

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

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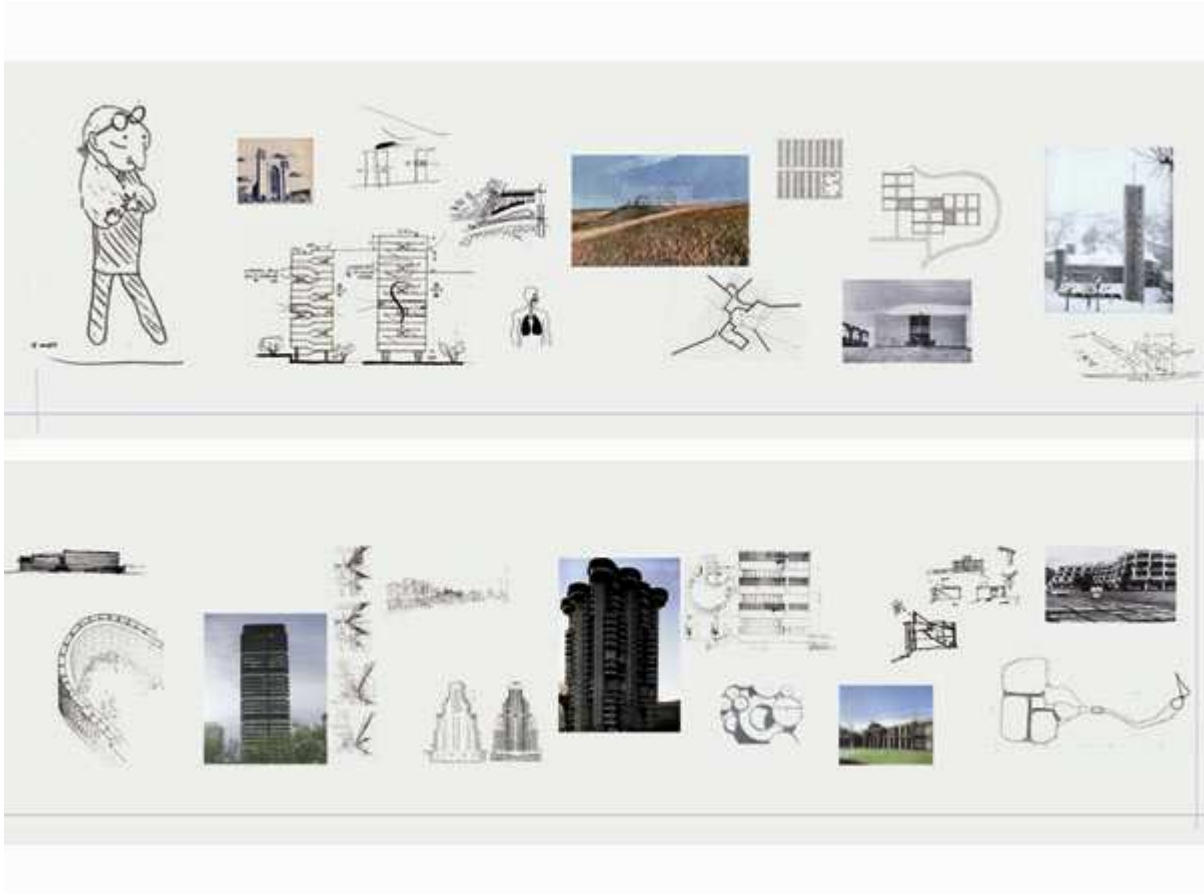
**Francisco Javier Sáenz de Oiza. Social housing in Madrid in the fifties**

