

# 1975-2008

## GUIDES D'ARQUITECTURA URBANISME DE BARCELONA

### ARCHITECTURE IN BARCELONA FROM HOPE TO CRISIS

**INTRODUCCIÓN**

This guide-map focuses on the architecture created in Barcelona between 1975 and 2008, from the time of Spain's "Transition" towards democracy to the brink of economic crisis, a period known for the "Barcelona model". It features buildings and spaces ranging from small initiatives in the public sphere to large-scale urban projects, condensing both the aspiration for a more cohesive city and the tensions arising from public-private collaboration, the urban brand and pressures from tourism. It brings together works that are still relevant today, both as a public service and also a living record of a key time in the definition of Barcelona's urban identity.

**BARCELONA 2026**  
World Capital of Architecture

This publication is part of the programme of Barcelona 2026 World Capital of Architecture, a designation by UNESCO and the IUA (International Union of Architects) that turns the city into a global forum on architecture, urban planning and landscape. Over ten months, the Barcelona City Council will unfold a multidisciplinary programme developed in collaboration with schools, universities and professional and cultural organisations. In addition, Barcelona will also host the IUA 2026 World Congress of Architects, consolidating its position as the global epicentre of architecture. Barcelona 2026 World Capital of Architecture is supported by the Barcelona City Council, the Government of Catalonia and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Agenda.

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# THE BARCELONA MODEL

An exportable success or a spent narrative?

As a whole, the urban projects carried out in Barcelona from the start of democracy until the first decade of the 21st century aroused great international interest and gave rise to what was called the "Barcelona model". This term, used at conferences, architecture schools and in specialised publications, was intended to describe a way of creating cities based on the quality of public space, urban compactness, mixed uses and a seemingly exemplary form of public-private collaboration. During the 1990s, the city presented itself to the world as a laboratory of contemporary urbanism, a tool for effecting local reforms. International recognition resulted in awards such as the Prince of Wales Prize in Urban Design in 1990 and the RIBA's Royal Gold Medal in 1999.

Social demands arising before Spain's "Transition" towards democracy had already highlighted the need for adequate facilities, public spaces and services. Consequently, small-scale initiatives were launched, such as the restoration of squares and streets, followed by more ambitious projects, such as the areas of "new centrality" and the major transformations related to the 1992 Olympic Games. The basis of this model was a synthesis between an urban project, a desire for international recognition and also continuity with the residents' demands. Overall, the city was reorganised and woven together with the metropolis, gaining an image of coherence and energy.

Over time, however, the Barcelona model transformed into what was somewhat ironically dubbed the "Barcelona brand". The city went from being simply a benchmark for good urban practice to a marketable product: a recognisable landscape, a lifestyle, a destination for tourism and investment. Public-private collaboration, key to many of the initiatives, gradually shifted the project's centre of gravity: architecture and urban planning not only responded to the needs of the local neighbourhoods but also formed part of a global competitiveness strategy that prioritised image and profitability.

Projects such as Forum 2004 and 22@ exemplify this shift. Apart from the contributions they've made (in the form of infrastructure and new facilities), they also form part of a desire for international projection that has moved away from the initial demands of local residents. Given this scenario, the arrival of starchitects consolidated the city's reputation as a showcase: Nouvel's Torre Glòries, Herzog & de Meuron's Forum building and Bofill's W Hotel are all works with great visual impact designed to be global icons. This phenomenon accentuated the gap between architecture seen as a public service and architecture whose prime function is to act as a symbol of representation.

At the same time, the impact of such policies on society became increasingly visible. The pressure from tourism on the city's central districts, gentrification and the rising cost of housing gradually eroded the inclusive spirit of the original model. The city became a product to be positioned in the global market, in which citizens are secondary users compared to visitors and investors. The 2008 economic crisis helped to reveal this situation, exposing the fragilities of an urbanism dependent on real estate growth and leading to questions concerning the right to housing, climate sustainability and the social purpose of architecture in a desirable but unequal city.

