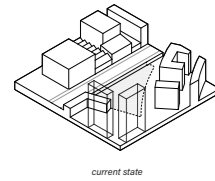
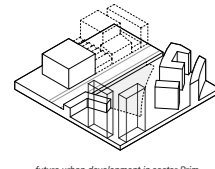


URBAN STRATEGY

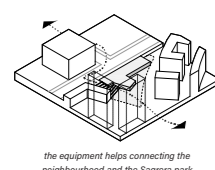
Taking advantage of the difference in level between carrer de Santander and passatge de la Ferradura, it was decided to bury the equipment, freeing up space on the ground floor for a new square that also fits the fragmented urban fabric in the south-east. Space is given to the existing Casal del Barri and its side and rear façades are revalued with a pedestrian space that connects the Sagrera park with plaça de la Palmera, the main free space in the Verneda neighbourhood.



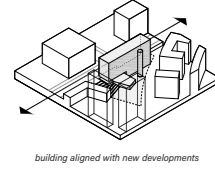
current state



future urban development in sector Prim

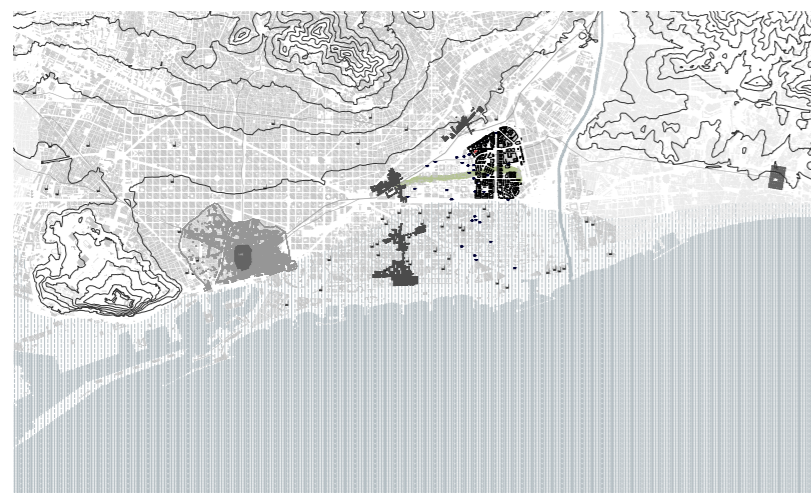


the equipment being buried connecting the neighbourhood and the Sagrera park



building aligned with new developments

The dwellings are developed on ground floor +1, aligned with carrer de Santander and the future urban planning in Prim's area, helping to consolidate a new road axis that connects the Salvador Seguí high school and Rambla de Prim.



