
LACOL

ARQUITECTURA COOPERATIVA

CURRICULUM

LACOL

Lacol is a cooperative of architects established in 2009 in the neighborhood of Sants, in Barcelona. We work to generate community infrastructures for the sustainability of life, as a key tool for the eco-social transition, through architecture, cooperativism and participation.

We believe that the way to transform the city is through the active participation of the people who inhabit it and through proactive action. We work on the interests related to the quality of life of all the people who share the city. The architect's contribution is made within the urban movement, as one more piece of this gear, helping to translate citizen concerns and translate them on paper; providing criteria for the definition of objectives and strategies, as well as tools to define and communicate ideas through graphic drawing ...

We encourage, among others, debate and discussion on the uses of spaces and the management of urban spaces, city models, participation and the recovery of heritage.



PRIZES

- Shortlisted at the European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture – Mies van der Rohe Award, 2022
- Honourable Mentions at the International Prize on Sustainable Architecture Fassa Bartolo, 2021
- Zumtobel Group Award, 2021
- Special mention at the Matilde Baffa Ugo Rivolta European Architecture Award, 2021
- Moira Gemmill Award for Emerging Architecture (W Awards), 2021
- Awarded at the third edition of the Mostra d'Arquitectura Catalana de Barcelona, 2020
- Prize AJAC for the participatory process of La Model, together with Equal Saree, 2020
- Prize on Built Construction in Architecture at the BBConstrumat 2019
- Prize "Ciutat de Barcelona", 2018
- Mention at the Bonaplata awards for a study on the industrial heritage of Vilassar de Mar, 2018
- Prize AJAC for the housing coop project "Coop de falç", together with Arqbag, 2018

EXHIBITIONS

- Biennale of architecture of Venice 2021
- .MUGAK 2019, International Architecture Biennale of Euskadi.
- "Timber rising", Roca Gallery Barcelona, 2019.
- "Import WB_Export BCN Re-activate the city". Opened at ULB Brussels in 2018, and exposed at the Centre d'Art Santa Mònica in Barcelona in 2019.
- "Together! The New Architecture of the Collective". Opened at the Vitra Museum (Weil am Rhein, Germany) and exposed at the CID -Centre d'Innovation et de Design, Hornu (Belgium) and the Gratis Museum Leipzig (Germany). 2017-2019.
- "Piso Piloto". Opened at the CCCB in Barcelona and exposed in Córdoba (Spain), Medellín (Colombia) and Ciudad de México (Mexico), 2017.
- Biennale of architecture of Buenos Aires (Barcelona Pavilion), 2017.
- Biennale of architecture of Venice (Catalonia Pavilion), 2016.

BOOKS PUBLISHED BY LACOL

- "Construir en col·lectiu" (CAT/ESP/ENG), Pol·len Edicions 2018
- "Habitar en comunidad", with La Ciutat Invisible, Libros de la Catarata/Arquia, 2018
- "El Vilassar de Mar Fabril". Pagès edicions, 2018.
- "Inventari de Can Batlló. Teixint una història col·lectiva." Curated by Lacol. Riera de Magòria, 2013

To see articles published by others about Lacol see www.lacol.coop/nosaltres/recull-de-premsa

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Our members are teaching or have taught at the following institutions:

- Architectural Association School of Architecture, London
- Royal College of Art, London
- BAU
- ETSAB - Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya
- ETSALS - La Salle
- University of California, Davis
- University of Calgary (Canada)
- Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

MAIN CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

COOPERATIVA D'HABITATGE LA BORDA

YEAR: 2014 CONSTRUCTION: February 2017 - October 2018

CLIENT: La Borda, cooperativa d'habitatges en cessió d'ús
SURFACE: 3.000 m²

LOCATION: Constitució 85-89, barcelona

CONTRIBUTORS: Arkenova, Miguel Nevado, AumedesDAP, Societat Orgànica, PAuS (Coque Claret i Dani Galatayud) and Grisel·la Iglesias (Àurea acústica)

La Borda housing cooperative is a development self-organized by its users to access decent, non-speculative housing that places its value in the center, through a collective structure. The idea of a housing cooperative was born in 2012 as a project of Can Batlló driven by the community in the process of recovery of the industrial premises, and the neighborhood and cooperative fabric of the Sants neighborhood of Barcelona.