The Barcelona model can be seen as a series of actions that range from small local projects to large-scale urban operations but it can also be seen as a field of tensions: between local connections and branding, between a collective project and private interests, between architecture as a service and as a symbol. The aim of this publication is to provide an insight into the virtues and contradictions of this era. The accompanying map focuses on urban and architectural initiatives designed between 1975 and 2008, from the first steps towards democracy to the onset of the crisis, although some projects weren't completed until 2013. The locations featured in this publication are not the most iconic or spectacular but those that still retain their purpose as a public service and as a record of a city undergoing a transformation.

**PLAZA DEL PAÍVO/ CATALAN/**

Sants  
Viaplana / Piñón. 1983  
FAD Award Architecture

**HORTA MUNICIPAL VELODROME**

Pg. Vall d'Hebron, 185  
Esteve Bonell and Francesc Rius. 1984  
FAD Award Architecture  
FAD Award Architecture (Opinion)

**VISTA PARK HOUSING**

Millán González, 71  
Francesc Fonollà. 1984

**REFORM/ AND IMPROVEMENT/ TO THE /QUARE/ IN GRÀCIA**

Vila de Gràcia  
Squares: Diamant, Raspall, Sol, Trilla and Virreina  
Bach-Mora. 1985

**VILLA CECÍLIA GARDEN/**

Sarrià  
Martínez Lapeña-Torres. 1986  
FAD Award Public Spaces

**EL CLOT PARK**

El Clot  
Daniel Freixes and Vicente Miranda. 1986  
FAD Award Architecture (Opinion)

**VIA JÚLIA**

Nou Barris  
Bernardo de Solá and Josep Maria Julià. 1986

**OFFICE/ OF THE BARCELONA PROVINCIAL COUNCIL (DIPUTACIÓ)**

Rbla. Catalunya, 126  
Casa Serra.  
Josep Puig i Cadafalch. 1908  
Correa-Milà. 1987

**VIA JÚLIA**

Nou Barris  
Bernardo de Solá and Josep Maria Julià. 1986

**OFFICE/ OF THE BARCELONA PROVINCIAL COUNCIL (DIPUTACIÓ)**

Rbla. Catalunya, 126  
Casa Serra.  
Josep Puig i Cadafalch. 1908  
Correa-Milà. 1987

**REFORM/ AND EXTENSION TO THE PICA//O MU/ EUM**

Montcada, 15-23  
Garcés-Sòria. 1987  
Jordi Garcés. 2003  
Garcés-de Seta-Bonet. 2013

**MOLL DE LA FU/TA**

Port Vell, Barri Gòtic  
Manuel de Solà-Morales. 1987

**CREUETA DEL COLL PARK**

El Coll  
MBM (Martorell, Bohigas, Mackay). 1987

**JO/EP MARIA JUJOL /CHOOL**

Riera de Sant Miquel, 39  
Talleres Manyach.  
Josep Maria Jujol. 1918  
Bach-Mora. 1987  
FAD Award Architecture

**CO/MOCAIXA BARCELONA**

Isaac Newton, 26  
Asylum for the Blind  
Empar de Santa Lúcia.  
Josep Domènech i Estapà. 1909  
Garcés-Sòria. 1987  
Terradas Arquitectes. 2007

**48 RE/IDENCE/ AND CIVIC CENTRE**

Nou de la Rambla, 39  
Joan Arias and Lluís Pérez de la Vega. 1985

**/ANTA MÓNICA ART/ CENTRE**

La Rambla, 7  
Viaplana / Piñón. 1989  
Albert Viaplana. 2003  
Premi Ciutat de Barcelona

**PALAU /ANT JORDI**

Pg. Olímpic, 5  
Arata Isozaki. 1990  
Premi Ciutat de Barcelona  
FAD Award Architecture  
FAD Award Architecture (Opinion)

**E/TÀCIÓ DEL NORD PARK**

El Fort Pienc  
Arriola & Fiol Arquitectes and Beverly Pepper. 1991

**ARCHERY TRAINING FACILITIE/**

Pg. Vall d'Hebron, 166-176  
Emili Miralles and Carme Pinós. 1992  
Premi Ciutat de Barcelona

**REFORM/ AND EXTENSION TO THE PICA//O MU/ EUM**

Montcada, 15-23  
Garcés-Sòria. 1987  
Jordi Garcés. 2003  
Garcés-de Seta-Bonet. 2013

