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INTRODUCTION

EUROPAN 16 SPAIN, “LIVING CITIES”

The aim of EUROPAN is to bring young professionals involved in planning, landscaping and architectural projects into this European debate forum, and encourage them to develop and publicising their ideas for a European and international audience.

EUROPAN also aims to help the public authorities and promoters that supply the sites to receive innovative architectural and urban planning solutions. EUROPAN is an open, anonymous, public design competition.

The Ministry of Transport, Mobility and Urban Agenda hosts this competition in Spain, and strives to facilitate commissions by the public bodies participating in EUROPAN Spain for the winning proposals. For this purpose, the terms defined in the tender conditions match the procedures for Project Competitions adjudicated by a Jury as defined in articles 183 et seq. of the Public Sector Contracts Act. Compliance with the conditions set out in the EUROPAN 16 Regulations and in the aforementioned law is therefore guaranteed.

For this reason, teams competing for a site in Spain should make themselves familiar with the EUROPAN 16 Regulations for Jury-supervised Project Competitions, published on the Spanish Contracting Platform at the following web address:

EUROPAN 16/SPAIN COMMITTEE

Chair

Ministry for Transport, Mobility and the Urban Agenda

Management

Directorate-General of the Urban Agenda and Architecture, Ministry for Transport, Mobility and the Urban Agenda / Higher Council of Architects' Guilds (CSCAE)

Site sponsor members

Barcelona City Council / Madrid City Council / Roquetas de Mar City Council / Directorate-General for Housing and Architecture, Government of Cantabria / Directorate-General for Architecture & Building Quality, Government of Extremadura / Directorate-General for Environmental Innovation in Construction, Government of Valenciana / Directorate-General for Housing and Architecture, Basque Government / INCASÓL

Associate members

Almendralejo City Council/ Alzira City Council / Beizama Municipal Council / Esparreguera City Council / ADIF

EUROPAN- SPAIN SECRETARIAT

Carmen Imbernón, Secretary-General

Begoña Fernández-Shaw, Management and implementation monitoring

EUROPAN SPAIN JURY

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2. Rocío Peña, architect, San Sebastian. www.ganchequi.com.
3. Eva Luque, architect, teacher. Almería. www.elap.es.
4. Enrique Krahe, architect. Former winner of European Spain. (Delft/Madrid) www.enriquekrahe.com.
5. Mariona Benedito, architect, teacher. NL
6. Socrates Stratis. Architect, urban planner, teacher. CY. Member of EUROPAN Europe Scientific Committee. www.socratesstratis.com
7. Tina Gregoric SL/AT. <https://www.dekleva-gregoric.com/profile>

Substitute: Arantza Ozaeta, architect, EUROPAN former winner. Madrid. www.tallerde2.com

PRIZES

EUROPAN/Spain envisages seven possible first prizes and 7 second prizes, plus any special mentions deemed advisable by the jury. First-prize teams will receive €12,000.00, second prizes €6,000.00

SPECIFIC COMPETITION SITE DETAILS

Site representative

The site is represented by Incasol, as the promoter of the competition and as the owner of the residential land and its buildings. The person representing Incasol is Pere Picorelli Riutord, project coordinator.

Agents involved

Other actors involved in the development of the action are:

- Esparreguera Town Council, which has signed a commitment to join Incasol's EUROPAN16 initiative,
- The Community of Owners of the industrial area of Can Sedó.

Profile of the team representative

The team representing the proposal will be led by a person with a degree in architecture with the professional competences and attributions established by law. Competences of the team in accordance with the objectives, characteristics and programme of the site. The characteristics of the site and the objectives require competences in the members of the team that lie in the specialities of urban and territorial planning, heritage rehabilitation, economics, sociology, environment, civil engineering, landscaping and citizen participation.

Tender announcement

The EUROPAN 16/Spain invitation for proposals and results will be published on the State Procurement Platform, the Official Spanish Government Gazette and a major national newspaper. The results will also be publicised by the Spanish Architects' Guild and the specialist media.

In Spain, EUROPAN prizes are exempt from withholding tax under a RESOLUTION of 5 April 2006 by the Tax Administration Department of the National Tax Agency, an exemption envisaged in Article 7.1 of Royal Legislative Decree 3/2004 of 5 March.

The results of EUROPAN/Spain are exhibited and published in a catalogue of prize-winning projects and special mentions. This exhibition of the national results is itinerant. The winning teams are invited to participate in events to present their proposals and debates at both the national and international level.

First Jury meeting

The site representatives participate in the first jury session with the right to speak and vote.

Procedure following the jury decision

Immediately after the jury's decision, the EUROPAN-Spain winning teams are invited to present their projects to the site authorities. This is followed by an initial round table discussion involving members of the jury.

Commissioning procedure after the jury's decision:

The site promoters and associate members or their delegated representatives (local bodies, regional governments or legal public authorities) are recognised as contracting bodies with the power to award the service contract at each site under a non-advertised negotiated tender procedure for the competition winner or one of the prize-winners. In the latter case, all winning teams (prize winners and special mentions) must be invited to take part in the negotiations.

Commissioning envisaged as a result of the jury's decision:

The winning team will be commissioned by Incasol for the elements contained in its strategic proposal submitted to the EUROPAN16 competition in relation to the residential part of the *Colònia*, owned by Incasol.

Firstly, the team will have to draft a strategic plan to renovate the 14 buildings and 37 currently inhabited dwellings. This strategy will include a review of the general state of the buildings and dwellings, a proposal of objectives, the definition of the architectural standards and solutions, and a study of the feasibility of self-sufficient energy supply. The strategic proposal must also analyse and suggest proposals about the urban environs of the buildings. In addition, the strategy will include a management proposal including participation by relevant stakeholders and a draft implementation of the proposal in phases.

Within this management strategy framework, the competition winners will be commissioned to draft the design for the conversion of the

former inn building into 6 dwellings for its inclusion in the renovation strategy, including its use as potential temporary relocation housing for the 14 housing blocks that still exist in the Colony.

The *fonda* (inn) building, constructed in 1941, has a rectangular floor plan (28 m long x 8.80 m deep) with a symmetrical composition. In Catalonia, this type of establishment is known as a *Fonda*. Meals were usually served on the ground floor and the accommodation (rooms) was on the floor above.

It has a buildable area of 493 m², distributed across ground and first floor, each one covering 246.5 m².



1. OBJECTIVES

1.1. Contextual summary

Incasol has proposed the site of the former Colonia Sedó complex for the European 16 competition. This industrial settlement or “Colony”, initially built in the mid-19th century on the banks of the Llobregat River in the Esparreguera municipality, is 30 km from Barcelona yet still within its metropolitan area of influence, what is known as the Metropolitan Arc of Barcelona.

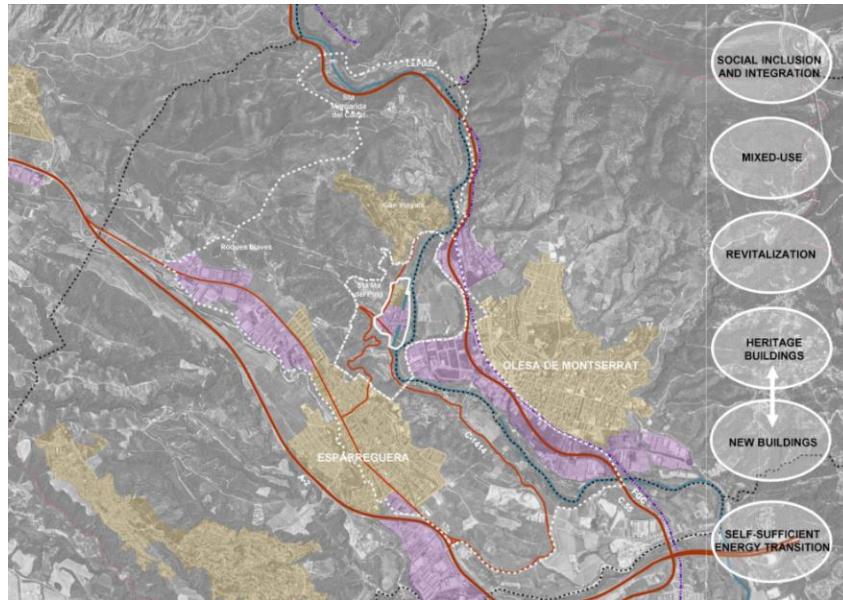
The Colony began as a textile factory, but it soon grew and adopted the classic features of an industrial colony with facilities for its staff including housing and associated services (shops, schools, a church and social centre), while the factory was enlarged and various types of infrastructure were designed for the development and growth of the company.

In the mid-20th century, this type of industrial colony began to decline in Catalonia due to the social abuses that had been committed and also because of the spread of new communication and transport systems. In the early 1970s, these symptoms were accentuated by a deep crisis in the textile sector, culminating in 1980 with the closure of the factory and a gradual reduction in the occupation of the workers' accommodation buildings.

Ownership of the industrial part of the Colony was split up, giving rise to the current industrial estate consisting of small and medium-sized companies. The residential part of the Colony was acquired by Incasol –Government of Catalonia- in 2003.

Colonia Sedó is now an obsolescent urban fabric, specialised in its two main uses but also suffering from urban and social segregation.

1.2. Competition objectives



This complex presents an opportunity to restitch an urban fabric, respecting its considerable historical-heritage value, with uses, spaces and activities that permit a new future to be imagined for the Colony. The potential of its natural surroundings must also be considered and developed, combining opportunities for its environment and heritage listing with the potential for initiatives involving renewable energies, especially water resources, part of the Colony since its inception.

The main result sought for this competition site is a **strategic analysis** of the Colony's residential and industrial complex, considering the **revitalisation** of its industrial fabric in the face of the current obsolescence of the complex, **coalescence or mixticity** as opposed to the prevailing specialisation of uses and typologies, and inclusivity and integration as opposed to its current urban and social segregation.

This strategic analysis should cover:

- action on the historic heritage-listed assets and the integration of new buildings and uses.
- the Colony's **connectivity** with the surrounding urban fabric and areas of natural interest
- a **self-sufficient energy transition** for the Colony, incorporating renewable energy and the use of water resources.
- the **integration of urban agriculture** into the open spaces in the residential sector.

2. TERRITORIAL CONTEXT

2.1. Location and geography

The Esparreguera municipality is located in the northern part of the Baix Llobregat County. The municipality covers 27.47 km², the county's fourth largest municipality and the largest one in the Baix Llobregat Nord sub-County. It is bordered to the north by the municipalities of Monistrol de Llobregat (Bages County) and Vacarisses (Vallés Occidental County), to the east by Olesa de Montserrat, to the south by Abrera, and to the west by Collbató and els Hostalets de Pierola (Anoia County).

