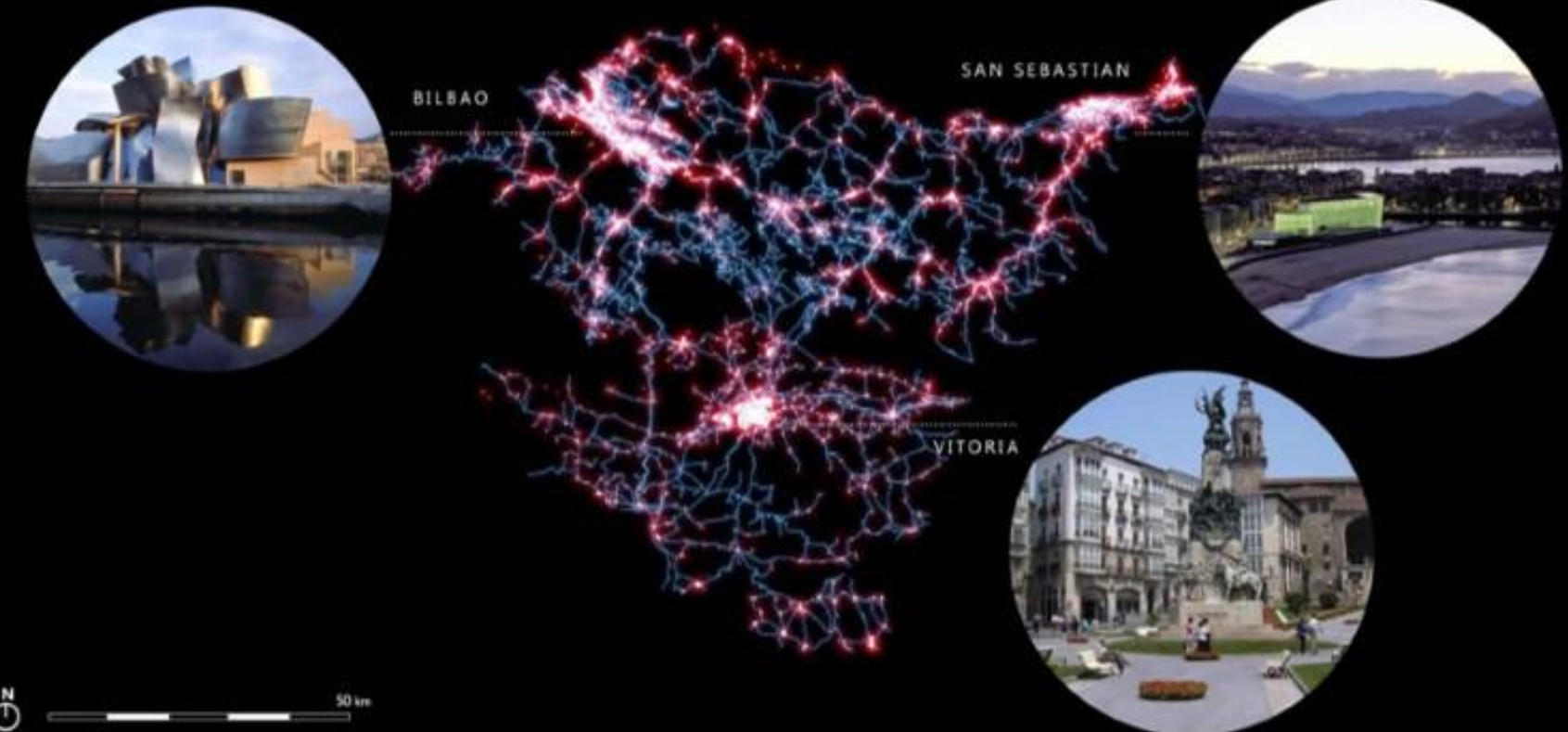


Euskal Hiria

PLANNING A POLYCENTRIC REGION

Euskal Hiria which translates as “Basque City”, represents the effort in creating a new regional planning perspective. After the Spanish Constitution of 1978, and within the complex process of political transition from an authoritarian regime, spatial planning emerged as a competence for the region.

The Basque Country has led a generation of new tools for regional planning, with the target of enhancing its strong system of cities and for recovering urban and natural landscapes. Envisioning polycentrism as a strategy for integrated development, Euskal Hiria is today the basilar idea of territorial cohesion and cohesive growth management.



The “*Directrices de Ordenación Territorial de la Comunidad Autónoma del País Vasco*” (Basque Country regional guidelines) were made towards the end of the 1980s and early 1990s and became the first Regional Plan approved in Spain. In 1994, this plan received the ‘European Urban and Regional Planning Award’ from the European Council of Town Planners and the European Commission.