**MOLL DE LA FU/TA**

Port Vell, Barri Gòtic  
Manuel de Solà-Morales. 1987

**THREE RE/IDENTIAL BLOCK/ IN CERDÀ/ / EIXAMPLE / EIXAMPLE DE CERDÀ**

Ramon Turró, s/n  
Carlos Ferrater. 1992  
Premios Década

**REFORM/ AND EXTENSION TO THE PICA//O MU/ EUM**

Montcada, 15-23  
Garcés-Sòria. 1987  
Jordi Garcés. 2003  
Garcés-de Seta-Bonet. 2013

**MUNICIPAL /AILING /CHOOL**

Moll de Gregal, 33  
MBM (Martorell, Bohigas, Mackay). 1991

**MONTJUÏC DIVING POOL**

Av. Miramar, 31  
Josep Serra Robert. 1929  
Antoni de Moragas. 1992

**COLL/EROLA TELECOMMUNICATION/ TOWER**

Ctra. de Valldiviera to Tibidabo  
Norman Foster. 1992  
Premi Ciutat de Barcelona  
FAD Award Architecture  
FAD Award Architecture (Opinion)

**TIRANT LO BLANC HOUSING COMPLEX**

Pl. Tirant lo Blanc, 1  
Martínez Lapeña-Torres. 1992  
FAD Award Architecture  
Premios Década

**UDF LIBRARY (DIP/OT DE LE/ AIGÜE/ / CIUTADELLA PARK)**

Ramon Trias Fargas, 25-27  
Clotet-Paricio. 1992  
Premios Década

**OLYMPIC VILLAGE BUILDING-ENTRANCE**

Av. Icària, 133  
Roser Amadó and Lluís Domènech. 1992  
Premios Década

**HORTA HOME FOR THE ELDERLY**

Josep Sangenis, 75  
Emili Donato, Miguel Jiménez and Ramon Martí. 1992

**THREE RE/IDENTIAL BLOCK/ IN CERDÀ/ / EIXAMPLE / EIXAMPLE DE CERDÀ**

Ramon Turró, s/n  
Carlos Ferrater. 1992  
Premios Década

**LAW FACULTY LECTURE THEATRE AND BAR**

Av. Diagonal, 684  
Josep Llinàs i Carmoal. 1995

**BOTANICAL GARDEN OF BARCELONA**

Dr. Font i Quer, 2  
Josep Lluís Canosa, Carlos Ferrater and Bet Figueras. 1999  
Premi Ciutat de Barcelona  
FAD Award Exterior Spaces  
FAD Award Exterior Spaces (Opinion)

**RE/IDENTIAL BLOCK**

Carme, 55 • Roig, 28-30  
Josep Llinàs. 1994  
Premi Ciutat de Barcelona  
Premios Década

**RE/STRUCTURING OF THE PONDA DEL MIG/ RAMBLA BRA/IL**

Rbla. Brasil  
Jordi Henrich and Olga Tarrasó. 2003  
Premios Década

**RE/IDENTIAL BLOCK**

Carme, 55 • Roig, 28-30  
Josep Llinàs. 1994  
Premi Ciutat de Barcelona  
Premios Década

**CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY CULTURE OF BARCELONA (CCCB)**

Montalegre, 5  
Almhouse.  
Josep Oriol Mestres. 1861  
Viaplana / Piñón. 1993  
Premi Ciutat de Barcelona  
FAD Award Architecture  
FAD Award Architecture (Opinion)

**ILLA DIAGONAL**

Av. Diagonal, 545  
Rafael Moneo and Manuel de Solà-Morales. 1993  
FAD Award Architecture

**NU/ DE LA TRINITAT PARK**

La Trinitat Vella  
Batlle i Roig. 1993

**PALAU NOU DE LA RAMBLA**

La Rambla, 88  
MBM (Martorell, Bohigas, Mackay). 1994

**APARTHOTEL CITADINE/**

La Rambla, 122  
Bonell i Gil. 1994  
Premi Ciutat de Barcelona

**CONTEMPORARY ART MU/ EUM OF BARCELONA (MACBA)**

Pl. dels Àngels, 1  
Richard Meier, Isabel Bachs and Fernando Juan Ramos. 1995  
FAD Award Architecture (Opinion)