The main town centre, 187 m above sea level, is on a plateau above the Llobregat River, which divides it from Olesa de Montserrat. Two major highways converge here, the A-2 North-east Motorway between Madrid and Barcelona, and the C-55 Cardener axis that links the Baix Llobregat County to Bages between Abrera and Manresa.

According to the National Institute of Statistics, Esparreguera had a population of 22,302 registered inhabitants on 1 January 2020, distributed across four townships:

- The main town of Esparreguera has 18,150 inhabitants (81% of the municipal total).
- El Mas d'en Gall, a housing estate south of Esparreguera with 2,058 inhabitants (9.2%).
- Can Rial, a housing estate alongside Mas d'en Gall with 1,782 inhabitants (8%).
- La Colonia Sedó, with 312 inhabitants (1.4%) according to the official census.



2.2. Socio-cultural and employment

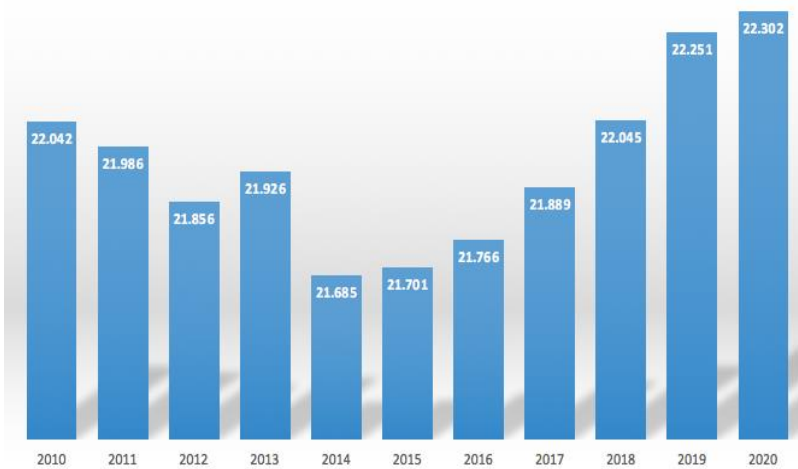
2.2.1. The town

Esparreguera is a municipality with an industrial tradition, in which the presence of the Sedó textile factory and colony has played a fundamental importance in the life of its inhabitants since its construction in 1846. Its presence has made an impact on the social, cultural and labour character of the municipality. The Colony's activity attracted new arrivals from other regions. During the second half of the 19th century, most of the workers came from other parts of Catalonia, and first waves of internal migrants from the Andalusia and Murcia regions arrived at the start of the 20th century.

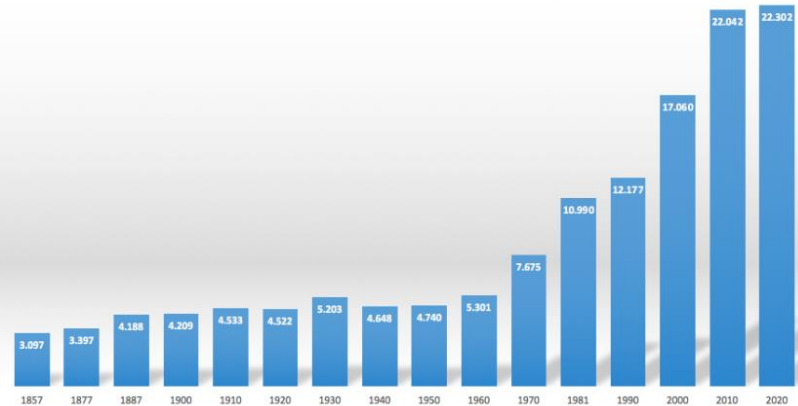
The most intense growth of Esparreguera began in the 1960's, and only slowed towards 2010. This growth was initially linked to the construction of its first industrial estates, the expansion of the La Plana district and the urban development of Mas d'en Gall, Can Rial and Can Vinyals in the 1960s and 1970s, and then to the improvement of transport infrastructure in the 1990s, when the motorway was opened and the town centre spread northward towards Can Comelles and southward towards El Castell.

In the 1960s, large numbers of people from other parts of Spain settled in Esparreguera, attracted by job prospects in new factories in Barcelona and its metropolitan area. In the 1990s, a new wave of migrants began to arrive from other parts of Europe, Africa and South America.

70.2% of the current population was born in Catalonia, more than the county total (64.2%) and Catalonia as a whole (64.3%). The other 30% includes 19% born elsewhere in Spain and 11% born abroad. The percentage of the population born in the rest of Spain is lower than the Baix Llobregat County total (21.3%), and higher than Catalonia as a whole (16.6%). The foreign-born percentage of the population is lower than the county (14.5%) and Catalonia totals (totals19.1%). 91.6% of the population has Spanish nationality, above the Baix Llobregat total (89%) and Catalonia (83.8%).



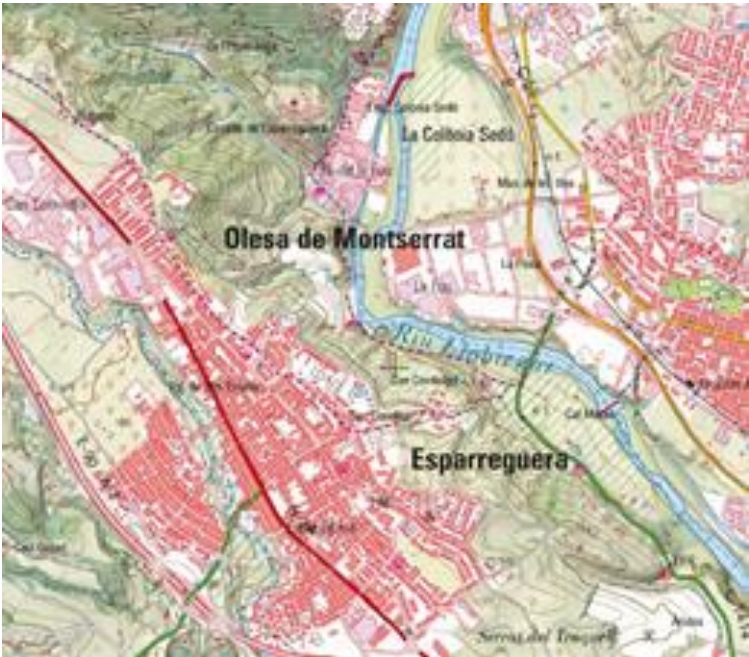
ESPARREGUERA POPULATION TREND 2010-2020



ESPARREGUERA POPULATION TREND 1857-2000



ESPARREGUERA IN 1930 AND NOW



2.2.2. The site

For many decades, Colonia Sedó was the largest job provider in Esparreguera and the main magnet for job-seekers in the municipality. The factory's construction permitted the consolidation of the town's young people who were no longer forced to emigrate, and the arrival of new workers. In the second half of the 19th century, most of the people who settled in the Colony came from other parts of Catalonia, mainly Tarragona, Cogul, Vallès Occidental and Anoia. At the beginning of the 20th century, the first waves of immigrants arrived from Andalusia and Murcia. At this point, the Colony had a powerful influence in Esparreguera, since it employed almost 2,000 workers in a total population of just over 4,000 inhabitants. The town also came to depend to a large extent on the Colony, since more than half of its staff (1,000 workers) were locals from Esparreguera.

The relationship between the Colony and the town was not always easy. The Colony's construction was accompanied by the typical paternalistic business model of this kind of enterprise. The employer provided his employees with housing, wages and social life in exchange for their labour in order to keep them happy and minimise conflicts and strikes. Social facilities and shops were set up in the Colony, which did not please the town's shop-keepers as it deprived them of an important clientele. The municipality did not view the Colony's economic independence kindly either, and even less so its push for segregation with a view to forming an independent municipality, the justification for the start of work on the Colony's own cemetery at the foot of Rocas Blaves. This aspiration was soon quashed when Esparreguera Town Council refused to recognise its independence. In 1893, Antonio Sedó himself proposed a 2 km long avenue lined with single-family houses with patios and gardens to link the Colony to Olesa de Montserrat. At the same time, local lawyer, politician and businessman Ferran Puig undertook, at his own expense, the construction of the Can Pruneras bridge, designed to connect the original Can Broquetes mill to the road to Monistrol and La Puda. The provincial authorities rejected the inclusion of the bridge in the local road grid. It collapsed in 1960 due to neglect and decay, and now only the pillars remain. These territorial aspirations were only quenched when a pact was signed in 1931.

Over the years, the factory lost its relative weight in Esparreguera's industrial conglomerate, which saw its greatest growth in the period beginning in the 1960s. In 1980, the Sedó factory closed down and abandoned its industrial space and facilities.

The factory was divided into small pavilions and resumed its activity, although on a much smaller scale. The Colonia Sedó Museum was opened and the workers' colony was gradually vacated. According to the latest municipal census, 312 inhabitants now live in the Colonia Sedó district of the municipality. At present, there are 121 officially registered inhabitants in Colonia Sedó, 84 of whom live in the 36 houses that are still open in its residential complex.

