

ANCORAR. Un espai per a quasi tot

Resilient Architecture and Urbanism

We are currently immersed in a global-scale climate crisis, whose consequences are becoming increasingly evident: rising temperatures, decreasing rainfall, growing risk of drought, loss of biodiversity, among others.

This situation compels us to rethink the spaces we inhabit, transforming them into resilient architectures – adapted and capable of confronting this new reality and the present and future challenges it entails.

This rethinking calls for solutions that, far from requiring large infrastructures or complex technologies, rely on passive strategies inspired by vernacular wisdom and the intelligent use of available resources within the immediate surroundings or the buildings themselves.

Passive Strategies: The Four Elements – Water, Fire, Air, and Earth

WATER

The Sindicat project is located in Mallorca, a Mediterranean island particularly vulnerable to water stress and reduced rainfall. In this context, the proposal includes the collection and storage of rainwater using tanks already present in the building. This system is made visible in certain areas and is incorporated as part of the design.

The collected water is reused for permitted purposes and for irrigating green spaces. The surplus flows through the building (via existing channels) and reaches the public space, contributing to the creation of microclimates and helping to mitigate the urban heat island effect in the streets of Felanitx impacted by the project.

AIR

Climate change projects a warmer future for Felanitx, comparable to traditionally arid regions where passive systems such as the *Malqaf* have long thrived – an ancient strategy that channels outside air into buildings through carefully placed openings. In hot, dry climates, these devices enhance thermal comfort without mechanical means.

The innovation in this proposal lies in the integration of rainwater into the passive cooling system. As air passes over moist surfaces or areas near water tanks, it cools through evaporation – a physical process that absorbs heat from the environment. This technique, known as evaporative cooling, lowers air temperature before it enters the interior, sustainably improving thermal comfort.

The proposal takes into account the *Embat* (with an opening on the west façade), a prevailing sea breeze during spring and summer that moves inland. This supports airflow during the most challenging months.

FIRE

At the same time, the building's energy consumption is minimized. The use of passive

strategies means mechanical cooling is hardly necessary. Only the strictly essential areas are enclosed and heated. Electricity and lighting demand is met via photovoltaic panels installed on the roof of a deteriorated area – the old pressing room.

This new system not only generates energy but is architecturally integrated as a movable roof that can open or close depending on weather conditions.

In winter, this space functions as a greenhouse, offering a pleasant temperature and lighting for people, plants, and other living beings. In summer, the roof opens to allow natural ventilation, creating a fresh, healthy atmosphere. The diffused light entering through this structure adds significant architectural and spatial richness.

EARTH

Materiality

The selected materials for the planned interventions are primarily chosen for their availability on the island, in order to avoid the financial and ecological costs of transport from the mainland. Natural-origin materials and those from recycling and reuse processes are prioritized.

Among them, ceramic materials produced at *Ladrilleras Mallorquinas*, located near the site, stand out – such as bricks and brick rubble that can be reused in the project itself. Sustainable-sourced wood is also used, selected for its low environmental impact and compatibility with circular economy principles. Some metallic and textile elements are included for specific construction details.

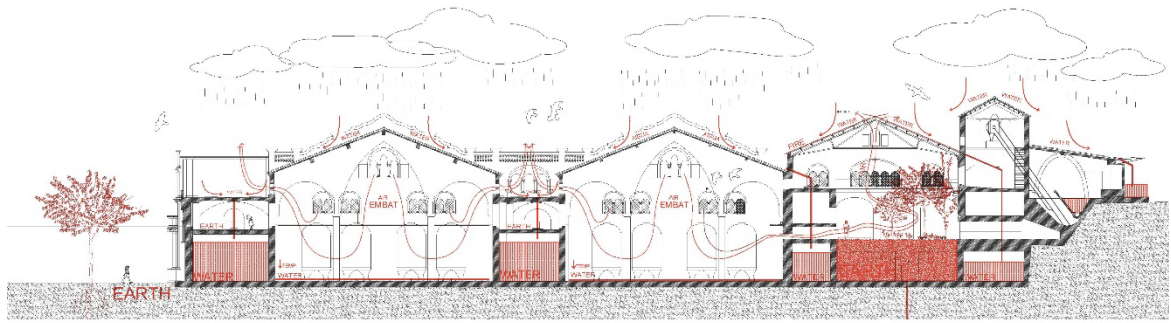
To clearly distinguish contemporary interventions from pre-existing elements, all new additions are unified using a single color, chosen as a symbolic element for the entire project.

Emergence of Green Spaces

Vegetation (and the species it supports) appears in the building's greenhouse and at the urban scale. New pedestrian routes are planned and enriched with green areas featuring native plant species, selected for their adaptability and low maintenance needs. This vegetation creates a coherent dialogue with pre-existing elements. In addition, the surface presence of water adds freshness and enhances the environmental quality of the spaces.

The proposed routes connect the Sindicat and the Mola with the Calvari and other key points in the town, strengthening urban continuity and access to places of heritage and symbolic value, with an emphasis on the triangulation among these three “sacred” places in Felanitx. The interventions promote sustainable mobility – prioritizing walking and cycling over motor vehicles – thus helping reduce polluting emissions.

In short, the project proposes a transformation in how we understand daily mobility, aligned with today's environmental challenges and a healthier, more sustainable vision for public space.



Types of Spaces: A Building for “Almost” Everything

The principles of *Reuse, Reduce & Recycle* are woven throughout the proposal. It begins with recognizing the heritage value of the Sindicat building, which is to be brought back to life without unnecessary transformations – on the contrary, by respecting and highlighting its pre-existing elements.

Through minimal but meaningful interventions, high-quality architectural spaces of varying scales and purposes are created. The building’s full volume is utilized, expanding its potential uses without altering its essence. Flexibility is assumed as an essential attribute.

Rather than prescribing fixed uses, the design anticipates spaces that can accommodate the activities the users choose. However, the diversity of spatial scales promotes the coexistence of multiple activities, from workshops and exhibitions to meetings, presentations and informal gatherings. At its core, the project seeks to return this iconic building to the town so that its inhabitants can redefine the present and future of the Sindicat.

There is a clear intent, both in the building and its surroundings, to create spaces that are healthy, safe, accessible, and democratic. The intervention is conceived as a reference for the town of Felanitx and the island of Mallorca.



Soul of the Sindicat. Ancorar.

Since its origin, the Sindicat has been a building with a productive vocation, almost like a machine. The proposal aims to recover that essence: the new Sindicat is a functional and dynamic building that not only minimizes its energy demand but is also capable of generating its own energy.

Locating technological systems on the roof frees up interior space to host new productive uses – different from the original ones, but still deeply connected to activity and community life.

Ancorar is a forward-looking proposal rooted in optimism. It embraces the idea of motion so characteristic of a machine, but with memory. Avoiding the loss of continuity with the existing, it anchors itself in Felanitx, in the Sindicat, and in its memory – recovering the soul of a building and of a town.