



'Norias' Project

Panamá

Client: Oficina del Casco Antiguo

Completion: Construction scheduled Fall 2006

Role: Urban Designer

'Norias' is a Spanish term meaning 'pools'. The project is designed to use the cooling tank structures in the tidal flats of the Pacific Ocean. These are the remains of a destroyed 1915 electrical generation station.

The Oficina del Casco Antiguo, the UNESCO World Heritage Office retained OPA to prepare an urban design concept to activate the historic Plaza Herrera. The scheme opens the view from the Plaza to the Pacific Ocean. This not only provides visual relief for the Plaza, but also allows sea breezes to cool the place. Key to the concept is the creation of a neighborhood activity area, in the form of a swimming pool for day/evening use and a music pier for evening use. The music pier serves as a beacon, marking the physical location of Plaza Herrera from afar, and it serves to extend the plaza, drawing pedestrians to enjoy the sea view and breezes; then return to the plaza for the music clubs and other urbane enjoyments.



234 Liberty Street

Harrisburg, PA 17101

717.230.9660

Fax 717.230.9664

www.oparchitecture.com