2.2.3. Planned changes

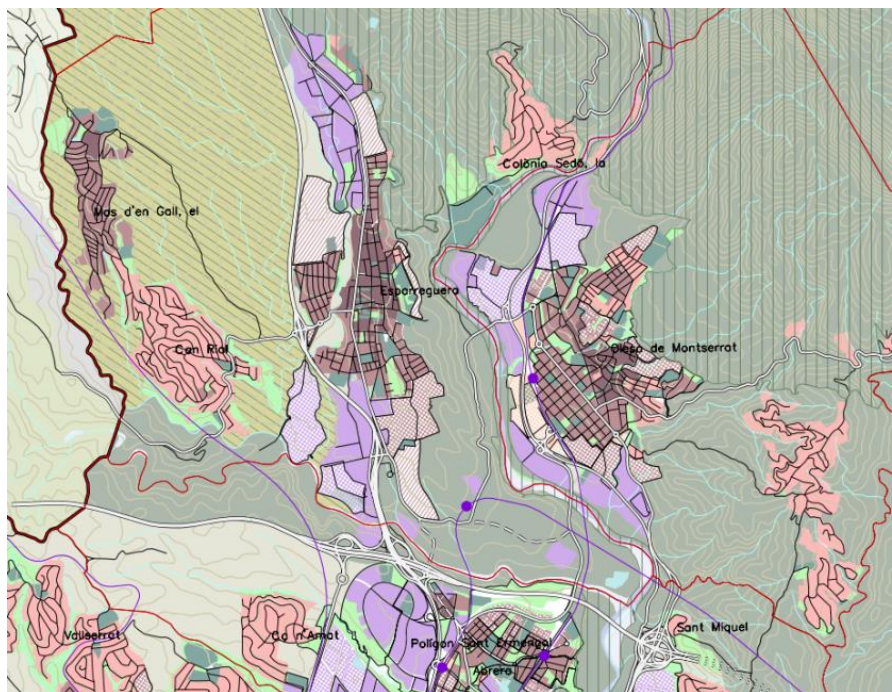
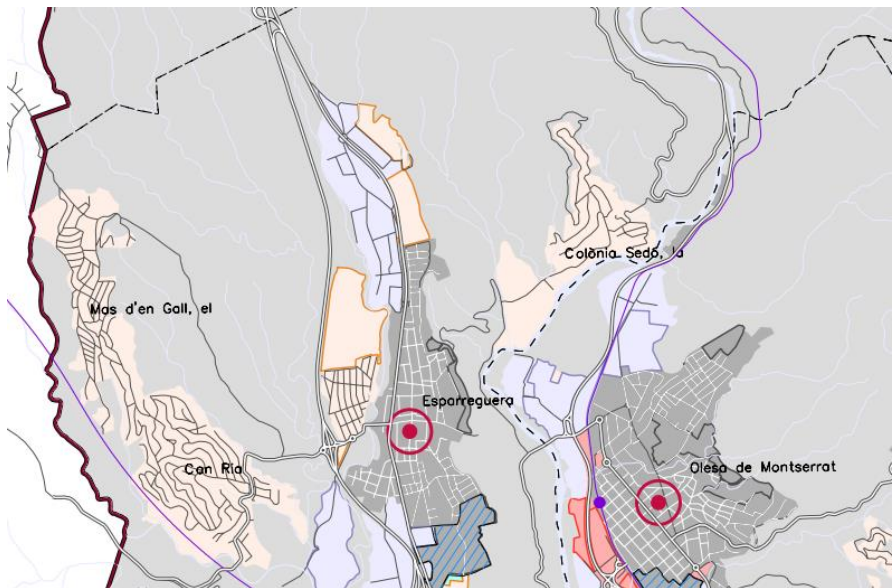
The initiative for the project area and its integration with the surrounding natural environment and the rest of the municipality is an opportunity to recover an area of residential, industrial and service activity. This may be a starting and reference point for the productive activity that is to be implemented here.

2.3. Economy

Historically, agriculture has carried considerable weight in the economy of Esparreguera, albeit less so than in other nearby towns. Before Colonia Sedó was built, 42% of trades depended on agriculture, and the 58% strictly non-agricultural trades included many that were connected to Esparreguera's role as a transit point (transport, inns). 12% of the declared trades were in the textile sector, concentrated in small workshops in the centre of the village.

The economy of Esparreguera changed when the Can Sedó textile factory was built, and for many years it was dependent on industry, especially the Sedó Colony. For several decades, the municipality of Esparreguera relied heavily on the factory, which at some points employed over 1,000 workers who lived in a town whose population never exceeded 5,000 inhabitants until 1960.

The 1960s and '70s marked the start of a diversification of the town's economy. Today the population is almost entirely employed in the industrial (46%) and service (45%) sectors. Only 200 people make a living from agriculture. A higher percentage of Esparreguera's population is dedicated to industrial activities than Baix Llobregat or Catalonia as a whole (37% and 32% respectively) but less in services (54% and 57%). In the industrial sector, food production, chemicals, mechanical workshops and building materials are the major areas. The main job sources in the service sector are



companies working with transport and communications, hotels and catering and sales, both wholesale and retail (food products, clothing and footwear).

2.4. Planning

2.4.1. Territorial planning. Barcelona Metropolitan Territorial Plan

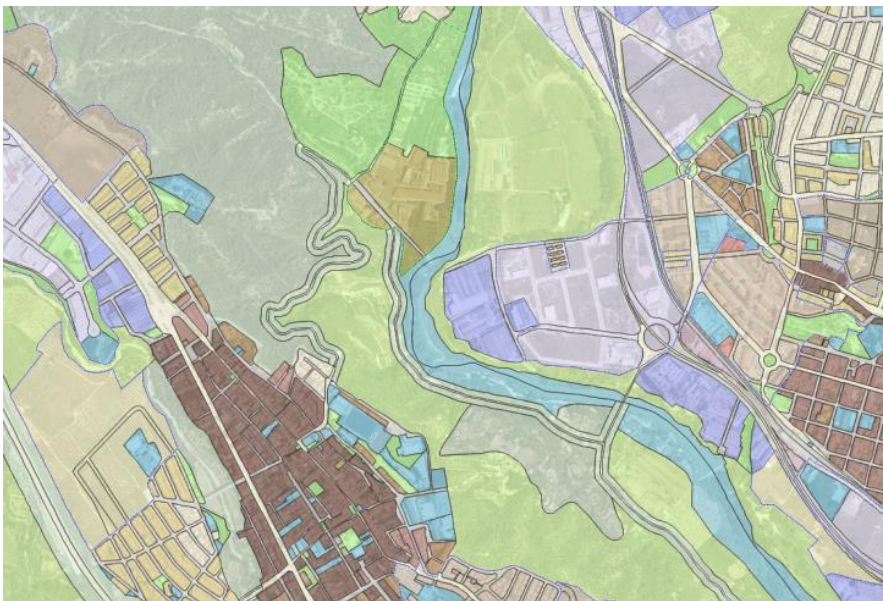
https://territori.gencat.cat/ca/01_departament/05_plans/01_planificacio_territorial/plans_territorials_nou/territorials_parciais/ptp_metropolitana_de_barcelona/

The Barcelona Metropolitan Territorial Plan (PTMB), ratified in 2010, covers the counties of Barcelonès, Baix Llobregat, Garraf, Alt Penedès, Vallès Oriental, Vallès Occidental and Maresme, spanning a total area of 3,236 km² and 164 municipalities. Its proposals are grouped into three systems: the settlement system, the open space system and the infrastructure system.

- The PTMB settlement system defines the guidelines for urban development under the criteria set out in the Territorial Planning Programme. It is congruent with the strengths and constraints of each place, recognising existing settlements and proposed strategies for expansion, reform or consolidation according to the nodal reference structure.

In the particular case of Colonia Sedó, the Colony is defined as a specialised residential area.

- For the open spaces system, the PTMB defines the Colonia Sedó area as an urban system with facilities, surrounded by special protection zones on account of their natural and agricultural interest. Some of these green areas are part of the Plan for Areas of Natural Interest and the Natura 2000 network. The Plan considers that these special protection zones can be joined to form a permanent, uninterrupted network of open spaces to guarantee biodiversity and provide a backbone for all the open spaces in the area with different features and functions.



MASTER PLAN IN FORCE. SOURCE MUC

- For the infrastructure system, the PTMB does not envisage any action in the Colonia Sedó area, and only defines the secondary roads and the existing FGC railway line that runs through Olesa de Montserrat, not far from the area.

2.4.2. Municipal planning

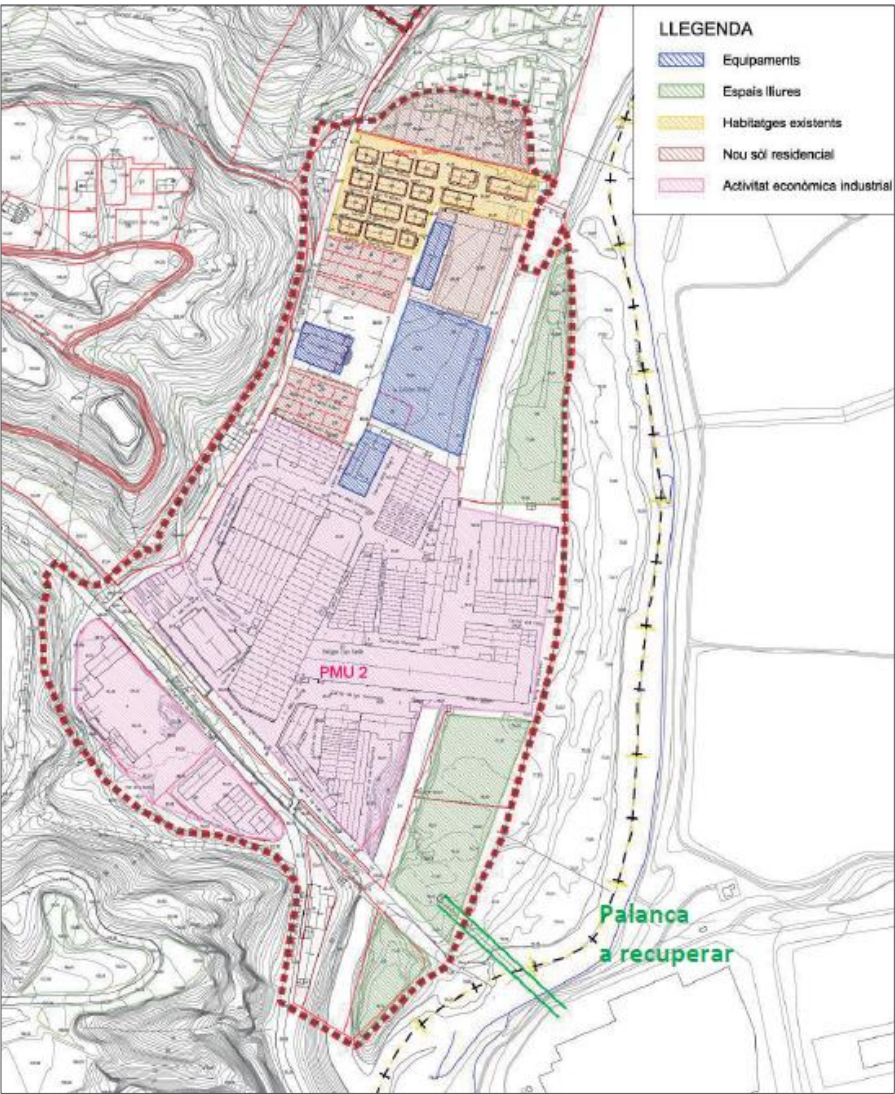
<http://dtes.gencat.cat/muc-visor/AppJava/home.do>

The master plan in force is the Review of the Master Plan Action Programme, and specific modifications of the Esparreguera Master Plan, ratified definitively by the Barcelona Urban Planning Commission on 14 February 1996 and published in the Catalonia Government Gazette on 15 March 1996.