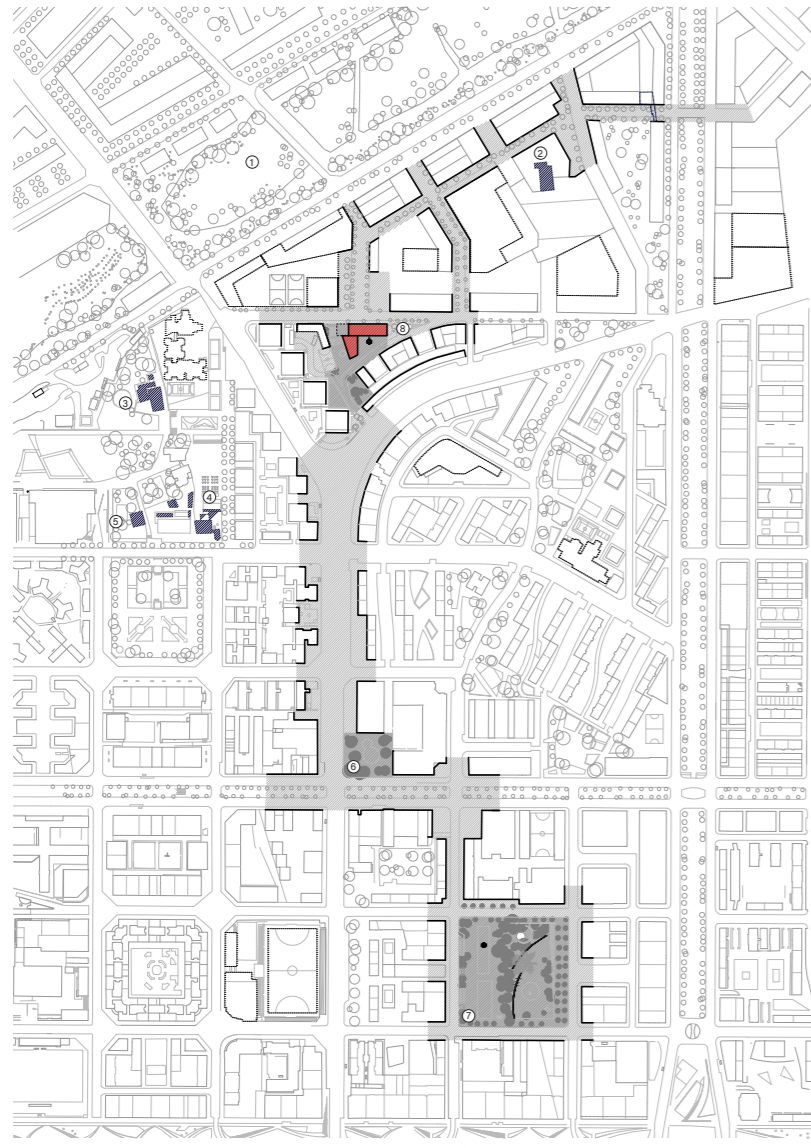
- Barcino and Baetulo (ca. 260)
- Barcelona (ca. 1600)
- urban developments in Sant Martí de Provençals (1882)
- canal (path) de la Verneda (1935)
- moat (windmill) de la Verneda (1935)
- masies (1897)
- current industrial chimneys
- MPGM sector de Prim
- European 18 site

Komorebi is a Japanese word that refers to the sunlight that filters through the leaves of trees. It describes the interplay of light and shadow created by the sun shining through the branches and foliage, often resulting in beautiful patterns of light on the ground.

The Verneda neighbourhood takes its name from the alder trees (alnus glutinosa) that used to grow on the banks of the river Besòs. A name that bears witness to a not-too-distant past when the green of the area had not yet been covered by the dense urban fabric of today. La Verneda and La Pau is a neighbourhood that has condensed the last few hundred years of history into decades, making the current fabric, as well as the identity of the area, one of the most unique in the Barcelona area.

A neighbourhood closely linked to its neighbour Sant Martí de Provençals, generating an urban and social continuum, strongly influenced by its industrial past even before the industrial revolution. Where we now see blocks of apartments typical of a dormitory town, in the past it was populated by farmhouses that exploited the surrounding agricultural land. The change, although sudden, built on what already existed: the large agricultural extensions were replaced by the first textile factories and the prats of indians. These were dedicated to working the cotton arrived from India and settled in the area taking advantage of the existing large agricultural extensions to dry the fabric before they were printed.

This proto-industry of the late 18th century quickly evolved into the more typical industry of the middle of the last century, which, together with the poverty caused in some areas of Spain by the Spanish Civil War, rapidly increased the population of the area. This led to the rapid construction of new buildings to accommodate the workers, leaving aside the public services and facilities of a healthy urban fabric. The strong social cohesion of the inhabitants and their struggle over the years have ensured that the neighbourhood now has most of the minimum public services needed to turn the former dormitory town into a flourishing neighbourhood, which is currently in the news due to the construction of the future La Sagrera high-speed train station and park.



