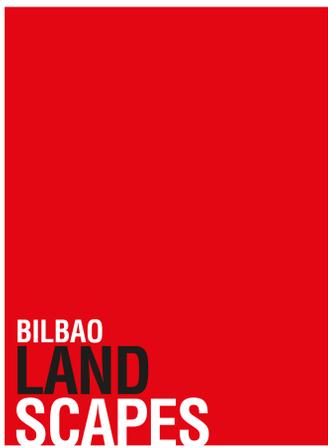


# Apprendre des métropoles du monde

# BILBAO / Espagne

## PAYSAGE



**CITY AND NATURE** form a unique ecosystem in Bilbao. Surrounded by mountains, the city develops along the Nervión Estuary or Ría, whose waters run into the nearby Cantabrian sea. The union of urban and natural landscapes affords Bilbao an individual identity, characterised by the closeness of the green mountains.

People are protagonists in the landscape of Bilbao. The parks and walks in the city are a true natural haven where Bilbao's residents spend their

free time, rest and do sports with their families and friends.

Bilbao is a city that is alive, constantly changing, and which is renewing its urban landscape to improve the quality of life for people; but at the same time it looks after the enduring natural landscape that surrounds it. Its nearby mountains and forests form part of Bilbao's heart and their integration has been carried out through the development of a Green Ring.



## PATRIMOINE



**HISTORY AND TRADITION,** classicism and cutting-edge go hand-in-hand in Bilbao's heritage. The city was founded in 1300 and its medieval origin endures in the Old Quarter, a maze of narrow pedestrianised streets which awaken admiration for their architecture and social and commercial life. In its streets we find some of the most representative elements of Bilbao heritage, such as the Arriaga Theatre, Plaza Nueva and Santiago Cathedral. The first great urban planning operation in the city dates back to the 19th century and is known as the Ensanche (expansion). This area brings together a mix of modernist and functional buildings, with an abundance of façades in the Baroque, neo-Gothic, rationalist, rustic and Basque styles, which make the Ensanche a true architectural museum.



The regeneration and conservation of a large part of its historical constructions is essential for combining new architecture with that of the great artists who made their imprint in years gone by.



# Apprendre des métropoles du monde BILBAO / Espagne

## PAYSAGE

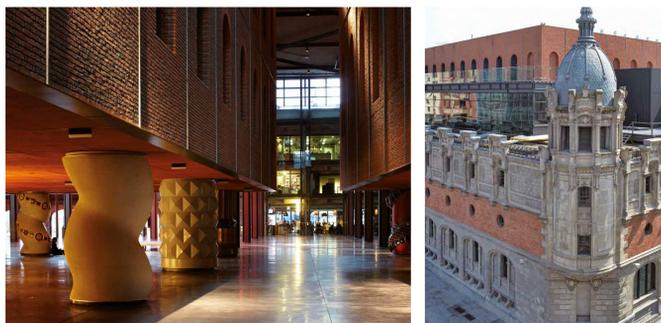
BILBAO  
LANDSCAPES



**Bilbao**

## PATRIMOINE

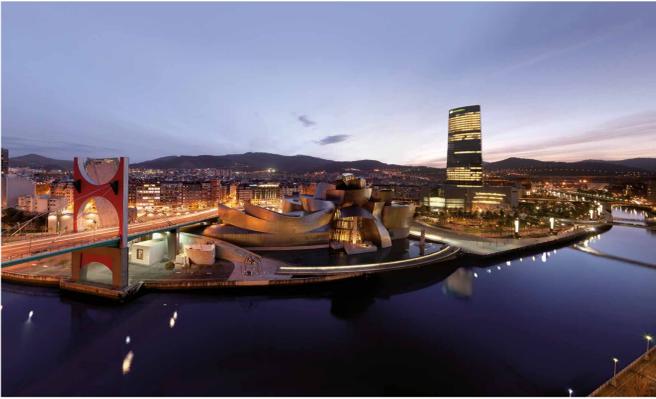
BILBAO  
HERITAGE



**Bilbao**

## «GRANDS PROJETS» VILLE

### BILBAO MAJOR URBAN PROJECTS



**A KEY STEP** to recovering public space in the city was to move railway infrastructures underground, which allowed the development of the districts of Abandoibarra, Amezola and, more recently, the district of Basurto up to Rekalde.

We could therefore speak about urban surgery, as entire areas have been reformed and regenerated with the purpose of obtaining a clear improvement in internal mobility and favouring the integration of the different districts, through the implementation of new

recreational and social activities. Bilbao and its bridges: the port-orientated past of its backbone - the estuary - had given rise to a city that didn't look at its course; the recovery of the outskirts has created new open spaces for citizens and the possibility of connecting them with new bridges, which have highlighted the architectural design. Furthermore, infrastructure projects like the metro and tram have been new milestones in the connectivity of the metropolitan area.



**Bilbao**

## ÉVOLUTIONS URBAINES

### BILBAO URBAN TRANSFORMATION & EVOLUTION

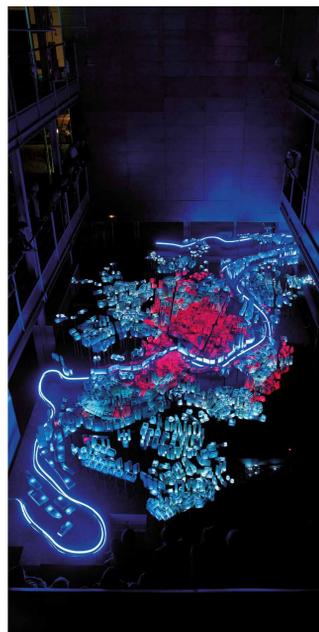


**TODAY BILBAO** is one of the best examples of urban modernisation in the world. With the clean-up of the estuary as the backbone of the city, the old plots previously used for port activity now represent the exaltation of architecture and urban planning, with the Guggenheim Museum as an embryo of the economic and architectural transformation of the city, which in short has meant the transformation of its urban model.

This transformation was based on 4 pillars:

- Mobility
- Environmental Regeneration
- Opening up of the city to the Knowledge Economy
- Cultural Expansion

But the transformation process is still alive, and new spaces in the city are in the middle of a regeneration process in order to move forward in the implementation of new activities that permit improvement to citizens' quality of life, such as the Zorrotzaurre island of knowledge, or the new Punta Zorrotza district.



**Bilbao**

# «GRANDS PROJETS» VILLE

BILBAO  
MAJOR  
URBAN  
PROJECTS



More than 500.000 m<sup>2</sup> of transformed or regenerated soil. The most significant public investments exceeded 5 Billion €, which in turn have led to considerable private investment (25%). The economic transformation of the city generated new economy sectors and therefore new jobs, which made unemployment in the metropolitan area fall from 25% to 8%.



**Bilbao**

# ÉVOLUTIONS URBAINES

BILBAO  
URBAN  
TRANSFORMATION  
& EVOLUTION



**Bilbao**