The project is located on a public land of social housing, with a leasehold of 75 years. Located in Constitució Street, in a bordering position of the industrial area of Can Batlló with a facade to the existing neighborhood of La Bordeta.

There are 3 fundamental and cross-sectional principles of the project:

(1) redefine the collective housing program

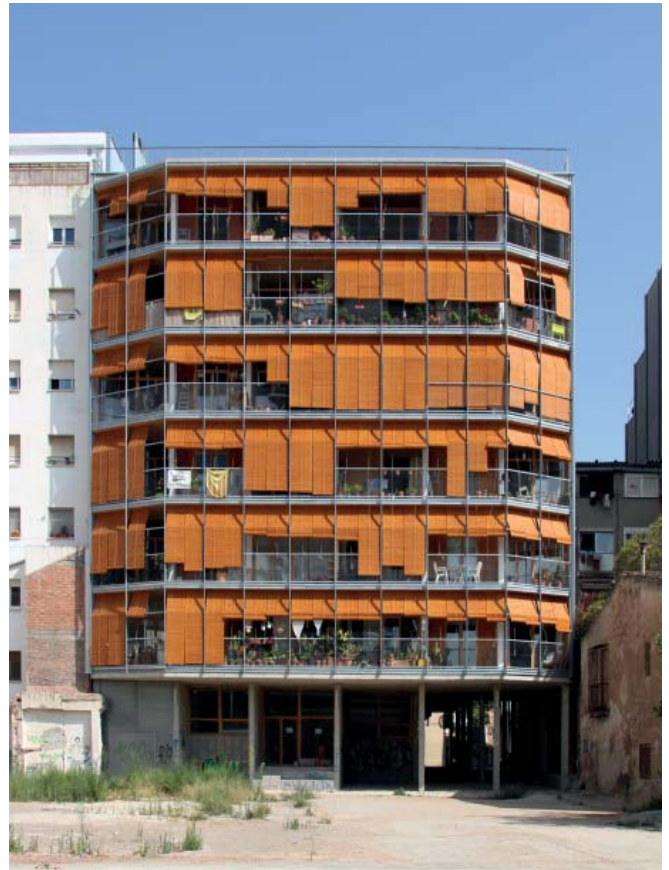
The building program proposes 28 units (40, 60 and 75m²) and community spaces that allow stretching the fact of living, from the private space to the public space to enhance the community life. These spaces are: kitchen-dining room, laundry, multipurpose space, space for guests, health and care space, storage in each plant, and exterior and semi-exterior spaces such as the patio and roofs. All of them articulated around a central courtyard, a large relationship space reminiscent of the "corralas", a typology of popular housing in central and southern parts of Spain.

(2) sustainability and environmental quality

The objective is to build with the lowest environmental impact possible, both in the construction work and during its life and, above all, achieve comfort in homes with minimum consumption, to reduce the overall costs of access to housing and eliminate the possibility of energy poverty among users. We started from the conviction that the best strategy is to reduce the initial demand of all the environmental vectors of the building (energy, water, materials and waste), especially at the energy level, where we prioritized passive strategies to achieve maximum use of existing resources.

(3) user participation

Self-promotion and subsequent collective management implies that the participation of future users in the process (design, construction and use) is the most important and differential variable of the project, generating an opportunity to meet and project with them and their specific needs .



LA COMUNAL ESPAI COOPERATIU

YEAR: 2018 CONSTRUCTION 2019-2020

CLIENT: La Comunal SCCL and Faceras SL

SURFACE: 1.400 m²

LOCATION: En Blanco 69-73, Barcelona

CONTRIBUTORS: Arkenova, Aurea, AE-T, Vinclament, Chroma

The Communal is located in a set of buildings of the early twentieth century for the manufacture of sails and textile for ships in the street of En Blanco, a few shops in the street of Tenor Massini and a detached house on the corner between En Blanco street and Riera d'Escuder. According to the oldest documentation we have found in the archive, the unification or construction of the complex dates back to 1926.

The construction is modest in materials and shapes. The four stores occupy a warehouse similar in size to the largest of En Blanco's three. The largest lights are 8 meters long with 5-knot wooden trusses and the walls are made of solid masonry. At the typological level, it has the peculiarity that the accesses of the three of En Blanco are located under the roof hoppers coinciding with dividing corridors between ships.