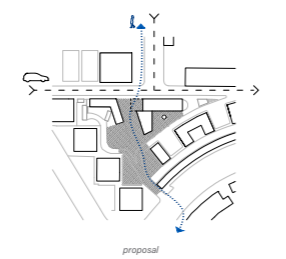
- 1 parc de la Sagrera
- 2 can Riera
- 3 can Planes
- 4 can Cadena
- 5 ca l'Arnó
- 6 plaça de l'Àliga
- 7 plaça de la Palmera
- 8 European 18 site

GRADIENT OF PUBLIC SPACES

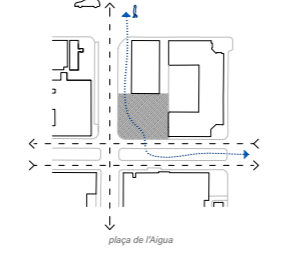
The largest square is plaça de la Palmera, the heart of the neighbourhood and singular for the elements that in it: an old chimney, a gazebo and a sculpture by Richard Serra. Further north, the plaça de l'Àliga is smaller in size and has a different configuration as it is positioned as an extension of carrer de Cantabrià, giving it a connotation of a passageway.



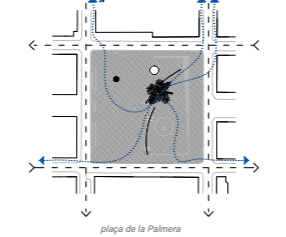
plaça de la Palmera (1984)



proposal



plaça de l'Àliga



plaça de la Palmera

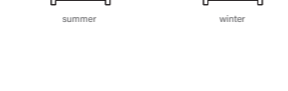
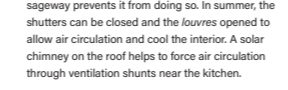
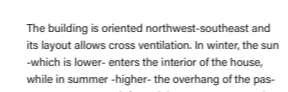
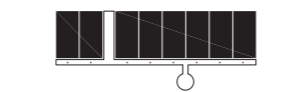
The proposal aims for the creation of a passageway and a small square that will become part of this universe of voids, allowing pedestrians to walk from square to square, following multiple scales of passages and crossings.

CONCEPT

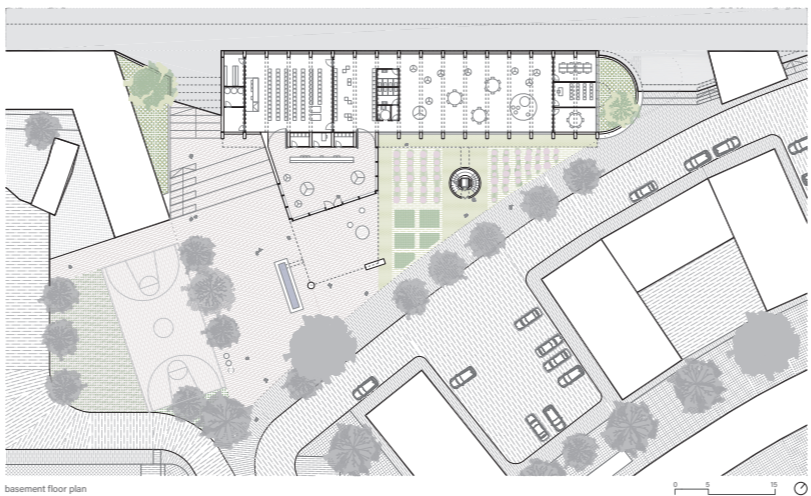
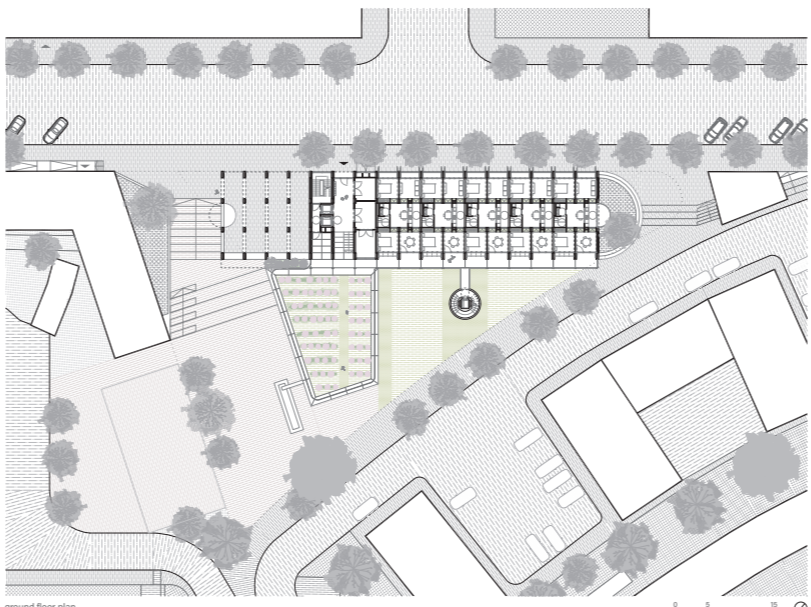
A new facility for the neighbourhood is located on the basement floor. It is proposed to be complementary to the Casal del Barri de la Verneda, since it is explained that this space is becoming too small for the demand of the neighbourhood.

