

La Comunal

La Comunal has been an architectural exercise where the rehabilitation of the factory, the programmatic fit of 5 different activities and the climate and environmental care solve and connect the needs of more than 80 working members of 8 entities of the social and solidarity economies with the neighborhood that hosts it.



La Comunal occupies half of the block between the streets of En Blanco, Tenor Masini and Riera d'Escuder. It is a cataloged building by the town hall, and urbanistically it is misaligned with the urban fabric of the place.

It has always been a place of labor, originally manufacturing and storage and now services, it has never ceased to be a professional facility in its 95-year history. The original uses were housing, shop and warehouse and the uses for which it has been rehabilitated are shop, offices, concert hall, restaurant and common areas. The clear separation of the spaces served from the servers has been key to accommodating new uses.

It is a small size factory of which very few remain standing. We extend its life cycle and reconvert the manufacturing industry into cooperative culture linked to the neighborhood. Its original volume and materiality is recovered by updating it with environmental criteria through three axes that directly affect energy demands and consumption as well as material impacts.

Advised by the team of environmentalists and with the climate shelters (green, blue and gray) as references, the courtyard of La Comunal, after the second phase of greening, will become a safe space in terms of urban planning and climate change. Proper disposal of the lights, humid shade when it is hot, security, accessibility and human attention are some of the characteristics with which the space has been designed.

We have divided the climate strategy of the project into 3 axes. Each axis of intervention affects material and climatic issues directly affecting energy demands and consumption.

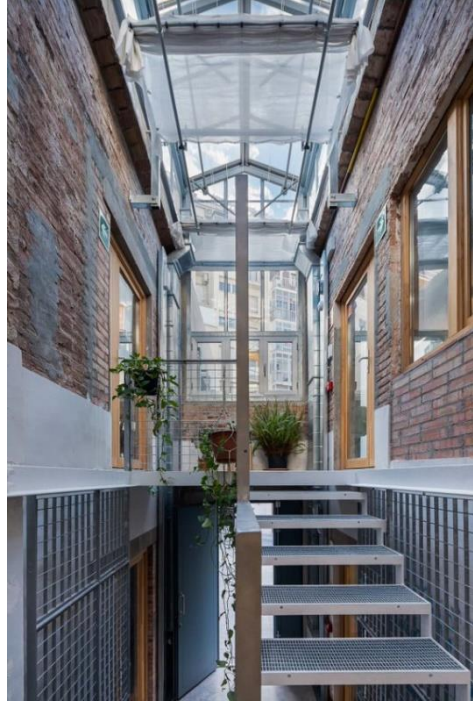
AIR

Greenhouses and the reduction of heated square meters have been the lines of action that have structured this axis. Renewal air is pre-treated in greenhouses before entering offices, preheating it in the winter and cooling it in the summer. The server spaces have been left outside the heated enclosures. Circulations, office, toilets and accesses do not receive thermal comfort treatment and in some cases there is not even protection from the rain.

Building less in all those places considered transitory has been the result of a debate that sought to minimize impacts at all levels.

WATER (blue and green)

Given the dichotomy of using drinking water for irrigation or cleaning of spaces, the use of rainwater seemed the best option to address this second axis. Under the courtyard we will find a tank of 5,000 liters of water that is filled with water collected from the roofs of the building. In a second phase, the new building and the courtyard will receive a greening process with climbing vegetation and automatic irrigation systems connected to the tank.



MATERIALS (grey)

Materially, the intervention of the warehouses has focused, above all, on their structural consolidation and on the improvement of their energy and bioclimatic behavior. The possibility of insulating the walls on the outside, avoiding thermal bridges and achieving the highest thermal inertia on the inside has been possible thanks to lime and cork mortars. The beams that supported the reed ceiling have been reused as rakes with which to grow 15 cm where the roof insulation is placed. Floors and other elements in contact with the ground have been insulated with rigid foams from the sandwich panel industry.

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