield Architects offices in Europe

David Chipperfield is supporting the creation of the Fundación RIA, reaffirming a long-term commitment to an initiative that was first launched in 2016 as Estudio Arousa.

Acting in an open, collaborative and independent way, the Fundación RIA intends to contribute ideas and research for the Arousa region, and to set up a dialogue with the region's administrations, industry organisations, universities, social groups and associations, to plan sustainable development for the future.

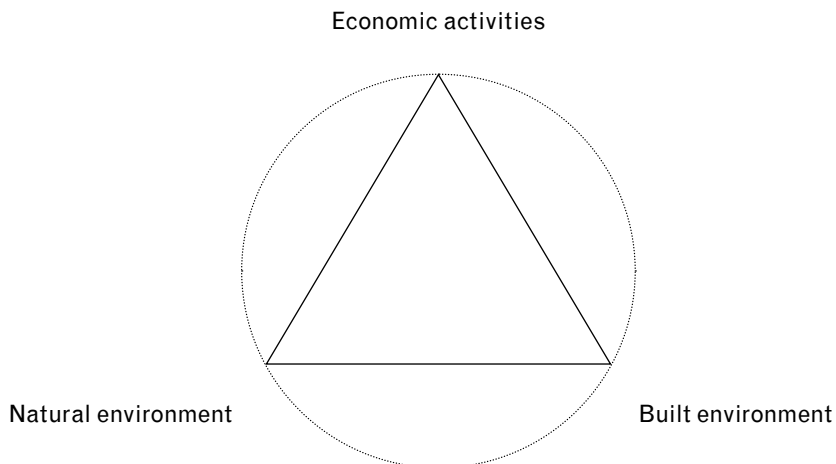
After initial financing by David Chipperfield Architects, the Fundación RIA aims to fund its activities through collaborative agreements with public and private entities, funds for development and research, and from charitable donations.



A balanced ecosystem

The evolution of the Ría de Arousa, and the rest of the Galician coast, can be explained by observing the change in relation between people and the sea. In the past, there was a harmony between the built environment and the natural environment, in which economic activities played a connecting role, giving shape to cities, local culture and a whole way of life.

This initiative was born with the intention of enhancing the economic development of the Ría de Arousa region, while protecting its quality and way of life, and preserving its identity and its natural and cultural values. This vision is focused on achieving harmony between economic activities, the natural environment and the built environment.



The Galician rías, and especially the Ría de Arousa, have a unique ecology in which people occupy a central role. With this in mind, we have identified a number of values that guide the research and development of our proposals:

Territory of unique ecology

The Ría de Arousa is one of the most beautiful regions in Galicia. This area, bounded by the mountains and the sea, constitutes an ecosystem whose balance needs to be maintained.

A productive landscape

The unique conditions of the Ría ecosystem give it high biodiversity. This landscape is not only beautiful but also rich in natural resources.

A way of life

Small-scale agriculture supports thousands of families around the Ría, which enjoys an enviable reputation for the quality of its produce. This way of life has not only maintained high quality, but has shaped an entire local culture.

Identity of the fishing towns

The identity of the Ría is closely linked to the natural environment and food production. Its coastal villages are characterised by their rich built and cultural heritage, influenced by their location between the mountains and the sea.

High quality of life

In short, the Ría de Arousa, and by extension Galicia, enjoys a high quality of life, closely linked to nature and the sustainable use of its resources. This way of life deserves protecting and fostering, while preserving its identity.

Key tasks for development

The Fundación RIA has established five main themes that guide its research and proposals. Each theme will be developed in accordance with its strategic priority, its scale and the potential for successful intervention.

The strategic vision of the foundation considers the Ría de Arousa as a single territorial unit with a unique ecology. This approach aims to blur the boundaries between different municipalities and economic sectors to form an integrated vision of the region, identifying problems and potential for development, as well as promoting coordinated strategies for the various stakeholders.



A productive landscape. Rafts ('bateas') in the Ría de Arousa



Natural environment

Preserving the quality of the natural environment, both on land and at sea, while managing its resources and protecting its unique ecology.



