Possible docking places for the Typhoon submarine range from rich western metropolises like New York or London to industrial harbours in developing countries like Nouadhibou or Monrovia. A significant problem facing all these active harbours is the lack of social networks integrated in the urban fabric. In western countries, this social handicap is revealed when old harbours develop into wastelands. In developing countries, harbour workers often struggle with severe poverty, unsupported by social care systems.

To provide a durable answer for this issue, SUB_PORT_LAB proposes to transform the submarine into an educational centre training street children into a profession, keeping them off the streets and preparing them to find a job. Basic theoretical education combined with practical workshops of welding, carpentry, joinery, … For the children finding themselves in the worst living conditions, 15 of the ‘missile tubes’ are decorated as sleeping cabins. By cutting open the submarine and elevating the upper deck, the inner functions do not only become visible, they also benefit from necessary daylight. The decks are used for educational workshops, leisure and act as a public forum, an invitation to the city.

As SUB_PORT_LAB is still able to navigate, yet not to dive anymore, it provides harbours around the world with a ‘social injection’, transforming them into fully fledged urban areas. By the time of departure, the success of SUB_PORT_LAB has caused durable social interventions from local governments, allowing harbours to transform into livable and dynamic city quarters.