Over the years and uses, there have been several more and less informal extensions and constructions that we have demolished in order to recover the spaces, especially the exteriors, and return them to the city in the form of a semi-public space.

Today it is the workspace of 8 cooperatives, including ours.



COOPERATIVA D'HABITATGES LA BALMA

YEAR: 2017 -2021

CLIENT: La Balma, grup de Sostre Cívic SCCL

SURFACE: 2.000 m²

LOCATION: Carrer Espronceda 131-135, Barcelona

CONTRIBUTORS: Projecte de Lacol SCCL i La Boqueria SCCL.

Col·laboradors: Societat orgànica, PAuS, Arkenova

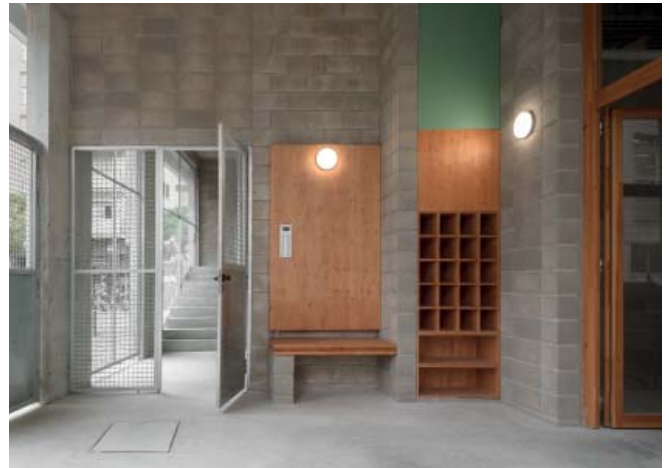
The main strategy is to reduce the demand on all consumption of the building by offering good climate and acoustic comfort despite the different conditions of each floor, for this reason the building responds with a changing section.

A program of community spaces is extracted from the initial participatory process. These are distributed in height on all floors of the building, taking on a different character depending on the use of each space. We wanted community spaces and circulations to enhance human relationships, spontaneous encounters, and cooperative activities throughout the building. On the ground floor we find the communal kitchen-dining room, space for bicycles / workshop open to the neighborhood, the lobby and two commercial premises facing the street Espronceda that will manage the cooperative. The program of small-format pieces is distributed to the rest of the floors, enhancing internal circulation (multipurpose room, reading space, guest rooms, care space and laundry). Finally, the roof, fully accessible, is understood as the outer space of the cooperative. A terrace of more than 300m² that the neighbors will be able to equip with productive orchards, space of shade and recreation. Circulations always accompany community spaces. They are open, ventilated and sunny spaces, wanting to dignify these spaces, often minimized, understanding them as spaces of socialization and rest.

The building has 20 units, one of which will be used as a bridge floor for families in the process of social reintegration. The houses are designed from a grid of 16m² open pieces coinciding with the laminated wood structure. These pieces allow very diverse divisions and distributions, allowing the user to decide on their spaces. Each house starts from a fully equipped 50m² base, corresponding to the small typologies (S). This basic unit is extended with one or two pieces, becoming typologies M or L. The piece that allows this extension are spaces managed by the cooperative. This management allows a real flexibility of the system, and the houses appropriate them individually or shared.

The building has 2 types of structure that optimize the functions of each material, cost, speed of construction and environmental impact. In contact with the land and the street, a reinforced concrete structure (minimum mineral material) is proposed. For the housing units and community spaces, a laminated wood structure is proposed, offering comfort, healthy spaces and having a very positive environmental impact on the whole building (organic and light material).

It is a lightweight building, where reusable and removable materials predominate, which allows to reduce the foundation and directly the materials of mineral origin used in the building.



COOPOLIS BCN. FASE 0.

