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PROYECTO DE FINAL DE CARRERA

REAL SOCIEDAD DE TENIS POMPEIA, ARQUITECTURA Y HISTORIA

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2.- HISTORICAL STUDY
2.1.- BARCELONA INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION, 1929

The place, where the Reial Societat Tennis Pompeia is located now, was built for the Barcelona International Exhibition of 1929, the idea was to build a stand of tennis for the competition to gather all the conditions so they could celebrate international championship games during the exhibition.

The Barcelona International Exhibition was celebrated from May 20th, 1929 to January 15th, 1930 in the mountain of Montjuïc, with an area of 118 hectares, took part more than twenty countries and it meant a big urban development to Barcelona, represented the consolidation of the noucentisme style, classic style and sober, and the introduction in Spain of international art currents.

The city of Barcelona in the early twentieth century needed a project that will provide ways and facilities to carry out the ideas of industrial expansion in Barcelona area, since the Barcelona region suffered serious problems that needed resolution if it wished to have a growth horizon.

The idea of a new exhibition began to take shape in 1905, promoted by the architect Josep Puig i Cadafalch, as a way of bringing out a new plan of connections designed by Léon Jaussely, which provide the city with the necessary infrastructure to enable their expansion. Because of the rise of the electricity industry since the end of the nineteenth century, it was thought that it would be a good idea to make an Exhibition of the Electrical Industries.

The board of the Exhibition Industry was formed in 1914 and in 1917 the works in the mountain began with the idea that the exhibition would be taken place, at the beginning, in 1919, but the slowness of the works replaced it, in principle, by 1923. However, in 1921, the work was almost stopped because of the lack of resources and the uncertainty of the exhibition by itself, since this organization was a little erratic. Anyway, the idea of an Electrical Industries Exhibition was revived with the intention of celebrating it in 1923.

The coup of General Primo de Rivera affected the direction of the Exhibition. The dissolution of the Mancomunitat de Catalunya, after the resignation of Josep Puig i Cadafalch, and the resignation of other political offices of the direction of the Exhibition made that the works for the celebration stopped until 1925. The same year a new royal commissioner for the exhibition was designated and, with the simultaneous enhancement of the Spanish-American Exhibition of Sevilla, the activity undertaken in Montjuic was returned, which would not stop until its opening in 1929.

Nevertheless, with the military dictatorship, the policy of the exhibition, devoted initially to the electrical industries, changed and became to a Barcelona International Exhibition, devoted to industry, sports and art. This change made that the exhibition was reorganized. However, at this phase, there were no significant changes overall. The project made in 1917 tried to continue changing the hands that made the job and splitting responsibility in the various architects who had to perform the work. For realising these changes, a new competition was called for choosing a group of architects.

The new decision of incorporating the sport as a protagonist of the exhibition made that sports buildings were built for 1929 that could deploy all kinds of shows of this nature, this fact was one of the basic attractions of the event. Among the sports buildings built specifically for the exhibition, perhaps, the best known are the Stadium and the Olympic pool, but along with the Estadio other sports facilities were built, including the so-called tennis, site where now stands The Reial Societat de Tennis Pompeia.

The tennis court and the pavilion built for the event, stood next to the Palacio de Deportes, among the same palace, the Spanish Village, the old stadium and Marques de Comillas’s Ave. The tennis court, the pavilion and the paths were surrounded by the same vegetation of the area. Although much more modest and more simple, the pavilion built in the tennis area shared similarities with other pavilions of the exhibition. As a brand of noucentisme’s character, classical references are clearly either in the input Doric columns resemble those used in the Roman temples, or cornices, we also find other features such as the preference for the straight line. The initial plant was rectangular and had kept certain symmetry with the holes in the façade.

The tennis exhibition was located within the gardens of Montjuic. One way that served as a boundary marking the area of parks and gardens is the Marques de Comillas Ave., the road is situated behind the tennis grounds. The first definition of what would be the gardens of Montjuic was drawn in 1914 by architect Amargós, this definition was very important because all the designers of the exhibition and the gardens engineers worked with it. However, design managers parks of Montjuic were Forestier, French engineer, and Rubió Tudurí and those are the people that confers the venue of the exhibition’s character set.
The Exhibition was inaugurated on May 19th, 1929 by King Alfonso XIII and was attended by General Primo de Rivera, and other personalities from the worlds of politics, economy and culture of Catalonia, also it was attended by some 200,000 people. It ended in 1930, in the time of world crisis. The exhibition left the City of Barcelona greatly indebted, the municipal financial situation was nearly bankrupt. That made its success was relative, during its course there was the stock market crash of 1929, which reduced the number of participants in the competition, however, there were a lot of people that went to see the exhibition.