Local economy

Developing and optimising high quality food production, providing added value for the producer and guaranteed quality for the consumer.



Port areas

Reconnecting cities to the sea, while restoring the role of ports as catalysts of transformation and engines of sustainable development. New activities based on research and knowledge could turn ports into the 'brains of the Ría'.



Urban regeneration

Improving urban, business and housing design standards, regenerating public spaces and revitalising urban centres.



Infrastructure integration

Improving public transport and developing alternatives to private cars. Prioritising pedestrians and adapting the character of roads to different urban conditions, establishing them as a generator of public spaces.

Natural environment

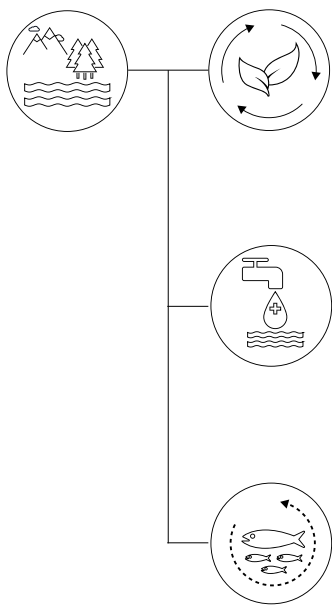
The Rías Gallegas constitute a remarkable geographic typology, with unique environmental conditions. The great richness and biodiversity of this ecosystem derives from the particular conditions in the estuary, but its influence extends across the entire watershed.

In recent years, environmental degradation has threatened to damage the reputation of local products and the pristine image of Galicia. Much work has been done to improve the condition of the Ría de Arousa, but further efforts are still needed.

Involving as wide a range of people and organisations as possible in attempts to improve the natural and built environment will bring benefits not only for the Ría ecosystem, but also for the products that derive from it, and for all economic activities that depend on the Ría.



The Carregal lagoon and dune of Corrubedo



Balanced ecosystem

- Integrated management of the Rfa as a single unit
- Balance between protection and development
- Diversification of food production
- Biodiversity protection

Water quality

- Maximise the quality of the environment
- Optimise purification systems
- Control illegal dumping
- Integrate water management

Resource management

- Integrate management of food production
- Monitor stocks of natural resources
- Planning of extractive activities
- Restocking and maintenance programmes

Local economy

Galicia's food products have a high reputation for quality, largely thanks to the pristine state of its natural environment, particularly in the Rías Gallegas.

