



A Roundabout in Coruche

In the area of design, beyond Sofalca's two brands: Blackcork which produces furniture and lighting pieces with the creative direction of designer Toni Grilo and Gencork with their generative design algorithms patterns for interior walls insulation with the creative direction of the Atelier Digitalab, Sofalca likes to develop partnerships and accept challenges, to materialize dreams and bold ideas, unthinkable at the beginning to produce with Expanded Cork Agglomerate.

It was the case with the challenge made by architecture Atelier, Modo Associados Arquitectura e Engenharia: To build a roundabout art piece, at the entrance of Coruche using cork.

The "crazy" idea at the beginning, intended to connect, on the main road to Coruche, a material so Portuguese as the cork with the town of Coruche that assumes itself as the World Capital of Cork.

Architecture atelier Modo Associados which maintain a close relation with Sofalca, launched the challenge to use expanded cork agglomerate blocks, a product 100 % natural, able to resist to sun, rain and snowy conditions with no degradation, with the required dimensions and resistance needed for the project.

It arise like this, at the intersection between National Road Nº 114 and National Road nº 251, at the doors of Coruche, a work of art in a roundabout, executed by Sofalca with the partnership of Metalguia (metal structure) and J.C. Bartolomeu (lightning), projected by Modo Associados. The work of art uses around 630 blocks of expanded cork agglomerate, around 105 m³ with the weight of 13,5 Tons, being the blocks with the dimension of 1050x550x350mm, which overlap in seven rings form, representing the six county parishes and the top ring with a C shape representing Coruche as the World Capital of Cork.

The work of art was inaugurated at 24th of May 2018 at the opening day of FICOR – International Cork Fair.

With this partnership, Sofalca come to realize one of our main objectives: "to materialize with cork, projects that challenges the ability of the execution".

The Coruche roundabout art work, joins this way the Sofalca portfolio of Art and Design using expanded cork agglomerate, like the *Cacilheiro Trafaria Praia* made in partnership with the world renowned designer Joana Vasconcelos for the *2013 Venice Biennial Portugal pavilion*, *Prazeres 28 electric tram* of the designer Nuno Vasa made entirely with expanded cork boards and a metal structure at 1:1 real scale exposed at Kennedy Center in 2015 in Washington and the coating of *two electric Lisbon trams* with insulation cork boards for CarrisTur, which continue to this day crossing the Lisbon streets, among others projects, winning several awards of design and innovation.



