



Life as a metabolic process

Life is -in a scientific approach- a metabolic process, and as such it has a circular structure. Organisms live and die, but the relationships between them are cyclical. Life, as a self-sustaining process, requires a balance between the exchanges that make it possible.

Economics imbalance environment

The dynamics that guide the economic model of our societies not only omit the metabolic relations of the ecosystems and the territories that support them, but often directly threaten them. The territory is only conceived in a productive way, fostering its deprecation through intensive agriculture, the extraction of natural resources, the proliferation of infrastructures, urban pressure or that of mass tourism.

La Vénda de Ca N'Escandell

La Vénda de Ca N'Escandell aims to reverse the dynamics of the environmental imbalance of the territory, proposing a way of living that is coherent with the metabolic logics and cyclical relationships of the territory and the ecosystems that nourish it.

A productive public space

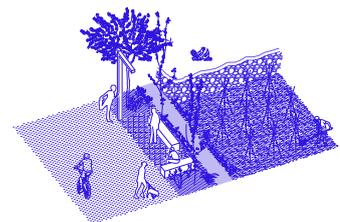
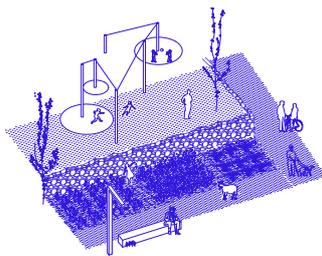
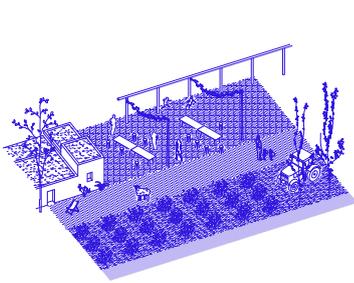
The project recognizes and preserves the current configuration of the place, organized by a succession of stone walls that are placed by agricultural logics. This landscape is a valuable testimony of the ancestral, balanced and sustainable relationship of the inhabitants of the island with the territory. This layout creates a terraced orography, perfect for a rational use of water, through the collection of its runoff, its canalization and depuration with biological support. The layout of these preserved walls and the rational use of water make it possible to place here small orchards, which can produce a family supply that contributes to the food sovereignty of the neighbours, becoming a model for a productive public space.

An activated public space

A central axis organizes the connection between the natural areas and the city center, acting as the backbone of the entire complex. This main pedestrian route is complemented by transversal paths, referred to pre-existing trails in the place, which are conditioned to enable dynamic activities -running, walking, playing, cycling- safely and pleasantly. These routes are illuminated and naturalized by planting autochthonous species in order to guarantee their acclimatization and minimum maintenance, while maintaining a coherent dialogue with the existing vegetation.

A meeting public space

Complementing the trails that structure the area, a space for a more static use is proposed in relation to Can Tomeu, recognizing and enhancing the value of this building. A large central space is proposed enabling exchange and meeting between citizens in order to strengthen the community. Here can take place a local food market, neighbourhood meetings or the celebration of large meals, festivals and popular dances.