YEAR: 2016 & 2019

CLIENT: Coopolis BCN

SURFACE: 740 m²

LOCATION: Barcelona

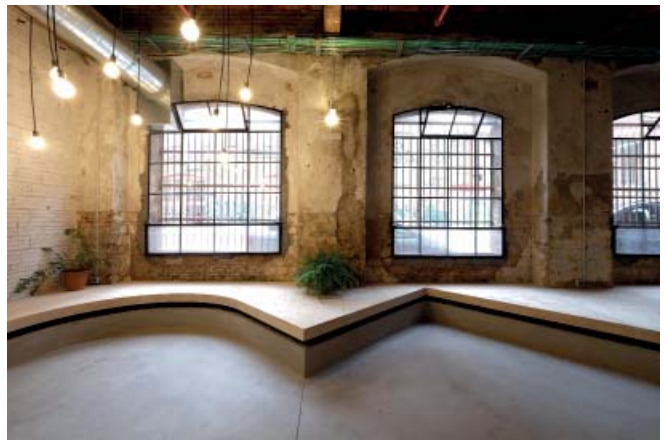
CONTRIBUTORS: Fusteria col·lectiva de Can Batlló

Coòpolis is a holistic facility to promote and boost the social and cooperative economy in Barcelona. It wants to be a space of reference for all those initiatives of the social, cooperative and community economy that require training, advice or support, establishing a new pole of economic promotion in the city. Phase 0 consists of carrying out a first intervention to enable a temporary space on the ground floor of block #8 of Can Batlló.

Block #8 is the central building of the old industrial area of Can Batlló, which dates from 1880. Coòpolis is located in two perimeter spaces formed by masonry walls, wooden trusses and tile roof, and a nave inside formed by an structure of pillars, iron beams and ceramic vaults. The main strategies of the project involve recognizing the pre-existence by trying to take back the most significant elements and introducing new construction carefully and respectfully. The recovery of existing elements and the attention to the particular morphology of the building bring identity to the space, in line with the industrial past of the site. Actions on most of the building's envelope are minimized, with only occasional repairs to existing roofs and carpentry, which minimizes the cost of refurbishment. The new elements, of dry construction in line with the provisionality of the project, are little invasive and of easy disassembly. However, a large space of almost 1,000 m² is achieved where semi-outdoor spaces and enclosed spaces coexist, making it easier for activities to take place in any of the spaces for several months of the year, leading to meetings and relationships between the different people participating in the project.

The project focuses on the construction of different wooden boxes and modules to accommodate the different activities of the equipment. The new spaces are the ones responsible for ensuring comfort. These design strategies and the choice of materials (wood and reused materials) make it possible to reduce the cost of the action and generate a lower environmental impact.

In order to facilitate the natural ventilation of the space, three solar chimneys have been incorporated that passively improve the circulation of the indoor air.



COOPERATIVA D'HABITATGES LA RAVAL

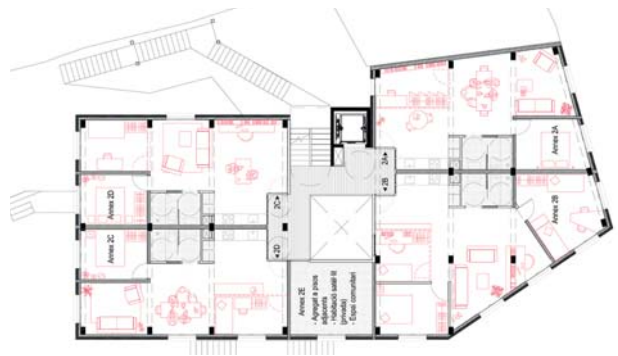
YEAR: 2018 - CONSTRUCTION EXPECTED TO BEGIN SPRING 2021

CLIENT: La Raval
SURFACE: 1.800 m²
LOCATION: Manresa (Barcelona)
CONTRIBUTORS: M7 Enginyers, AumedesDAP and Societat Orgànica

"The La Raval housing cooperative is a project that has as its principles community life and housing as a good of use and was born to make a project of urban intergenerational cooperative housing in cession of use a reality, in particular , in the old quarter of Manresa. It is made up of a heterogeneous group of people aged between 2 and 72 who want to live and coexist in the old quarter of Manresa, establishing alliances with local entities. La Raval is committed to a model of coexistence and a high degree of community, with private spaces and community spaces, a model of care, parenting and mutual support, a model of sustainable mobility, and a model of ethical financing. Neither yours nor mine: Ours. "

