

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
SECOND SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
Master of Science in Architecture
Honors theses

Beyond Barcelona's square: Sant Andreu de Palomar

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The mayor architectural aspects that are remembered of Barcelona are Gaudi's genius, the city plan of Cerdà, the Universal Exposition (1888), the International Exposition of Montjuic (1929), the Olympic Games (1992), and the last Forum of Cultures(2004).

Each one of these aspects stands as a unique episode of the very articulated history of the city.

Barcelona is a city in continuous development and in the course of time the political economical and social aspects have crossed and joined to create territorial grids.

By a first analysis on big scale you can clearly distinguish the original core, that was the military boundary until 1854; Cerda's city plan that stretched to the outskirts of the towns that were included only in 1897, and the large infrastructures that connected the first, second and third ring of Barcelona with the rest of Catalunya and Europe.

In this first and general view of the city there are many areas which have been at the centre of big transformations: the Barceloneta district built in the XVIII century, the urbanization of Plaza de España with the Universal Exposition, the areas transformed in the eighties for the Olympics, the project of retraining on the Diagonal and the area of the Forum of cultures are only a small example.

Each one of this elements before becoming part of the city has gone through a comparison with the pre-existences: a process that has left clear signs in the difficulty of reading the historical renovation because of this transformations.

My work wants to focus on the case of St. Andreu de Palomar, at times a strong pre-existence, that has made the Cerdà plan bend with the Meridiana, at times a weak pre-existence.



Masterplan scale 1:500 of the intervention area

This process of non stopping transformation has been the scene of many different interventions : from a urban planning to an architectural scale.

The district of S. Andreu de Palomar stands as a fragment of city rich in history , with a complex urban structure , that is born as town centre becomes outskirts and ends as town centre again.

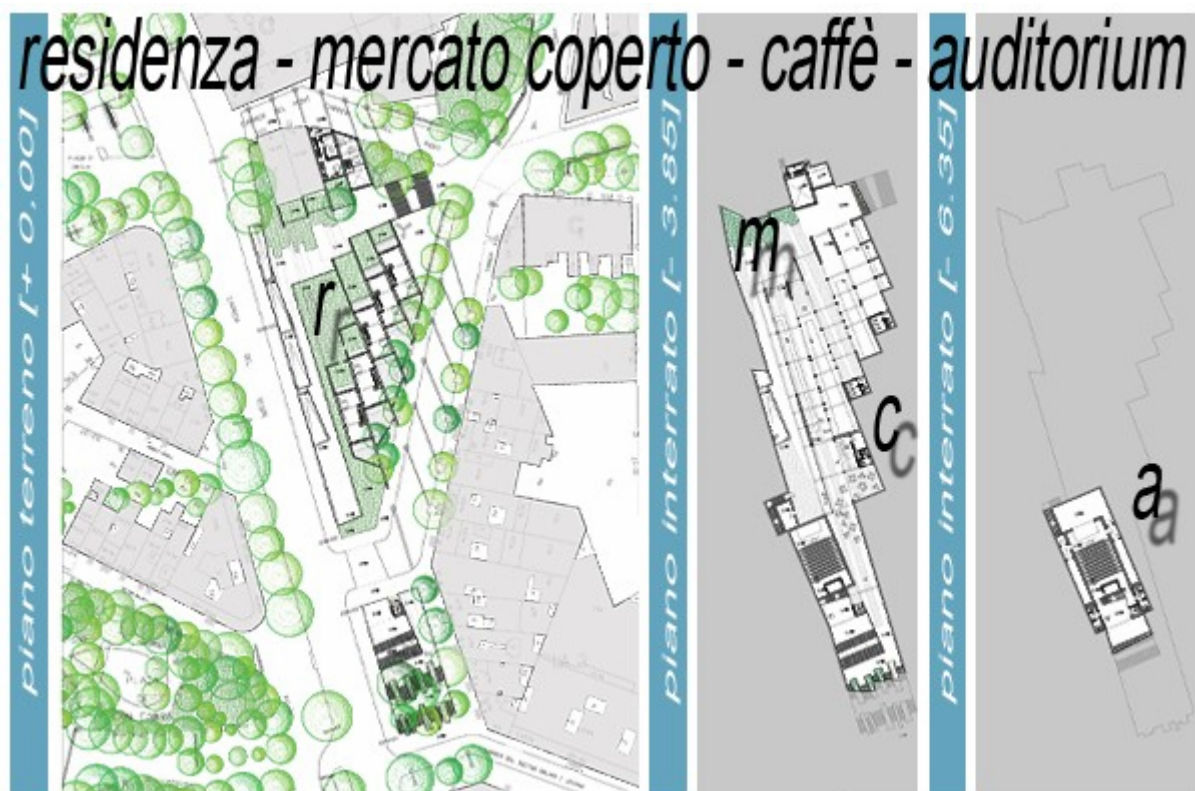
Today the area is trying to gain a new integration with the city with the big TAV park. My work wants to give evidence to the most important architectural social and economic transformations that have taken place in Barcelona and more particularly in Sant Andreu de Palomar.

The lot is located in the historical town centre of the district and it's boundaries are marked by: Pont street , del Segre street and del Cinca street. The triangular shape is a consequence to the presence of the Rec Comtal canal and to the demolition of 1930 for the prosecution of Torres i Bages street.

Since then the lot has been the subject of many transformations such as: the conversion of the old industrial building of Coat Fabra into the municipal Library (1992) or the retraining project of 1986 with it's pedestrian bridge over the nearby train rails.

At present the area is newly under processes of change due to the project of the new "linear Park", that is meant to give continuity to the districts bisected by the railway territory.

The goal of the retraining project developed in my degree thesis is to recover some lots that have been placed according to the "casa de mig" or "casa da cos" typology and opposite the street that divides the district's church from the lot in exam. This is among the central areas of Sant Andreu de Palomar, considered as a border area in comparison to the rest of the city.



Plan scale 1:200 of the architectural project

I want to give evidence to the fact that the residential block, that includes the lot of interest, has always been kept outside the processes of transformation that have taken place in the district; the project want to change this condition of "inactivity", doing of the "casa da cos" typology the allegoric keys through a process of integration between private and public spaces.



Access to the covered market and the new square

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