

Agricultural production systems and landscape types in the Vega de Granada



Country /City
University / School
Academic year
Title of the project
Authors

Granada, Spain
RWTH Aachen University, Institute of Landscape Architecture
Summer 2020 – Winter 2020/2021
La Vega de Granada: A Cultural Landscape Built around Irrigation
Anna Kerfers, Ardiana Rahimi

TECHNICAL DOSSIER

Title of the project	La Vega de Granada: A Cultural Landscape Built around Irrigation
Authors	Anna Kerfers, Ardiana Rahimi
Title of the course	Research Module "Exploring Urban Agricultural Heritage" (2 semesters, 6 ECTS)
Academic year	Summer 2020 – Winter 2020/2021
Teaching Staff	Dr.-Ing. Axel Timpe, landscape architect; Katharina Christenn, M.A.
Department / Section / Program of belonging	Institute of Landscape Architecture, M. Sc. in Architecture, M.Sc. in Urban Planning
University / School	RWTH Aachen University



Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

Agriculture is facing the challenges of climate change and de-fossilisation which can have a massive impact on our contemporary, industrialised agricultural production systems and agricultural landscapes. Agricultural heritage systems can be an important inspiration and knowledge base to adapt agriculture to local conditions and reintroduce a resource efficient production.

The Peach Walls of Montreuil are a cultivation system which allows to produce Mediterranean fruit near Paris. After making its way from seigneurial parks into local farming practices in the 18th century a thriving economy developed around peach cultivation in Montreuil. It declined with the import of Peaches since the beginning of the 20th century and the walls were abandoned. The student research explores how the peach wall zone was organised as a complex cultivation system making use of local materials and creating a micro-climate for fruit production. In addition to the walls, the techniques of tree grafting and cutting were enhanced over time.

After having been abandoned for decades, the Peach Walls receive new interest since the 1990ies and a multitude of local initiatives uses the heritage structure to develop new forms of greening the city and improving the quality of life for the local community.

As a takeaway for their own practice the students identified how an urban production system can be designed following the principles of sufficiency and how historic structures can be repurposed for contemporary practices while conserving their initial idea and materiality. This student research contributed to the book "Urban Agricultural Heritage" published in 2022.

For further information

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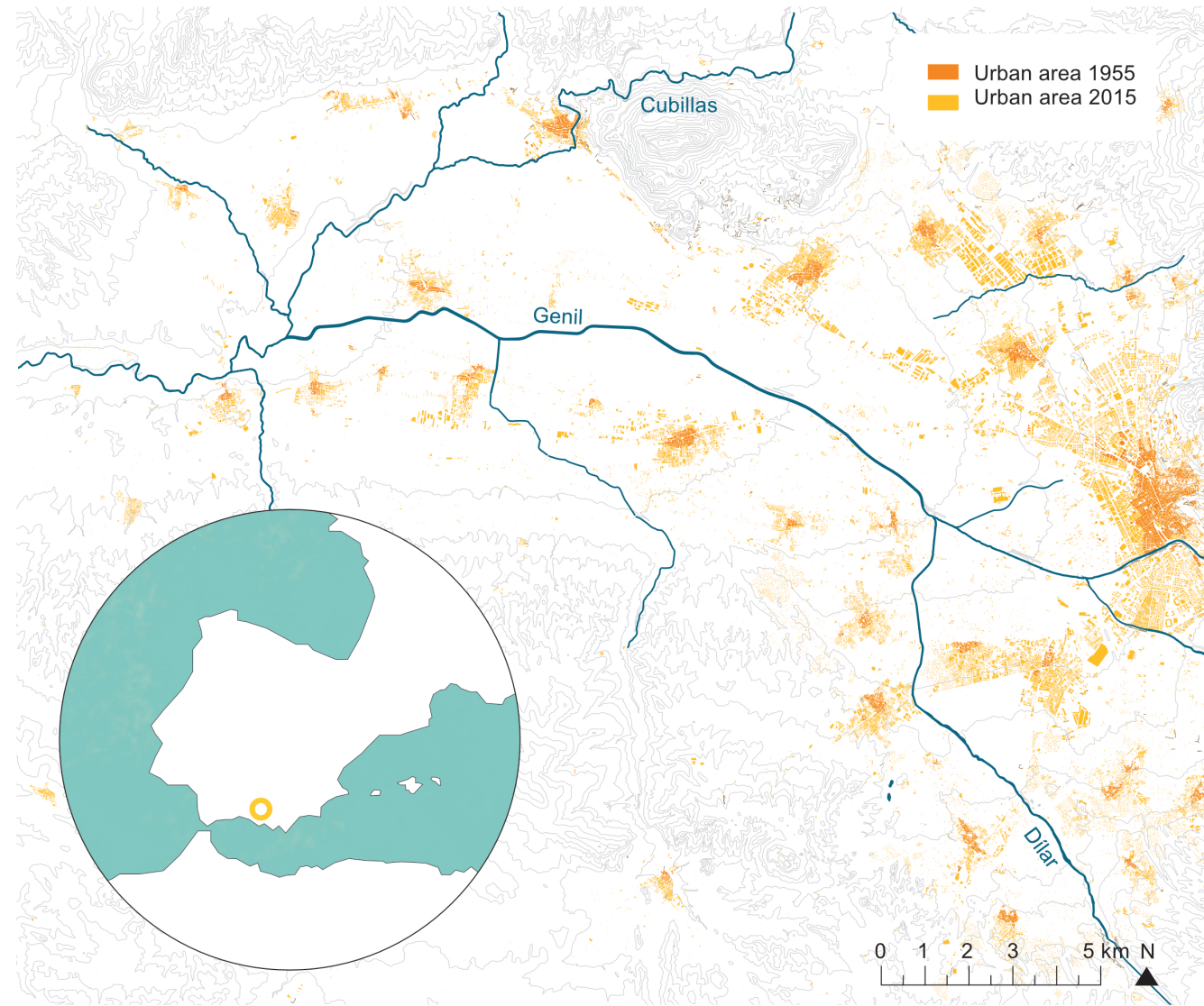
COAC - Colegi oficial d'Arquitectes de Catalunya

