

GRAFTING
ARCHITECTURE
ARQUITECTURES
EMPELTADES

CATALONIA AT VENICE

PROJECT CURATED BY

JOSEP TORRENTS I ALEGRE



PROJECT NAME

CASAL BALAGUER
ARTS CENTER

LOCATION

Carrer Unió 3, Palma, Balearic Islands

ARCHITECTS

Ricardo Flores (1965)
Eva Prats (1965)
(Flores & Prats)
and M^a José Duch (1960)
Francisco Pizá (1958)
(Duch-Pizá Arquitectos)

DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION DATES

Project:
1996 First partial project for the roof.
2001-2003 Second overall project
for the building.

CONSTRUCTION

2009-2010 First phase;
2011-2013 Second phase;
2014-Third phase under construction.

CLIENT

City of Palma

ARCHITECTS WEBSITE

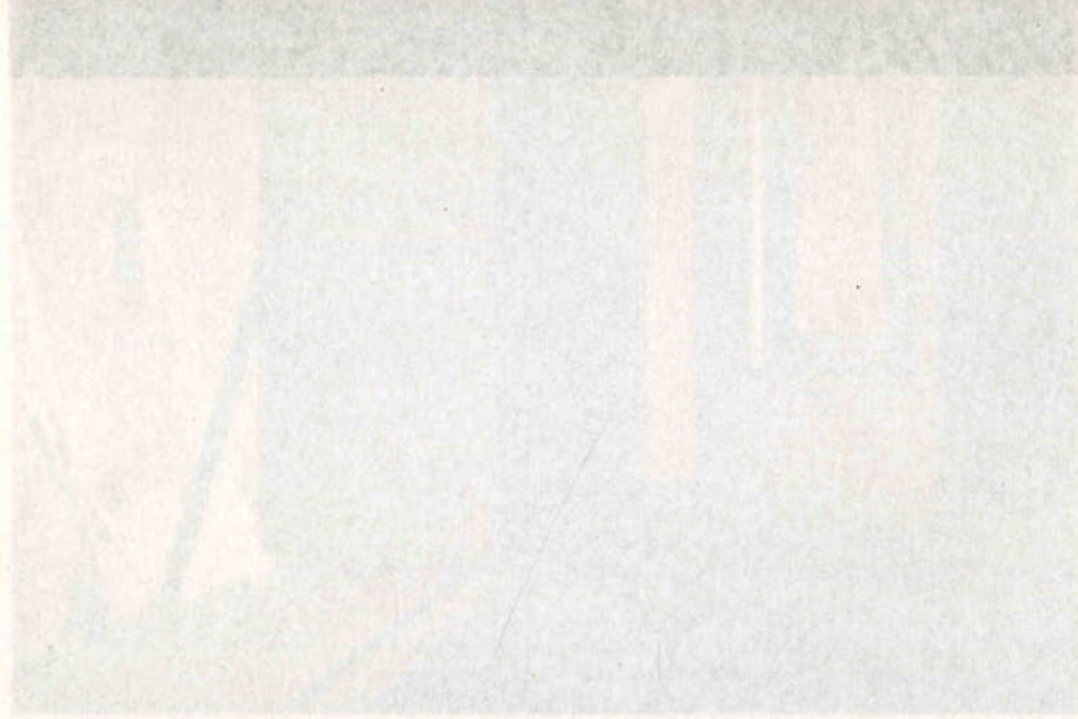
www.floresprats.com
www.duchpiza.com

PROJECT WEBSITE



Casal Balaguer is a townhouse in the historic center of the city of Palma. It is a family home originally dating from 1300 that underwent two major transformations in 1500 and 1700, and now with the intervention it has become a public arts center for the entire city. We wanted to show appreciation for the times the building held and its physical qualities without distancing ourselves from the historical periods that had shaped it; in this way we could act without separating ourselves from it: if observation does not distinguish time, action need not have distances. We acted from within, a physical and direct line of thought, thus transforming the building with the decision to reoccupy it, with the decision to construct a new period, to prolong its life making it more sustainable. Drawing the building over a long period gave us the power to make decisions about it; in this respect the drawing gave us a lot of confidence to work on what we found without physical or temporal distance from history, in a continuum of time blending the new interventions with the rest, appearing to our eyes as if they had already existed. The final result is a new creation with some elements that are inherited and some that are new, a work of deforming that takes what exists and draws from it. This produces metamorphoses that are geometrical, material, and also spatial and dimensional.

