Designing NMFT: an essay on memory and contemporaneity through architectural design
Teresa Novais e Jorge Carvalho

The Núcleo da Memória Foz Tua (NMFT) aims to celebrate the memory of the Tua Valley, which will be deeply transformed by the construction of the new hydroelectric dam. The vicinity of the old railway warehouse at Tua railway station was appointed as the most innate site to locate an infrastructure with such goals as the ones of the NMFT. The old railway warehouse and its raised exterior platform are themselves a museological object that, together with a new building, shape in a positive way the border between the station and the Foz Tua urban settlement.

Conceptually, both through its form and its matter, the new building manipulates the model of the old railway warehouse and the ideal of industrial constructions. Together, both buildings and their exterior spaces will create an ensemble predominantly linear and longitudinal, which underlines the local identity and at the same time shapes a new urban life.

In the new building, the cantelivered volumes protect the entrances and allow the expansion of the interior space toward the exterior. Although the interior space is functionally undefined and flows continuously, the descent of both roofs shapes the space in level1, which becomes distinct from the one in level 0.

The facades, clad with machined wood from the Tua railway, endow the building with symbolic meaning.

20 / 09 / 2012