Carrer Arcs, 1-3
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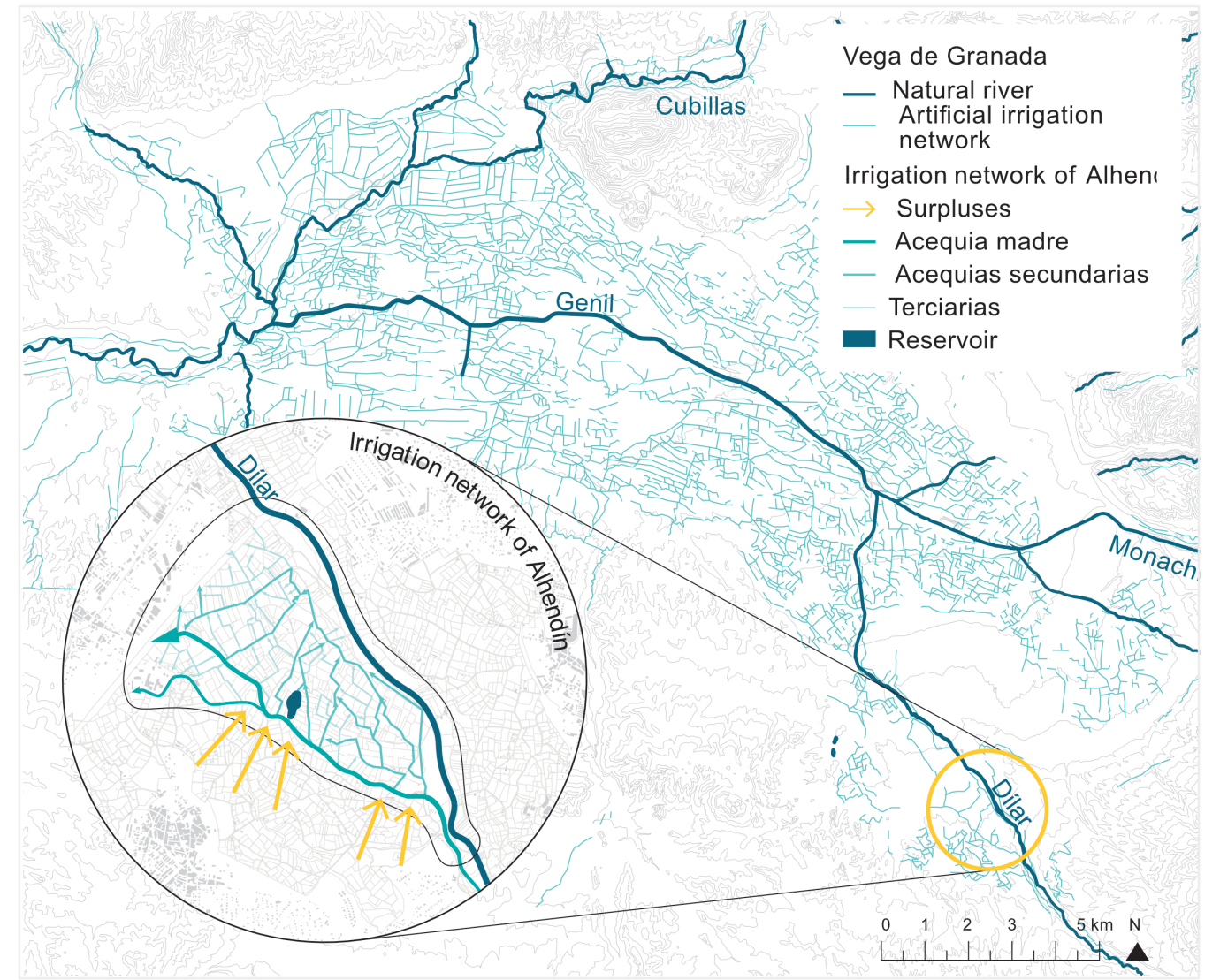
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Barcelona November 2023