Articles 174 and 175 of the Plan provide for the development of a Special Interior Reform Plan (PERI) in Colonia Sedó. The plan specifies that until the PERI is drafted, repair, consolidation, modernisation and improvement work on the aesthetic or hygienic conditions of the buildings may be done, but the volume may not be increased. It also prohibits the demolition of any original elements of the Colony such as the chimney, the aqueduct, its industrial buildings of architectural value and the entrepreneur's home.

In December 2004, the Esparreguera Master Plan (POUM) was ratified by the Barcelona Territorial Urban Planning Commission (Comisión Territorial de Urbanismo de Barcelona). The report called for the drafting of a Special Plan to coordinate the urban planning guidelines and initiatives required for a comprehensive renovation of Colonia Sedó.

In July 2008, the Barcelona Territorial Urban Planning Commission gave its final approval to the Colonia Sedó Special Plan (SP). The Commission stipulated that this SP required the prior design of the corresponding Urban Improvement Plan (PMU) 5.01 for residential uses, which would be connected to part of a forest park, and PMU 05.02, to define the industrial zone. It also stipulated the need to resolve access issues to the Cololnyònia, the restoration of the land defined for public facilities, and left the Urban Improvement Plan to define the uses and works that would be permitted for the buildings in the industrial sector. Simultaneously, the Esparreguera City Council definitively ratified the PMU 5.01 for the residential sector.

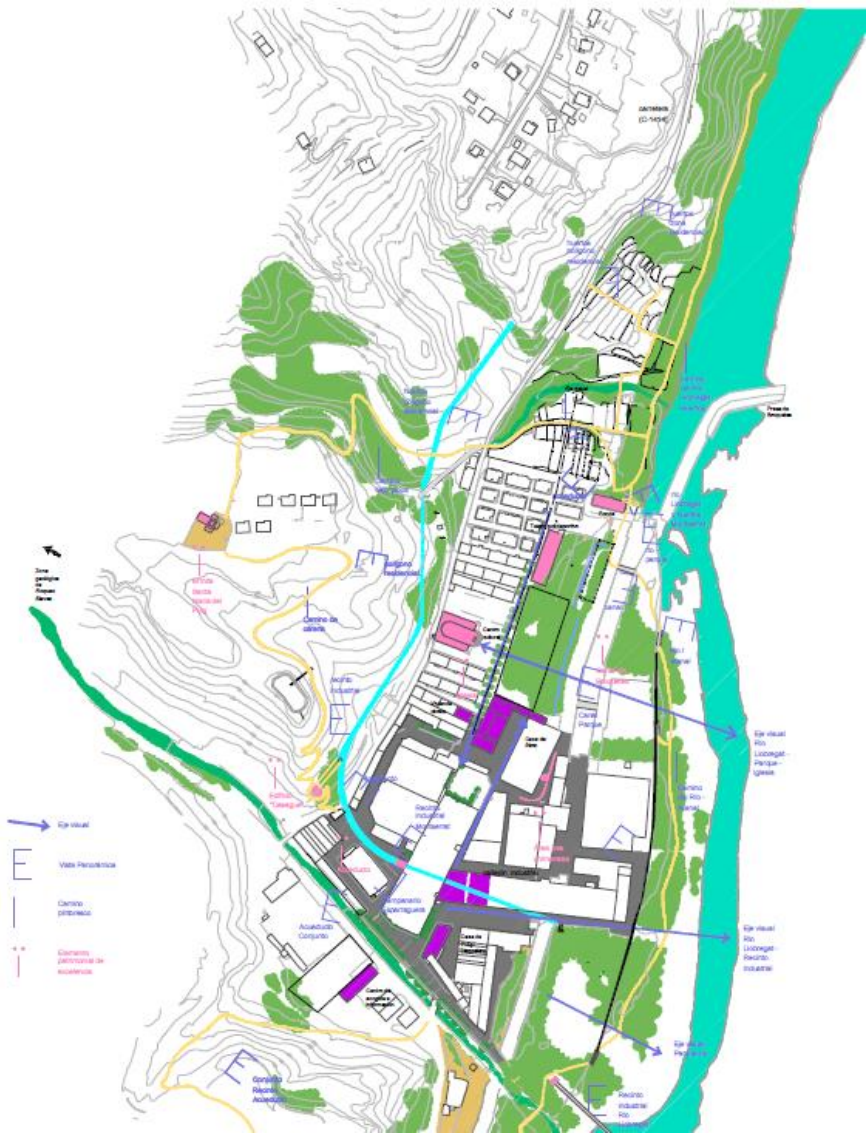


FITXA PMU 02 COLONIA SEDÓ. INITIALLY RATIFIED MASTER PLAN 2019

In 2010, an update and review of the urbanisation cost of PMU 5.01 and a market study of housing prices in the municipality revealed serious issues with the financial viability of the project, which was a decisive factor in the decision to halt progress on the planning process.

In March 2014, the Catalonia High Court issued a ruling declaring the approval of the SP and PMU 5.01 null and void, due to its lack of legal cover because the underlying Master Plan had been declared null and void.

The Esparraguera municipal Master Plan (POUM) is currently in process. In May 2019, it was initially approved, but due to substantial environmental and infrastructure-related modifications at the municipal level, it needs to undergo a second initial approval. The 2019 POUM envisages the development of Colonia Sedó through an Urban Improvement Plan, PMU 02, which covers the whole Colony, both its residential and industrial areas. The Colonia Sedó Sector file in the 2019 POUM mentions the Guidance Plan ("*Plan Director*") for Colonia Sedó drafted by the Spanish Ministry of Culture, and the fact that any Urban Improvement Plan to will have to respect the guidelines stipulated therein.



GUIDANCE PLAN PROPOSAL. VISUAL DIAGRAMS

2.4.3. Heritage protection

The annulment of the 2004 Master Plan has meant that the heritage assets in Colonia Sedó and the aqueduct are only listed in the Catalonia Government's Inventory of Catalan Architectural Heritage, codes IPA 33316 and IPA 36878 respectively. Code IPA 18482 lists the Santa Maria El Puig church, and IPA 917 lists the remains of the Esparreguera Castle, used by the Colony to build a water tank. The Castle was protected in 1946 as Cultural Heritage asset (code 822-MH). The protected natural environs include an Important Natural Area Plan and listing in the NATURA 2000 network for the Rocas Blaves outcrop, at the foot of which work was begun on the Colony's independent cemetery.

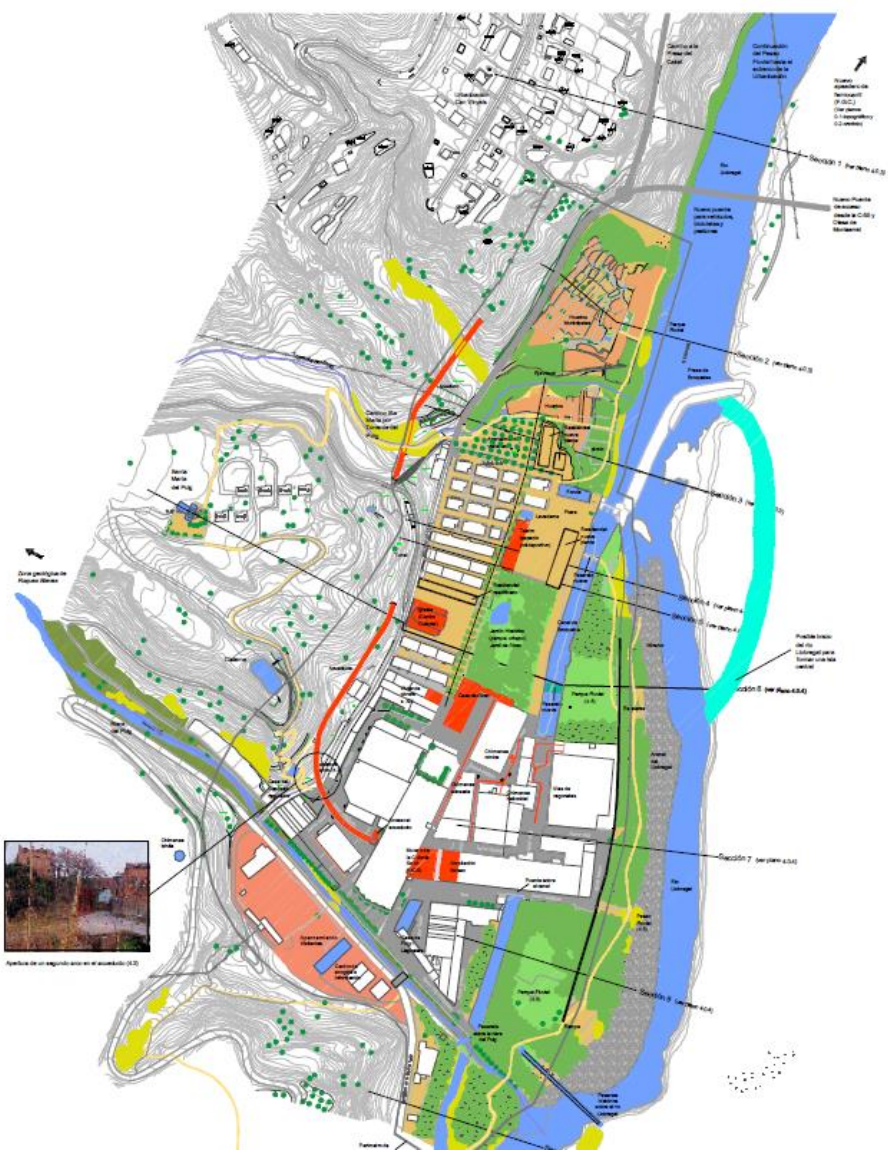
GUIDANCE PLAN PROPOSAL FOR COLONIA SEDÓ

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ZJ5DKE736Vpifsq3i7KSSFwkVtvyE0d9?usp=s_haring

This Plan was formulated and ratified by the Spanish Ministry of Culture on 17 July 2008. The aim was to draft a document that would define the general and specific conditions for the conversion of the Colonia Sedó industrial complex into a cultural space, in order to give it a social projection through its adaptation for public visits and cultural exploitation. This process began with the conversion of one of the representative buildings into the Colonia Sedó Museum.

