



9781851953934

Interior gardens in the Eixample blocks. Barcelona



USUAL OPENING TIMES
10.00 – 19.00 (winter) / 21.00 (summer)

RELATED BIBLIOGRAPHY
"Els interiors d'illa de l'Eixample"
Lluís Perich i Escaló and Colita Lluís Perich i Escaló (photographs). ProEixample, 2003
"Els interiors d'illa de l'Eixample. El significat dels seus noms"
Joaquín Ponsal Saigra and Carmen Marzò Caprio (text), Elisenda Caprio (text) and Floro Aragó (photographs). Lunwerg Edicions, 2007
"Hincamos por descubrir, cilla de l'Eixample: l'altres inders per descobrir"
Isabel Vilà i Pujol (text) and Floro Aragó (photographs). ProEixample, 2009



INTERIOR GARDENS IN THE EIXAMPLE BLOCKS. BARCELONA

SAFO GARDENS
ROMA, 20 + VALÈNCIA, 11 + LLANÇA, 48
SURFACE AREA: 4.970 M²
OPENING: 2001
+ INFO: This was the site of the Numancia barracks.

Sappho (of Lesbos)
(Isle of Lesbos, c. 650 BC - 580 BC). Greek composer and poet. She composed songs for weddings in which she describes an amorous passion addressed to women, in particular to Aphrodite, and presents desire as an irrational and powerful force.

SEBASTIÀ GASCH GARDENS
ROCAFORT, 87 + VALÈNCIA, 62
SURFACE AREA: 2.100 M²
OPENING: 1994

Sebastià Gasch i Carreras (Barcelona, 1897 - 1980). Writer and art, film and music-hall critic. Regarded as one of the fundamental critics of the Catalan avantgarde, he published in the *Gasetta de les Arts*, *D'ací d'allà* and *L'amic de les arts*. He was one of the first supporters of the work of Joan Miró.



"LA FAVORITA" GARDENS
(IN PROGRESS)
SEPULVEDA, 50

ROSA DEULOFEU GARDENS
PARÍS, 80 + VILADOMAT, 281 + CALÀBRIA, 264
SURFACE AREA: 3.480 M²
OPENING: 2010
+ INFO: Initially called Gardens of the Old Bayer Factory. They have conserved the factory chimney.

Rosa Deulofeu i González (Barcelona, 1959 - 2004). Spread the Christian message among young people. She devoted herself to the training of monitors and leisure centre directors and took part in a number of entities, such as the Pere Trarés Foundation or the Barcelona Recreation School.



PAULA MONTAL GARDENS
VILADOMAT, 149
SURFACE AREA: 2.930 M²
OPENING: 2010

Paula Montal i Fornés (Arenys de Mar, 1799 - Olesa de Montserrat, 1888). A nun who founded the Daughters of Mary of Sacred Congregation, nuns of the Escorial. Over her life, and at a time when girls' education was confined to sewing, she opened seven girls' schools.

MARIA MATILDE ALMENDROS GARDENS
CALÀBRIA, 92
SURFACE AREA: 1.500 M²
OPENING: 2008

Maria Matilde Almendros i Carcasona (Manresa, 1922 - Barcelona, 1995). Actress and radio presenter. She was one of the precursors of radio broadcasts in Catalan after the Civil War and the first voice to be heard on Radio 4 (1976). She was also an

important actress for dubbing in Spanish.



TETE MONTOLIU GARDENS
SEPULVEDA, 96-97
SURFACE AREA: 2.770 M²
OPENING: 2007

Tete Montoliu (Barcelona, 1933 - 1997). Jazz pianist, blind at birth. In 1955 he began an international career giving concerts all over the world and performing with the best jazz musicians of the time.

MARIA MANONELLES GARDENS
CALÀBRIA, 38
SURFACE AREA: 430 M²
OPENING: 2010
FACILITY: Eixample District municipal archive

Maria Manonelles i Riera (Mollerussa, 1913 - Pyrénées Orientales, 2004). Political and trade union activist. She began her political militancy in the 1920s and contributed to a number of workers' publications, where she often wrote about problems specific to women. During the Franco dictatorship she was exiled in France.

ELS TRES TOMBS GARDENS
MANSO, 24-28 + CALÀBRIA, 8
SURFACE AREA: 1.780 M²
OPENING: 2001

Facilities: Between the 1920s and 1990s the Galletas Montés factory was here.

Els Tres Tombs
During the festivities of St Antony, protector of animals, the Tres Tombs cavalcades are held. They consist of taking three turns with the horses and other pack animals, in ancient times around a great bonfire and, with the coming of Christianity, around the church of Sant Antoni.

