

Abstract

The Raval quarter is the area of Barcelona where the ratio between free and build space is more deprived. The lack of public space, turns it to an urban weave not very well articulated, despite its high density. The Raval quarter was a sector of the city in clear decadence, prompted by a gradual ageing of the population, by a construction in precarious living conditions of habitability, an inadequate accessibility, a lack of public space, and by old urban infrastructures.

This situation in the neighborhood worsened with the progressive arrival of immigrant population, causing the substitution of the resident population for an every time more marginal population.

With all these premises, the Raval quarter was asking for a change from top to the bottom. Thus, at the very end of the eighties, this worry between the citizens converged in the elaboration of the *Pla Especial de Reforma Interior del Raval*.

The urban development caused by the *Pla Especial de Reforma Interior* in the year 1986 had as goals to improve the living conditions of the residents of the Raval and to give back the character of center of socioeconomic activities that corresponded for location and history. As well as the creation of new free spaces and the rehabilitation or substitution of the housings. The strong public intervention in the past last years has materialized practically almost each of the urban structures that were proposed in the P.E.R.I. of the Raval. In this way, it has opened to the city as a result of the improvement of its accessibility and public space.

Between all the actions that the P.E.R.I. planned, there were two more important particularly. The first, placed in the north Raval, was about a set of museum equipments that had as his major element, the MACBA, placed in *la Plaça dels Àngels*.

The second, placed in the south of Raval, was the urbanization of the *Rambla del Raval* with its urbanistic complex called *Illa de la Rambla del Raval*, as an element not yet finished. With it, it was expected that the zone were revitalized as much social as commercially.

The urbanistic process that has happened in the Raval is a process that still it has not been finished, and has caused some conflicts between the resident population. Conflicts caused by the emptying of the antique constructions, in order to fluff and clean the neighborhood, which has caused a set of expropriations, in some cases not very well solved.

The other problem has been that the urbanistic renewal in the neighborhood has caused indirectly an increase of price on the market of rent and purchase, that has ended many times in the escape of the autochthonous population with minor purchasing power.

And at last, the third and great problem, which does not have nothing to do with the procees of urbanistic reform. It is the social conflicts generated from the massive arrival of immigrants turning the neighborhood into the most multicultural of the city of Barcelona.