The building was updated starting from what was there in a transformation that introduced new roles. The task involved investigating the qualities of the old palace and reinforcing them, as its new role allowed us to have a lot of freedom for drawing a new building on the inside. Understanding the preexisting building as a construction, without the constrictions stemming from its former use, allowed us to stop seeing the building with its domestic dimensions and move towards an appreciation of its physical and spatial qualities as the start of a new occupancy. Discovering the unfinished condition of the existing building led us to think that the interventions it had undergone were not over, that it is an evolving project, the result of a sum of periods in which our own intervention was just one more, not the last. The dialogue between the existing and the new stemmed from a confidence in the preexisting building, from a positive observation that values and respects it as signs of a previous occupancy. The project thus acquires a temporal dimension where, ultimately, it is not possible to recognize what period the place dates from.







PROJECT NAME

LANDSCAPE RESTORATION OF THE VALL D'EN JOAN LANDFILL SITE

LOCATION

Municipalities of Gavà and Begues,
Barcelona

ARCHITECTS

Enric Batlle i Durany (1956)
Joan Roig i Duran (1954)
(Batlle i Roig)
Teresa Gall i Izard (1968)
(Arquitectura Agronomia)

DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION DATES

Project: 2002-2007 / Work: in process

CLIENT

Àrea Metropolitana de Barcelona (AMB) -
Metropolitan Water and Waste Treatment
Services

LIST OF AWARDS RECEIVED

2008. WAF2008 World Architecture Festival. Category Energy, Waste & Recycling. Work 2005-2011: First Prize
2007. BEAU Spanish Architecture and Urban Planning Biennial, IX edition Work / Shortlisted
2006. Mediterranean Landscape Prize. Built Work Category. / FIRST PRIZE
2005. El Baix Llobregat Architecture Triennale. Category: Outdoor Spaces and Technological Innovation. / Finalist Construmat Award 2005. / Shortlisted
2004. European Prize for Urban Public Space 2004. / First Prize
FAD Awards 2004. Public Space Category. / Finalist

ARCHITECTS WEBSITES

www.batlleiroig.com
www.arquitecturaagronomia.net

PROJECT WEBSITE



The Vall d'en Joan is located in the Garraf Natural Park within the municipal boundaries of Begues and Gavà in the Baix Llobregat region (Barcelona). The site was originally one of the many steep valleys that make up the limbs of the Garraf Massif. It began to be used and exploited as a landfill site in 1974, and from then until the time it was closed it received most of the urban waste from Barcelona and the municipalities of its metropolitan area.

The technical complexity arising from the capping of the landfill mandated a working strategy based on streamlining. Structuring the project through terraces and their slopes contributed to stabilizing the existing material. The access road together with these two constituent elements, terraces and slopes, set the geographic pattern for building the project. Streamlining these elements was important because it served to house the piping system for extracting biogas leading to the transformer station where it is converted into electrical energy.

The technical organization of the sealed waste structured the site as an ascending route between terraces and slopes.

Its similarity to the structure of an agricultural garden in the style of the Italian gardens seated on slopes and organized in terraces revealed the pattern for turning it into a large public space. Its size and proximity to numerous urban centers allow it to be designated as a metropolitan park.

The landfill's conversion into an agricultural landscape involved three key phases: topography, hydraulics and the introduction of vegetation. The system of topography, as noted above, was already determined by the waste capping project. The hydraulic needs had to be resolved from within the project itself, so different drainage systems were put into the successive agricultural terraces, allowing the rainwater to be conducted into a reservoir that was set up on one edge of the landfill; this reservoir and the aforementioned energy extracted from the conversion of biogas supply the irrigation system. Resistant native species adapted to the environment with few requirements were chosen for the vegetation.