MARIA ASSUMPCIÓ CATALÀ GARDENS
COMTE BORRELL, 305-307
SURFACE AREA: 730 M²
OPENING: 2011
FACILITIES: Primary care centre + social services centre

Maria Assumpció Català i Poch (Barcelona, 1925 - 2009). Mathematician and astronomer. She taught at Barcelona University from 1952 to 1991. In 1970 she became the first woman to obtain a doctorate in mathematics there. In 2009 she was awarded the Sant Jordi Cross.

MARIA MERCÈ MARÇAL GARDENS
PROVENÇA, 97
SURFACE AREA: 1.320 M²
OPENING: 2002

Facilities: Left Eixample senior citizens centre + IPSI school sports pavilion
+ INFO: A mural shows that previously this plot had been occupied by the Sopena publishing house.

Maria Mercè Marçal i Serra (Ivars d'Urgell, 1952 - Barcelona, 1998). Writer, editor, translator and professor of Catalan, as well as a political, cultural and feminist activist. Her poem *Divina* (1976) is like a manifesto: "I am grateful to chance for three gifts: having been born a woman, lower class and in an oppressed nation. And the turbulent chance of being three times a rebel".

EMMA DE BARCELONA GARDENS
COMTE BORRELL, 157 + VILADOMAT, 142
SURFACE AREA: 1.770 M²
OPENING: 2000
FACILITIES: Viladomat high

Enma de Barcelona (880 - Sant Joan de les Abadesses, 942). The daughter of Wilfred the Hairy and Guiníddia, count and countess of Barcelona. She was the first abbess of Sant Joan de les Abadesses convent and through her life she managed to increase its properties substantially.

ERMESSENDA DE CARCASSONA GARDENS
COMTE D'URGELL, 145-147
SURFACE AREA: 1.500 M²
OPENING: 2011
FACILITIES: Teresa Pàmies cultural centre + Left Eixample library - Agustí Centelles + Urgell civic centre

Ermessenda de Carcassona (Carcassonne, c. 973 - Sant Quirze de Besora, 1058). Countess consort of Barcelona, Girona and Osona. She was the most influential woman of the Catalan counties in the Middle Ages, when she ruled alone or successively with her husband, her son and her grandson.

OLD ÚRGELL CINEMA GARDENS
(IN PROGRESS)
COMTE D'URGELL, 31 + COMTE BORRELL, 82

CÀNDIDA PÉREZ GARDENS
COMTE BORRELL, 44-46
SURFACE AREA: 1.190 M²
OPENING: 2009
FACILITIES: Sant Antoni - Joan Oliver library + senior citizens' centre
+ INFO: Here there was a sweet factory, of which the chimney has been conserved.

Càndida Pérez i Martínez (Olot, 1893 - 1989). Singer and composer of music hall songs. Author of some of the best known Catalan music hall songs in the 1920s. She performed with great success in cities in Europe and South America and lived for thirty years in Brazil.



BEATRÍU PINÓS-MILANY GARDENS
ROSSELLO, 149-153
SURFACE AREA: 2.120 M²
OPENING: 2011
FACILITY: CEK (Esther Koplowitz) biomedical research centre

Beatríu Pinós-Milany (Catalonia, 1433 - Palma, 1485). Baroness. Protector, promoter and disseminator of the work of Ramon Llull. On her initiative the General Lull Study in Mallorca, the origin of the future Mallorca University, was founded.

PALÀU ROBERT GARDENS
CÓRSEGA, 306-B10 + PG. DE GRÀCIA, 107 + ROSSELLO, 249
SURFACE AREA: 3.795 M²
OPENING: 1987
FACILITY: Palau Robert Cultural Centre.

Palau Robert
Neoclassical mansion after the project of the French architect Henri Grandpierre. It was built under the direction of the architect Joan Martorell between 1898 and 1903 as a residence for Robert Robert i Surís, aristocrat, financier, businessman and conservative politician.

Montserrat Figueras i Garcia (Barcelona, 1942 - Bellaterra, 2011). Soprano specializing in Mediaeval, Renaissance and Baroque music. With her husband, the musician Jordi Savall, she founded groups like Hesperion XX and the Capella Reial de Catalunya. In the year of her death she was awarded the Sant Jordi Cross.

