

city layers

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NUCLI OBERT DE TREBALL DOMESTIC,
CUINAR - RENTAR - PLANKAR - A.C.S. / SOL
CONCENTRACIÓ D'ELECTRODOMESTICS
I INSTAL·LACIONES

Flores & Prats



Flores & Prats is an architecture firm from Barcelona, dedicated to confront theory and academic practice with design and construction activity. After their experience at Enric Miralles' office, Ricardo Flores and Eva Prats have developed a career where research has been always linked to the responsibility to make and to build. The office has worked on rehabilitation of old structures for new occupations, as well as on neighbours' participation in the design process of urban public spaces, and on social housing and its capacity to create community. But they have also experienced using film to document architecture, or with menus of edible architecture for their exhibitions in Barcelona and Copenhagen as a way to bring their work closer to a broader public.

The work of Flores & Prats is widely awarded, published and exhibited. They have been part of the Wallpaper Directory of Emerging Offices in 2007, obtained the Grand Award for the Best Work in Architecture at the Royal Academy of Arts in London 2009 for the rehabilitation project Mills Museum in Palma de Mallorca and the International Award Dedalo Minosse of Vicenza 2011 for the New Campus for Microsoft in Milan. Their work on rehabilitation Cultural Centre Casal Balaguer, exhibited at the Biennale di Architettura di Venezia 2014, has just been nominated for the Mies van der Rohe Award 2015. Ricardo and Eva are both professors at the School of Architecture of Barcelona, and have been invited professors to several universities around the world.

**The social dimension of housing.
111 Building in Barcelona.**

Social housing is one of the most significant and difficult challenges for architects today. At this time of global crisis, collective housing buildings can help to stabilize and restore the confidence that seems to have been lost in many sectors of society. In this context, architecture can play a decisive role in addressing our need to trust and count on neighbours, and therefore in creating a community that can support us in time of need.

This building for 111 social dwellings is situated in the outskirts of Barcelona, facing an area of natural landscape and pine trees parks. The building defines a central courtyard and organizes the 111 dwellings around it, with the aim to create a neighborhood which acts as a community. This communal patio is a platform for social gatherings, inviting people from a wide variety of backgrounds and cultures to relate and socialize. This neighborhood represents for them the first social structure within society, helping to revert the actual tendency towards isolation and individuality.

The patio contains three trees, some benches and a fountain, serving as the main entry open air vestibule to the houses. The journey from the street to the houses is modulated by a sequence of scales, progressively moving from the most open and public spaces at the street to the intimacy and privacy of the home. From one end to the other, from the bedroom to the street, the route is constantly varied. Family greetings intermingle with those of their neighbors in the patio, making the space an extension of the "hearth", somewhere friends and acquaintances can share their daily lives in a second circle of intimacy.

Location: Terrassa, Barcelona.

Architect: Flores & Prats Architects.

Client: Habitatge Terrassa.

Project and Construction: 2007 – 2012.

A series of post-occupancy studies have been developed in this building, in order to know the reactions and acceptance of the neighbors to the design. Interviews, workshops and a documentary film have been the results of these studies, which allow to get closer to the building every day life. Documentary film *Meeting at the Building*: <https://vimeo.com/54614883>

Short film by Carlota Coloma and Adrià Lahuerta /15L Films, showing one summer day at the 111 building.

Interviews on the video *Conversations*: <https://vimeo.com/75880379>

Specially edited for the exhibition *Meeting at the Building* in Copenhagen, puts together interviews to the neighbors, mixing them with images of the building itself.