The Guidance Plan document describes the history of the complex and lists a catalogue of items in the Colonia complex that should receive heritage protection. It analyses their state of preservation and the specific studies that must be carried out. Finally, on the basis of the previous analyses, it presents a series of proposals for the Colony's renovation:

- Treatment of the entire Colonia Sedó industrial landscape
- Convert a 19th century workers' house into a museum
- Restore the owner's garden (*Jardí de l'amo*)
- Acquire and restore the owner's house (*Casa de l'Amo*)
- Upgrade the space where the three chimneys converge



MAP OF GUIDANCE PLAN GENERAL PROPOSALS

- Plan an appropriate outdoor lighting project for the factory precinct, including the restoration of old street lighting fixtures
- Foster the conversion of some of the ground-level workshops, located amongst the original buildings
- Connect the Garden to the alluvial zone near the Llobregat River
- Extend the Museum
- Propose the recovery of the lever bridge that connects the Colony to Olesa as a heritage feature to facilitate the pedestrian link.
- Build a parking and service zone in the Bóvila zone.
- Restore the path to the vault chimney.
- Study possible uses of the church building

One of the mechanisms for the implementation of these initiatives could be the definition of a series of thematic routes through the different landscapes of the Colony, both inside the grounds and in the perimeter area, permitting a combination of static and dynamic visits.

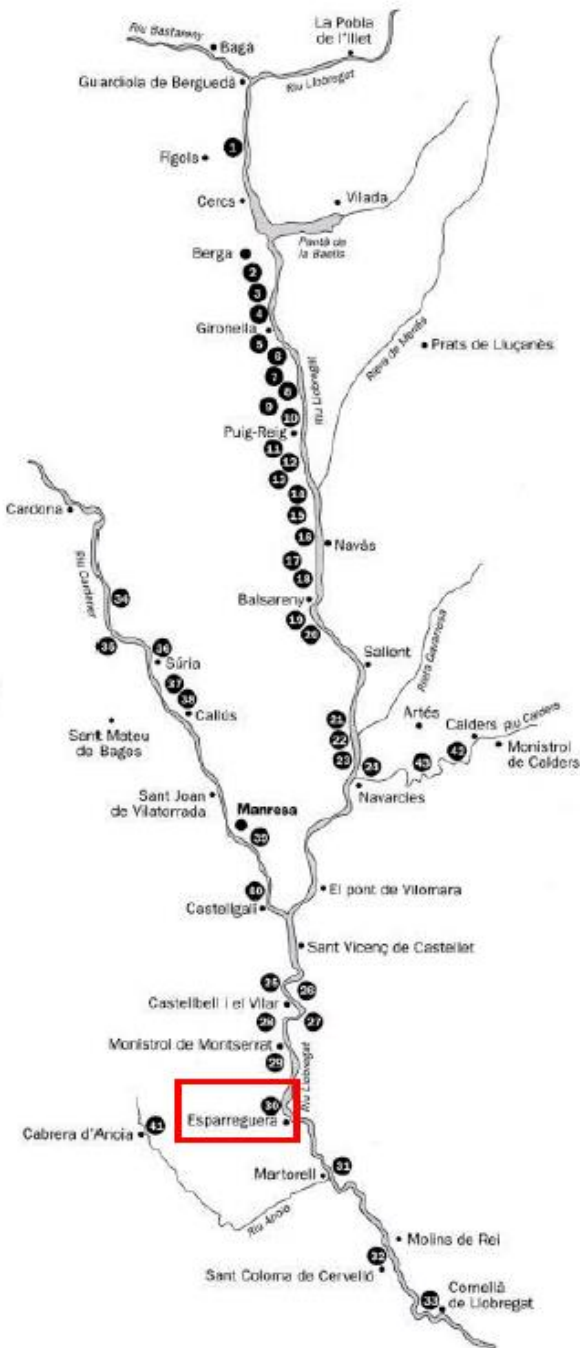
HERITAGE LISTING OF COLONIA SEDÓ

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1qePccoorDm3zdPTJ2hUr4EPqAPkX7gDa?usp=sharing>

The Esparreguera Town Council is currently proceeding with the official listing of the Colonia Sedó heritage assets.

The purpose of this declaration is to provide it with a value-added status, strengthened by the necessary interconnection between this heritage and the future structural development of the Colony, the maintenance of the existing activities, and the recovery of its special characteristic landscape.

Please note that the available heritage listing documents are currently being processed and the contents are not finalised. This is particularly relevant with regard to the protection of the demolished elements in the residential part of the Colony.



3. Historical context

3.1. Industrial colonies in Catalonia

An industrial colony was a factory-based social and urban model beside a river in a rural setting, far from any township. A residential complex with housing and social facilities for employees was built alongside the factory. This system of industrial organisation originated to some degree in England, and became widespread in Catalonia during the second half of the 19th century.

Catalonia's 19th century industrialisation was based on the cotton and wool textile sector. From the mid-19th century onwards, many textile industries sprang up along the banks of the Ter, Llobregat and Cardener Rivers, favoured by two conditions: low-cost energy such as water power and an abundant labour force of rural origin, which was cheaper and usually less conflictive than workers from the cities. The industrial colony system implanted a particular system of social relations and organisation that avoided the major labour conflicts and strikes of the city-based factories.

The workers in these industrial colonies and their families always had to accept the company's conditions. They were not allowed to form unions or go on strike unless they were willing to risk losing their jobs, which also meant losing their accommodation, owned by the company, and all the economic and social advantages they had over people in nearby towns.

The industrial colony system began to decline in the mid-20th century due to the companies' abuse of the social conditions and also the construction of new communication and transport systems.



MANUFACTURAS SEDÓ, S.A. 1980



VIEW OF THE AQUEDUCT AND THE WATER TOWER THAT POWERED THE TURBINE

3.2. The factory

In 1846, Miquel Puig i Catasús built a spinning mill alongside the former Can Broquetes flour mill.

It soon grew and adopted the classic features of an industrial colony. Accommodation was built for the workers, along with ancillary services such as shops, schools, a church a social centre and a health clinic. The factory premises were enlarged and several infrastructure works were designed for the growth of the company.

At the peak of the Colony's industrial activity in the first third of the 20th century, the factory zone occupied roughly half the total surface area of the Colony. Today, a large number of original elements and buildings from the Colony's industrial period can still be seen on the large industrial premises.

Energy supply

Until 1880, the only source of energy for a factory with 500 workers, apart from auxiliary coal, was the Broquetas dam, built on the site of the flour mill before the factory was constructed.

The factory grew rapidly in the second half of the 19th century and needed a new energy source to operate at full capacity. The old dam that fed the Broquetas Canal was not enough for the factory's new energy requirements. For this reason, and also because the Llobregat River does not have a constant flow rate and is hard to regulate, hydraulic energy production had to be complemented with a second reservoir, the Cairat Dam, built four kilometres upstream along accompanied by the installation of a large turbine and the occasional use of steam energy.

The Colony's hydraulic power system, built in conjunction with the Cairat Dam, was completed with an almost 4 km-long underground channel between the dam and the aqueduct, a 200 m long structure fed by this channel before dropping to the turbine hall to produce energy. The huge turbine was installed in the basement of the spinning building, now the Museum. This water circuit was completed by the water discharged after the turbine into the Broquetas canal, which returned it to the Llobregat River.

3.3. Workers' colony

The first employees at Colonia Sedó were people from villages near the factory, especially Esparreguera and Olesa de Montserrat. When the industry expanded, workers from rural areas began to arrive from the Tarragona and Lleida area, which led to the construction of the first workers' accommodation in the 1870s.

In 1887, more than 500 people lived regularly in the Colony, and by the 1930's, this number had risen to over 1,800 people following a second wave of migration from Murcia and Almeria.

To consolidate the harmonious social relations between the company and its staff, the owner adopted a paternalistic approach, exercising control and authority over their lives. A series of services were set up on the Colony grounds including shops, domestic services, a church, schools, a nursery, a theatre and an inn. These services meant that workers never had to leave the Colony, but at the same time, they allowed the owner to indirectly recover their wages.

The workers' accommodation and the owner's home coexisted in the same part of the Colony. This home and its garden were at the entrance to the industrial site, at the point where the staff had to pass on their way to and from work, facilitating monitoring of their activity. The owner's house was quite different from the workers' dwellings, which were all the same and rented from the owner.

The entire workers' colony was on the same side of the precinct. It was laid out in long blocks of houses consisting of a ground floor and two upper floors, forming a grid of streets running parallel to each other.

These dwellings had a floor area of less than 60 m², inhabited by an average of six people per dwelling. The dwelling consisted of a wood stove in the kitchen, which was also the dining room and entrance hall, three bedrooms and a toilet. The small size, poor ventilation and lighting meant that life in the Colony took place outside these dwellings, which led to a high level of social activity amongst the inhabitants.

Men's social gatherings took place in the tavern or on the promenade, while women gathered in the outdoor wash-houses. On festive days, it was compulsory to attend



FACTORY WORKERS' HOUSING IN 1914 (ABOVE) AND 2004 (BELOW). ALONGSIDE, VEGETABLE GARDENS TENDED BY THE LABOURERS USED TO SUPPLEMENT THEIR WAGES





RECENT AERIAL VIEWS OF THE INDUSTRIAL COLONY (ABOVE) AND THE RESIDENTIAL PART OF THE COLONY (BELOW).



mass, and in the evening, in the café or at the cinema or theatre if there was a performance. The Colony also had associations and groups that ensured regular attendance at sporting and cultural activities.

In the 1940s, the residential colony was enlarged with the construction of four new rows of housing blocks, all with a ground floor and two upper floors, and the inn, which provided meals for the public on the ground floor and accommodation on the upper floor.

3.4. The Colony after the factory closure

At the start of the 1970s, the decline in the industrial colony system was aggravated by a serious crisis in the textile sector. This culminated in 1980 with the closure of the Colonia Sedó factory and a gradual reduction in the occupation of the workers' dwellings.

Ownership of the industrial part of the Colony was broken up, giving rise to the current industrial estate composed of small and medium-sized companies. The residential part of the Colony was acquired by Incasol –Government of Catalonia- in 2003. In 2008, its poor state and potential ruin led Incasol to demolish the set of five linear blocks built at the end of the 19th century. The only housing blocks still standing are the ones built in the 1940s and another block at the end of the residential colony, bordering the industrial section. The latter block had mixed usage, with businesses on the ground floor, entered from the industrial part of the Colony, and dwellings —now walled up— on the upper floors, accessed from the residential part of the Colony.

The 15 housing blocks that remain standing (totalling 38 dwellings plus the inn) consist of two floors each, ground floor and first floor, all built between 1940 and 1945. Their style was intended to set a model that would be easily repeatable and adaptable to different conditions and positions. The typology expresses an extremely simple architectural model, typical of the immediate post-war period. All the buildings have a rectangular or square ground plan and are laid out on three parallel streets, perpendicular to the main artery of the residential colony, Carrer dels Plataners, which leads directly to the industrial area and the wall that marks the boundary between the Colony and the road from Esparreguera to La Puda de Montserrat.