CÉSAR MARTINELL GARDENS
GRAN VIA DE LES CORTS CATALANES, 543-545 + VILAR-ROEL, 60 BIS
SURFACE AREA: 2.390 M²
OPENING: 1995

César Martinell i Brunet (Valls, 1888 - Barcelona, 1973). Architect astride *Modernisme*

IDEA, TEXTS, PHOTOGRAPHS AND DRAWINGS
El gaius vermell

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
Marc Auredi Santos (Director of Services of Architecture Urbanism i Patrimoni), Joaquín Ponsal Saigra and Carmen Marzò Caprio (text), Elisenda Caprio (text) and Floro Aragó (photographs) (Director de Serveis d'Arquitectura Urbana i Patrimoni), Joaquín Ponsal Saigra and Carmen Marzò Caprio (text), Elisenda Caprio (text) and Floro Aragó (photographs) (Director de Serveis d'Arquitectura Urbana i Patrimoni), Joaquín Ponsal Saigra and Carmen Marzò Caprio (text), Elisenda Caprio (text) and Floro Aragó (photographs)

Mercè Vilaret i Llop (Barcelona, 1943 - Sant Cugat del Valles, 1993). Television producer, pioneer in her profession in Catalonia and a staunch defender of public television. She left her mark thanks to an extreme sensitivity to inequalities and social problems.

ELENA MASERAS GARDENS
ROSSELLO, 161-169
SURFACE AREA: 1.070 M²
OPENING: 2005
FACILITY: Hospital Clínic outpatients' centre

Elena Maseras i Ribera (Vila-seca, 1853 - Mahon, 1905). Doctor and teacher. In 1872 she became the first woman to be admitted as a student to the Barcelona Faculty of Medicine. Discouraged by bureaucratic difficulties, she gave up practising medicine and devoted herself to teaching.

PLACETA JOAN BROSSA GARDENS
ROSSELLO, 197
SURFACE AREA: 1.060 M²
OPENING: 2010
+ INFO: Here we find the visual poem *Faune*, by Joan Brossa.

Joan Brossa i Cuervo (Barcelona, 1919 - 1998). Poet, dramatist and visual artist, although he referred to everything he did as poetry. He was one of the founders of the avantgarde artists group Dau al Set (1948) and one of the first authors of the visual poetry of Catalan literature.

FERRAN SOLDEVILA GARDEN AT BARCELONA UNIVERSITY
GRAN VIA DE LES CORTS CATALANES, 585 + ARIBAU, 2-6 + DIPUTACIÓ, 230
SURFACE AREA: 12.640 M²
OPENING: 1871
+ INFO: The historic Central University building was erected between 1863 and 1893 after a neo-Romanesque project by the architect Elies Rogent. The gardens were conceived by Josep Mirabet as a botanical garden with more than eighty species.

Ferran Soldevila i Zubiburu (Barcelona, 1894 - 1971). Poet, dramatist and narrator, he is best known as one of the great 20th century Catalan historians.

PALÀU ROBERT GARDENS
CÓRSEGA, 306-B10 + PG. DE GRÀCIA, 107 + ROSSELLO, 249
SURFACE AREA: 3.795 M²
OPENING: 1987
FACILITY: Palau Robert Cultural Centre.

Torre de les Aigües
Hexagonal water tower 24 m high designed in 1864 by Josep Oriol Mestres for the purpose of supplying water to the first buildings of the Eixample. In 1870 a storey was added to the tower to increase the water pressure.

SOFIA BARAT GARDENS
GIRONA, 54
SURFACE AREA: 570 M²
OPENING: 2003
FACILITY: Sofia Barat library

Sofia Barat (Madeleine-Sophie Barat) (Joigny, 1779 - Paris, 1865). Founder of the Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, devoted to teaching. Under her direction the congregation spread far and wide and eventually had 105 colleges all over the world.

LAURA ALBÉNIZ GARDENS
PAU CLARIS, 182
SURFACE AREA: 955 M²
OPENING: 2009

Laura Albéniz Jordana (Barcelona, 1890 - 1944). Illustrator and painter in the *Noucentisme* movement, daughter of the pianist and composer Isaac Albéniz and Rosina Jordana. With Xavier Gosé, she is regarded as the precursor of Art Deco in Catalonia.



CASA ELIZALDE GARDENS
VALÈNCIA, 302
SURFACE AREA: 660 M²
OPENING: 1985
FACILITY: Casa Elizalde cultural centre

Casa Elizalde
House built in 1888 by the architect Emili Sala i Cortés. It was the residence of the Elizalde family until 1965 and at the same time headquarters of the Elizalde SA company, one of the biggest car factories in Spain in the early 20th century. Since 1981 the building has been the property of Barcelona council.