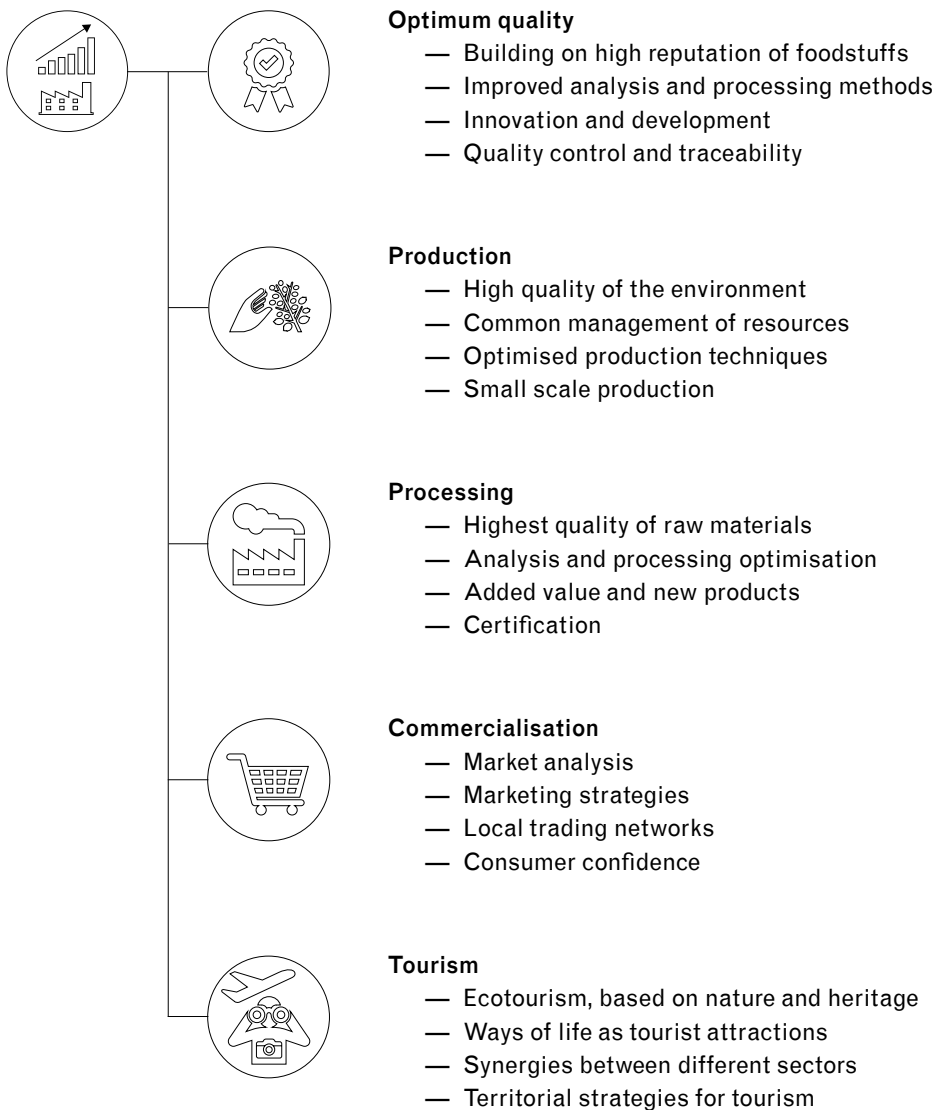
At a time when food production systems are being rethought around the world, Galicia is in a prime position to develop a high quality industry, based on small-scale production and integrated resource management.

Forest management is a key element, as it has a major influence on the water quality of the estuary and in other sectors such as livestock and agriculture. Sustainable tourism is dependent on the quality of the other sectors, as well as the quality of everyday life.

In a global context in which there is a growing awareness of the scarcity of natural resources, we can be optimistic about the future of Galicia: in this place the protection of nature is of economic self-interest.



Clams being cultivated in Carril, Vilagarcía de Arousa



Port areas

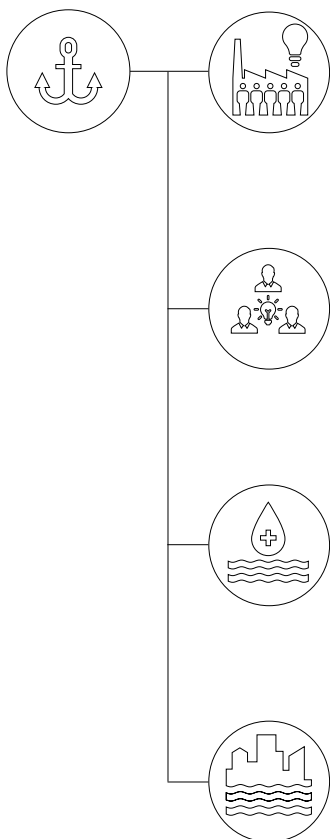
Historically, ports and fishing have driven the economy of the Ría, but this sector is in long-term decline, and in its current form it is unlikely to provide large-scale employment for the next generation.

To renew its status as an economic driver, the marine sector - and ports in particular - must face a new transformation by developing a knowledge-based economy, in which research and innovation boost the quality of the environment, its food products and its commercialisation.

Rethinking and reconfiguring the Ría's ports is the key to recovering the vital connection that once existed between the ports and their urban surroundings. If we consider the Ría de Arousa as a living organism, the port areas should be the 'brains of the Ría'.



