



POLITECNICO
DI TORINO

Honors thesis

ARCHITECTURE FOR THE RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

Abstract

The Cabanyal in Valencia: a renovation proposal for the Marina Auxiliante's factories.

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The thesis is proposed to investigate some practical aspects related to the industrial archeology and restoration, focusing on some of the most interesting and emblematic neighborhoods of the city of Valencia (Spain): *Cabanyal*, *Canyamelar* and *Cap de França*.



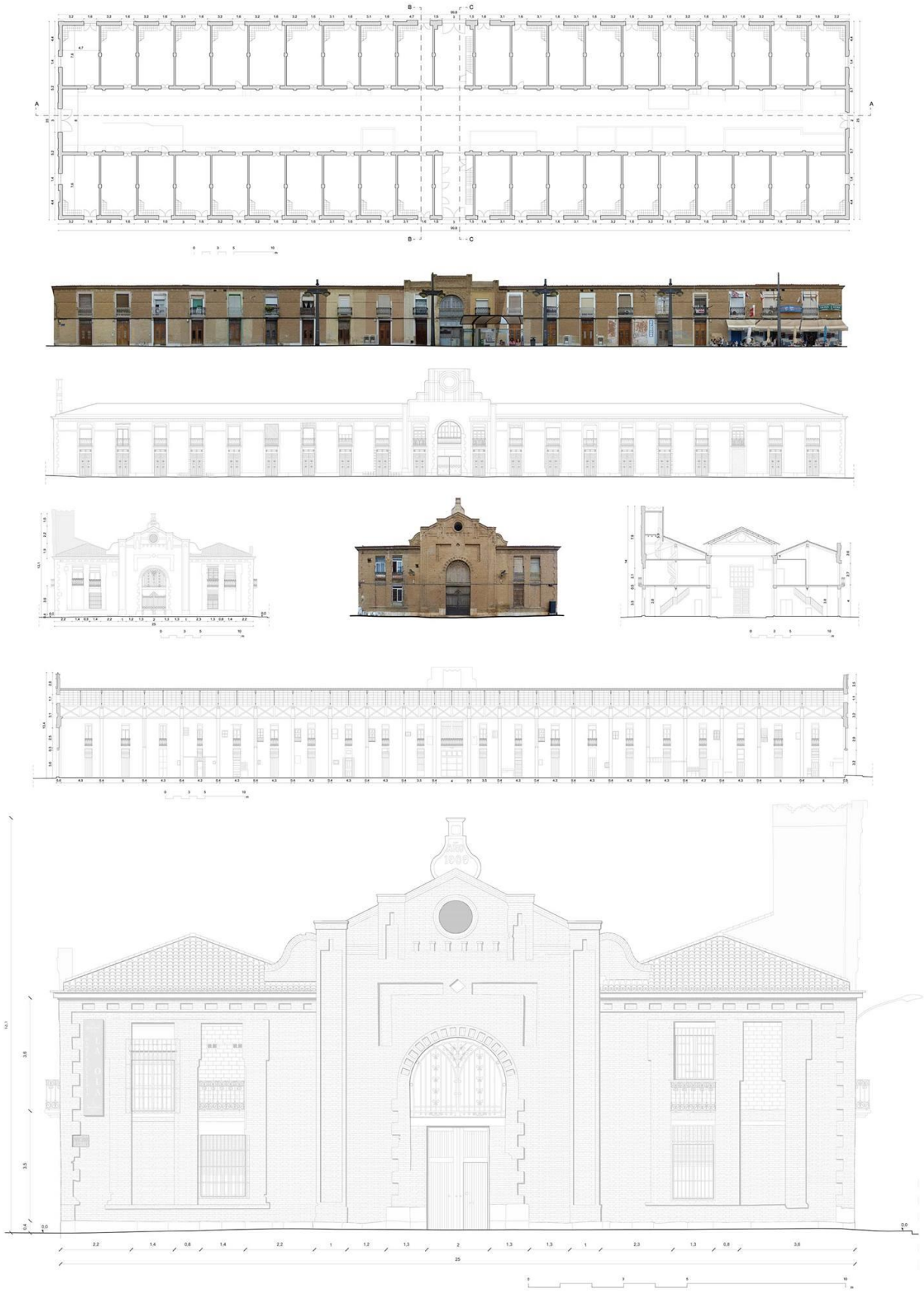
Buildings in Carrer de la Reina, Cabanyal (Photo M.G.)

Part of the thesis is devoted to the analysis of socio-cultural past of the maritime world of the city of Valencia. In particular, this study focuses on the first quarter of the twentieth century, a period in which two of the Levantine coast fishermen societies (*El Progreso Pescador* and *La Marina Auxiliante*) significantly contribute to the development of *Cabanyal* - *Canyamelar* - *Cap de França* (from now we identified with "Cabanyal", according to local convention, the set of three urban areas).

The two cooperatives contribute to the establishment of a specific urban plot of this district, characterized by streets parallel to the coast, and rectangular lots, with two-story buildings (area named a BIC in 1993, Asset of Cultural Interest). They are, in some way, the "institutions" that represent the true soul of *Poblados Marítimos* in Valencia.