**RE/IDENTIAL BLOCK**

Carme, 55 • Roig, 28-30  
Josep Llinàs. 1994  
Premi Ciutat de Barcelona  
Premios Década

**RE/STRUCTURING OF THE PONDA DEL MIG/ RAMBLA BRA/IL**

Rbla. Brasil  
Jordi Henrich and Olga Tarrasó. 2003  
Premios Década

**FORUM E/PLANADE / PHOTOVOLTAIC PERGOLTA**

El Besòs i el Maresme  
Martínez Lapeña-Torres. 2004  
Premi Ciutat de Barcelona  
FAD Award Exterior Spaces

**BARCELONA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE (CCIB)**

Pl. Willy Brandt, 14  
Marta Cervelló and Josep Lluís Mateo. 2007

**/ANTA CATERINA MARKET AND HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY**

Av. Francesc Cambó, 16  
Santa Caterina Market.  
Josep Buxareu and Josep Mas i Vila. 1848  
EMBT (Enric Miralles and Benedetta Tagliabue). 2005  
Premi Ciutat de Barcelona

**LAW FACULTY LECTURE THEATRE AND BAR**

Av. Diagonal, 684  
Josep Llinàs i Carmoal. 1995

**RE/IDENTIAL BLOCK**

Carme, 55 • Roig, 28-30  
Josep Llinàs. 1994  
Premi Ciutat de Barcelona  
Premios Década

**AUDITORIUM**

Lepant, 150  
Rafael Moneo. 1995

**IN/TITUTE OF THEATRE**

Pl. Margarida Xirgu  
Lluís Comerón and Ramon Sanabria. 2000

**DIAGONAL MAR PARK**

Provençals del Poblenou  
EMBT (Enric Miralles and Benedetta Tagliabue). 2002

**VILA DE GRÀCIA LIBRARY**

Torrent de l'Olla, 104  
Josep Llinàs and Joan Vera. 2002

**CAIXAFORUM**

Mèxic, 36  
Arata Isozaki. BOMA. 2002

**FORT PIENC FACILITIE/**

Pl. Fort Pienc  
Josep Llinàs. 2003  
Premi Ciutat de Barcelona

**NOU BARRI/ CENTRAL PARK**

La Guineueta  
Arriola & Fiol. 2003

**RE/IDENTIAL BLOCK**

Carme, 55 • Roig, 28-30  
Josep Llinàs. 1994  
Premi Ciutat de Barcelona  
Premios Década

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Rbla. Brasil  
Jordi Henrich and Olga Tarrasó. 2003  
Premios Década

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Premi Ciutat de Barcelona  
FAD Award Exterior Spaces

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EMBT (Enric Miralles and Benedetta Tagliabue). 2005  
Premi Ciutat de Barcelona

**LAW FACULTY LECTURE THEATRE AND BAR**

Av. Diagonal, 684  
Josep Llinàs i Carmoal. 1995

**DIAGONAL MAR /ILLA DE LA LLUM HOUSING**

Selva de Mar, 2  
Clotet-Paricio. 2005

**GLÒRIE/ TOWER / ACGBAR TOWER**

Av. Diagonal, 209-211  
Ateliers Jean Nouvel and b720 (Fermín Vázquez). 2005

**JAUME FU/TER LIBRARY**

Pl. Lesseps, 20  
Josep Llinàs and Joan Vera. 2005  
FAD Award Architecture

**RE/IDENTIAL BLOCK AND /CHOOL MALLORCA**

Londres, 64  
Coll-Leclerc. 2006  
Premi Ciutat de Barcelona

**CAN FRAMI/ MU/ EUM AND GARDEN/ OE MIQUEL MARTÍ I POL**

Roc Boronat, 116  
BAAS (Jordi Badia). 2009  
Premi Ciutat de Barcelona  
FAD Award Architecture (Opinion)