New fish market in the port of Ribeira



Research and development

- Activities based on research
- Local and scientific knowledge
- Training and new technologies
- Dissemination

Innovation projects

- Modernisation of the marine sector
- Knowledge-based economies
- Start-ups and new companies
- Innovative new products

Management of the environment

- Research into the natural environment
- Maximum quality of the environment
- Monitoring of fish stocks
- Proactive planning

Sea-city connection

- Integration in the urban context
- Removal of physical barriers
- Exhibition of port activities
- New uses and public spaces

Urban regeneration

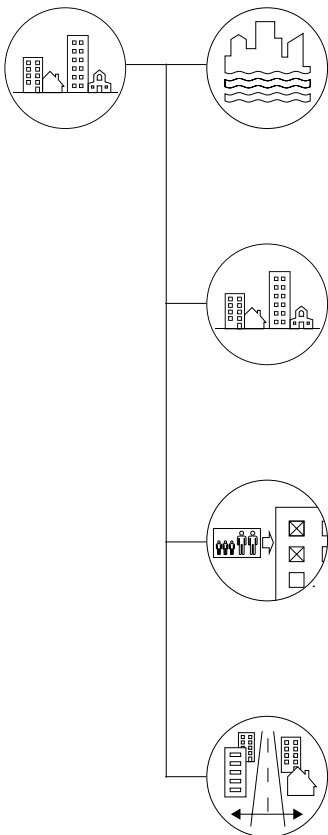
For thousands of years people have settled around the Ría de Arousa to take advantage of its rich marine resources. Their history is preserved in ancient sites across the Barbanza peninsula, as well as in the industrial archaeology of the coastal strip.

The fishing industry and its infrastructure shaped the local towns, but above all it gave shape to a way of life and an identity that was intimately linked to the natural environment.

Preserving this history is critical to the development of the Ría - and that means protecting not just the natural and the built environment, but a whole way of life.



Port and fishing village - Palmeira



Connection to the natural environment

- Integration of port areas in their urban context
- Coordination between administrations
- Introduction of new uses in the port areas
- Continuity of natural spaces

Identity protection

- Preservation of ancient settlements
- Restoration of typical buildings
- Promotion of productive activities
- Connection to the sea and the natural environment

Active urban centres

- Residential and business appeal
- Plans for reoccupation of empty buildings
- Fostering activities in the urban centre
- Retail revitalisation strategies

Sensitive planning

- Supramunicipal planning
- Preservation of natural areas
- Containment of urban sprawl
- Integration of the traffic system

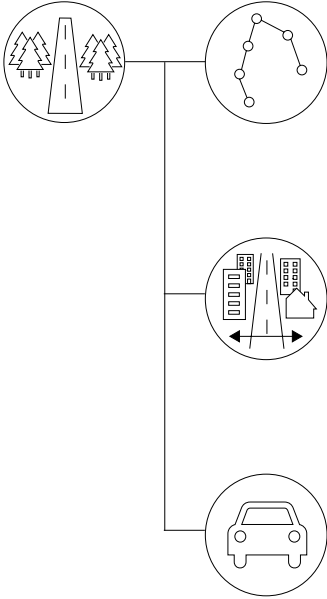
Traffic network

In the historic past, the independent settlements of the Ría de Arousa were connected mainly by boat rather than by roads. The development of a road system propelled the growth of the area's ports and, consequently, their economic and demographic growth.

Urban growth took place along these roads, creating a linear conurbation that continues beyond municipal limits. This pattern of growth suggests a new model of city and its neighborhoods, in which the road becomes a modern urban space of connection and relationship.



Road AC-305, A Pobra do Caramiñal – Santa Uxía de Ribeira



Territorial mobility

- Supramunicipal vision of transport
- Arousa Norte as a linear city
- Modernisation of public transport
- Rapid connection to activity centres

Integration of infrastructure

- Humanising roads
- Reduced road speeds
- Character of each road adapted to its context
- Pedestrian priority and public spaces

New alternatives

- Public transport activities
- Discouraging private transport
- Reconfiguration and reduction of parking places
- Safe walking and cycling routes

Collaborations

Scale: between the regional and the local

If we identify the Ría de Arousa as a single territorial unit, which receives and has influence beyond its geographical limits, it makes sense to look at the relations between a global and a local vision.

