

**Patent
Constructions
NEW
Architecture
made
in Catalonia**

COMBINATORY POLES

Shading and lighting system for three urban parks (1997-2006)

Location Jardins de Fabra & Coats, Sant Andreu, Barcelona (A3a); Plaça Pius XII, Gran Via, Sant Adrià de Besòs (A3b); Plaça Nicaragua, Barri de Sant Joan, Montcada i Reixac (A3c)

Client Ajuntament de Barcelona (A3a); Ajuntament de Sant Adrià de Besòs (A3b); Mancomunitat de Municipis de l'Àrea Metropolitana de Barcelona, Ajuntament de Montcada i Reixac (A3c)

Architects Eva Prats, Ricardo Flores

Design team Frank Stahl, Cristina Treviño, Paola Vallini, Antonella Sgobba (A3a); Eugenia Troncoso, Hernán Barbalace, Cinzia De Luca, Niels Toft, Mads Boserup (A3b); Andrea Schneider, Constanza Chara, Paula Fernandez, Laura Geraci, Fotini Trigonaki (A3c)

Models Fabián Asunción, Soledad Revuelto, Frank Stahl, Armin Schmidt (A3a); Israel Hernando, Angela Wright, Aljona Lissek, Tanja Dietsch (A3b); Angela Wright, Ellen Barten, Nadia Mustopo, Andrea Schneider, Horacio Arias (A3c)

Structural engineering Manuel Arguijo

Landscape engineer Mònica Martí

Contractor COSERSA, Emilio Comino, José María Benach (A3c)

Total area 4.680 m² (A3a); 7.200 m² (A3b); 2.931 m² (A3c)

Photographs Giovanni Zanzi, Ester Rovira, Àlex García (A3a); Àlex García, Jordi Bernadó (A3b); Àlex García, Jonny Pugh (A3c)

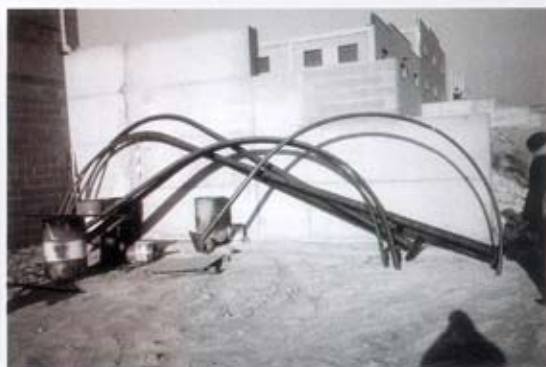
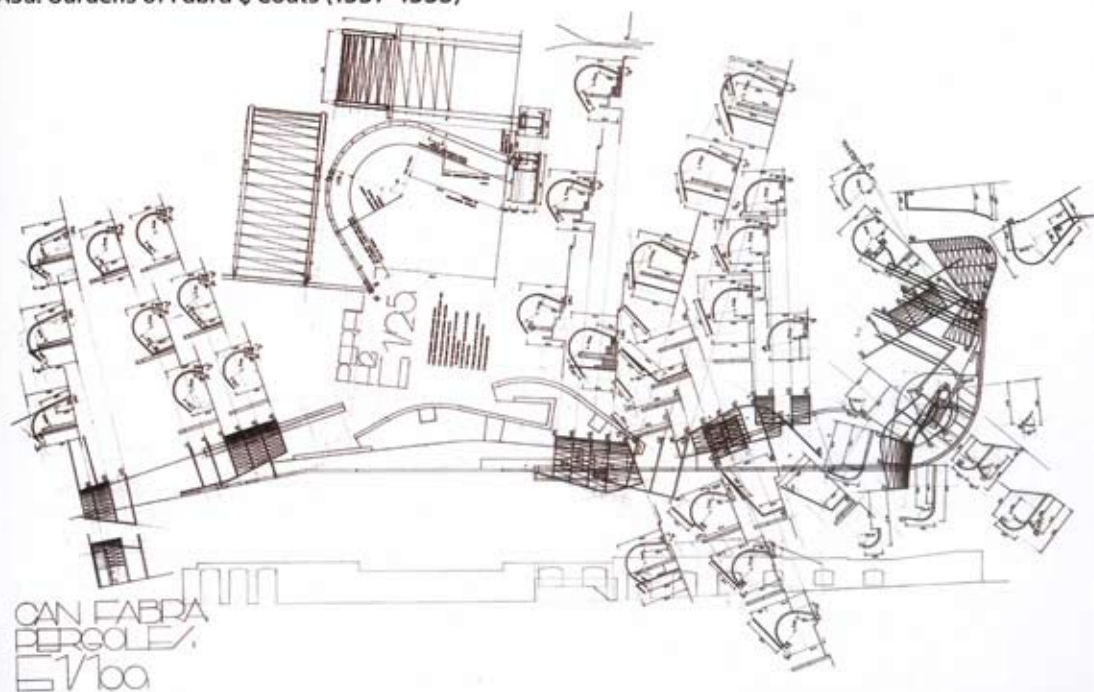
The work with standard lamp post profiles began with the project of the gardens of Fabra & Coats, where we had proposed a pergola-like structure where climbing plants could grow on. The engineer's calculations proposed using round tubes with continuous cross-sections and additional reinforcing plates when the pergola became too high. The drawing adopted a disproportionate dimension which radically changed the intention and the initial image of the design. We needed another solution.

We constantly see standard posts holding up stoplights or electric lighting on streets. These elements are quite thin compared to the length and the branching out they tend to have. Their tapered cross section make them thicker towards the ground and continuously reduces them towards the sky. This quality, which we could call a plant-like quality, seemed an advantage to using them as a base to design other urban elements with — elements which required a slender profile, capable of camouflaging itself and disappearing into the urban context.

Since we were dealing with standard industrial pieces, their initial price was very low and although we had to add the cost of the metalwork, the final price was very competitive. This allowed us to use them in several situations:

1. Gardens of Fabra & Coats. Circular posts to create a romantic tunnel, an urban garden that needed a certain thickness of greenery before the surrounding wall.
2. Plaça de Pius XII. Lower the steps in front of a huge building, a forest-pergola that provides continuous vegetation and flowers.
3. Plaça de Nicaragua. Bird-lights that look towards the river park of the Besòs.

A3a. Gardens of Fabra & Coats (1997-1999)





A3b. Plaça de Pius XII (2001-2004)

