We start at the entrance of the Museu Nacional de História Natural e da Ciência (National History and Natural History National Museum) and we will walk towards Príncipe Real, going down Avenida da Liberdade (Liberdade Avenue). We go back to the museum through the theatre of the Parque Mayer (Mayer Park) and the Botanical Gardens.

This path is an experience of contrasts, where the city seems to be stuck between abandonment and gentrification, between the preservation of memory and the constant change of contemporary times.

We find abandoned buildings, almost in ruins, that coexist with rehabilitated properties sold as luxury goods. This is the gentrification phenomenon that reflects the dynamic of globalization in the areas of the city that have had interventions. New commercial and housing appear which raise the costs of goods and services, driving away the old residents and introducing new areas, with new habits, new cultures and new languages.

The windows of old shops still promote their products, side by side with brand shops, which converge in Príncipe Real and its lively human scale, or side by side huge, global brands that bring to life the monumental axis of Avenida da Liberdade (Liberdade Avenue).

The building sites punctuate our path announcing the urban change of the urban setting. On each corner we face debris that are living next to rehabilitated buildings. The dominant populism maintains the image of the city of past times, leaving the interior to the criteria of new structures and features.

In the main axis the rehabilitation is more evident and urban structures meanwhile on the back of the block and in perpendicular streets the abandonment and silence prevails. These asymmetries build an urban narrative of constructed living contexts.

We go to the Museum through the Botanical Gardens. We find calm and quiet amongst the trees that have witnessed decades of change. They were already there in the beginning of the 20th Century, when the republicans freed the cemetary on the monarca in Lisbon. They were already there when the theatres of the avenue, today in ruins, received the glamour of the 1920s. They were already there when democracy was installed in the 1970s. All has changed and the Botanical Gardens have remained.

It is a permanent place that will go on to receive the citizens of tomorrow.

At the end of this route, inside the Botanical Gardens, we meet again the Museum whose tells science. The exhibition Trigger Point awaits us in the Antigo Fiscais do Colégio dos Nobres (Old Ruling Hall), with the question: who will live in our city of tomorrow?

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**Between Abandonment and Gentrification**

**Who will live in our city of tomorrow?**

The itinerary we suggest crosses the historical and touristic centre of Lisbon. We make the visitors to look at the city and to question themselves about the pertinence of its evolution, voluntary and involuntary, that today is changing its public space. The challenge will be to contribute to the building of critical thought on the future of Lisbon.

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**Host** Sofia Marçal

**Guest** Filipa Roseta

**Trigger Point**
between abandonment and gentrification