This suggests that studies and analysis at the territorial level should also be able to address specific problems. Conversely, any strategies aimed at specific problems should also be guided by a global vision of the region.

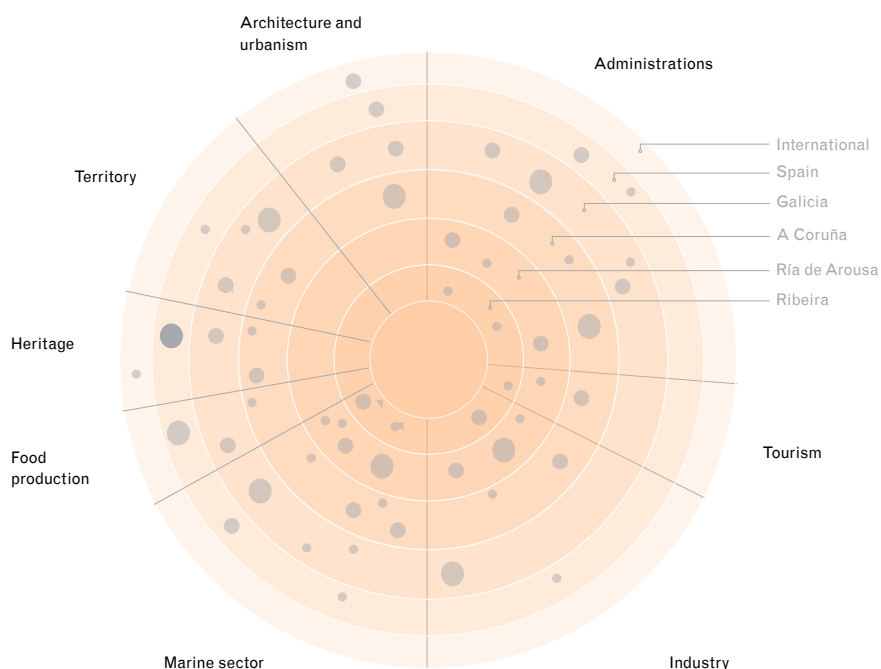


Closing event of the initial Ría de Arousa workshop, July 2016

Talent and collaboration networks

The Fundación RIA assumes the role of leading this process, coordinating research and stimulating debate, drawing conclusions and designing recommendations and strategies.

However, in order for the analysis and design of proposals to be successful and properly accountable, it is essential to bring together the talents of the scientific community, local and regional organisations to work together in planning for a sustainable future.



Open dialogue among different sectors established by Fundación RIA

Methodology and products

The Fundación RIA is keen to offer a broad vision for the region, informed by the interdependence between its various human agencies and natural conditions. The aim is to develop comprehensive and coordinated strategies that shape pilot projects in specified areas, using a methodology that defines logical steps towards the implementation of each project.



Study of the state of conservation of the buildings in the urban centre of Santa Uxía de Ribeira.
Elaboration from field work

Studies and analysis

A specific topic is studied in depth, leading to detailed reviews addressing specific issues.

Identification of problems and potentialities

Drawing conclusions from previous studies and analysis that highlight areas of opportunity and relevant activities to be addressed.