**MA/ DE RODA HOUSING**

Ptge. Mas de Roda, 5  
Garcés-de Seta-Bonet. 2009

**OFFICE/ OF GA/ NATURAL**

Dr. Aiguader, 38  
EMBT (Enric Miralles and Benedetta Tagliabue). 2006

**REFORM/ OF LA BARCELONETA MARKET**

Pl. Poeta Boscà  
Josep Miàs. 2007  
Premi Ciutat de Barcelona

**HOUSING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

Ali Bet, 94  
Conxita Balcells. 2007

**FORUM E/PLANADE / PHOTOVOLTAIC PERGOLTA**

El Besòs i el Maresme  
Martínez Lapeña-Torres. 2004  
Premi Ciutat de Barcelona  
FAD Award Exterior Spaces

**/ANT ANTONI - JOAN OLIVER LIBRARY, HOME FOR THE ELDERLY AND GARDEN/ CÀNDIDA PÉREZ**

Comte Borrell, 44  
RCR Arquitectes. 2007

**/UB/IDI/ED HOUSING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

Sant Adrià, 33  
Emiliano López and Mònica Rivera. 2007  
FAD Award Architecture

**VÈRTIX HOUSING**

Bac de Roda, 104  
OAB (Carlos Ferrater). 2007

**MEDIAPRO BUILDING**

Av. Diagonal, 177  
OAB (Carlos Ferrater). 2008

**RE/IDENTIAL BLOCK FOR THE ELDERLY**

Pg. Urrutia, 5  
Joan Callís and Pia Wortham. 2008

**/UB/IDI/ED HOUSING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE CAN CARALLEU**

Av. Josep Vicenç Foix. 122  
Peris+Toral. 2008

**CAN FRAMI/ MU/ EUM AND GARDEN/ OE MIQUEL MARTÍ I POL**

Roc Boronat, 116  
BAAS (Jordi Badia). 2009  
Premi Ciutat de Barcelona  
FAD Award Architecture (Opinion)

**MA/ DE RODA HOUSING**

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Garcés-de Seta-Bonet. 2009

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Dr. Aiguader, 38  
EMBT (Enric Miralles and Benedetta Tagliabue). 2006

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Josep Miàs. 2007  
Premi Ciutat de Barcelona

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Conxita Balcells. 2007

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Martínez Lapeña-Torres. 2004  
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FAD Award Exterior Spaces

**/ANT ANTONI - JOAN OLIVER LIBRARY, HOME FOR THE ELDERLY AND GARDEN/ CÀNDIDA PÉREZ**

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RCR Arquitectes. 2007

**/UB/IDI/ED HOUSING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

Sant Adrià, 33  
Emiliano López and Mònica Rivera. 2007  
FAD Award Architecture

**VÈRTIX HOUSING**

Bac de Roda, 104  
OAB (Carlos Ferrater). 2007

**/UB/IDI/ED HOUSING IN 22@**

Pallars, 336  
Josep Maria Casadevall and Ramon Sanabria. 2008

With the restoration of democracy in Spain and the formation of the first democratic city council in 1979, Barcelona embarked on a profound urban transformation. The main focus of this change was to rebuild the city from a more local, public and cohesive perspective. Given the years of dictatorship, of haphazard and speculative urban development, as well as vigorous campaigning by local residents at the end of the dictatorship and during the "Transition", the first municipal urban policies had a clear social component.

The city had inherited the urban fractures created during Franco's dictatorship and the priorities of the new era were clear: to provide neighbourhoods with decent public facilities and spaces, to improve the living conditions in dense, degraded areas, and to restore urban continuity between the city centre and what had been treated as the periphery. The 1976 Metropolitan General Plan laid the foundations for this new approach to creating a city but it wasn't until 1979 that significant interventions begin to materialise.

This period was characterised by a conscientious focus on the local, by small-format architecture sensitive towards the existing social fabric and a planning approach with no grand gestures that nonetheless had a decisive impact on urban quality; an entire strategy known as "urban acupuncture". The Council began to play an active role in leading the urban project and, as a result, previously neglected spaces became meeting places, whilst streets that had been forgotten by the authorities were woven into the surrounding fabric. Oriol Bohigas was a key figure at the time, summarising the desire to create a more equitable, structured and liveable city under the maxim "Sanitise the centre, monumentalise the periphery". The 1980s saw the foundation of a model that, years later, would be projected out to the rest of the world.