The 61 apartments are partially distributed on ground floor and the upper seven levels. On the roof of the block there are allotments for the inhabitants of the block, which complement the ones on the ground floor linked to the civic centre.

The housing block has an interior circulation core, accessed through carrer de Santander, and a free-standing tower, placed in the middle of the public space in relation to passatge de la Ferradura as an element that recalls the old demolished chimneys of the neighbourhood's industry.



summer winter



HUMAN BEEHIVES, MASIES AND CHIMNEYS

The Verneda neighbourhood is characterized by being densely populated. Huge apartment blocks, understood as human beehives, were built during the 1960s to house all the workers in the area. This defines an urban landscape that is slightly different from the rest of Barcelona.



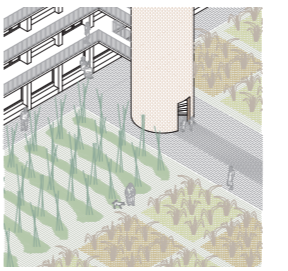
* residential group Pare IV, Carles Buñadé and Joan Margarit (photo by Borja Bolló) ** Andrade Tower, Martínez Lapuerta Torres arquitectos

In the shadows of the residential towers there are still old masies -catalan country houses - that in the 19th century exploited the surrounding agricultural land. Now converted into day centres, some of them have urban allotments that serve the neighbourhood's residents, such as Can Cadena, located in Sant Martí de Provençals.



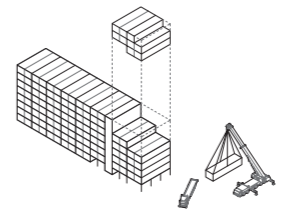
urban allotments in Can Cadena

The industry that appeared after the agricultural period helped to define the skyline and identity of the neighbourhood. The chimneys of many of these factories, which have now disappeared, appear in the urban fabric of the Verneda and its neighbours and give singularity to the open spaces.

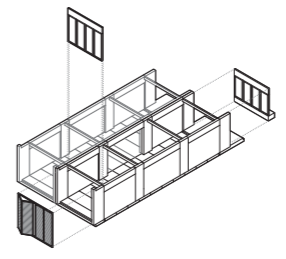


MODULARITY

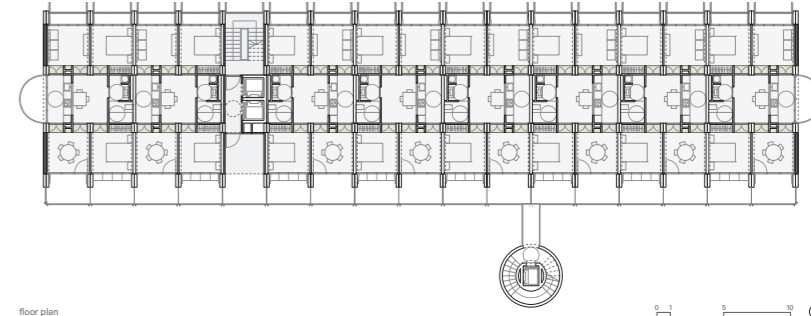
The modularity of the proposal is solved using elements of 3.3 x 14.5 m that together with the rationality of the structure allow the maximum optimisation of space. The use of concrete as a structural element reduces costs and provides structural rigidity to an element that must be transported one by one to the construction site. The thermal bridge is cut by separating the balcony slabs from the interior structure. The work carried out beforehand in the workshop on each of the modules allows for a quick and precise execution, minimising the impact of the works on the site and aiming for record time in terms of the construction of the building.



