The project Barcelona Cruiser Port, by Khaled Mlanao, Dilara Sezgin and Elisa Tozzi, is far from subtlety. Into the sea, and in front of the Montjuïc hill, the project creates a whole new neighborhood for Barcelona, that is to have the same size and density as the Eixample district, all assuming a new population of 260,000 inhabitants.

The new island will be hanging from the Meridiana Avenue, which shares the cardinal orientation of the meridian lines. The avenue will be extended over the Mediterranean Sea, becoming the new district’s main avenue. The island emulates the Macià Plan when transforming the nineteenth-century blocks into super-blocks, including 9 of the traditional Eixample blocks. These new super-blocks will have the size of 400x400m, and in between them, streets but also maritime canals will take place. The salted water will not only run around the super-blocks but also under, being all lifted up to height of 15 meters, and giving place to a huge and shadowed plate, where public activities would be intertwined with car parks, small ports, all kind of facilities, vertical connections, as well as commercial services that would connect both stages: the Piranesian atmosphere of the under-super-blocks, and the open and sunny world of above, where domestic and professional life will take place.

The project is expected to be achieved through a series of phases, which should, ultimately, link the island with the Barcelona port area, as well as receiving an implementation of subterranean public transportation services. The new urban piece will also transform the Montjuïc hill into an inner park for the city of Barcelona, modifying its skyline and contributing to a more sea-connected lifestyle for the people living in Barcelona.

Despite the project might seem Dubai-like, there exist some aspects that avoid reaching this conclusion. The project is not banally iconic thanks to the continuity that establishes with the existing city. In terms of mobility, the by-pass nature that the new district allows under the Montjuïc hill, belts it strongly with the existing Barcelona. At the same-time, the Cerdà-Macià-like super-blocks have an origin in the existing Barcelona and its main urban characteristic. And finally, the extension into the sea of the Meridian Avenue and its transformation into a new Diagonal Avenue for the new city, melt naturally the existing and the new.
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