

ARCHAEOLOGY OF A COMMUNITY: A SPATIAL NARRATIVE
A voyage through time, where local heritage and nature come together to tell the story of how a local-resource-based economy shaped the community of Es Sindicat.

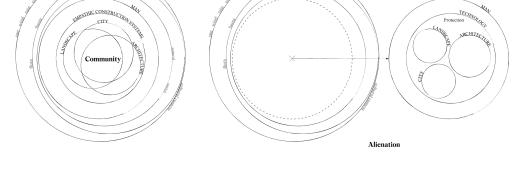
The long-term relationship between people and nature in Felanitx began between the 14th and 16th centuries, when the local climate and resources provided ideal conditions for vineyard cultivation. These were years of prosperity that shaped not only the town's economy but also its identity: a community deeply connected to the land, living and working in rhythm with nature.

The map reflects the complexity of this relationship, illustrating the development and interconnection of local resource-based industries such as excavation, agriculture, and wine production. These industries were not simply a "wine cathedral," but in the heart of a broader system that influenced and was influenced by the urban and social ecosystem. Es Sindicat is, above all, the story of a community. Before it is a story of production or design.

Since its closure, the role of Es Sindicat as a unifying force has faded. Felanitx's economy has shifted, now driven largely by tourism, and for nearly 200 years the building has been largely abandoned. A loss of forest is reflected in rising land prices and in a real estate market where nature is increasingly seen as a threat rather than a partner. What is needed now is reconstruction: spaces where people can meet, share daily life, and return to the context.

Meanwhile, XXI century's society faces a deeper crisis: the growing alienation of people from both nature and one another. Individualism and technology have often replaced communal and ecological bonds. A loss of forest is reflected in rising land prices and in a real estate market where nature is increasingly seen as a threat rather than a partner. What is needed now is reconstruction: spaces where people can meet, share daily life, and return to the context.

With each other and the natural world, Es Sindicat's community story offers a powerful foundation for this. By recovering and transforming its history, discovering and honoring its original structure, and opening itself to cultural and social reinterpretation, it can serve as a bridge between past and future—connecting those who arrive with those who remain.



PRESENT
Transformation
Inspiration
Discovery

PAST
Memory
Tradition
Heritage

FUTURE
Evolution

MATTER, SPACE AND STRUCTURE FOR SOCIAL ECOSYSTEM
memory as design tool, between past and future

1- THE RAMAL RAILWAY

The forgotten traces of the former railway have now been brought to light to connect again the Estación Endolítica with the industrial wine Cathedral, followed by the old wagon path.

2- OLD WAGON PATH

As the building evolved, many ancient paths and passages were either lost or significantly altered.

This particular passage used to connect Felanitx to Sa Mola and then Sa Mola back to Felanitx, with wide open views on both the city and the landscape. It was a direct connection to the Ramal train station.

3- SA MOLA TERRACE TRAIL

The cathedral's upper terrace establishes a direct link to the stepped agricultural landscape of Sa Mola, integrating architecture and terrain.

4- MUSEOGRAPHIC ITINERARY

An architectural continuation of the Sa Mola terrace trail, this path serves as a bridge between the landscape and the town, reconnecting Sa Mola with Felanitx.

5- THE "GARDEN PENNELL"

Formed by a succession of once-cultivated terraces, these structures are defined by dry stone walls that rhythmically trace the land's contours, shaping the topography and framing views toward Felanitx. The project proposes to give them a second life through the planting of aromatic Mediterranean species, transforming them into canals of public gardens of scent and flavor.

6- THE PRODUCTIVE COURTYARD

The former square has always been part of the site, but over time—and with the construction of the main road—it was gradually buried and forgotten. The project now aims to unearth this vital space of connection and transform it into a shared, productive public garden, drawing the agricultural terraces into the urban core. The geometry of the main square extends across the road, physically reconnecting the old wine cathedral into the fabric of the city center.

7- THE REINFORCED EXISTING WOODLAND

plays a key role as an ecological corridor between Felanitx and Sa Mola. Over time, both plant and animal corridors have become firmly established, turning this area into a valuable ecosystem that must be preserved.

EMPATHY WITH NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS

Local resources and second life as preventing tool

The key strategies for relearning coexistence with the environment draw from a long-standing tradition, when both construction and agriculture relied on local resources. Revisiting these practices—local sourcing, recycling, and reusing—offers a path toward reducing CO₂ emissions. All necessary materials can be sourced locally: from the earth, from the clay, sand, marble, stone, and wood from Pinus halepensis forests.

The restoration of Es Sindicat embraces this approach. Materials for its renewal are sourced from demolition waste, transforming discarded fragments into valuable resources and reinforcing a circular model of sustainable development. On a symbolic level, the use of Felanitx is also being revived. Original machines and components once used in wine production are proposed to be carefully restored and reimagined for a new function: harvesting and managing water.

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Space for reuse.

Concrete foundations are reused for the realization of structural elements, such as building walls, community bar and residence roof reinforcement and dividing walls for the residences. Materials are of local (L) or in-site (N) origin.

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Concrete: 444 m³
Metal: 144 m³
Construction/reconstruction
Red clay roof: 1,082 m² (L)
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1st floor
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At the same time, its spatial organization is intentionally open and adaptable, encouraging free and intuitive engagement with the space, and cultivating a sense of openness and belonging, creating the platform for relearning coexistence with the other.

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The restaurant service (inviting people to share meals together), featuring local products—some of which are grown directly in the educational garden.

ROOF INTERVENTION
The structure is reinforced through a series of arched wall that echo the shape of the town's ciutats.

The walls are constructed using recycled concrete sourced from demolition materials. New openings have been introduced to enhance natural ventilation and daylight access.

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The heating heart of the wine cathedral.

The path continues along the main southern facade of the cathedral, above the ciutats productive garden, connecting the Ramal path and eventually reaching the Estación Endolítica.

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The cathedral's old machines for harvesting water, through water production, as a cultural device that is becoming increasingly scarce.

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A network of wooden bridges, where people can meet, share daily life, and return to the context.

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ES SINDICAT'S COMMUNITY MIND MAP

Es Sindicat: a historic example of community health architecture that embodied the integration of social and natural ecosystems. Today, as a cultural center, Es Sindicat fosters belonging, memory and sustainability—inviting people to rediscover community values, and themselves.

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