

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
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Honors theses

Barcelona between urban project and urban regeneration programs. The case of Roquetes neighbourhood

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The intervention method called “urban regeneration” has been originated by the need of a turnaround from urban expansion to rehabilitation of depressed areas in the inner city, areas that mix physical, economical and social problems. Urban regeneration has been first introduced in U.S.A., but has spread in Europe in the last thirty years.

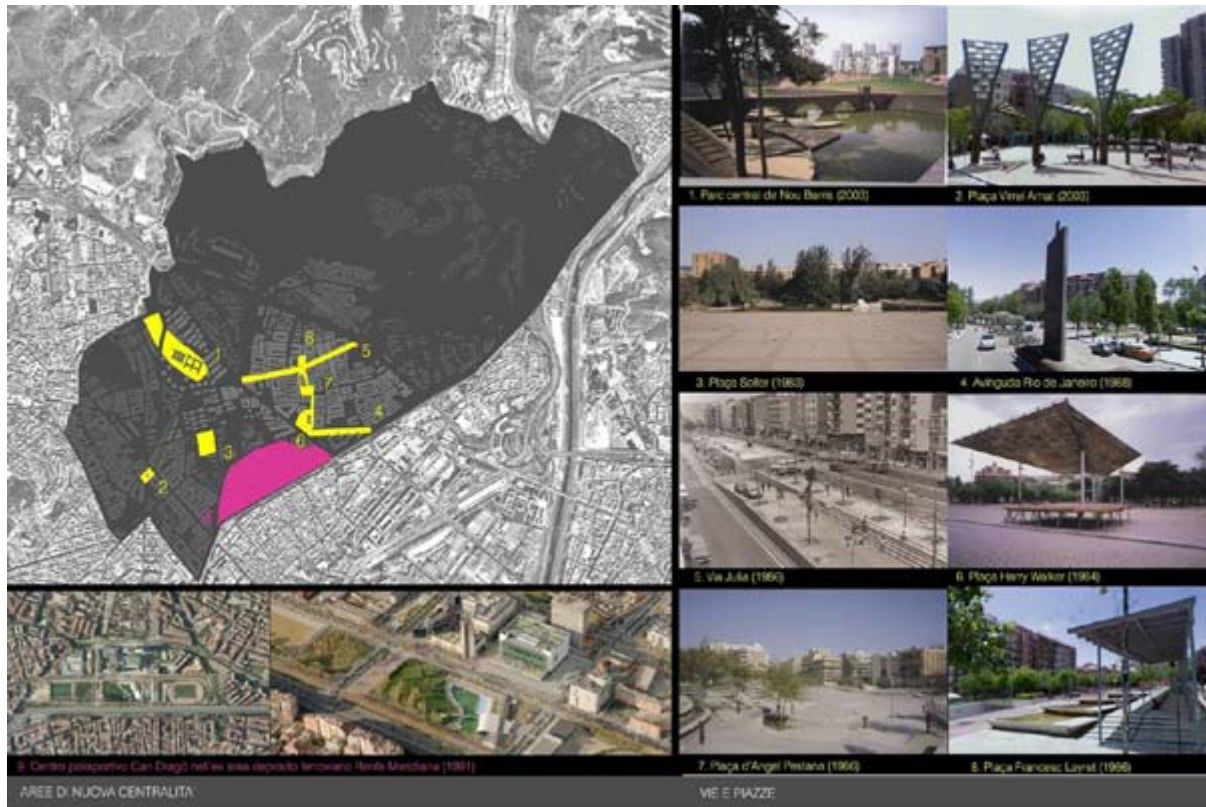
Urban regeneration programs’ principal feature is integrating physical transformation with economical and social renewal policies.

The thesis analyzes a specific case of regeneration program in Europe, the ***Proyecto de intervención integral*** (introduced in Catalonia by the ***Ley 2/2004, de 4 de junio, de mejora de barrios, áreas urbanas y villas que requieren una atención especial***) and its application in a neighborhood of Barcelona, Roquetes.

The *Proyecto de Intervención Integral* is the first urban regeneration program introduced in Spain, and is absolutely new because of its attempt to bypass strictly physical intervention in favour of an integration between urban and socio-economic measures.

The thesis’ purpose is on one side defining what aspects of the new program represent an innovation comparing to current policies for the neighbourhoods, and on the other side analyzing the relationship between the new program and the main transformation method adopted in Catalonia and Barcelona, the *proyecto urbano*. The concept of “*proyecto urbano*” was defined by Manuel de Solà Morales as an method of intervention that search a relationship between physical quality of the projects and change of space-uses and social regeneration. When introduced in Barcelona, at the end of the 70s, it had the aim of giving immediate solutions to serious problems due to the dictatorship.

If on one hand this policy produced very interesting solutions and high quality projects, on the other hand it may be difficult, for a new instrument, to bypass this reference, above all concerning themes as funding (that in this kind of interventions has been almost totally public till now) and actions (physical actions prevail above other types of intervention).



The analysis is structured in three parts. The first one defines the research field and give an outline of theories and experiences of urban regeneration in different european countries, with a particular attention to the Italian case. The second part analyzes the historical and urban context in which the new Spanish program has been introduced (features of Barcelona and Catalonia's urban growth during the XX century, *projecto urbano* transformation method, evolution of the urban instruments commonly used to intervene in Catalonia's neighbourhoods).

Finally the third part analyzes actions and projects which have been realized in a specific application of the *Proyecto de intervención integral* in a neighbourhood called Roquetes.





It has been given a particular attention to the role of the different stakeholders and their involvement, to the type of funding, the program management and the coherence of the new program with other strategies in the same area.

The analysis presented in this thesis represents, in conclusion, a double attempt: firstly defining the *Proyecto de intervención integral* experience in comparison with the pre-existing tradition and instruments of urban renewal in Barcelona and Catalonia, and, secondly, individuating what aspects of the new program actually represent and innovation toward the introduction of an integrated policy and what others need to be implemented. The result is the proposal of some guidelines for the future.

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