

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
FIRST SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
Master of Science in Architecture (Construction)
Honors theses

Barcelona's factories: Can Ricart and a proposal of rehabilitation

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The goal of this work is to verify if it is possible to reuse all those lost spaces that belong to the city but have lost their original meaning without getting another one: they are abandoned industrial areas, zones of expansion in which land rent is the only reason for planning, and as a consequence have become the field for the latest urban renovation.

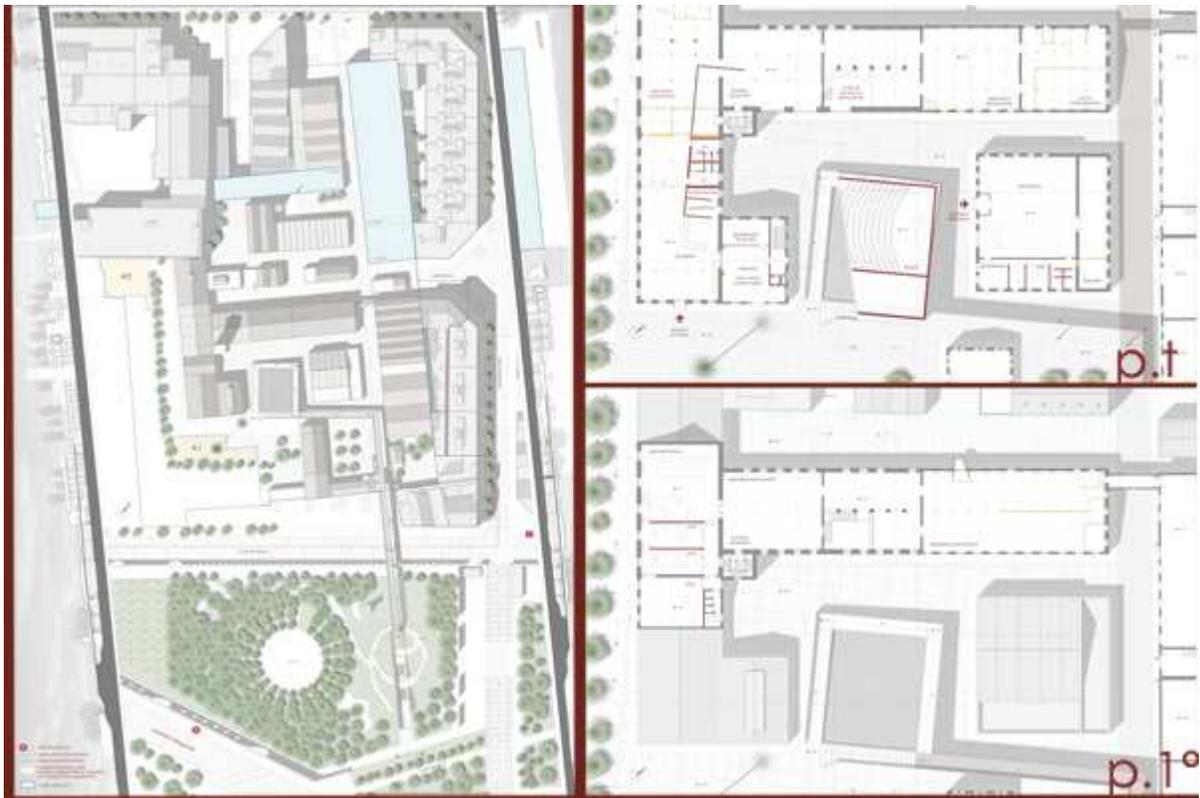
The planning proposal refers to the former industrial district of Barcelona, Poblenou, for which a renovation plan by the company 22@ was approved in the year 2000.



Image of the factory in the district of Poblenou, the main face and an aerial view before the making of the Parc Central in front of it

The fact that I had the chance to study in Barcelona for a whole year allowed me to live in an uncommon urban reality, and to know the history of Can Ricart (one of the oldest factories in Barcelona), of which I propose a renovation. Barcelona nowadays represents a real model, both for its current urban transformations and for being at the centre of world attention through many architectural experiments proposed by architects from all over the world to the Catalan city.

