Welcome to the upper floor: vertical mobility in the city

Slopes, stairs, ramps, footbridges, urban elevators, inclined elevators and slopes lifts, escalators, funiculars, cable cars, cable trams, ...

The concept of urban mobility is built on the idea that movement in town is not only a technical issue but also a social issue that has to deal with urban practice, spatial behaviour, and relation to the environment. Urban mobility invites cities stakeholders to enlarge their vision of urban transportation to a more systemic and global approach: movement in town cannot be understand without taking into account the technical conditions of moving (urban transportation), the organization of activities (urban structure), the daily practice of inhabitants and visitors (urban society), the quality of space (urban landscape) and the measures taken by decision-makers to shape the city (urban policy).

More than a concept, urban mobility is a framework, meaning a basis to build new relations between people and space, and to propose more services to the inhabitants.

Moreover, the aspirations of citizens are changing: the large systems that ensured yesterday mobility undergo symbolic devaluation (the car), and other ways to move and experience the city are emerging (soft and virtual mobility). These are less universal solutions, as tailored to specific needs and singular areas. However, they lead to rethink the nature of transport infrastructure as well as the space they occupy.

The Mobility and Transport Department of the Municipality of Lisbon, under the chairmanship of the Deputy Mayor Fernando Nunes da Silva, and INTA organize a design workshop on urban mobility taking the vertical displacement system of the Castle Sao Jorge as a case study.

The first two days of the workshop by invitation only, and the following seminar open to the public, are part of the program of the World Mobility Week. The workshop will focus on the case of Lisbon to discuss and design a project redefining mobility in a complex topographic environment. Technical solutions are many, ranging from surface equipment or air system to mixed solutions (stairs, ramps, passages, lifts, funicular), etc..

Associated for years with mountains and winter sports, and a lot less with work and urbanity, the suspended mobility is quickly establishing itself as a new urban mode. London has recently deployed 34 cabins at 90 m in height to cross over the Thames at Greenwich, while Barcelona has "eggs" to climb the hill of Montjuïc. Koblenz spans the Rhine and reaches the fortress Ehrenbreitstein by cable; other examples include Caracas, Venezuela, Nizhny Novgorod in Russia, Rio, New York, Portland, Algiers, Porto, Bolzano, Taipei, ¹ ...

The Castle of San Jorge (Castelo de Sãó Jorge in Portuguese) crowns the Alfama district. It is situated in a dominant position on the highest hill of the historic centre (112m), giving visitors one of the finest views of the city and the Tagus estuary. The ancient urban fabric

¹https://www.google.com/search?q=ascenseurs+urbains&hl=fr&tbo=0&source=univ&sa=X&ei=yYt9UayHBKE7An683#imgrc=
composes a maze of alleys, stairs and dead ends on steep slopes, platforms at mid-slopes, and inadequate public transport for the resident population and visitors (the most visited tourist site); easy access to the area requires innovative urban and technical solutions.

How to develop a geographically constrained space and which projects will match the diversity of routes? How to diversify the mobility system to cope with the building density? Which access for users who also are part of a new social mix?

It is important to look differently at the infrastructure that should no longer be thought of as only a technical object to accommodate traffic flows but also as an object of architecture and landscape and as a social link.

These are the technical and planning questions and solutions that the INTA-Municipality of Lisbon workshop will explore during three days of reflection and design.

**Programme**

**Workshop – upon invitation only**

**Monday 2nd September**

09h00
*The Lisbon context*, Fernando Nunes da Silva, Deputy Mayor of Lisbon

09h30
*Vertical mobility in Lisbon: achievements, and plans to move forwards*, overview of existing, in progress or planned projects – the Technical Departments of the Municipality of Lisbon

11h00
*From Martin Moniz square to the Castelo* – presentation of the case study

13h00
*Working lunch*

14h30
*Technical visit* – the District of Castelo: elevators at Fanqueiros, Chao de Loureiro, walking down the stairs to Mouraria, etc.

17h30
Debate and working groups around maps, plans, urban studies, technical projects, etc.

20h00
*Diner*

**Tuesday 3rd September**

09h00 – 20h00
*Design workshops*
Participants are working in small groups to invent solutions in response to the needs of vertical mobility of the inhabitants of the district

*Synthesis of the design proposals*
Seminar – open to the public

Wednesday 4th September

09h00  
**Vertical mobility in Lisbon: projects, benchmarking and innovation**  
Welcome and opening

09h30  

10h00  
**Vertical mobility: grounded, suspended, mixed: examples of innovative solutions**

11h30  
**Lisbon reinvents its vertical mobility: synthesis and proposals from the design workshop**

12h30  
**Debate and conclusions**