Vénda

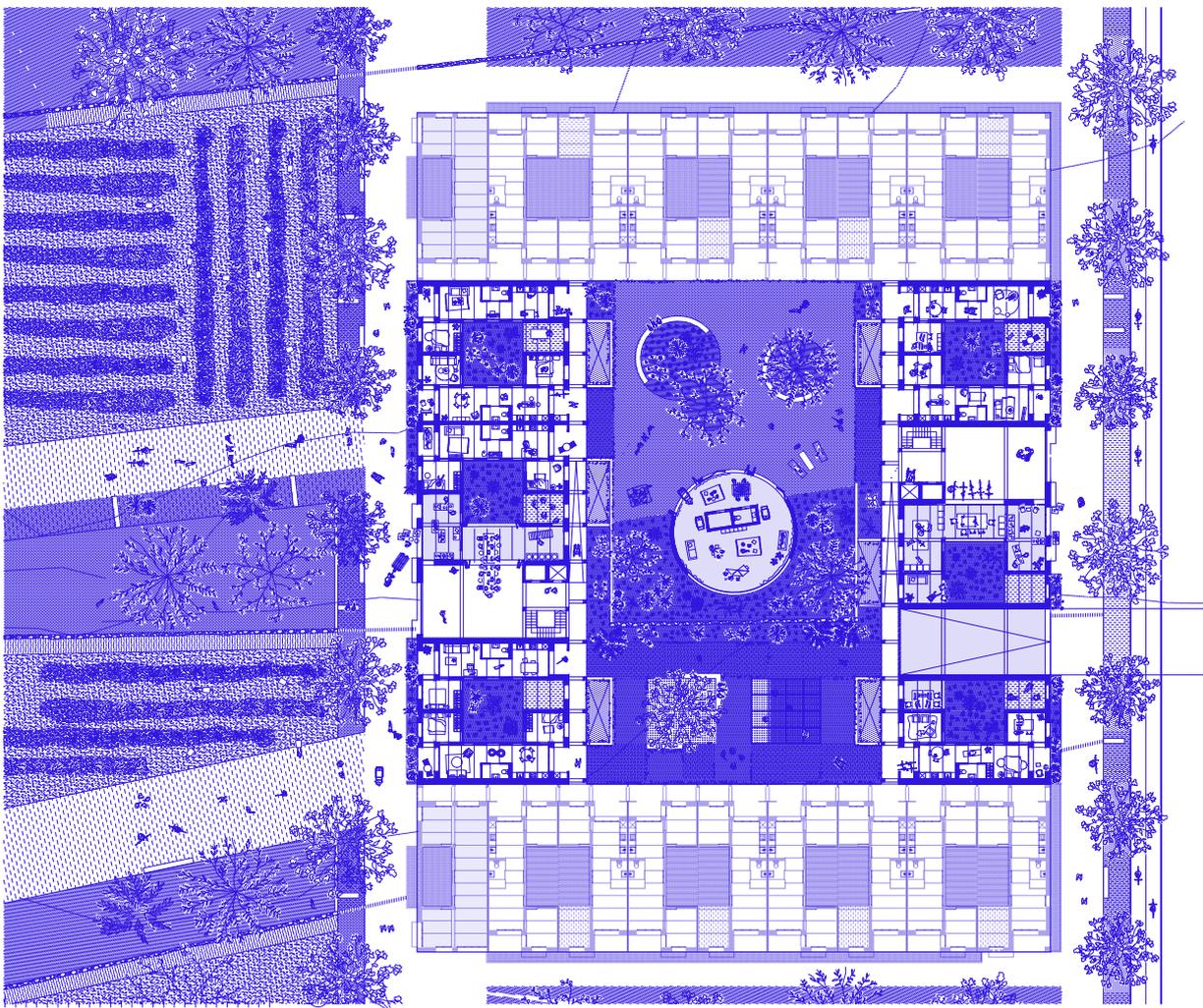
The vénda is the ancestral minimum unit of the territorial organization of Ibiza. Historically, the island had a very scattered population, without large towns with the exception of Vila. The population of the island has always been distributed throughout the territory in rural houses –cases de pagès-. A close group of these houses, organized to carry out community tasks –agricultural, surveillance or construction works– and festive events, formed a vénda. Over time, this term acquires a high territorial significance and is the physical foundations of the sense of belonging to a community.

The ground floor.

The configuration of the ground floor is therefore of capital importance. The building, in compliance with the urban planning, is placed around a large and complex central space. It recognizes the topography and the existing stone walls; its environmental quality is sought through the introduction of autochthonous vegetation. It is expected to be a living space, providing a central one stored building that can host a great variability of uses for the community: neighbourhood meetings, cultural events or educational programs.

Priority arrangements

The building, then, is organized as a cloister around this central space, although in a first phase there will only be constructed the sides arranged in a northwest-southeast direction, since the alignments with Albarca street and the large open space between the building and Can Tomeu are considered a priority to fulfil.



Spatial autonomy

To achieve the main goals of the proposal –environmental comfort and flexibility of uses-, it is crucial to take into account the number of homes that must be planned, the formal and dimensional characteristics of the site, as well as the determining factors of the urban regulations –which establishes a buildable depth of 16.00 m-. An essential decision of the proposal is the placement of a wide atrium –6.00 x 5.60 m- around which two housing units are organized. Each of them has balanced rooms in size and proportion – all of them have more than 10 m² – thus promoting the non-hierarchical arrangement of these spaces and their spatial autonomy.

Variety of housing typologies

In the configuration that is proposed as generic, the standard floor dwellings have two independent rooms with a surface area of more than 10 m² and therefore would have the capacity to accommodate 4 occupants, as established in the current legislation. On the attic floor -which its façade plane is 4 m behind the standard floor alignment- the housing units have one of these independent spaces of more than 10 m². On the ground floor, housing units with one or two of these independent spaces are indistinctly combined, in line with the mix of typologies and uses that is promoted. Thus, a great variety of housing typologies is offered due to a very clear structural, environmental and spatial operating scheme which allows a great flexibility not only of the housing units, but of the building as a whole.

Passive strategy to meet climatic comfort goals

The building incorporates singular passive solutions complemented with nearly zero energy consumption strategies to meet the climatic comfort and energetic consumption goals. The main passive strategy, again, is the atrium. Its presence is essential not only for the spatial organization of the dwellings, but also as the main climate control strategy. The atrium moderates the thermal and hygrometric conditions of the building, maintaining ideal climatic conditions -similar to those of a spring day- throughout the year.