Premio Europeo
de Urbanismo
1994



Premio Europeo
de Urbanismo
2006

Euskal Hiria PLANNING A POLYCENTRIC REGION

BILBAO. THE EXCELLENCE OF URBAN TRANSFORMATION

Bilbao is one of the most unique cases of urban transformation in Europe. It is the result of an extraordinary effort in delivering quality urbanism through institutional collaboration and a sustained action through time. After a flood in 1983 which damaged the city, and overcoming a traumatic process of industrial reconversion, Bilbao and its metropolitan area are now successful examples of urban regeneration.

The spatial axis of change has been the Nervion river, where its banks host the new city by recovering the waterfronts and offering various urban opportunities in the abandoned spaces from the old industry. With a well-defined management model, 'Bilbao Ria 2000', has been the key institution in developing projects with great complexity, such as the transformation of the entire public transport infrastructure (rail, underground, tram...) or the sanitation of the estuary itself.



**THE GUGGENHEIM EFFECT,
 BUT NOT ONLY IN BILBAO.**

Three capital cities in a network of smart-territories

The Bilbao urban case is unrepeatable. However in the other two Basque capitals, Vitoria and San Sebastian, we can also find the will to create high quality urban environment. Vitoria has been the European Green Capital in 2013, and the green ring, created in the city during the last twenty years, exemplifies the sustainable goals of this city. In San Sebastian we discover the extraordinary 'genius loci', maintained and strengthened in the past years, an urban landscape where the "Comb of Winds", created by Chillida, is now the symbol of local culture. Euskal Hiria, as a planning idea, is related with the global and integrated vision of a Region made of a cluster of cities and towns, of living spaces and green lands...



Euskal Hiria PLANNING A POLYCENTRIC REGION BILBAO. THE EXCELLENCE OF URBAN TRANSFORMATION



The Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, designed by Frank Gehry, was inaugurated on October 18, 1997, after the agreement in 1981 between the Basque Country and the Guggenheim Foundation. The so-called "Bilbao effect" tries to show how the museum has been the catalyst for the city's transformation.

Olympic Barcelona

A SINGULAR EVENT THAT TURNED INTO AN URBAN STRATEGY

When in 1986 the International Olympic Committee decided to host the XXII Olympic Games in Barcelona, the city mayor and his team had the firm intention of creating a new urban framework for the city, transforming a one-off event into an opportunity for improving the city infrastructures and promoting a systemic urban renovation.



Olympic Barcelona A SINGULAR EVENT THAT TURNED INTO AN URBAN STRATEGY

A new context for urban planning emerged in 1979 after the first democratic municipal elections in Spain. Barcelona, well represents the understanding of planning as a permanent decision making process, using a wide array of instruments but always with the idea of introducing a new culture of public spaces. The Olympic Ring or the Olympic Villa, the spaces for the games, were parts of the urban strategy. Following the tradition of Cerdá, Barcelona uses the Olympic Games to create a project for the entire city.