The main idea of the project is explained by the longitudinal section and its relationship with the environment through the staggering of the building, following the topography of the land and the location of the uses according to the various elevations. The program has been defined since its inception through the articulation of two main uses: community spaces and 18 homes. Collective work has been done to define and prioritize the needs of the cooperative project, as well as its relationship with the environment. Based on this previous work, the main community spaces are located on the lower floors, in contact with the street, to promote the permeability of the building to the environment. Thus, community spaces are understood as intermediate spaces between the public sphere (the street) and the private sphere (housing), spaces of transition between the outside and the interior. The section also shows the central courtyard, the backbone of the project, which crosses and vertically connects the entire building, connecting and allowing visual relationships between all the floors. The houses are articulated around this central courtyard. Circulation and access to homes and community spaces are through the courtyard. Depending on the diversity and needs of the group, different sizes of homes are proposed. There are 3 main typologies: small (S), which oscillates between 45 and 55 m²; medium (M), between 62 and 67 m² and large (L) of 72 m² and 85 m² of usable area. The cooperative building is designed with the idea that it can adapt to the vital changes of the people who occupy it, and to the needs of the individuals, which will change over time. It is proposed to be more flexible with respect to conventional collective housing projects, as it functions as a single unit and not as an aggregation of individual elements. To achieve this, the distribution of housing has some flexibility, so they can vary in total size by adding or segregating a room.

The main energy strategy is to reduce demand through passive systems and the element that allows us to achieve this is the courtyard: in winter the atrium will function as a greenhouse, capturing maximum solar radiation from the fifth floor and cover and transmitting it from top to bottom by means of a large fan which will move the air very slowly. The air in the houses will be renewed through the courtyard, which will be a few degrees above the outside air. In the summer, the patio will be opened and covered with a thermal blanket, preventing heat from entering and falling, and the venturi effect will generate movement of fresh air from the ground floor to the roof. At night, air movement will be enhanced through cross-ventilation of homes. On the other hand, in order to minimize energy losses, a compact and very well-insulated building has been designed, with materials that enhance thermal inertia. To prevent large earthworks, the parking area has been reduced, which promotes the reduction of car use and promotes the use of shared vehicles.



HABITATGES ESPAI ASSEQUIBLE

YEAR: 2019 - CONSTRUCTION EXPECTED TO BEGIN 2021

CLIENT: Espai Assequiblel

SURFACE: 1.800 m²

LOCATION: Cardedeu (Barcelona)

CONTRIBUTORS: Omplim, Societat Orgànica and Arrevolt

Espai Assequible is a non-profit cooperative, promoted by a group of people in the construction sector with the aim of encouraging the promotion of housing in ownership or rent, and adapted to the needs of its users: affordable, flexible and inclusive, while sustainable and socially responsible.

The project is located in the center of Cardedeu and will occupy a plot between medians that faces two streets (Balmes and Dolors Granés), this conditions the development that is divided into two buildings of 11 homes each that converge in the center of the plot. The project is conceived from the following main ideas:

Make community

In most residential buildings the transition from the most public (the street) to the most private (housing) is through stairs and corridors reduced to a minimum, putting all the value on the interior surface of the homes. In this case, it is the will of the project to strengthen the intermediate spaces, showing that between the street and the house there are the spaces where the community develops and that these must be designed with the same intensity as the interior of the houses. Access to each block is via a passageway that connects directly to the inner courtyard, where the community garden, a building for community services and centralized facilities are located. The houses are accessed via an open staircase with walkways opening to the street, forming a gallery that functions as a space for solar capture, acoustic cushion, meeting space between inhabitants, and that complements the interior surface of the flats as a terrace. .

Flexibility and inclusion

We start from the idea of designing homes that adapt to all ways of living together, and also respond to changes over time. It proposes a type of housing open to the needs of its inhabitants. All the houses are open-plan, facing the interior of the island and the street, and have a kitchen and a bathroom in the center. This means that the rest of the spaces (bedrooms, living room, dining room) face the two façades and are adaptable spaces, which can be joined or divided according to the needs of the users. The project includes a process to accompany the cohabitation units to decide the distribution of their housing.

Sustainability and energy efficiency

The aim of the project is to provide homes with the necessary comfort with the minimum environmental impact and therefore reduce the energy expenditure of the inhabitants. The site offers homes a very good solar gain that is enhanced in some cases from collection galleries that also preheat the air used to renew the air in the floors. This design minimizes heating demand to almost zero. In summer, the flats enjoy good cross-ventilation, which, complemented by good sun protection and ceiling fans, achieve climate comfort with very little energy expenditure. Hot water generation facilities are centralized in ways that provide a better-performing and more optimized infrastructure. The project also includes the installation of photovoltaic panels that reduce the electricity consumption of both community spaces and homes.

