

PERIS+TORAL ARQUITECTES DESIGN 54 SOCIAL DWELLINGS IN THE BON PASTOR NEIGHBOURHOOD (BARCELONA)

Peris+Toral Arquitectes have designed a five-storey building with 54 social dwellings in the Barcelona neighbourhood of Bon Pastor to house the occupants of the Casas Baratas (“cheap houses”), built in 1929 on an estate in the district. The project was shortlisted for the FAD Award for Architecture 2022 and received a special mention in the HISPALYT Architecture Awards 2022



To preserve the lifestyle of this neighbourhood, where life traditionally spilled into the street, Barcelona-based practice Peris+Toral Arquitectes decided to create a building that was as permeable as possible. To achieve this, a series of intermediate areas are incorporated between the public space and the dwellings: at ground floor level, entrance is via communal courtyards that lead into the foyers; the lattice facing of the stairs externalizes the building's vertical communication; and, on the first floor, spacious terraces of 12 m² and almost three metres deep are designed as outdoor rooms overlooking the new park that borders the riverfront.

Inside the dwelling, the position of the bathroom at the centre of the floor plan creates circulation around it that make the apartment seem bigger, as they are infinite circuits. The use of exposed brickwork, a material specified by planning, is an opportunity to introduce lattices that give the building's base a porous texture and naturally ventilate the car park and stairs. Finally, the metal balcony system offers a structure that can incorporate metal mesh as a support for plants to provide sun shading, as well as blinds and awnings.

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About PERIS+TORAL ARQUITECTES

From their Barcelona base, Peris+Torral Arquitectes enhance their practice with ongoing research in the fields of collective public housing and urban space, with a line of thinking that places the individual at the centre of action and makes the architect a social agent.

Marta Peris and José Toral propose settings into which the user then steps to live, and aspire to rethink program standards to respond to the ways of living that society needs at any given moment. Marta, Doctor of Architectural Design (UPC, with honours), has been associate lecturer in Projects at the ETSAB UPC since 2002 in the Housing and City studio, and José Toral has been associate lecturer in Projects at the ETSAB-UPC in the Public Space and Urban Project studio since 2016.

The creative activity of Peris+Torral Arquitectes has been consolidated by winning numerous Spanish public competitions for residential and public space projects. The quality and rigour of the practice's built work are endorsed by international awards such as the Honor Award Wood Design & Building Award 2022, the Matilde Baffa Ugo Rivolta European Architecture Award 2021, the Best Architects 22 Gold Award (Residential multi-family category), the Architecture MasterPrize 2021 (Multi-unit residential architecture category), the Plan Award 2021 (Social housing category), the BLT Built Design Award (Social housing category) and the Baunit Life Challenge Award, culminating in 2022 as finalists in the EU Mies Award with the project for 85 social housing units in Cornellà. The practice has also received national awards, including the Spanish Architecture Award CSCAE 2021, the Spanish Architecture and Urban Design Biennale Award BEAU 2021, the FAD Opinion Prize 2021, the MAPEI Prize (Sustainable architecture category), the NAN Award 2021 (Residential building), the A+ by Daikin Prize (Multi-family residential architecture), the Emporia Prize 2017 (Ephemeral architecture), the ATEG Prize 2016 (Galvanized architecture) and the Catalunya Construcció Award 2021 for innovation in construction. They were also recognised in the Venice Architecture Biennale in 2000, when Marta Peris participated in the Spanish Pavilion curated by Alberto Campo Baeza, which won the Special Award for the Best National Participation and, in 2016, when the practice participated in Unfinished, the exhibition that won the Spanish Pavilion the Biennale's Golden Lion.



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