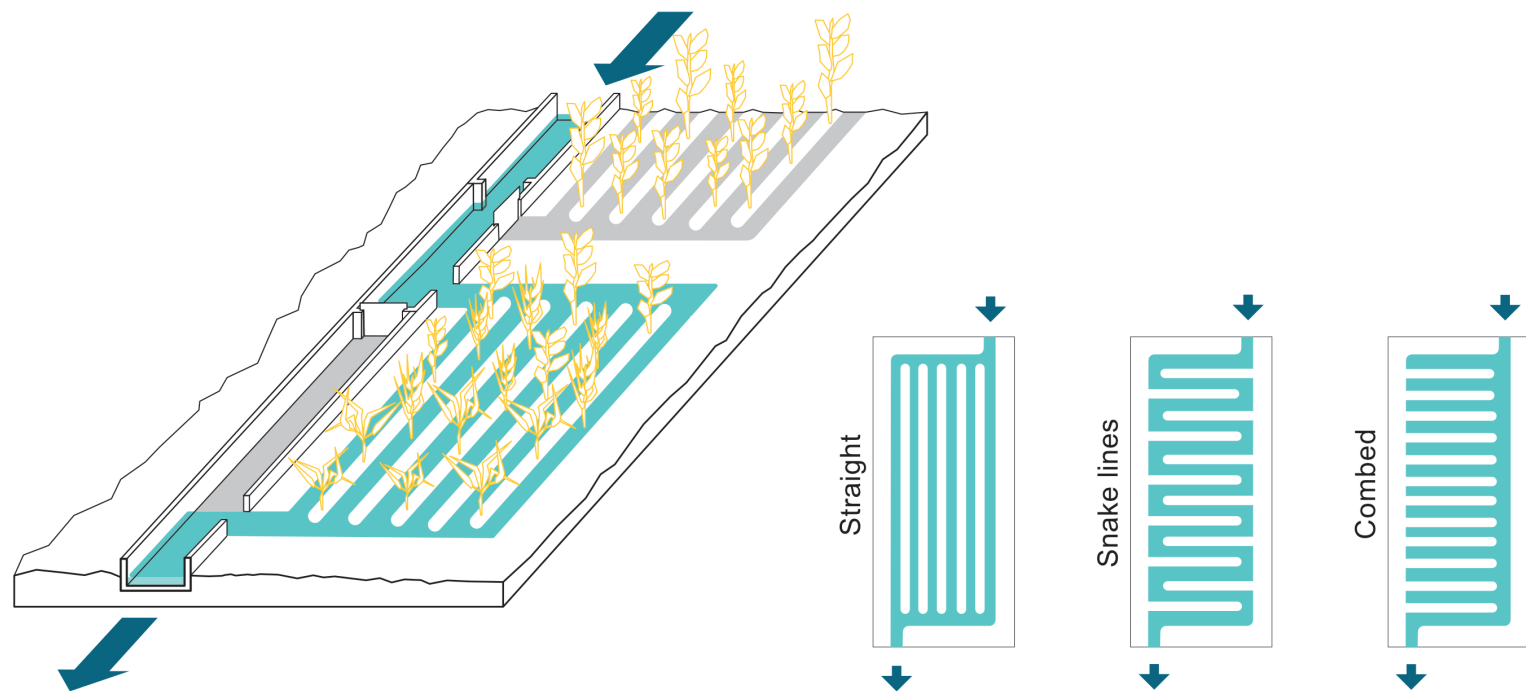
SCHOOL PRIZE



The Vega de Granada is increasingly urbanising



The natural rivers feed the irrigation system

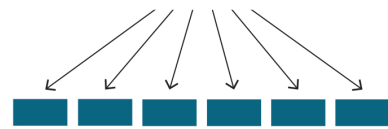


Irrigation techniques on the micro-level

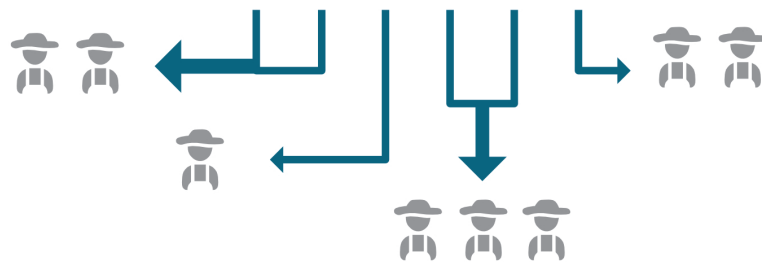
Volumetric split



The volume of the water is divided up into equal units



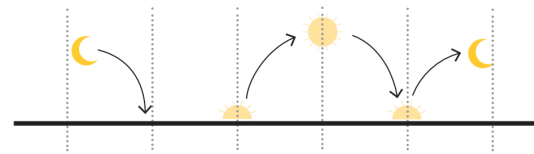
Every irrigation community gets a certain amount of units distributed by the main acequias