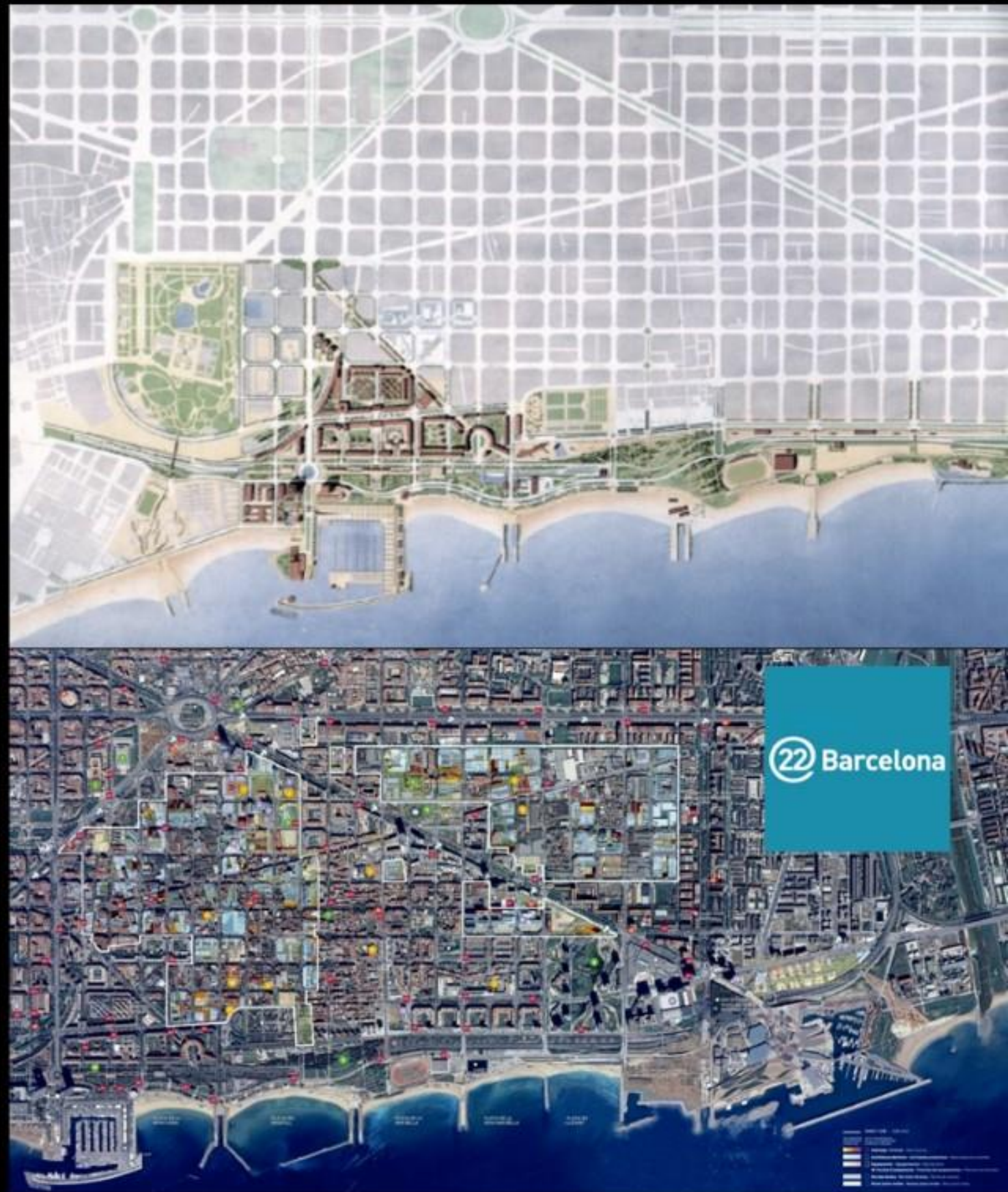


Olympic Barcelona A SINGULAR EVENT THAT TURNED INTO AN URBAN STRATEGY

Perhaps one of the most creative planning ideas was rediscovering the sea. With an initial experience in the 'Moll de la Fusta', the reinvention of the waterfront line is evident in the Olympic Villa and in its surrounding. The transformation of an abandoned industrial space, improvement of the road system and creation of a new urban landscape, drove the development of a new urban area which inspired the future of the city through housing, facilities and urban services.

The new culture of public space, as mentioned previously, is a particular 'Barcelona effect', that has impact in both the old city, in the neighborhoods and in the new developments. The municipality of Barcelona created a planning office in collaboration with professionals in the city to manage the urban transformation. This office which has been the source of a new urban culture, is still active in the city today.

The idea of planning as a permanent process generates a great diversity of planning initiatives, including a new metropolitan plan. In addition to key infrastructural projects such as the new airport and high speed rail systems, the main success of Barcelona's transformation lay in the urban regeneration projects, such as rehabilitating deprived neighborhoods like 'La Mina', or the renewal of central areas. In particular, the new reference of Barcelona's urbanism is the urban renewal project of BCN22@, an area that is well connected with the Olympic Villa by the waterfront and with the city center. Through the renewal of an old neighborhood, Poble Nou, this BCN22@ project has generated new mix use activities and promoted the ICT sector within the city. The municipality developed specific agreements with public institutions and private companies regarding concrete projects for the development of this area.



Santiago de Compostela

PRESERVING THE HISTORIC CITY

Santiago de Compostela is one of the most important historical cities of Spain. It was inducted into the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1985, received more than 3 million visitors yearly and is one of the most famous pilgrimage sites in Europe.

In the late 1980s, the city developed an integral Conservation Plan for protecting its rich heritage and improving its historical urban fabric. The management of the historical center coexists with a 'Plan General' for the rest of the city that allows for a prudent urban growth to maintain the central role of the historic area in the city.



THE ST. JAMES'S WAY: A PLANNING OPPORTUNITY

In the last thirty years, along the trail to Santiago de Compostela, local and regional authorities (four Spanish regions, Navarra, La Rioja, Castilla y León and Galicia) have developed a great diversity of projects, promoting the strategic role of this route for territorial development



THE 'CONSORCIO' OF SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

In 1992, the municipality of Santiago promoted the creation of a 'Patronato Real' (Royal Trust, under the chairmanship of the King of Spain) with an executive committee, the 'consorcio'. This structure allowed a permanent collaboration between the three levels of administration: the State, the Region and the Municipality.

The 'Consorcio' has two main objectives: to maintain the urban action in the long term, with changes and adaptations of urban strategies, and to obtain financial resources for the city works. At the same time, the 'Plan General' of 1988 (regulatory urban plan for all the municipality) was one of the first municipal plans in Spain that included a well-defined perspective for the Historic Centre within a global city project.

This collaborative effort has offered a singular integration between urban and architectural projects with very important results. In addition to the extraordinary refurbishment of historic buildings, the quality of several new buildings and singular public spaces in the city enhances the monumental value of Santiago. Within the backdrop of the current economic crisis, Santiago displays the strength of a project for the city and the collective intelligence generated in the city during the last 25 years.