CARME BIADA GARDENS
BRUC, 153 + ROGER DE LLURIA, 132
SURFACE AREA: 689 M²
OPENING: 2007
FACILITY: "Casa dels Nens" nursery school

Carme Biada (Barcelona, 1874 - 1949). Wife of Arturo Elizalde, engineer and founder of the Elizalde SA company. When her husband died she became one of the first Catalan businesswomen and undertook a project to manufacture aeroplane engines.

RECTOR OLIVERAS GARDENS
PTGE RECTOR OLIVERAS, 6 (ARAGO, 299)
SURFACE AREA: 1.000 M²
OPENING: 2002

Rector Oliveras (L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, 1884 - Barcelona, 1953). After being a priest in various parishes in Catalonia for almost fifteen years, in 1921 he entered the parish of the Puríssima Concepció as an economist. He was appointed rector in 1948.



TORRE DE LES AIGÜES GARDENS
ROGER DE LLURIA, 56
SURFACE AREA: 1.560 M²
OPENING: 1985
+ INFO: During the summer months the garden becomes the "beach of the Eixample".

ANTONI PUIGVERT GARDENS
INDUSTRIALS, 54 + SICILIA, 287-297 + CÓRSEGA, 495
SURFACE AREA: 3.630 M²
OPENING: 1999

Antoni Puigvert i Gorro (Santa Coloma de Gramenet, 1905 - Barcelona, 1990). Doctor and urologist. In 1961 he founded the Puigvert Foundation, a medical institute specialising in urology, recognised as one of the most prestigious in the world in the specialty.

JAUME PERICH GARDENS
GRAN VIA DE LES CORTS CATALANES, 657 BIS
SURFACE AREA: 1.220 M²
OPENING: 2002
+ INFO: Previously it had been the Rosal textile estate.

Jaume Perich i Escaló (Barcelona, 1941 - Mataró, 1995). Graphic humorist and writer. As a very young man he already stood out, in the Barcelona press as a graphic humorist with a personality of his own and during the transition became enormously popular thanks to his political satire.

ROGER DE FLOR, 191 GARDEN
ROGER DE FLOR, 191
SURFACE AREA: 480 M²
(1ST STAGE)
OPENING: 2014 (1ST STAGE)
+ INFO: It is being extended to connect with Casa Macaya



CONSTANÇA D'ARAGÓ GARDENS
ROGER DE FLOR, 194-198
SURFACE AREA: 1.096 M²
OPENING: 2010
FACILITY: Right Eixample primary care centre

Constança d'Aragó i d'Entença (Bellaguer, ca. 1318 - Montpelier, 1346). Princess of Aragón and queen consort of Mallorca (1325-1346). In 1336 she married Jaume III of Mallorca in Perpignan. They had a son and a daughter.

CARLIT GARDENS
ROGER DE FLOR, 160 BIS
SURFACE AREA: 445 M²
OPENING: 1995
FACILITIES: Carlit school + senior citizens' centre

Carlit
Pic Carlit or Pica del Carlit (2,921 m) in the northern axial Pyrenees is the highest mountain in La Cerdanya.

OLD HORTA ROAD GARDENS
AUSIÀ MARÇ, 78 + ALIBES, 55
SURFACE AREA: 2.810 M²
OPENING: 2003
FACILITY: Fort Pienc social services centre

Horta Road
The Horta road linked Barcelona with the old town of Horta where, since the Middle Ages, great landowners of the plain of Barcelona had built their summer residences to escape from a crowded and unhealthy city.

LA SEDETA GARDENS
SICILIA, 321 + PTGE LLAVALLOL
SURFACE AREA: 1.630 M²
OPENING: 1983
FACILITIES: La Sedeta civic centre + La Sedeta high school + Spaces for entities

LINA OĐENA GARDENS
ALIBES, 121 + SARDENYA, 120-176
SURFACE AREA: 1.420 M²
OPENING: 2003

Lina Ođena García (Barcelona, 1911 - Granada, 1936). Communist militant and militant woman. She took part in the creation of the Communist Party of Catalonia (1932) and stood as a candidate for the Parliament of the Republic (1933). At the height of the Civil War she was trapped at a Falangist control point and shot herself.

CATERINA ALBERT GARDENS
ROSSELLO, 395 + PTGE MARINER
SURFACE AREA: 2.050 M²
OPENING: 1993

Caterina Albert i Paradís (L'Escaló, 1869 - 1966). Writer, known by her pen name Victor Catalá. She is outstanding for her forceful style and great lexical wealth. She wrote the novel *Solitud* (1905), one of the crucial literary works of *Modernisme*.