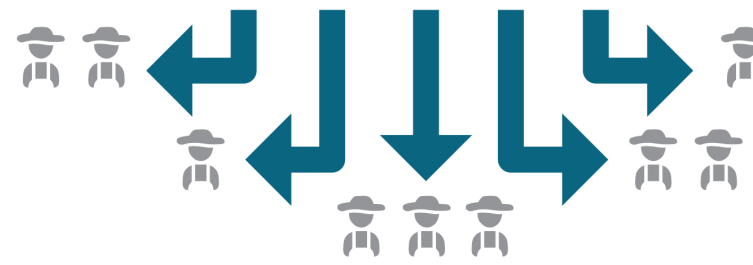
Chronological split



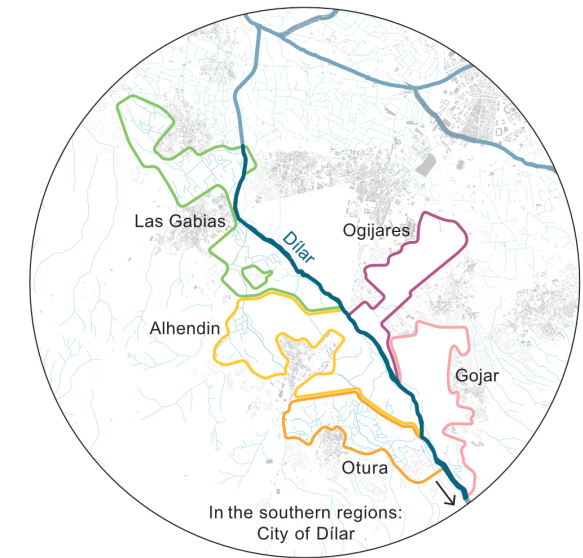
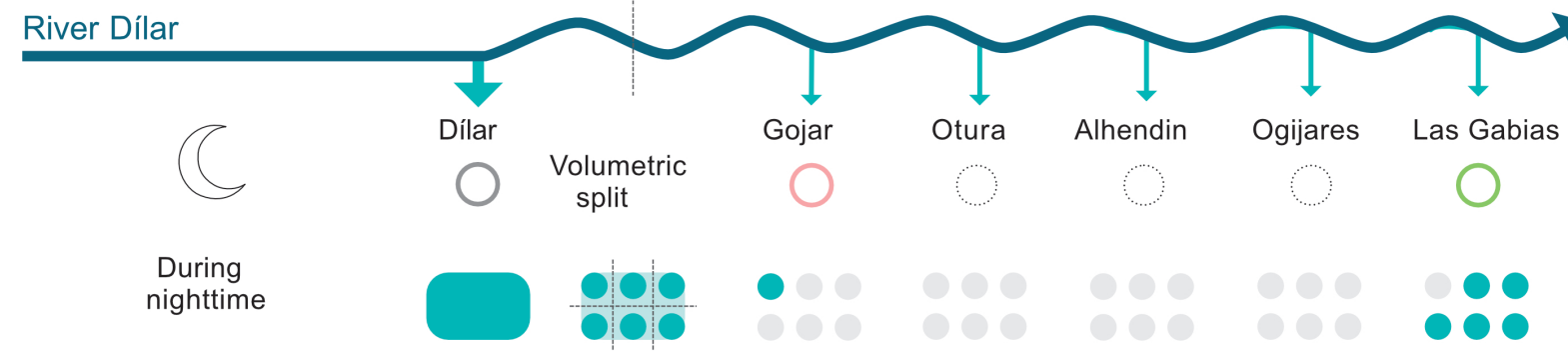
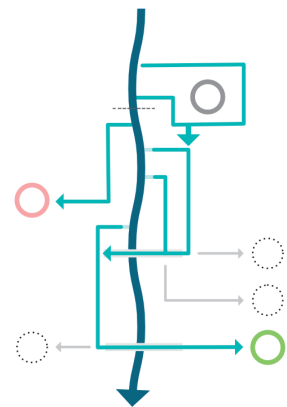
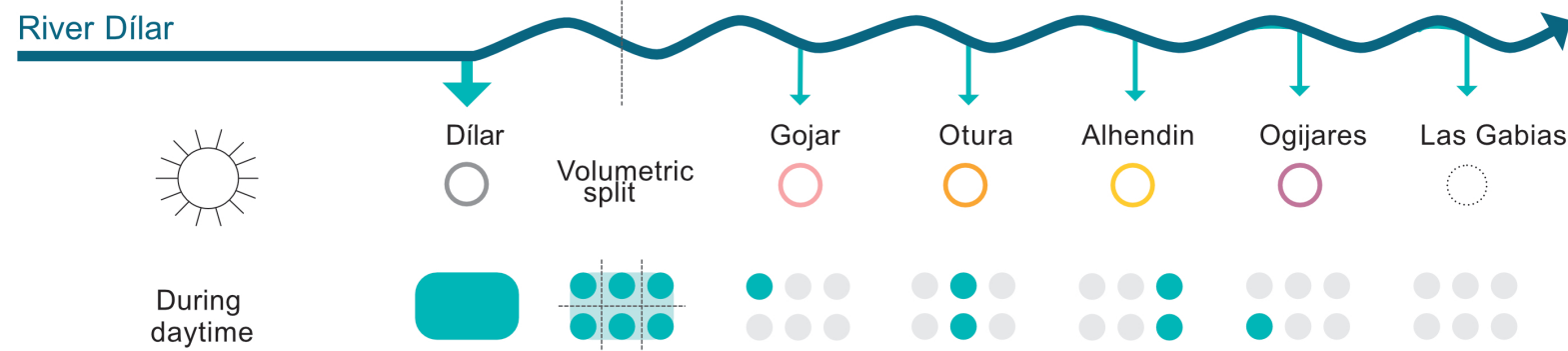
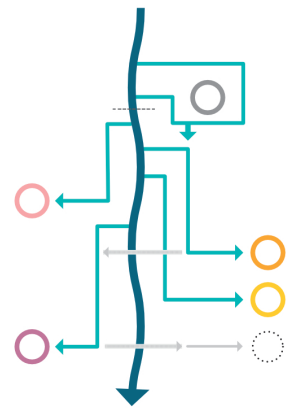
The water supply is managed by time of the day and day of the week



Every irrigation community gets the water for a certain amount of time



Volumetric and chronological split allow to distribute the water resource evenly among the irrigation communities



Water distribution of the river Dilar to the irrigation communities

The irrigation Vega has enabled different production systems throughout centuries