Supported on pillars and prefabricated beams placed on site, each of the dwellings is made up of two of its modules with a shared central space. The enclosures and cladding are entirely dry, ranging from plasterboard partitions to light wooden cladding for the external facades. Storey solutions are avoided for flooring, always opting for light flooring solutions with resistant finishes.



In fact, a catalogue of exterior and interior partitioning solutions could be published and given to the future inhabitants so they could personalise the apartment before even being built!



floor plan

The housing units have been designed according to the principle of modular construction. The repetition of this common module -each apartment has two- allows for its previous construction in a workshop, along with all the benefits that this entails in terms of quality control and details, but provides a certain flexibility for the inhabitant and achieves a rich distribution that underlines the importance of the heart of the dwelling as the gravitational centre of the daily activities of the house.

The aim is for two-bedroom apartments of approximately 60 m² that seek flexibility of use and spatial quality. Flexibility of use is introduced in the proposal by proposing four equal spaces of about 11 m² connected to a central space. From the latter, all the others can be accessed, generating rich visual connections to the adjoining spaces and to the exterior.

The interstices between these spaces are worked in order to bring quality and uniqueness to the house. Thus, deep passages with double doors frame the rooms and help configuring the spaces for installations and storage. An elongated window links the kitchen -which is partially closed- with the heart of the house.

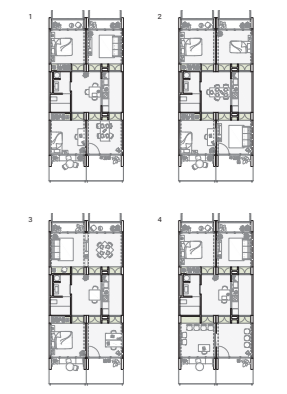
The facades have also been treated as transitional interstices between inside and outside. The elongated concrete pillars allow the placement of balconies duly protected from solar incidence towards carrer de Santander and neighbourhood relationship areas on the inner facade of the block: benches and planters allow the inhabitant to extend the interior use towards the walkway that connects the neighbouring apartments.



FLEXIBILITY

The interior of the apartments is made up of four practically equal spaces that open directly onto the exterior, with direct light and ventilation. They all relate to each other through the space situated in the central bay where the service spaces are located, such as the bathroom and kitchen, and an ambiguous room that can be used as a distributor, an improvised dining room or a games area.

The other four rooms are adapted to the needs of each inhabitant. Although the brief was to design apartments with two double bedrooms, thanks to the solution proposed, other layouts are possible without affecting the rest of the everyday spaces such as the dining and living rooms. Thus, the flexibility of use of the rest of the spaces can absorb the changes that occur throughout the life of its inhabitants.



- 1) the main solution: two double rooms that can accommodate a family with children
- 2) one more bedroom: grandma is coming to spend Christmas with us and needs a place to sleep!
- 3) a double bedroom, my partner and I removed a partition wall to make the daytime space more spacious and we set up a small architectural studio in the entrance so we can work on competitions such as European 18.
- 4) one bedroom: living alone, I can use the space on the walkway as a working room and classroom, when I give courses, workshops and English lessons to my neighbours if necessary!

MEMBRANE

The façade is treated with industrialised and systematised elements that are common in Barcelona. On carrer de Santander, facing northwest, adjustable shutters have been installed to provide privacy to the interior. The depth of the balconies -embedded within the structural pillars- provides a buffer zone between the street and the apartment. The adjustable louvers of the shutters allow air to circulate even when they are closed, providing both ventilation and protection from the summer sun in the afternoon.

The façade facing the inner square is much friendlier and where the life of the block takes place. A generous walkway connects all the apartments. Deep pillars appear again, generating a rhythm and allowing different uses and distributions between them: from benches to sit on, planters that provide privacy for those who want it, to spaces where to leave the street shoes, the bicycle or hang the clothes on the clothesline.



Inhabited interior in the Weesperport by Herman Herzberger



Charles Jordan advertising campaign by Guy Bourdin (1976)



floor plan

section