During the 1980s and 1990s, Barcelona turned public space into one of the main tools for redesigning the city. After years of urban disorder, streets and squares ceased to be residual spaces and became the setting for everyday life and social interaction. This transformation was carried out by the so-called "Golden Pencils", a group of young architects who found the opportunity to put into practice their long-debated ideas regarding collective space. Female architects, hitherto relegated to a secondary role in the profession, feature prominently in this group, bringing an indispensable perspective to the city's construction.

The strategy focused on gaining public space through new parks, gardens and what were called "hard squares", often in response to the need to create public spaces suitable for large volumes of users, that are multi-purpose and/or located on top of underground infrastructures. These spaces were designed for intensive use: local festivals, games and informal gatherings. They occupied degraded spaces, unregulated car parks and areas that had become marginalised, transforming them into landmarks that give neighbourhoods their identity and reinforce community life.

This reurbanisation was approached holistically and, to this end, a catalogue of urban elements was designed (gutters, kerbs, roadways, drains and tree pits) which, together with homogeneous street furniture and lighting, ultimately defined the image of the city's public spaces. Such coherence in the details helped to "stitch together" the urban discontinuities and provided the city with its own recognisable identity.

Although some interventions were criticised for their clinical nature, the model established a solid foundation of urban quality that has endured for decades. What began as a commitment to the civic city remains today as a legacy that defines the character of Barcelona.

In 1987, under the direction of Joan Busquets as head of urban planning services, Barcelona formulated the project for "areas of new centrality". This stemmed from the desire to resolve the concentration of business, trade and services in the districts of Ciutat Vella, Eixample and the central Diagonal axis by creating new urban poles at various points across the city. A list of ten strategic areas was drawn up and then, with the impetus of the 1992 Olympic Games, two more areas were added, whilst two of those initially proposed were further reinforced.

These areas were conceived as nodes within the urban fabric, on a much larger scale than the first initiatives of the democratic era. Entire sections of the city were involved, combining public space, facilities, housing, new roads and economic activity. To put this plan into action, collaboration between public investment and private enterprise was explicitly sought, becoming one of the strategy's defining features. Within this framework, large retail outlets and shopping centres were prioritised for commercial activities, as in the developments at Diagonal-Sarrià, Can Dragó, Port Vell and Diagonal-Prim, and international hotel chains and landmark office buildings also appeared.

The function of these "areas of new centrality" was more as a long-term roadmap than one-off initiatives. Some areas were transformed relatively quickly, such as Diagonal-Sarrià and Can Dragó, whilst others are still becoming consolidated today, such as Glòries and La Sagrera. The change in scale is evident: it's no longer a question of applying acupuncture at specific points but reconfiguring entire fragments of the map of Barcelona. Decades later, this step towards a more polycentric city has continued to influence our understanding of the major urban transformations taking place.

It's said that Barcelona has advanced thanks to the impetus of major events. The city has pursued an urban development strategy that has taken advantage of such occasions as catalysts for far-reaching transformations. The 1888 and 1929 World's Fairs enabled the urbanisation of large parts of the city (Ciutadella and Montjuïc) and set a precedent: seizing the opportunity to gain public space, infrastructures and new facilities.

This approach reached new heights with the 1992 Olympic Games. Following Barcelona's designation as the host city, a plan was rolled out with four main areas of intervention: the Olympic Village, Montjuïc, Vall d'Hebron and Avinguda Diagonal. Unlike other cities, the projects for facilities and urbanised spaces were designed with their post-Olympic impact in mind, the regeneration of the waterfront being one of the most emblematic interventions.

The 2004 Forum of Cultures represented another phase of the same model but also revealed its limits. This event, held for the first time in Barcelona, was created to justify the major transformation carried out at the end of the Besòs River and to complete the continuity of Barcelona's coastline. However, although it provided new public spaces and facilities, the institutional narrative failed to connect with the public: the administration's distant discourse led to low citizen participation, as well as criticism of the speculation and lack of social and environmental sensitivity.