BEATRÍU DE PROVENÇA GARDENS
NÀPOLES, 244
SURFACE AREA: 1.450 M²
OPENING: 2010
FACILITY: "La Fassina" nursery school
+ INFO: Located on old land of the Myrurgia factory, the main building of which is still conserved.

Beatríu de Provença (1233 - Nocera, Italy, 1267). The last Catalan countess of the county of Provence (1245-1267) and queen consort of Naples and Sicily (1266-1267).

ENRIQUETA SÈCULI GARDENS
PTGE SIMÓ, 9-13
SURFACE AREA: 800 M²
OPENING: 2010

Enriqueta Sèculi i Bastida (Barcelona, 1897 - 1976). Educationalist and feminist writer. She was the founder of the Women's and Sports Club, one of the Catalan cultural action platforms among leftwing intellectuals during the 1920s and 30s, and was a member of many other entities.

CLOTILDE CERDA GARDENS
MARINA, 197 + SARDENYA, 254 BIS
SURFACE AREA: 3.260 M²
OPENING: 2003
FACILITY: Planned school

Clotilde Cerdà i Bosch (Barcelona, 1861 - Santa Cruz de Tenerife, 1926). Harpist and composer, she performed all over the world under the stage name Esmeralda Cervantes. She was also socially committed: she came out against slavery and the death penalty and in favour of peace.



ANAÍS NAPOLEON GARDENS
MARINA, 165
SURFACE AREA: 1.610 M²
OPENING: 2015

Anais Napoleon (Anne Tiffon Cassan) (Narbonne, 1827 - Barcelona, 1912). Founder, with her husband Antonio Fernández, of the Napoleon photographic company. Always at the forefront of the advances in photography, she was one of the first women to make daguerreotypes in Spain.

MERCÈ PLANTADA GARDENS
ALIBES, 121 + PAMPLONA, 43
SURFACE AREA: 7.050 M²
OPENING: 1992
+ INFO: Land of the old Torres Herrería y Construcciones factory, known as Can Torres dels Ferros, and engaged in the production of metal structures. The Olympic Games referees were lodged here.



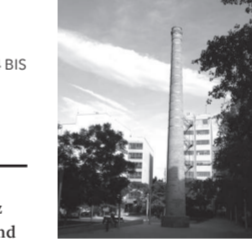
MANUEL DE PEDROLO GARDENS
DIPUTACIÓ, 459-463
SURFACE AREA: 970 M²
OPENING: 1997

Manuel de Pedrolo i Molina (L'Aranyó, 1918 - Barcelona, 1990). Writer who worked in all the literary genres: poetry, theatre, narrative and short stories. He is considered the most prolific writer of Catalan letters and an intellectual committed to his time and his country.

PERE IV - JOAN D'ÀUSTRIA - AV. BOGATELL GARDENS
PERE IV, 8-10 + BOGATELL, 80

MARGARIDA CÒMAS GARDENS
LLULL, 32 + JOAN D'ÀUSTRIA, 51 + RAMON TURRO, 21
+ INFO: A brick chimney has been conserved, recalling the industrial past of the district.

Margarida Comas i Camps (Alaior, 1892 - Exeter, England, 1973). Biologist, educationalist and lecturer at Barcelona University. She was a great advocate of innovation in teaching, social equality and women's rights. From 1937 she lived in exile in England.



FLORA TRISTAN GARDENS
PADILLA, 204-210
SURFACE AREA: 1.710 M²
OPENING: 2003
FACILITY: Espai 210, sociocultural centre

Flora Tristan (Paris, 1803 - Bordeaux, 1844). French writer and social activist of Peruvian origin. Regarded as one of the founders of modern feminism. She was the first woman to talk about socialism and the workers' struggle. She coined the slogan "Workers of the world, unite".

TÀNGER - PAMPLONA - SANCHO DE ÀVILA - ZAMORA GARDENS
TÀNGER, 20 + PAMPLONA, 125 + SANCHO DE ÀVILA, 15-35

CREU CASAS GARDENS
PAMPLONA, 45 + ZAMORA, 40
SURFACE AREA: 5.960 M²
OPENING: 1992

Creu Casas i Sicart (Barcelona 1913 - 2007). Chemist, botanist, biologist, lecturer at Barcelona University and professor at Barcelona Autonomous University. Among her many merits it is to have trained an outstanding generation of biologists and written the work *Flora of the bryophytes of the Catalan lands*.

