



POLITECNICO
DI TORINO

Honors thesis

COURSE OF
ARCHITECTURE FOR SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

Abstract

Barcelona, city of factories. Reuse of industrial heritage. The emblematic case of Can Batlló.

Tutor
Silvia Gron

by
Silvia Campagnaro

Session
December 2014



View of Can Batlló

The main theme of my research was the study of Can Batlló (CB), an ancient textile manufacture built in the late 19th century, and it located in Barcelona. CB was the center of focus of a battle, which that has opposed on one side the interests of owners supported by the Municipality, and on the other side the requests and the needs of the local residents. In 1976, the Metropolitan General Plan provided that this area was used as a green area and service area and no project was never realized, so after 35 years of claims by local residents, organized in associations, a historic victory was achieved and the complex was returned to the community. In fact, on June 11 of 2011, some sheds (buildings) were given to the citizens by the Municipality, these are currently in the process of transformation initiated by the residents themselves (participation process), based on self-management and self-building and which is also giving new life to the factory. In the context of Barcelona, the claim and the recovery of the ancient textile factory CB for collective use by the "neighbors" represents a good example of initiative "bottom-up". The citizens facing the inability and unwillingness of the public authorities and private-entrepreneurs, they have gone to the direct action and have done what it was up to the Administration to create and to maintain the equipment they needed. For the analysis of the building concerned, it is necessary to highlight some topics that allowed me to have a general framework, in relation to industrial architecture and its transformation, in order to read and contextualize in the best way the chosen case.

This work is divided into two parts: a theoretical and a practical of design and is structured from the general to the particular. The theoretical part is divided in turn into three sections:

1. Preliminary study focused on the process of industrialization in Catalunya, through which I came to know the types of construction of factories, from the 18th century to the first decades of the 20th century, and the historical framework of reference; useful knowledge to make a critical and accurate reading of CB.
2. Investigation on the current situation of the industrial heritage in Barcelona, focused on the concept of heritage, the law that protects it, and presentation of restoration works. This analysis shows the legislative framework within which the Local Administration operates the largest urban transformation linked to industrial heritage, while from the comparison of some selected interventions becomes the identification of the best *Intended use* in the rehabilitation of industrial buildings and the percentage of conservation, rehabilitation and demolition.

3. The analysis of the evolution of the "Barcelona model" in relation to the different approaches to the industrial heritage, according to the different interaction of the three actors of the urban scene: public power, private power and active citizenship. The history of citizens claims in Barcelona and the consequent birth of Movimientos Sociales Urbanos; then the detailed study of claim of CB. The practical part tells, in the form of graphical elaborate, my personal experience within CB, from observer to actor, analyzing in detail the projects in which I took part and trying to bring out the advantages of the process of transformation under way, in the recovery of the heritage but also in the recovery of identity of neighborhood community. In the crisis, in which we are today, the transformation of CB can only lead to a renewed reflection on how to "do city" starting from the responsibility that all of us, as citizens we have to participate in the construction of the space in which we live. Inside CB has generated an alternative, the "neighbors" decided to come back to live the city, they decided to repossess their spaces and after more than three years of efforts, continue to struggle day by day to build the city they want. This thesis has truly been a journey of knowledge.



Bloc 11 - Day of collective work_Can Batlló



Bloc11- Meeting space_Can Batlló

For further information please contact:
Silvia Campagnaro, silvia.campagnaro88@gmail.com