The presence of these fishing activities remain in the historical memory of the city, especially in areas close to the coast. Here are still living a few fishermen who belonged to these companies, when fishing was practiced using traditional methods, namely "*a la vela*": the *Pesca del Bou*. But above all, many of the inhabitants of these coastal areas, are deeply linked to the art world, through the contribution of great artists, like the painter Joaquin Sorolla and the writer Vicente Blasco Ibañez. Works such as *Pescadores*

Valencianos, by Sorolla or *Flor de Mayo* of Blasco Ibañez witness to the seafaring spirit of that era.



Photos and designs of the facades of the *Lonja del Pescado*

However, this tangible and intangible heritage is in danger of disappearing, together with the identity of the fishing village of the city of Valencia. The effects of the contemporary world such as industrialization, the development of fishing techniques, urban planning and globalization threaten the existence of the architectural heritage and social anthropology.

For this reason we believe it is important to document and transmit the memory of a "*barrio*" that interprets the history of traditional fishing of the Valencian Mediterranean.

The historical value added to the architectural value of the buildings built by fishermen and the *Marina Auxiliante* are important evidence of the past. The popular architecture of the *Cabanyal*, in fact, appears as free and original interpretation of modernism, created from the lowest class, the fishermen. It is an authentic popular style, born from and for people. Social class in question (farmers and fishermen), it does not undergo the same constraints of the proletariat of the city, who live in close contact with the bourgeoisie and for this reason has less opportunity to create in an original way. They are used to create an architecture more camouflaged and mass products. Therefore, as regards the *Cabanyal*, we speak about "popular modernism."

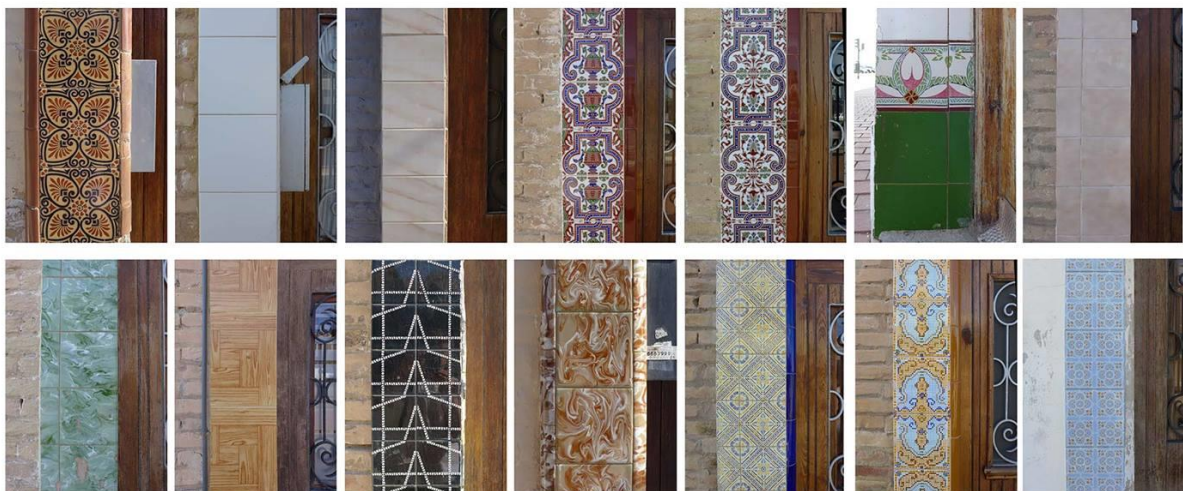
We believe that it is important to take action to preserve the memory of the neighborhood, through the creation of public spaces to give impetus to the change of the neighborhood itself. The thesis proposes the rehabilitation of three buildings that had a fundamental role in the community, located in a strategic position, but now in a state of compromise conservation.

Important starting point for the project was the collection and analysis of proposals, problems and complaints of the citizens of *Cabanyal*. In fact, by participating in weekly meetings organized by residents' associations such as "*Va Cabanyal*" and "*Plataforma Salvem el Cabanyal*", we could understand the dynamics of the neighborhood and the real needs of the inhabitants, for a conscious and constructive design.

The ultimate goal was to conduct a study of the problems and opportunities of the district of *Cabanyal*, with particular attention to the group of symbol of the *Marina Auxiliante* buildings with the aim to document, tell, analyze and exploit this charming Valencian architectural heritage.

The final project is the latest step in an analytical process that starts from the study of the historical, geographical and sociological analysis of the city, from the architectural survey and the mapping of materials, construction methods and the degradation of the chosen buildings. It involves inserting a university center that is combined with the adjacent campus of the *Universitat Politècnica de Valencia*.

The project proposal was intended to recover *Marina Auxiliante's* factories and assign them the role of catalysts of a lasting process in time to ensure social mix and lead to the gradual improvement of the living conditions of the neighborhood.



Graphic restitution of a the module of the West facade of the *Lonja del Pescado*

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