INN IN 2005 (BELOW). CURRENT STATE OF COLONY DWELLINGS (ABOVE).



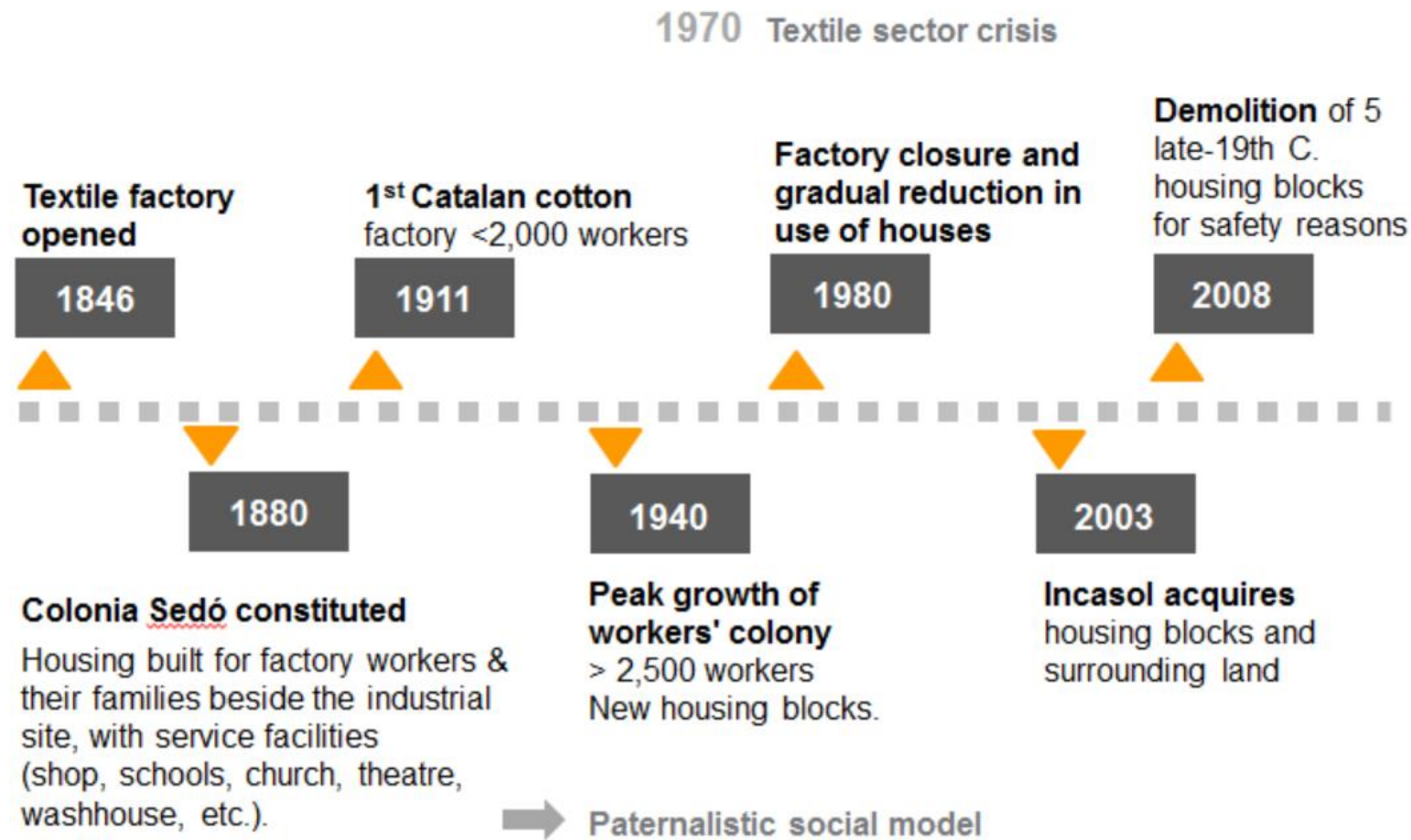
Amidst these housing blocks is the inn, which also has a rectangular floor plan and symmetrical composition. Outwardly it expresses a similar typology or model to the other residential buildings, despite being used to provide meals and accommodation. In Catalonia, this type of establishment is known as a *Fonda*. Meals were generally served on the ground floor, with accommodation (rooms) on the upper floor. This service continued to operate until the early 2000s, with a greater focus on meals than overnight accommodation, provided on request.

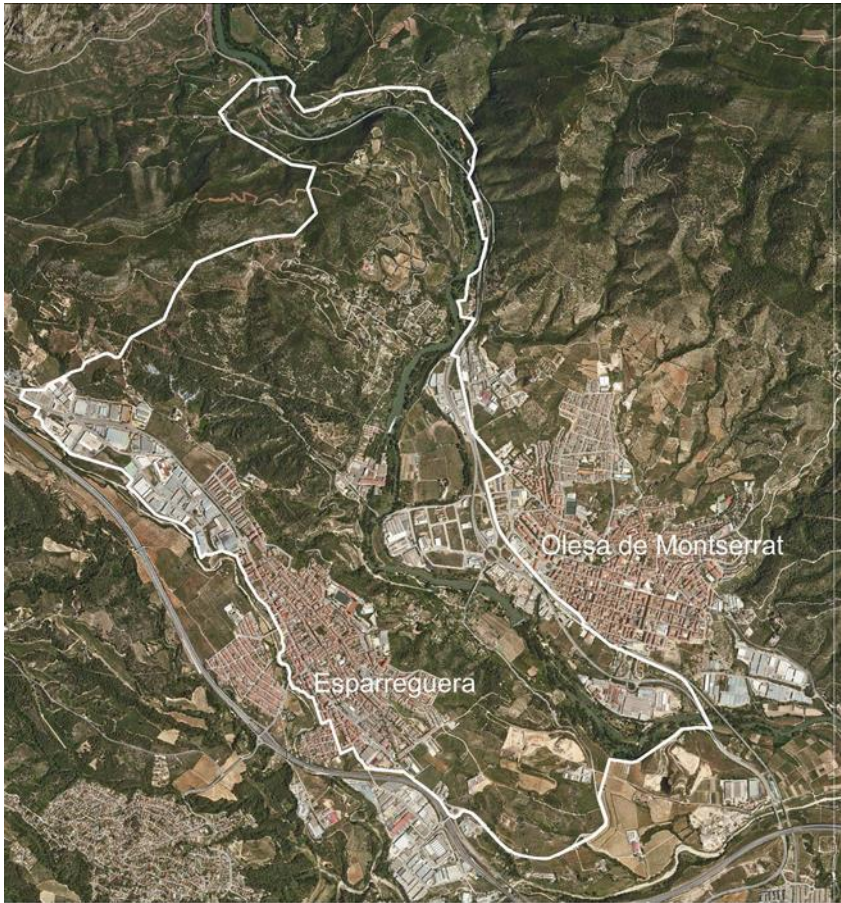
Its only difference from the residential model is that it is longer and has more elaborate formal details. The following details are noteworthy: the central gable, which breaks down the uniform roof; the small central canopy that highlights the entrance; the well-defined eave; the metal railings on the first floor balconies and other details in the interior structure.

The load-bearing structure consists of 15 cm thick solid brick load-bearing walls which provide stability and bracing, and 30 cm deep structural outer walls in the same material. All the solid brickwork is rendered with mortar to permit either a final paint finish or alternatively, for the renovation process, treatment based on single-layer mortar, obviously applied after all the damp on the outer walls is cleaned and repaired. The pitched roof is quite simple, with Arabic tiles and allowing the formation of eaves with elaborate ceramic material (brick and tile). The door and window frame carpentry is in timber.

In September 1993, the Colonia Sedó Museum was opened in one of the spinning mills in the industrial complex.

3.5. Colonia Sedó timeline





4. COMPETITION BRIEF

Three areas are defined: **territorial influence**, **analysis** and **project**. This definition arises from the consideration that the main goals for this competition site are a **strategic analysis** of the Colonia Sedó residential and industrial complex, the **revitalisation** of its industrial fabric to revert the current obsolescence of the complex, **coalescence** or **mixity** as opposed to the specialisation of uses and typologies, and **inclusiveness and integration** in contrast to the current trend of urban and social segregation.

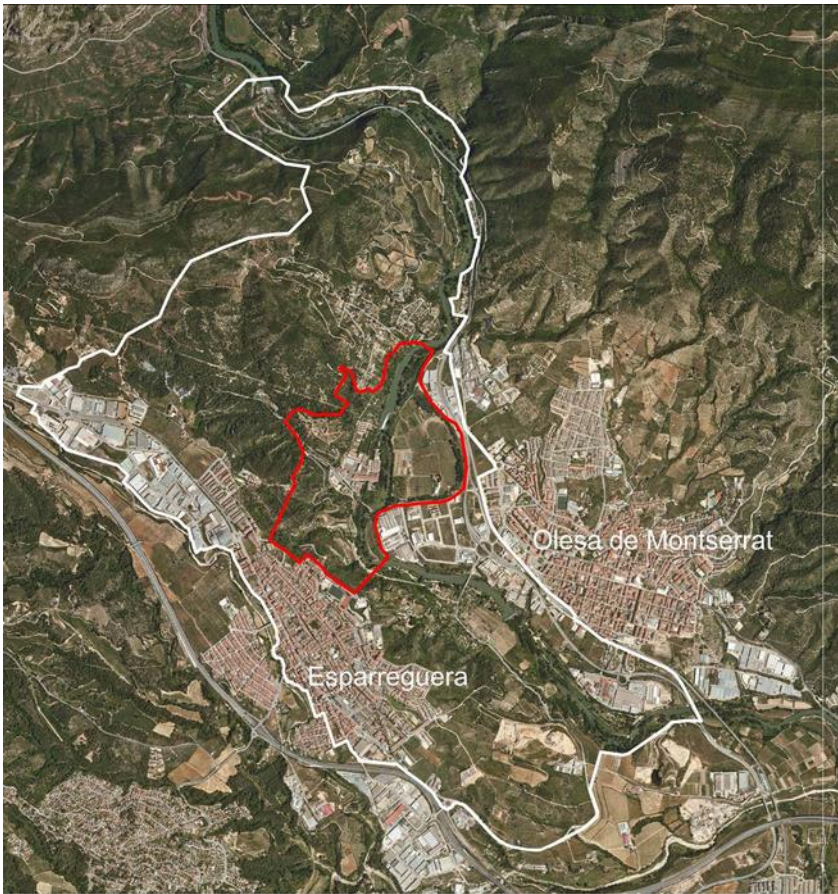
This definition at three different territorial scales should facilitate an integrated analysis of the locality, leading to a proposal for a new future and broader initiatives for the whole Colony.