Recommendations and proposals

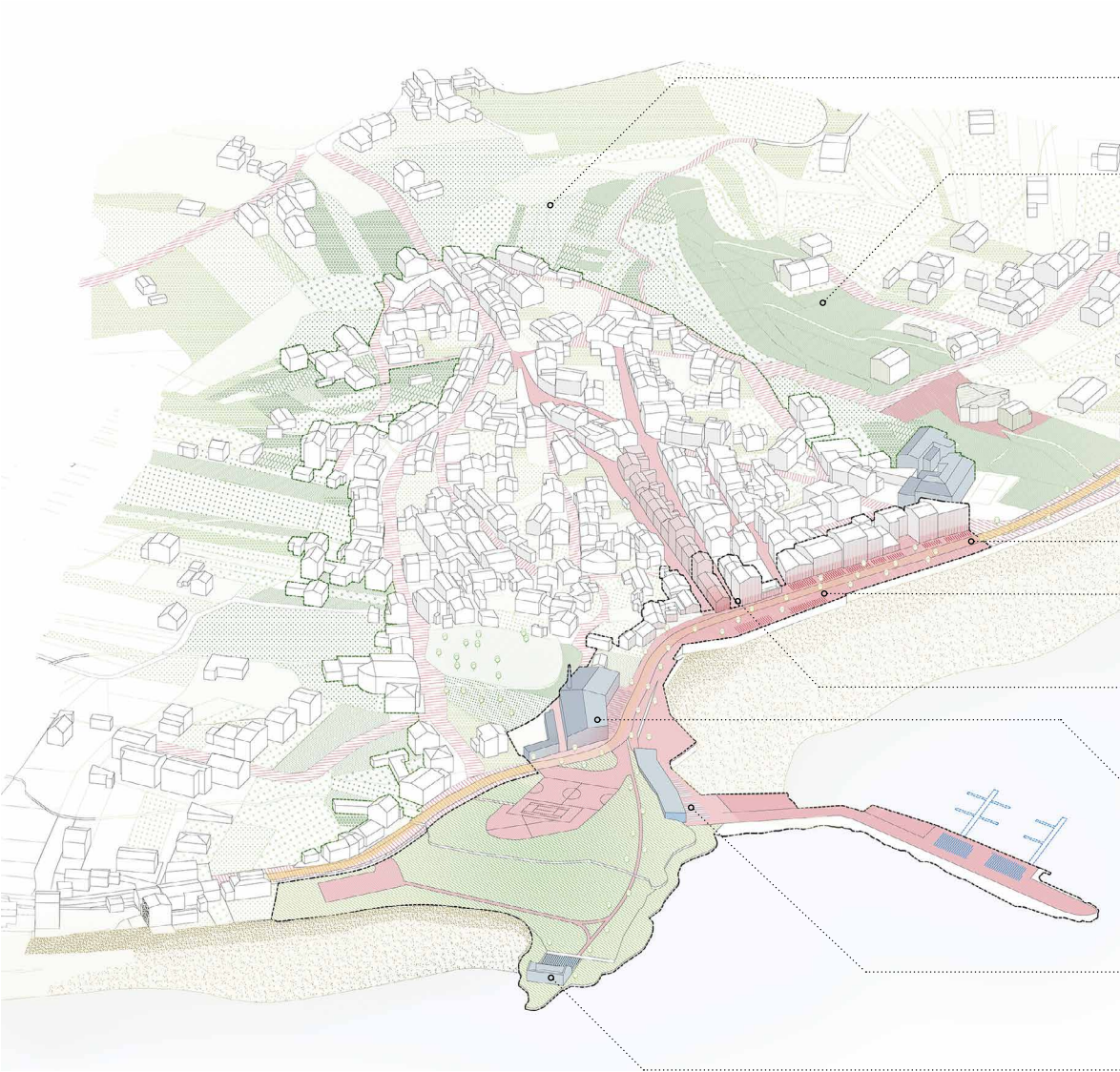
Responding to the global vision and other territorial strategies, a series of priority plans and actions are designed to bring about the desired results.

Pilot projects

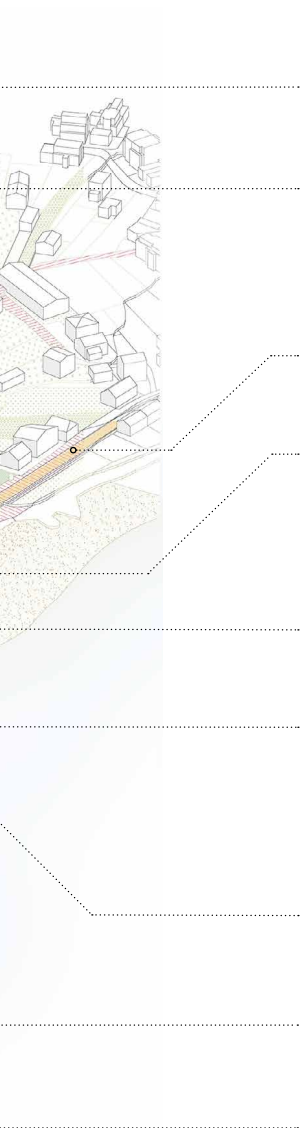
A specific scope is defined in which the different strategies will be implemented. The pilot projects are intended as exemplars of the foundation's integrated and interdisciplinary approach.



