Arrecife, Capital of the Biosphere Reserve project aims to affect the future of Arrecife by working with three aspects of its ecology, rainwater (water), the sustainable mobility of people living in its neighbourhoods and visitors (human) and public participation (governance). This proposal is added to other ideas and initiatives put forward above. The aim of this first step is to resolve the problem of flooding, by using green structures which can filter and store rainwater at source, thus replicating its natural cycle. This would result in four Caminos del Agua, which would additionally act as linear parks. This is the first step to turning Arrecife into an eco-system which is in dynamic equilibrium with the island and its biosphere.

The second proposal is equal access, overall mobility model, which prioritises light and public transport. It would consist of two stages, one at an urban level, which involves the bypasses and the two Modulares, in order to channel rapid motorised transfers, and another at a neighbourhood level, which would be gentler, more domestic and inclusive. Finally, the third step is the setting up of a new urban governance model which puts into practice all the commitments that were taken on board during the declaration of the Biosphere Reserve. In addition, it intends to involve the capital’s community participation in Lanzarote and in its capital, Arrecife.

Juan Pablo Casado, Architect and Urbanist.

**CAMINOS DEL AGUA**

Argana-Cuatro Esquinas

One of the four Caminos del Agua starts in the Argana neighbourhood and ends at the Charco de San Ginés. The Caminos del Agua are linear parks that act as water channels which capture rainwater at source. They include landscaped areas, pedestrian walkways, cycle paths and recreational facilities. They are connected to the Nodos-Plaza, which are located at the former water treatment plant and the bus station on the Vía Medular. People living in the neighbourhood can walk there easily in an hour and a half.

**BIO-CORNERS**

Meeting places

The Bio-corners stake inspiration from some parts of Arrecife, which stand out amongst the arid and homogeneous landscape of the neighbourhoods. One tree and a shaded place to sit provide comfort in urban areas and biodiversity, in addition to being a visual reference point. The Bio-corners are an updated version of this, which include additional bio-functions, such as a sustainable drainage system, communal gardens, free internet connection and a compost area. The open design allows people living in the neighbourhood to decide on the final arrangement of facilities.

**NODOS-PLAZA**

Naos Port Nodo-Plaza

Of the seven Nodos-Plaza, one is located on the sea front, by the port. The proposal includes extending the tree cover along the main road, using artificial trees which include natural vegetation and shaded areas. Each tree can act as a complementary facility, such as a toilet, cafe, tourist information office, bicycle hire, etc. as well as places for people to seat and wait. There will also be a public square with bus stops, taxis and light vehicles.

**PLAZA ZONZAMAS**

Open air lessons

The square is seen as a public area that acts as a meeting point between the neighbourhood and the Zonzamas vocational training centre. Its topography is inspired by volcanoes, and it incorporates open spaces and shaded areas. In addition to being flanked by squares and stages, the plazas in between are designed to be open spaces for events, and in the afternoons it becomes a recreational and relaxation area.

**BIO-RETENTION PARK**

Argana Bio-retention Park

The Bio-retention Park, located in the upper part of the Argana neighbourhood, acts as a catchment area at source of rainwater, thus avoiding runoffs in the lower parts of the town. This green infrastructure, which imitates the principles of nature, is at the same time a park equipped with gardens, recreational facilities, walkways and public areas. The Bio-retention Park also serves as a border, façade and protection for the northern side of the town.

**ECO-SOCIAL NEIGHBOURHOODS**

Sustainable and resilient communities