ISABEL VILÀ I PUJOL (Calonge, 1843 - Sabadell, 1896). Republican and fighter for workers' rights. She was affiliated to the International Workers Association and is considered the first Catalan woman trade unionist. She spent six years in exile in France.

MERCÈ PLANTADA I VICENTE (Barcelona, 1892 - Vilafranca del Penedès, 1976). Soprano specialising in *lieder*. She made her debut in 1913 with a *lieder* recital at the Palau de la Música Catalana. She performed with all the leading orchestras of the time and gave recitals in many European and North African capitals.

ALICIA DE LARROCHA GARDENS
ALABA, 48
SURFACE AREA: 2.840 M²
OPENING: 1992

Alicia de Larrocha i de la Calle (Barcelona, 1923 - 2009). Pianist and composer, considered one of the best of her generation. She performed all over the world, making regular tours throughout the second half of the 20th century and enjoyed great international recognition.

PLAÇA HENRI DUNANT
CÓRSEGA, 443 + PTGE URUBIA + PTGE IGUALIAT + PTGE PARIS
SURFACE AREA: 860 M²
OPENING: 1997

Jean Henri (or Henry) Dunant (Geneva, 1828 - Heiden, 1910). A Swiss businessman who carried out a number of humanitarian initiatives. In 1901 he won the Nobel Peace Prize for his contribution to the creation of the Red Cross (1863) and for promoting the Geneva Convention (1864).

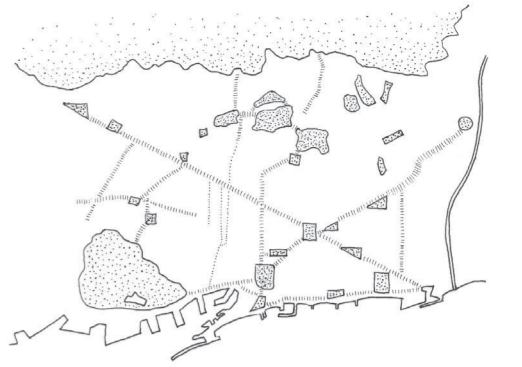
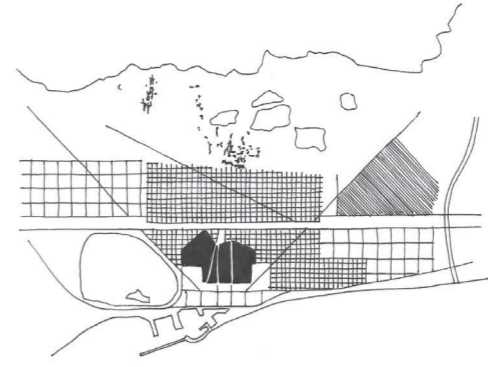
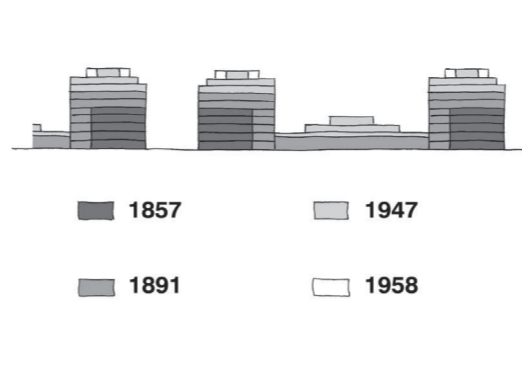
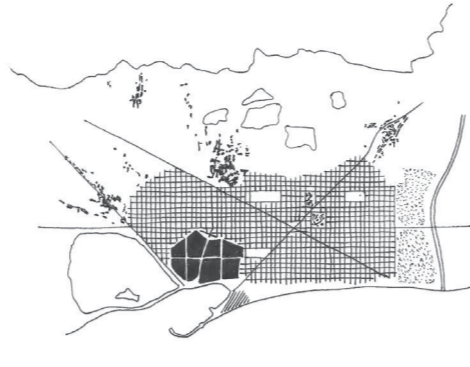
MONTSERRAT ROIG GARDENS
ROSSELLO, 488 + PROVENÇA, 533
SURFACE AREA: 2.910 M²
OPENING: 1996
+ INFO: Until 1992 the site of the old Damm factory. There is still a large copper beer tank.

Montserrat Roig i Fransitora (Barcelona, 1946 - 1991). Writer in Catalan of novels, short stories, reportages and newspaper articles. She also presented and directed television programmes, where she distinguished herself as an interviewer of other writers. She was a militant of the socialist PSUC until 1978.