4.1. Area of territorial influence

The area of territorial influence is demarcated by the landscape mosaics that shape the environs of Colonia Sedó. These include components of the natural, environmental and historical heritage, and also the road, railway and water infrastructure and the urban fabrics.

The GR-6 pathway includes Colonia Sedó as a section of a long-distance route that begins in the centre of Esparreguera, passes the helicoidal Chimney, Colonia Sedó, El Cairat, La Puda and ends in Montserrat. This route is mentioned in the Guidance Plan for the Colony with the idea of defining a cultural and landscape backbone that will interconnect all the locality's main features.

The western boundary of the area is the municipal centre of Esparreguera, the southern boundary includes the C-1414 road that leads to the Colony, and the northern boundary includes environmental and scenic highlights, notably the Rocas Blaves geological outcrop and protected heritage and architectural sites listed in the Esparreguera Master Plan such as La Puda and the Santa Margarita del Cairat chapel.



Finally, the eastern boundary is the section of the Llobregat River running from the Cairat Sluice along the eastern edge of the Colony to the centre of Olesa, and the outer-suburban railway line, which has a station in the same town.

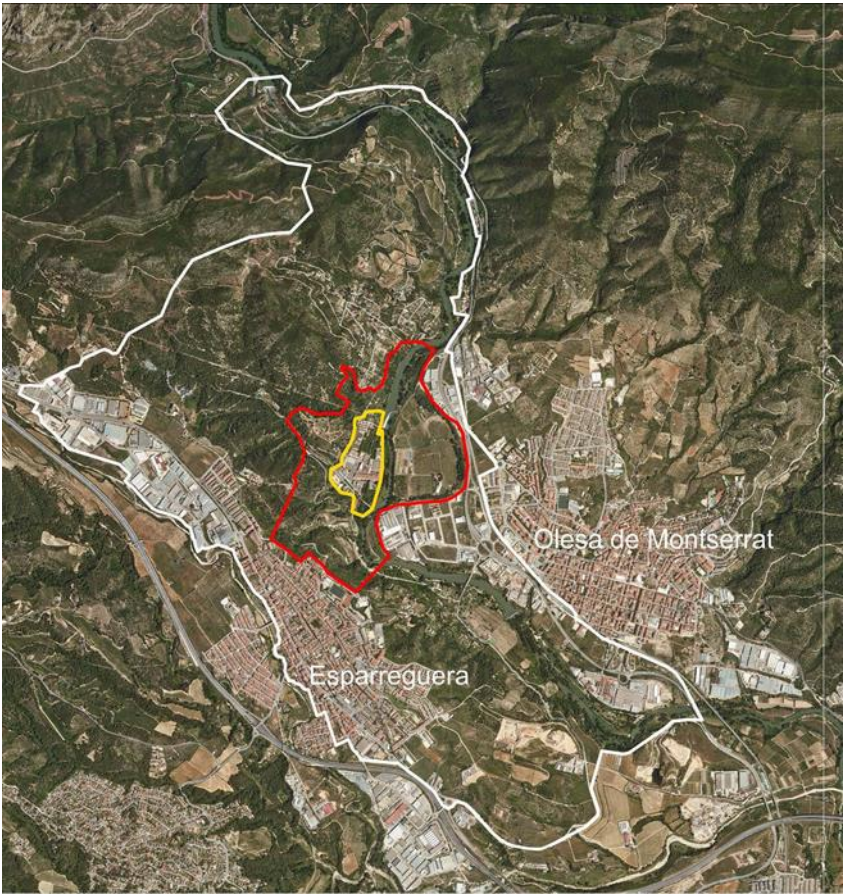
The total area of influence, marked in white in this aerial photo is 963.74 Ha.

4.2. Study area

The perimeter of the study area is defined with a view to fulfilling the main objective and its strategic analysis, and ensure that the numerous aspects described in this document lie within its boundaries, such as connectivity between the Colony and the urban fabric and surrounding natural environment, the possibility of using renewable energy from the Llobregat River, including the reinterpretation of the large unused hydraulic infrastructure and the very presence of water, landscape integration, and agricultural management in the open spaces around the Colony on both sides of the river.

This area is bordered to the south by the vehicle and pedestrian access to the Colony from Esparreguera (the original connection route). On the western side, it is bordered by the Santa Maria del Puig chapel, which historically had a direct link to the Colony, to the north the border is the green zone of the Can Vinyals housing estate and its connection to the Colony and the Llobregat River, and finally on the eastern side, the boundary is an area of undeveloped flood-prone farmland owned by the Olesa de Montserrat municipality.

The study area, marked in red in the aerial photo, covers 115.45 Ha.



4.3. Project Area

The European 16 project area is Colonia Sedó as defined by the municipal plans currently in force. The Colony is 2km north of the old part of Esparreguera, beside the Llobregat river. Access is via the C-1414 road between Esparreguera and Olesa de Montserrat. The boundary of the Colony its initial perimeter wall and a planning structure that separates the industrial part (south) from the residential part (north).

The industrial estate is still used by small and medium-sized companies. Preserved elements of the residential part of the Colony include the church, the former school buildings (now boarded-up), the social centre building (currently used as a multi-sports court), a porch with a wash-house, the former inn, the housing blocks built in the 1940s (currently inhabited), and the block on the boundary with the industrial part of the Colony, which contains a business on the ground floor and boarded-up upper floors.

The project area, marked in yellow in the aerial photo, covers 15.09 Ha.

CONTENTS OF BRIEF APPENDIX DOCUMENT

A. BRIEF: CLARIFICATIONS

1. Competition objectives
2. Current industrial activity in the settlement

B. GRAPHIC DESCRIPTION OF THE INDUSTRIAL SETTLEMENT

C. PLAN OF THE INDUSTRIAL SURROUNDINGS OF THE SETTLEMENT

1. COMPETITION OBJECTIVES

The Colonia Sedó site is an opportunity to reweave an urban fabric while respecting a built-up area with great historical and heritage value that has existing uses, spaces and activities. This would allow planning for a new future for the industrial settlement. At the same time, the potential of the site's natural surroundings must be considered and developed, combining environmental and heritage opportunities with the possibility of developing initiatives that incorporate renewable energies, particularly the water resources that have been present in the settlement since it began.

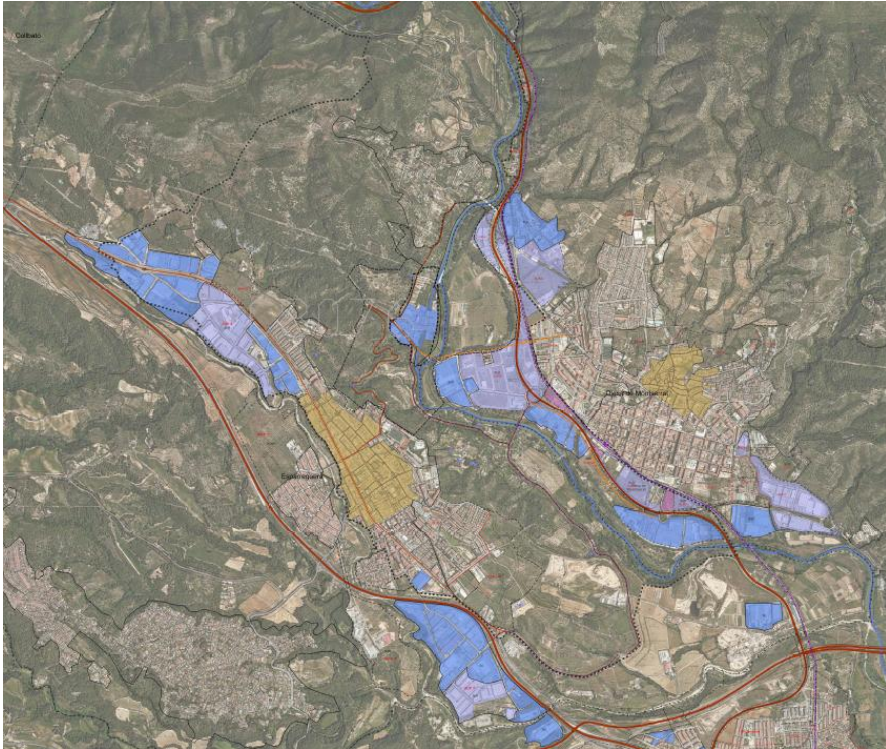
The main aim of the competition is to obtain a **strategic assessment** of the residential and industrial settlement. This should suggest lines of action within the scope of the project considering: the **revitalisation** of the industrial fabric considering the current obsolescence of the complex; **mixtcity** as opposed to the current specialisation of uses and typologies; and **inclusiveness and integration** as opposed to the current urban and social segregation.

The municipal council is currently working on the future development of the industrial settlement. Firstly, it is drafting a revised version of the general municipal plan that will include a basic urban planning proposal for Colonia Sedó and will provide for subsequent more detailed planning of the urban development of the area. Secondly, the municipal team wants to provide the initiative to revitalise the whole industrial settlement with a complete framework for action.

The strategic assessment resulting from this EUROPAN competition will serve as a basis for both initiatives and, depending on the development of the proposals submitted, links will be established between the result of the competition and the municipal initiatives.

The strategic thinking of those taking part should be based on the following lines of action:





1. Connectivity of the industrial settlement with the urban fabric of its surroundings

At the moment, the urban fabric of the settlement is separated from the surrounding area both physically and socially. At the same time, there is internal segregation within the settlement, which is still divided into two independent areas with homogeneous, specialised uses: the industrial area and the residential area.

The industrial part of the settlement is an area of industrial activity consisting of small and medium-sized businesses, physically and functionally separated from the broader industrial fabric of its immediate surroundings. The industrial sector in Esparreguera and in the Baix Llobregat region, where the town is located, is one of the biggest hubs of economic activity and employment of any industrial sector in Catalonia. To ensure the continuity of the industrial part of the settlement, it is necessary to consider the industrial surroundings of the area and analyse its possible urban and functional connectivity with the settlement.

Meanwhile, many people living in the residential part of the settlement are socially vulnerable and there is also spatial segregation. Residents are currently living in vulnerable conditions in terms of the state of preservation of the buildings, the level of consolidation of the urban infrastructure and the clear lack of access to public services and facilities. The strategic assessment should suggest actions aimed at improving this situation of segregation, with special emphasis on the strategy for action affecting the housing that still exists in the residential area.

2. Integration of new buildings with historic heritage assets

The residential part of the settlement has a specialised and obsolete urban fabric. The current plan and the one now being drafted establish an increase in

development potential for what is currently the residential area, and this must be integrated with the existing buildings of heritage interest.