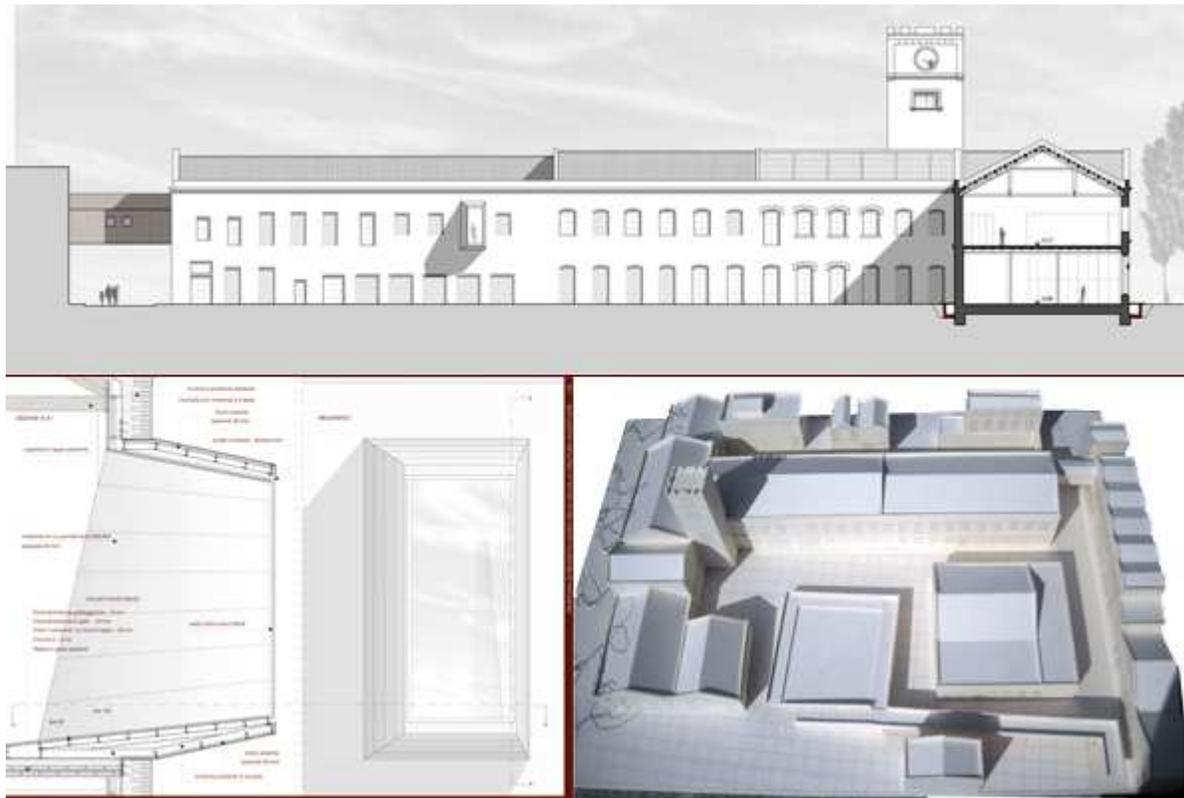
In the “project-planning” debate (that shows the contrast between macro-planning and single projects, reflecting urban planners’ and designers’ different views for the future of the city) I could perceive a lack of sensitivity for all those ex industrial constructions that fill the district of Poblenou. In fact, the 22@ plan has caused the loss of about one hundred examples of the end of the 19th century, with the only purpose of “freeing” valuable grounds to exploit.



Project proposal: the connection between the park and the auditorium

Can Ricart is one of the few factories to have survived this undisturbed demolition, and 22@ had to elaborate a plan for its obligatory conservation as a “museum of languages”.

The research I have carried out wants to analyse this reality, where the presence of many disused industrial areas has highlighted the contrast between various “decision-making powers” (both public and private), at the expense of a progressive transformation of the ancient urban tissue of the industrial district. This appears today as a totally different reality from the rest of the Catalan city: Poblenou has become the district for the newest architectural experiments by world-famous architects, who come to Barcelona only to express their imagination. It comes natural to think there is something wrong in all this, as if that urban planning offered by Cerdà had been totally forgotten to give a new shape to the city. In all this the industrial areas, as fragments of urban history, pay the consequences.



Project proposal: the lateral front and the model

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