DIAGONAL - CIUTAT DE GRANADA - BOLÍVIA - BADAJOZ GARDENS<

Interior gardens in the Eixample blocks. Barcelona



THE WALLED CITY

Barcelona was one of the last European cities to demolish its walls. It began in 1854 and did not complete the work until 1873. But it had to suffer and struggle in order to do so.

With the Industrial Revolution, the city filled up with factories that drew workers from all over. Between the beginning and middle of the 19th century the population doubled, reaching some 200,000 inhabitants, and the density rose to 900 inhabitants/ha. That brought about an increase in the height of the buildings, which reduced the amount of sunlight and ventilation in the streets, which were already rather narrow, and the dwellings, often subdivided to house more people. Moreover, the city was still mired in atrocious conditions of hygiene and suffering from a chronic shortage of health infrastructures, such as sewers or running water. In those circumstances there were constant epidemics of yellow fever and cholera and the average life expectancy was 36 for the rich and 23 for the poor and the casual labourers. The population grew more and more restless and began to demand the demolition of the walls and a new extension for the city.

In 1841 the council convened a competition to analyse the advantages of demolishing the Mediaeval walls. Pere Felip Monlau, doctor and hygienist, was the winner with the work *Down with the walls!*, in which he demanded an expansion from the Llobregat river to the Besòs river.

The wide discussion of the project and the thrust of popular opinion led to a confrontation between civil society, with Barcelona council at the head, and the central government, which ended up giving in and accepting the demolition of the walls in 1854. The following year Ildefons Cerdà received the commission to produce a topographic plan of the Barcelona plain and later studied living conditions in the city. He published his *Statistical monograph of the working class in Barcelona in 1856*.

CERDÀ'S PLAN FOR THE EIXAMPLE

After decades of waiting, in 1859 the decision to extend the city was taken. In February the Spanish government chose to commission the plan directly from Ildefons Cerdà, a choice that was not to the liking of the council, which preferred to throw open a competition. And so, whilst Cerdà's project was approved by the government, the council declared Antoni Rovira i Trias' proposal winner of the contest. However, the central government ordered the implementation of the Cerdà Plan and in September 1860 Queen Isabel II laid the foundation stone of the extension, the Eixample.

Ildefons Cerdà proposed a project for a rational, egalitarian city, where there would be no differences between districts and the conditions of hygiene and salubrity would be adequate. He defended a balance between urban values and rural advantages ("Ruralize what is urban, urbanize what is rural", he wrote at the beginning of the *General Theory of Town Planning, 1867*) and proposed a city structured through a mesh of wide streets (20 m) and green spaces. The grid would consist of blocks built on just two or three sides and inside them. The great exception within this network of streets parallel and perpendicular to the coast line, designed to make the traffic flow more smoothly, are the Diagonal and Meridiana Avenues, which cross Gran Via at Plaça de les Glòries, conceived as a new metropolitan centre. Moreover, Cerdà proposed a uniform distribution of service areas, such as markets, schools, social centres and churches.

The Plan for Rebuilding and Extending Barcelona, regarded today as a pioneering project in the evolution of modern town planning, did not go down well with the local bourgeoisie, both because it was imposed by the Spanish government and, most of all, because of the idea of a socially fairer city and the "waste" of space.

THE PERVERSION OF THE PLAN

The rationalist, egalitarian, anti-hierarchical and anti-authoritarian ideas of the plan clashed head on with the elitist vision of the well-to-do classes, who were determined from the outset to sabotage it in connivance with the council.

First of all, they managed to have the blocks with only two built up sides in the approved version of the Plan give way to others constructed all around the perimeter and, therefore, with more buildable surface area.

Later, through ordinances, permission to erect higher and deeper buildings than those initially provided for in the Cerdà Plan was granted, as well as authorization to build the whole ground floor of the interiors of the blocks, whether with passages and sheds on either side or with other layouts.

All that coincided with the Gold Fever of the 1870s. Owners, promoters and returnees from the colonies who had amassed great fortunes saw the development of the new town as a great business opportunity. They erected their mansions while putting up apartment buildings and speculating with the rising price of land, forgetting about the green spaces and the facilities provided for in the original plan.

During *Modernisme*, a phenomenon promoted by the industrial bourgeoisie, who sought in that singular style a way of distinguishing themselves socially, the virulent criticisms of the regularity of the Eixample continued. And so, for example, Puig i Cadafalch stated that the egalitarian homogeneity of the area came into contradiction with the wish to endow certain spaces or institutions in the city with a special representative value. Well into the 20th century, the construction and densification of the Eixample continued until, at the end of the Franco era, it reached 290,000 m³ of buildings per block, when Cerdà had planned about 67,000, and there was an almost total lack of green zones and spaces for public use.