by Desy Frezet

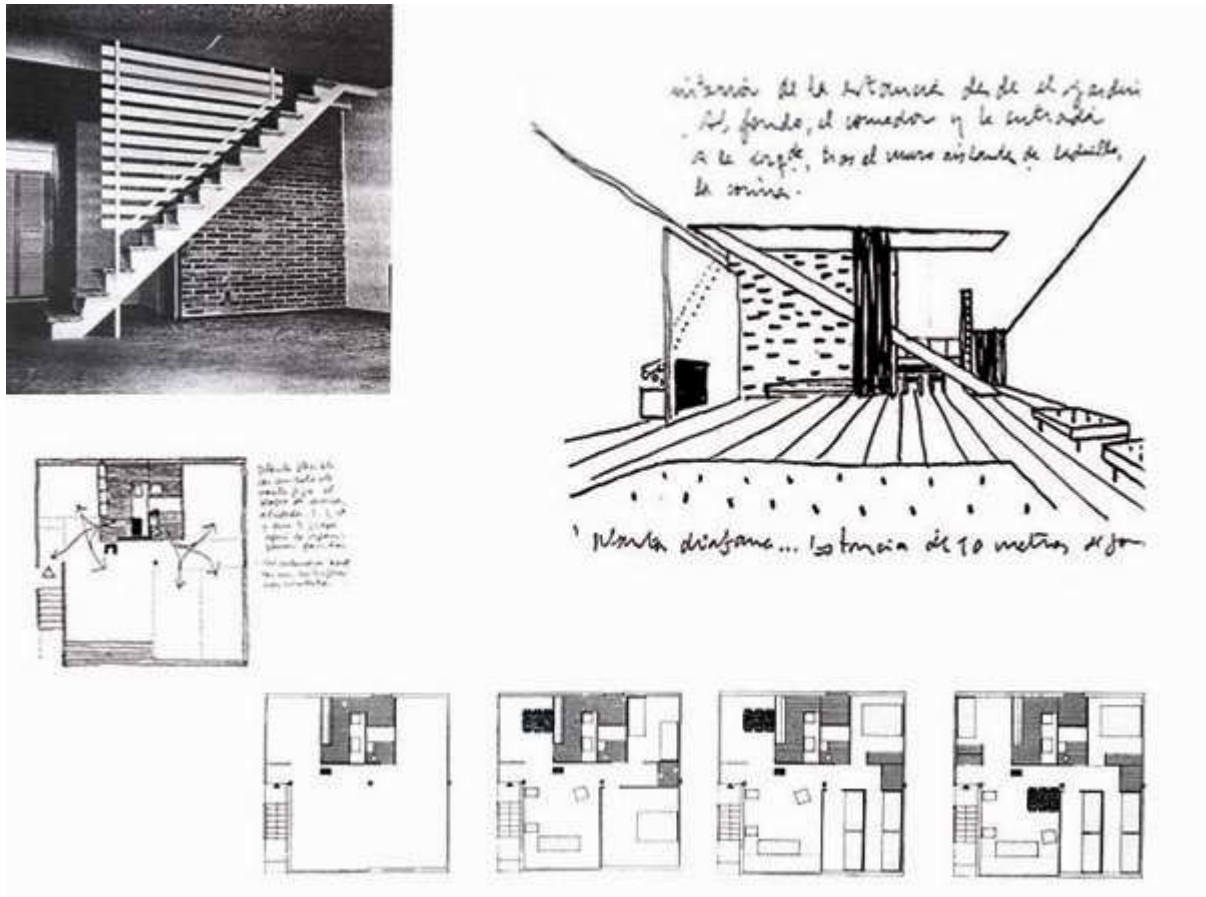
Tutor: Carlo Olmo

Co-tutors: Javier Sáenz Guerra and Carlos Sambricio

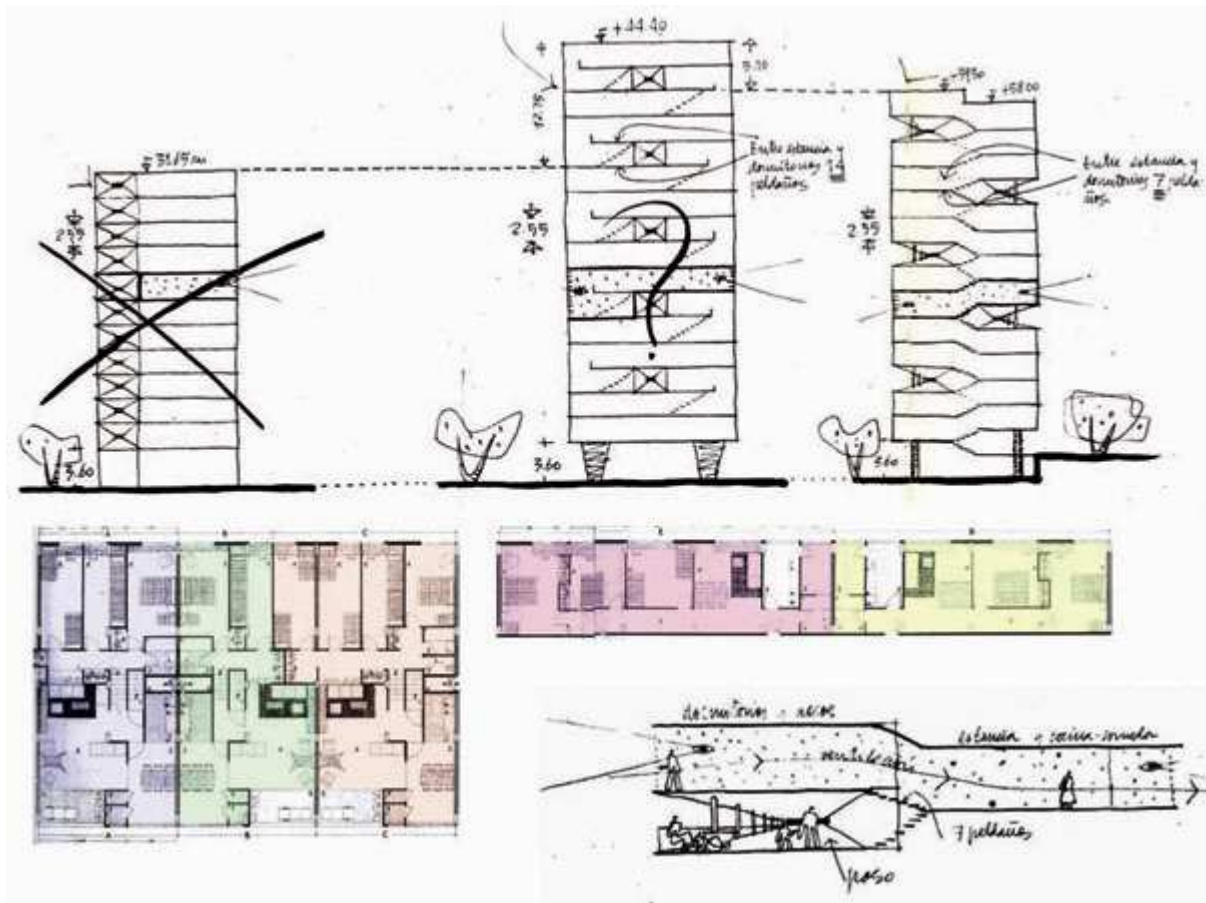
The experience of reconstruction in Spain had a high specificity compared to what happens elsewhere in Europe. Devastated by civil war until 1939, the country undergoes a period of political isolation and economic will also concern the theme of the house and the architectural debate of the time. At the end of civil war sets a strong autarkic policy in a bid to restore economic balance and revive the country. This policy choice has direct consequences in the architectural field since the very slow reconstruction and cause a delay in national economic reaction.



Historiography has recently identified a periodization to outline two major phases that affect the policy of reconstruction. A first ranging from 1939 to 1949 where you start the debate on reconstruction but makes it clear that the choice of a policy autarkic adversely affect the implementation of the ideas under discussion. There is then a second phase that goes from 1949 to 1959 which makes clear the opening in architecture and began massive construction of subsidized housing neighbourhoods.



However after 1939 but especially in the decade of the fifties policy initiatives are aimed at solving the problem of pressing home, especially in the context of Madrid and this need becomes a chance for national renewal in architecture. My thesis focuses particularly on the decade of the fifties and aims to analyze the different aspects of this process, especially considering the figure of one of the architects protagonists of the story: Francisco Javier Sáenz de Oiza. This figure shows how the element of the history that touches many aspects of the problem of the house in Madrid and converting the occasion for a personal reinterpretation of modern architecture. Oiza, considered one of the masters of Spanish architecture of the twentieth century, is considered in the thesis from work done in collaboration with Luis Laorga dwell on then travel on the 1949 United States of America, one of his most formative experiences. This leads to when you find solution to the problem of the large house in Madrid that corresponds with the decade of the '49-'59. The analysis concerne the projects Oiza place with the architects of the *Hogar del Empleado*, competitions open public debate on the house and projects directly related to the process of *poblados* (villages) promoted by national public authorities.



The contribution of Oiza to this matter is of vital interest not only to understand the historical events of Madrid in architecture, but also to fully understand the features of this architect, and time in which it operates.

Contradictory character of genius that always manages to transform his experiences in professional opportunities in renovation and opening of Spanish architecture. From collaborations with architects of his generation will stimulate work that always exceeds expectations and pave the way for new postulates architecture.

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