Current condition of historic buildings in the centre of Ribeira



Case study - Castiñeiras, Ribeira. Developing urban, economic and environmental studies to identify problems and opportunities



Green belt



Activation of productive land
Regeneration of natural boundaries



Recovery of river systems
Containment of diffuse growth

Integrated infrastructure



Alternatives to private transport
Linear city



Humanisation of roads
Treatment of pavements

Marine identity



Connection with the natural environment
Commercial seafront
Continuity of the streets towards the sea



Heritage conservation
Restoration of unique typologies
Rehabilitation of housing

Active ports



Local production of high quality food
R&D centre and training: 'Brains of the Ría'
Incubators and start-ups



Regeneration of port areas
Relocation of equipment
New sports uses



Heritage recovery
Introduction of new uses



Sir David Chipperfield CBE, RA, RDI, RIBA
Founder and President of the Fundación RIA

Sir David Chipperfield was born in London in 1953. He studied at the Kingston School of Art and the Architectural Association in London. After graduating, he worked in the studios of Douglas Stephen, Richard Rogers and Norman Foster, founding David Chipperfield Architects in 1985. He was Professor of Architecture at the Staatliche Akademie der Bildenden Künste, Stuttgart from 1995 to 2001 and Norman R. Foster Visiting Professor of Architectural Design at Yale University in 2011, and he has taught and lectured worldwide at schools of architecture in Austria, Italy, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

He is an honorary fellow of both the American Institute of Architects and the Bund Deutscher Architekten, and a past winner of the Heinrich Tessenow Gold Medal, the Wolf Foundation Prize in the Arts, and the Grand DAI Award for Building Culture. David Chipperfield was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 2004, appointed a Royal Designer for Industry in 2006, and elected to the Royal Academy in 2008. In 2009 he was awarded the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany and in 2010 he was knighted for services to architecture in the UK and Germany. In 2011 he received the RIBA Royal Gold Medal for Architecture, and in 2013, the Praemium Imperiale from the Japan Art Association, both given in recognition of a lifetime's work.

Louise Dier

Vice-president of the Fundación RIA

Louise Dier studied law at the University of Cambridge and worked for the first time with David Chipperfield Architects in 2004-07 as a client, when she was Director of Reception at the 32nd America's Cup and responsible for managing all the suppliers of the event. Five years later, she joined DCA as the studio manager, drawing on more than 20 years of experience in human resources and project management. Louise was named Director of the studio in 2014, and is responsible for the financial management of the studio and the different projects, as well as human resources and hospitality.

Benito Blanco Avellano

Vice-president and secretary of the Fundación RIA

Benito Blanco studied architecture at ETSAM (Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura de Madrid) and joined David Chipperfield Architects in 2014. With a professional experience of almost 20 years developed initially in his own studio and later in the studios of Herzog & de Meuron and OMA (Office for Metropolitan Architecture) as Project Director, Benito was appointed Associate in 2015 and Associate Director in 2016. He is responsible for projects including the transformation of the former US Embassy in London into a hotel and the expansion and renovation of Selfridges department store.

Manuel Rodríguez López

General coordinator of the Fundación RIA

Manuel Rodríguez studied at ETSAB (Escola Técnica Superior d'Arquitectura de Barcelona) and at LTH, University of Lund, Sweden. His final project focused on the implementation of a technological centre to develop sustainable wood products. This project brought him into contact with David Chipperfield, and he joined DCA London in 2016 to coordinate Estudio Arousa.



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