An assessment of the new planned development potential is now required in relation to the site's location in the area, possible uses and the architectural shape it might take, in order to revitalise, include and integrate the resident population of the settlement.

Alongside the planned new build, 37 families are currently living in vulnerable conditions in the settlement and action is needed to regularise their situations. This will require a renovation plan for the existing buildings. In this respect, following the EUROPAN competition phase, the winning team will have to draw up a strategic plan to renovate the 14 buildings and 37 homes that are now lived in. In this management strategy context, the team winning the competition will be commissioned to draw up a design to convert the former inn into six residential units so that this can be incorporated into the renovation strategy for the 14 existing residential buildings in the settlement.

3. The transition of the settlement to energy self-sufficiency with the incorporation of renewable energies and the use of the water resource

The water resource, which was the origin of the settlement's industrial activity and the subsequent development of the residential area, has been decisive in its development.

The assessment of the future of the settlement is an opportunity to rethink the incorporation of renewable energies in the project, as well as the use of the water resource to obtain energy from the mid-21st century onwards.

2. CURRENT INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY IN COLONIA SEDÓ

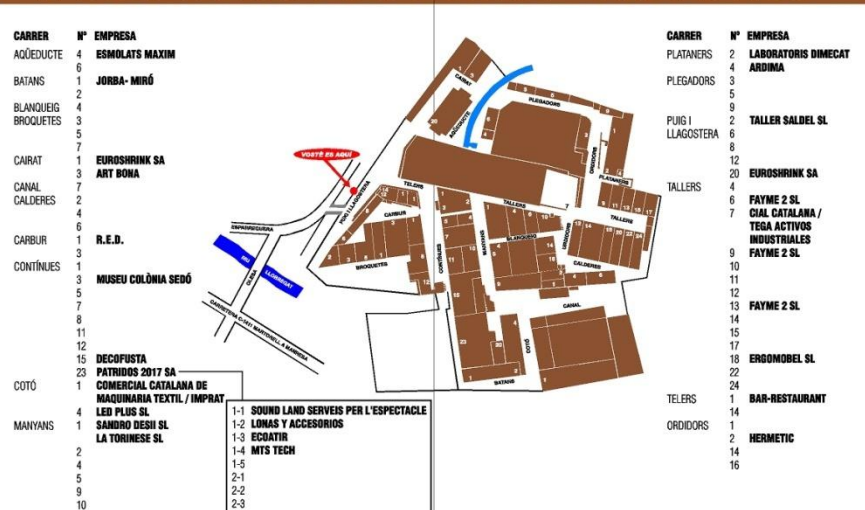
With the closure of the factory at Colonia Sedó in 1980, the industrial area was divided up at the request of the new owners, and the fragmentation of ownership began. The large warehouses that had been used by the textile operation were broken up into different independent spaces used for a wide variety of activities.

The industrial area of Colonia Sedó now hosts about 50 productive activities. The most important businesses have owned the industrial buildings for years and in some cases have acquired new units to expand their activities. However, a considerable part of the economic activity of the industrial area is carried out in rented parts of industrial units housing multiple small-scale activities of limited added value, particularly storage used by self-employed workers and SMEs. One factor that makes the settlement different from other industrial estates is the availability of spaces smaller than 300 m², as the industrial surface area was divided up into pavilions, thus breaking the large industrial units down into spaces of uneven size.

Activities relating to metalwork and woodwork have mostly predominated in the settlement's industrial estate since the closure of the factory. However, because of the diverse nature of the space and affordable prices, the established activities are now also highly diverse, including different industrial and artistic sectors. Nowadays in the settlement, apart from the many activities related to the metalworking and woodworking industries, there is a theatrical design workshop, a decoration and design business, a manufacturer of 3D printed materials, a mapping business, a vertical gardening business, a sculptor and manufacturers of children's furniture, among other activities.

The nine biggest businesses occupy about 50% of the industrial estate. They are:

ÀREA INDUSTRIAL CAN SEDÓ



MAP OF THE LOCATION OF BUSINESSES IN THE INDUSTRIAL AREA OF COLONIA SEDÓ

- **Comercial catalana de Maquinària Textil** – purchase and sale of industrial machinery <http://www.comercialcatalana.com/es/>
- **Laboratoris Dimecat** – diet product manufacturer <http://www.dimecat.es/>
- **Fayme** – manufacture of metal furniture and accessories. <https://fayme2.com/>
- **Sandro Dessi** – manufacturer of gourmet pasta and ice cream <https://www.sandrodesii.com/>
- **Decofusta** – carpentry <https://decofusta.com/>
- **Euroshrink** – metal profile manufacturer <http://www.euroshrink.es/>
- **Art Bona** – crafts <https://www.artbona.com/>
- **Rubiflex** – printing and lamination. <http://rubiflex.com/>
- **Jorba Miró** – theatre set manufacturers

The rest consist of about 40 other owners of industrial units and smaller spaces.

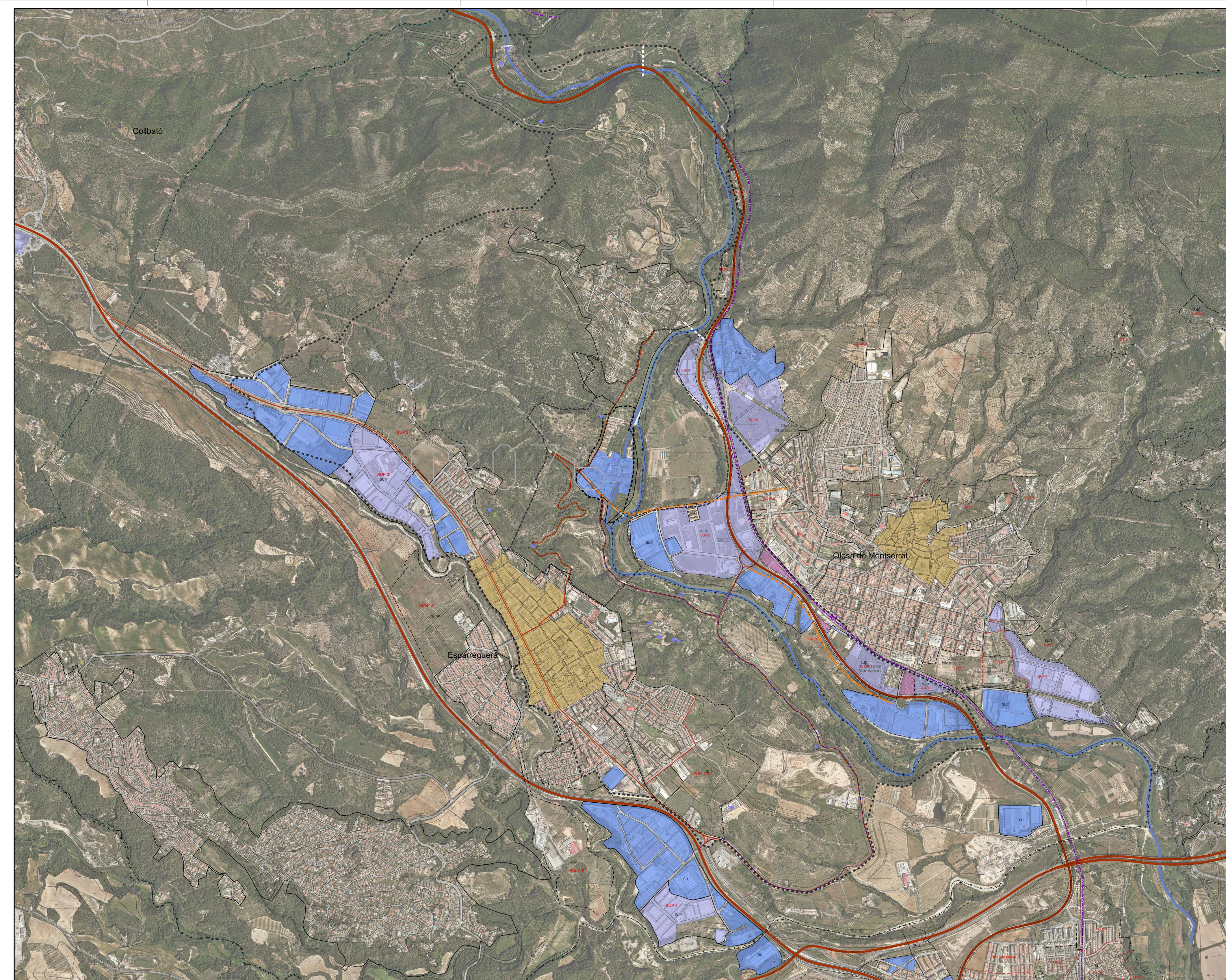
B. GRAPHIC DESCRIPTION OF THE INDUSTRIAL SETTLEMENT

COLONIA SEDÓ

- 2. Tres chimeneas
- 3. Casa del Amo
- 4. Jardín del Amo
- 5. Iglesia
- 6. Colegio
- 7. Viviendas 1880' (derribadas)
- 8. Viviendas 1940'
- 10. Lavaderos
- 11. Teatro polideportivo
- 12. Huertos
- 13. Acueducto
- 14. Torre con el salto del agua
- 15. Presa de Broquetas
- 16. Canal de Broquetas














C. PLAN OF THE INDUSTRIAL SURROUNDINGS OF THE SETTLEMENT



LEGEND



- 
-  Territorial influence site
 Study site
 Project site
 Municipal borders

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
|  | Main roads |
|  | Secondary roads |
|  | Industrial Colony access |
|  | Railway line |
|  | River |
|  | Center town |

- Industrial heritage
- Railway station

CLASSIFICATIONS of REGIONAL LAND PLANNING OF CATALONIA (MUC)

- | | |
|-----|---------------------------------|
| SUC | Suelo urbano consolidado |
| SNC | Suelo urbano no consolidado |
| SUD | Suelo urbanizable delimitado |
| SND | Suelo urbanizable no delimitado |
| SNU | Suelo no urbanizable |

QUALIFICATIONS of REGIONAL LAND PLANNING OF CATALONIA (MUC)

Urban land

- Industrial
- Facilities
- Logistic

Land for development

- Economic activity development

urban planning



Project title

European 16
Living cities

Colonia Sedó.
Industrial colony c. XXI

Site
Esparreguera
(Baix Llobregat)

Plan title

Urban industrial analysis plan
around Colònia Sedó

Author
Incasòl

Scale	
DIN-A1	1:10.000
DIN-A3	1:20.000

Date
april 2021

Plan number	3-d.3
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