THE FIRST DEMANDS

One of the first complaints about the absence of gardens to sit in and play with the children was expressed in the early 1920s by the Board of Gentlemen of the Garden City civic society, presided by Nicolau M. Rubió i Tudurí, director of Parks and Gardens. In consequence, the Reina Victòria Gardens, on Gran Via between Passeig de Gràcia and Rambla de Catalunya, were laid out, as were the Doctor Duran i Reynals Gardens, opposite the Faculty of Medicine in the Hospital Clínic.

A decade later the GATCPAC (Group of Catalan Architect and Technicians for the Progress of Contemporary Architecture) began a reappraisal of the Cerdà Plan. Working with Le Corbusier and Pierre Jeanneret, between 1932 and 1934 they drafted the Macià Plan (named in tribute to the president of Catalonia). In accordance with the ideas of the time, that new extension plan for Barcelona proposed to divide the city into functional zones (residential, industrial, economic activities, etc.), reforming and cleaning up the old quarter and the new town from a grid of larger blocks on either side of the already consolidated Eixample. For those new residential areas they proposed to create modules 400 x 400 m —equivalent to nine blocks (3 x 3) of Cerdà's Eixample—, with spacious green zones at street level and large apartment blocks, not always aligned with the street, built above them.

The Macià Plan set out to structure a modern Barcelona, open to the sea, with the development of what today is Poblenou as far as the Besòs river, on one side, and Sants and L'Hospitalet on the other. The plan became an important reference point when, almost sixty years later, the Olympic Village was planned and more recently with the proposal for the superblocks.

REVIVING THE SPIRIT OF CERDÀ

When the Franco regime came to an end and the democratic councils returned Barcelona took up the challenge of introducing greenery into the Eixample through the opening of public gardens in the interiors of the blocks, recovering Cerdà's original idea. The aim is for one of every nine blocks of the Eixample to have an interior garden, that is, for all the inhabitants of the Eixample to have a green zone at a maximum of 200 m from their home.

The recovery of the interiors of the blocks has been accompanied by design criteria with the aim of distinguishing them from the public space in the street and the open squares. And so soft surfaces are preferred, plant species that provide sun in winter and shade in summer and bring perfume and colour are introduced, urban furniture is installed to foster relations between the neighbours, peace and quiet and a playground for children, and subdued lighting that will not bother the residents at night. At the same time there is an attempt to combine the gardens with some public facility to ensure the flow of visitors and bring new social life to the spaces.

Since the first interior gardens were opened, fifty or so have been inaugurated in the Eixample district and a score in Sant Martí, especially in Poblenou, and a total of more than 150,000 m² of green space have been reclaimed.

But the challenge does not stop there. New gardens are being opened to cover zones where there are still shortages and ensure a more homogeneous distribution in the territory. Moreover, new proposals are emerging to introduce greenery into the fabric of the Eixample: to turn Glòries into a large green zone, to restructure the grid by opening up superblocks and to create green corridors that cross the districts (Passeig de Sant Joan, Avinguda de Roma, etc.), all projects that bring us ever closer to Cerdà's ideal.

Barcelona is one of the most densely populated cities in the world (almost 16,000 habitants/km²) and one with the fewest green zones (only 6 m² of greenery per inhabitant). Specifically, in the Eixample 95% of the surface area is covered by buildings, pavements and asphalt and therefore only 5% is earth that breathes.

Among the various strategies for amending this situation, the network of interior gardens in the blocks is perhaps the most unusual. The striking features of most of them are, first, that they are bounded on all or almost all their perimeter by buildings that isolate them from the street and, second, they are closed at night.

This urban project, almost unique in the world, began in the 1980s and has continued to grow year by year. Today, in the whole grid planned by Cerdà, distributed mainly between the Eixample and Sant Martí districts, there are over seventy interior gardens in the blocks.

Each garden is unique in terms of both size and the plants to be found there, the uses provided for (children's games, ping-pong, area for dogs...), the heritage or artistic elements conserved, the facilities that complement them or the name they have been given.

One interesting feature of the network of interior gardens is that many of them bear a woman's name. With the aim of "feminizing" a municipal list practically monopolized by men, some years ago the council began to assign women's names to the new gardens as they opened up.

The guide-plan describes the evolution of the urban green zones in the Eixample and explains how each of the gardens got its name.