Major events have therefore been both drivers of renewal and sources of conflict. They've opened up the city to the sea, improved its infrastructure and projected Barcelona onto the world stage, but they've also contributed to rising housing costs, pressure from tourism and the gentrification of several neighbourhoods. These are moments of tension between the real city and the imagined city, between the "right to the city" and the desire for spectacle.

22@ was the project that transformed the neighbourhood of Poblenou, the former "Catalan Manchester" made up of disused factories and derelict plots, into a technological and creative district within the Eixample grid. It was a modification of the Metropolitan General Plan covering around 200 hectares (equivalent to more than a hundred blocks of the Eixample), with the aim of converting obsolete industrial land to serve the knowledge economy.

The Plan introduced the land classification of "22@", allowing a higher build ratio in exchange for ceding space for subsidised housing, facilities and green areas. It advocates a compact city in which offices, homes and services exist side by side within the same urban fabric. The system designed by Cerdà for the Eixample district is reinterpreted: the blocks are more permeable and combine isolated units and green spaces, and the systematic repetition of diagonal chamfers at intersections has gone. Architecturally, 22@ combines the rehabilitation of industrial warehouses with new office buildings, hotels and research centres, often large format, altering the scale and personality of the neighbourhood. Many buildings incorporate sustainable architecture criteria, with bioclimatic façades and energy-saving systems, allowing them to obtain environmental certificates and project an image of an innovative, green district.

The overall result, however, is ambivalent. On the one hand, 22@ has brought business, skilled jobs and new public spaces and has put Barcelona on the map of innovation districts. On the other hand, the process has been highly controversial: the protection of industrial heritage was a late addition and covers only a limited number of elements, whilst the increase in the value of land has accelerated gentrification and displaced residents and small workshops. The transformation calls into question the extent to which this new "creative district" respects its working-class past and the "right to the city" of those already living there.

- 1970s and 80s Demands by society for decent facilities and public spaces
- 1973 Porcillos resigns as mayor
- 1975 Franco dies
- 1975-1980 Transition towards democracy
- 1976 Approval of the Metropolitan General Plan (PGM)
- 1977 First general elections in Spain
- 1978 Spanish Constitution
- 1979 Catalonia's Statute of Autonomy
- 1979 First democratic City Councils
- 1980 First Catalan elections
- 1986 Barcelona chosen to host the 1992 Olympic Games
- 1986 Start of the "Barcelona, posa't guapa" (Barcelona, spruce yourself up) campaign
- 1987 Presentation of the "Areas of New Centrality" plan
- 1992 Olympic Games
- 1996 Announcement of the Forum of Cultures
- 1996-2008 Real estate bubble
- 2000 Modification of the PGM for 22@
- 2004 Forum of Cultures
- 2008 Global financial crisis

- Prince of Wales Prize.** Awarded by the Harvard Graduate School of Design for urban transformations that improve the quality of life. Awarded to Barcelona for the public space projects carried out between 1981 and 1987.
- Royal Gold Medal.** The Royal Institute of British Architects usually awards this prize to architects. Barcelona is the only city to have received it.
- FAD Awards.** The oldest award on the Iberian Peninsula. Established in 1958 by Oriol Bohigas, among others, it was created to promote architectural modernity.
- Premi Ciutat de Barcelona.** The highest recognition awarded every year by Barcelona City Council for cultural creation, research and production carried out in the city.
- Premios Década.** Founded by Óscar Tusquets, these were awarded to works in Barcelona that had been completed ten years earlier, to recognise how well they had aged.



1975-2008 ARCHITECTURE IN BARCELONA FROM HOPE TO CRI/VI

- Parks and public spaces
- Buildings
- Areas of new centrality (Olympic areas)
  1. Diagonal-Sarrià
  2. Carrer Tarragona
  3. Renfe-Meridiana (Can Dragó)
  4. Plaça Cerdà
  5. Carles I-Av. I cària (Olympic Village)
  6. Urban Port (Port Vell)
  7. Plaça de les Glòries
  8. Vall d'Hebron
  9. La Sagrera
  10. Diagonal-Prim (Diagonal Mar / Fòrum)
  11. Diagonal Olympic Area
  12. Olympic Ring
- 22@ Area

