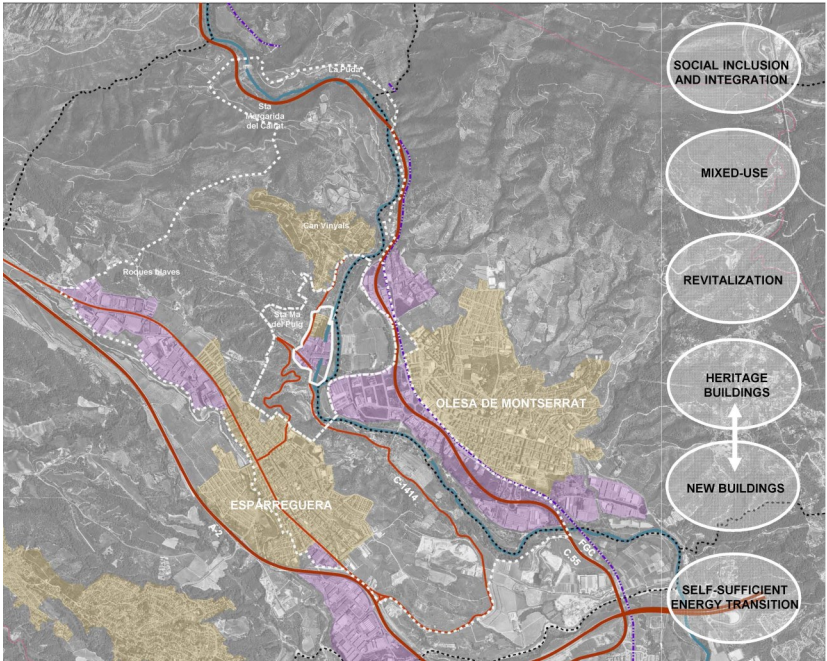


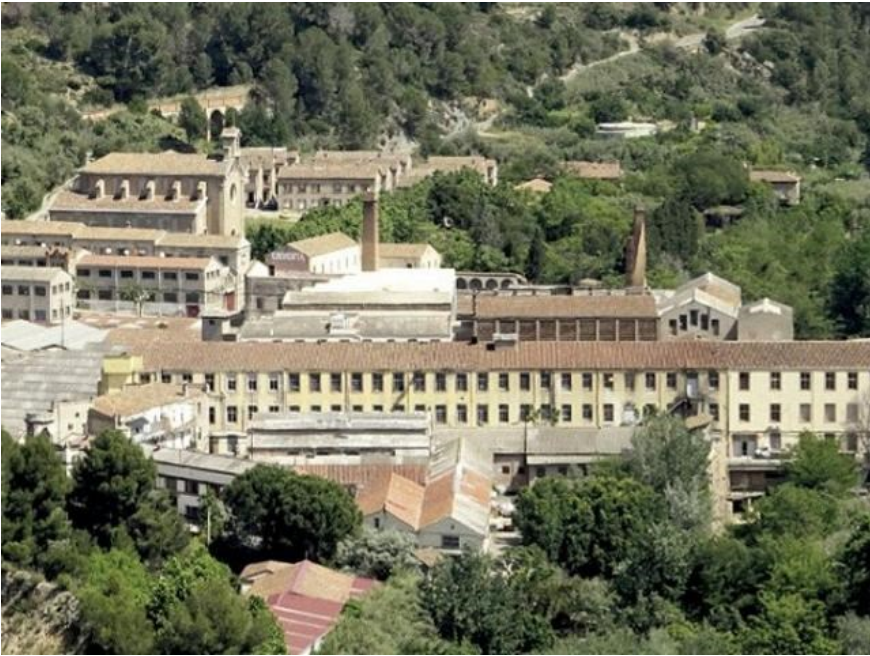
# ESPARREGUERA—Colonia Sedó

## España

**SCALE:** L urban / XL territorial  
**TEAM REPRESENTATIVE:** multidisciplinary team: urban planning architect, economist, geographer, sociologist, environmentalist & civil engineering  
**LOCATION:** Colonia Sedó, Esparraguera municipality  
**POPULATION:** 22,551 inhabitants  
**TERRITORIAL AREA OF INFLUENCE:** 963.74 Ha  
**STUDY SITE:** 115.45 Ha  
**PROJECT SITE:** 15.09 ha  
**SITE PROPOSED BY:** INCASÒL  
**ACTORS INVOLVED:** INCASÒL + Esparraguera City Council  
**OWNERS OF THE SITE:** 44% Public / 56%private  
**COMMISSION AFTER COMPETITION:** Definition of a Strategic Development Plan for Colònia Sedó



# 21st CENTURY INDUSTRIAL COLONY



## URBAN CITY STRATEGY

A strategic analysis of the Colony's residential and industrial complex that weights the revitalisation of the industrial fabric in the context of the Colony's obsolescence, mixity in contrast to the current specialisation of uses and typologies, and the inclusiveness and integration, in contrast to the current urban and social segregation. The strategic analysis should take the form of action to be taken on existing historical heritage assets together with the integration of new buildings, the connectivity of the Colony to the surrounding urban fabric, a self-sufficient energy transition of the Colony, with the installation of renewable energies and the use of water resources, as well as the integration of urban agriculture with the open spaces in the residential sector.

## SITE PRESENTATION

The Colony covers 14,39 Ha and is located by the riverside of the Llobregat river, 2 km north to Esparraguera's historical city centre, 35 km away from Barcelona. The colony is accessible through the county road C-1414 that communicates Esparraguera with Olesa de Montserrat, a 7 km's ride from the first urban core, at 3'5 km from the latest. At first it was a single real estate - the perimetral stone wall that enclosed it remains still - dedicated to industrial production of textile. The structure of the colony's plan is based on the separation and distinction of its activities. In its southern end is located the zone for industrial activities, nowadays occupied by a multitude of small-sized businesses. In its northern part is located the residential zone that reached at some point 229 housing units, together with the buildings that offered services derived from the inhabitants needs, such as a church, a school, an old theatre, the ancient washing place or the eatery. As a central and articulating space, on the edge - the gates - that separates the productive zone and the residences, stand the old master's house, with its garden.







## HOW MUST BE DEVELOPPED AND CONNECTED METABOLISM AND INCLUSIVITY?

In the second half of the 19th century, the main vectors of Catalonia's industrialisation were its rivers. This gave rise to a new social and business model in 77 industrial colonies. These combined their industrial activity with housing for their workforce, as they were in areas isolated from existing urban cores and a clear spatial differentiation of the uses that were developed inside.

Colònia Sedó is one of the oldest examples of the latter. Colònia Sedó was built in 1846 as a textile hub. It reached its maximum splendour in 1940 and concluded in 1980 when production ceased, followed by a gradual reduction in the occupancy of its 229 houses implying the continuous degradation of its structures. In 2003, Incasòl acquired the residential part of the Colony, where 37 families still live. Ownership of the industry was broken up, and now, small and medium-sized industries operate from the site.

Today' the Colony represents an obsolete urban model, specialized in its two main uses and that is configured as a space of urban and social segregation. The whole sets a space for opportunity in which to develop a new urban shape that weights the high importance of the heritage by introducing uses, spaces and activities that will permit shaping a new future for the Colony. The point is to develop the potential of the natural setting with environmental and heritage opportunities, by the implementation of initiatives that integrate renewable energies, and in particular the hydric resource already present in the colony from the outset.