

**Context:**

<b>School location</b>	Coimbra, Portugal
<b>Details about students</b>	Students from the 5th to the 9th grade (between 10 and 15 years old). Currently it works at maximum capacity relative to student intake, with 533 students.
<b>School premises</b>	Rainha Santa Isabel School was built in 1999. It is composed by three parallel blocks with two floorplans and another building for the canteen.
<b>School context</b>	The school is situated in a peri-urban area, which encompasses a large rural area to the north of the municipality, located in socially and economically deprived areas, ones in which poverty and social exclusion are common, and in which violence, behavioural problems, neglect and academic underachievement are rife.
<b>Type of activity</b>	Reformulation of outdoor and indoor spaces to support students.
<b>Stage in design process</b>	This school is being used but aiming for a reflection about its space, which has already been authorized by the Municipality.

**Tool used**

**S3S Survey on Students School Spaces**

<https://www.ncl.ac.uk/cored/tools/school-spaces/>

## Rationale for activity and tool adopted

Survey on Students School Spaces (S3S) aims to promote an inclusive reflection on possible changes to school spaces, supported by the feedback of students attending it.

It is intended to understand how school communities can cooperate in creating a more inclusive learning environment that answers students' needs and expectations, based on their opinion, as an essential contribution to the refurbishment of different school spaces.

Given the need for careful reflection on this schools' indoor and outdoor schools spaces, which has already been authorized by the Municipality, the implementation of S3S at Rainha Santa Isabel School proves relevant, as a way to understand the students' uses and enable an inclusive design process.

## Case study description: Process

### Task 1 - Students online survey

- The survey explores the uses and feelings linked to specific school spaces and the consideration of potential refurbishment interventions. It assesses five types of spaces: outdoor spaces, formal learning spaces, study spaces, eating spaces and communal and circulation spaces.
- The school was provided with a tutorial to create the survey. The teacher has begun by identifying a set of relevant school spaces in which to focus on, and took photos of each one of them. Using an editable version of the survey, the photographs were placed in the appropriate sections.
- This survey has been answered by two classes: one from the 7th grade (12 years old) and the other from the 9th grade (14/15 years old).
- Answered by 32 students, the survey data were analysed (descriptive statistics) and used as the basis for the second phase of the tool.

## Case study description: Process (continuation)

### Task 2 – Focus groups

- The focus groups have visited the spaces identified in the previous survey. Here the students discussed their feelings about each one, as well as how they used it and the reasons for their views. A tutorial on how to run these focus groups, including the types of question to ask, was provided to the teacher to guide the students on these walkthroughs.
- Two classes were selected in the following school year: the 8th grade (which moved from the 7th to the 8th grade) and a random 9th grade. Overall, 20 students have participated in the focus group, 10 from each class.

## Case study description: Outcomes

Considering the data collected in the different stages of the process, the following recommendations were listed:

- New school entrance near the bus stop and the main road
- More trees and green spaces
- Space to park the bikes
- Appropriate car park for the teachers
- Tables and benches on the outdoor spaces
- Outdoor sitting areas to eat, study and play
- Building maintenance and painting
- Identification of each block by a letter and by a colour

### Design Process

- Based on the outcomes from the tool, a team of 4 architects designed a proposal for the refurbishment of both outdoor and indoor spaces.

### School Assembly: 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021

- Meeting with the representatives of each class, participants in this study, school leaders, politicians, CoReD researchers and architects. The tool's outcomes were presented to the school community and the design proposals were explained and discussed in a participatory approach to school design.

Presently, the design project conveyed by the outputs from S3S has been accepted at large by the Municipality for its building by phases.



## S3S - Survey on Students School Spaces

Gostaríamos de saber quais os espaços na tua escola que mais frequentas e como lá te sentes. Importa referir que não existem respostas certas ou erradas, pois queremos apenas saber qual a tua opinião.

A equipa do projecto CoReD agradece desde já a colaboração da escola e da comunidade.

\* Required

Espaços exteriores: recreio / entrada da escola

Entrada da escola

