The aim of this map-guide is to raise awareness of the important industrial heritage of Poblenou, Barcelona.

At the beginning of the 20th century, the appearance of Modern Architecture completely transformed the notion of buildings and their use. Since Sullivan’s (1860-1924) words “form follows function,” the architecture has always given emphasis on the conceived of buildings from the inside out. Based on the programme and has deliberately rejected classical academic composition.

The pioneers of Modern Architecture, from Le Corbusier to Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, strongly influenced the new generations of Catalan architects, including Josep Lluís Sert, Josep Torres Clavé, and Josep Maria Sertres, among others. This period was characterized by the need to rethink the role of architecture.

In Catalonia, much as the GATCPAC had done, it became a catalyst for the revival of modernity. The GATCPAC was formed in 1929 by a group of Catalan architects, including Josep Lluís Sert, Josep Torres Clavé, and Josep Maria Sertres. They brought an end to the movement’s activities: “La Maquinista” and the question of affordable housing in Barcelona.

It was within such an environment that, in 1949, the Quaderns Spring Conferences brought an end to the movement’s activities: “La Maquinista.” However, the architectural revolution of the 20th century continued, with new tastes. In other words, the industrial heritage of Poblenou, Barcelona.

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Also contained articles on specific urban foreign architectural projects, as well as dictatorship.

The desire to go beyond architecture and to be open to other areas of creativity was reflected in collaboration with the ballet, cinema, literature, or economics, sociology, and urban planning.

Grup R was very active in the 1950s and, as a result of its holding exhibitions, competitions, and debates on various cultural issues, it quickly became the driving force behind the recovery of the modernist architectural opinion. Many of its members were also linked to institutions such as COAC and FAD, starting their activities at the School of Architecture in Barcelona and later on with the Catalan magazine Quaderns de Arquitectura y Urbanismo.

In the 1940s, under the direction of Cèsar Martinell, the journal Quaderns de Arquitectura i Urbanisme was published, followed by the 1950s and 1960s. The journal contained articles on the dictatorship and the Civil War, and Oriol Bohigas, Josep Maria Martorell, David Mackies, Oscar Tusquets, Lluís Guix, Pep Boada, and Francesc Mitjans among those who began their careers in the 1940s.

In his article entitled “Una posible recuella de Barcelona” (A possible “school of Barcelona”) in Isaac Sàbat’s book of the journal Quaderns de Arquitectura i Urbanisme, Oriol Bohigas proposed this name to identify a group of young Catalan architects who aimed to create a framework that went beyond the barrio, met regularly to discuss architecture.

In a way, the School of Barcelona is a foil to Grup R, continuing its renewal in the field of architecture, with a modern spirit and an eagerness to connect with international trends, especially with Italian architects related to the Italian magazine Casabella. Its architecture is characterised by a rationalist approach regarding the programme and by rigorous coherence in its use of materials and construction technologies, resulting in buildings with simple lines and innovative forms where reinforced concrete combines with traditional materials such as bricks and cement. This is the case taken in resolving gaps and the great importance given to traditional paths.

The group would meet at any time for a week to share their opinions on the projects of each of them, working on and to organise or attend different cultural activities. These meetings were constantly together as a group (for this reason, the term school makes even more sense) and the group was known more for their ideological work than for architectural criticism.

The main members of the group were Francesc Canals, Antoni de Rovira, Josep Maria Mitjans, Josep Maria Roca, Francesc Mitjans, Josep Maria Martorell, David Mackies, Oscar Tusquets, Lluís Guix, Pep Boada, and Francesc Mitjans among those who began their careers in the 1940s.

A group of architects and town planners set up at the CEM in congress 1964), who made a name for themselves with their project for the Ministry of Defence (1965), which contained ideas on the relationship between the environment and the town planning, the first official meeting under the name of Team 10 didn’t take place until 1946.

The group wants to implement the social dimension of architecture led them to review modern architecture and criticise both its inability to adapt to change and its lack of attention to both collective and individual identity. They argued that architecture and urban planning should be a single discipline and suggested that specific rather than universal solutions should be created that take into account local traditions and cultures, as well as how individuals relate to their environment. As a result, they proposed designing cities and buildings where people are in a direct relationship with the light, nature and the horizon.

Their meetings were used to discuss their projects and examine urban issues, albeit claiming that “the aim is not to theorise but to build, since only through construction can a problematic city be resolved.” Even so, the group’s theoretical framework, prior to publication and teaching, was thought of as the “set of tools” or methods that were used through the group’s work, which was more for the professional than for architectural criticism.

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