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BARCELONA (ES)

EL BESÒS I EL MARESME. URBAN REGENERATION.

Scale
**XL/
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Team representative: Architect and/or Urban Planner
Location: Barcelona/ Sant Martí district / el Besòs i el Maresme neighborhood.

Population: 1,636,732 / 241,263 / 22,609 inhabitants.

Reflexion site: 195 ha.

Project site: 34 ha.

Site proposed by: Barcelona City Council – Urban Ecology Area.

Agents involved: Barcelona City Council – Urban Ecology Area.

Owner(s) of the site: Public - Private

Commission after competition: Development of urban planning and/or pilot project of public space and the relationship with the ground floors and facades of the buildings. The Urban Planning Department of the Barcelona City Council will be monitored.



INHABITED MILIEU'S CHALLENGES

The scope of the project corresponds to a sector of the Besòs and Maresme neighborhood, in the Sant Martí district of Barcelona. It includes part of the housing estate in the south-west of Besòs and Maresme and is surrounded by the 22@ - Poblenou technological transformation zone, the Gran Vía de las Corts Catalanas, the Forum and La Mina neighborhood, which belongs to the municipality of Sant Adrià de Besòs.

The land where it is located arises from some old marshes around the Besòs river that dried up from the 17th century and from the contributions of land made before and during the construction of the neighborhood. A good part of the buildings were built between the 50s and 60s of the 20th century, with poor quality materials, poor foundations and accessibility problems. The houses were initially social housing. Social and economic complexity has made rehabilitation and maintenance processes difficult. To this day, an important effort of urban regeneration is required.

In Besòs and Maresme, urban vulnerability is especially evident in housing, accentuated by the scarcity of public facilities and commercial premises on the ground floor for commerce and local uses. The public space is in poor condition and paved spaces predominate, with parking lots, few shaded spaces, and a lack of water and vegetation. In a climate emergency context, it is necessary to adapt homes, but also to transform public space. Proximity spaces are an essential piece for socialization in a dense neighborhood with great social vulnerability.

In a climate emergency situation, what renaturalization, social and economic measures can contribute to urban regeneration?

How should a mixed and sustainable city be planned in a monofunctional housing estate?



QUESTIONS TO THE COMPETITORS:

The scope of the project area incorporates part of the social housing area that functions as a border space between the 22@ Innovation District and the La Mina neighborhood and the Besòs river.

The objective is to regenerate urban space, focusing on the transformation of public space and the improvement of housing with new materials, new technologies and new designs.

The proposals submitted must establish a global, unitary and multidisciplinary action strategy of actions aimed at achieving coherent and comprehensive solutions. These should focus mainly on the transformation of free spaces, but also on the improvement of homes and built spaces, emphasizing the use of spaces on the ground floor and the improvement of the envelopes and facades of the buildings for a better climate response.

The proposals must be aimed at improving deteriorated public spaces, whether in disuse or pending transformation, and at recovering the natural, ecological and scenic qualities of this former area of marshes. Public space must be reorganized in such a way as to improve connectivity with the surrounding neighborhoods, as well as rearrange parking areas and promote social relations and close daily life.

At EUROPLAN 17, Barcelona raises the question of the regenerative capacity of deteriorated living and inhabited environments. The proposals for the regeneration of this area of Besòs and Maresme must oscillate between social and environmental aspects. In the field of study, it is necessary and urgent to reflect on how public space is naturalized and residential buildings are adapted, overcoming the dichotomy between nature and culture and anthropocentrism in response to the climate emergency. That is why we think that the proposed theme will allow innovative proposals with the aim of improving urban conditions for this type of environment.