Map of Barcelona International Exhibition, 1929. We could see, mark with a red circle, the place where the tennis courts were.
Picture of Barcelona International Exhibition took in 1929.
2.2.- TENNIS OF MONTJUIC 1930-1936

As we said before, the economic situation in the early 30's was critical. In Spain, it was lived with enough intensity, the discontent of the people was shown in large-scale political change, as was the appointment of the Second Republic. The economic situation was worrying and in the case of Barcelona even more, because it was covering the costs of an exhibition that had left a very high deficit in the coffers of City Hall.

In November 1932, because of the poor economic situation, the City Council of Barcelona agreed to rent to El Centre Autonomista de Dependents del Comerç i de la Industria the tennis courts and the Pavilion annex, leasing demand as 6% of value of the tennis courts. Nevertheless, El Centre Autonomista de Dependents del Comerç i de la Industria though that the price was too high and they couldn’t afford it. Then, they proposed to replace the lease of the tennis for the right to use it with the commitment to the maintenance, repair and monitoring the tennis courts and pavilion annex, which the City would maintain the facility without any cost to the city. The City Council agreed to cede the tennis courts with the condition that other societies would be able to use it too.

In 1933 the conditions of the deal were written. In these documents the Barcelona City Council authorized El Centre Autonomista de Dependents del Comerç i de la Industria to use the tennis courts installed in the Municipal Park of Montjuic for a term of one year renewable.

In 1935, after having extended the date of the deal for another year, the president of the Sports Section of El Centre Autonomista de Dependents del Comerç i de la Industria, addressed to the City Council to explain that since El Centre Autonomista de Dependents del Comerç i de la Industria took over the tennis courts with the idea of doing the reparation and the maintenance, the cost of it has increase a lot and he thought that the term of one year is clearly insufficient to repay the money that they have expend, and this fact made that they aren’t able to do their job of preserve carefully the tennis courts. The president of the Sports Section of El Centre Autonomista de Dependents del Comerç i de la Industria beg to the City Council the renewal of the authorization to occupy and use the tennis courts and the pavilion with the same conditions of the deal made on 24th May of 1933 but for a period of time for five year, sine 31st, December of 1939.

Any information has been found to tell us what happened, if the City Council accepted or not the request of the President of El Centre Autonomista de Dependents del Comerç i de la Industria. Anyway if it was accepted, El Centre Autonomista de Dependents del Comerç i de la Industria never could be there until the end of the time agreed because in 1936 the Spanish civil war started.
2.3.- REIAL SOCIETAT DE TENNIS POMPEIA

The club's history began in 1908 with the construction of the Temple of the Shrine of Pompeia driven by Father Rupert, Capuchin friar secretary of cardinal Vives i Tutó. Along with the construction of the temple, nowadays known as the Church of Mare de Deu del Roser of Pompeia, a lot of cultural and recreational activities were created and they were coordinated and paid by a board created for that function.

The meeting of the Board, called the Asociación de la Nostre Sra. De Pompeia, turned into a new foundations called the Societat Sportiva Pompeia trying to encourage the exercise among the youth of the time.

Soon the Societat Sportiva Pompeia acquired great fame and popularity within the upper class of Barcelona and the sport that was more developed was tennis. That meant that the Board was forced to seek a broader land where they could build several tracks that would serve only for tennis, because in the old place they had to share the tennis courts with others activities. The place chosen to build the new tennis courts was located between Casanova's Street, the Gracia Sidewalk, Santaló's Street, Amigó's Street and the Diagonal Ave.

Because of the success of tennis between the Barcelona bourgeoisie and the expansion of the sport area, the number of participants has grown considerably. When the society changed the place they built 2 or 3 tennis courts and in 1940 there were 8.

On 9th, June of 1920, the society was given the title “Royal” by the Royal Family, title that few clubs in Spain deserved it.

In 1925 the Societat Sportiva Pompeia, due to the dissolution of the Board created by the Father Rupert, dissociated itself from the sanctuary.

The club, which was renamed to Real Sociedad de Tenis Pompeya because of the dictatorship, could resist the war. Nevertheless, at the end of the 40’s the problems started. The increased of the economic activity along with the great migration of people from the countryside to the city were the reasons for the boom of construction started, it increased the value of land in downtown areas of cities. This fact made that the stay of the club in a central area as Gracia Sidestreet, was complicated, as these lands were leased. So in the early 50’s, the club was forced to leave their site.
The document where appears that the Royal Family gave to the club the title “Royal”. 

Photography of Father Rupert, the founder of the Societat Sportiva Pompeia.
Pictures of the Reial Societat Pompeia when it was located in Gracia Sidestreet
2.4.- TO TRANSFER LA REIAL SOCIETAT DE TENNIS POMPEIA TO MONTJUIC

After the club had to leave the tennis courts of Gracia Sidestreet, it rented a space in Trav Gràcia, 13, where members gathered to play cards. Whereas, Josep Bial Vila, president of the club in that moment, along with support from the president of the Spanish Tennis Federation, requested to the City Council of Barcelona the transfer to the Club, the tennis courts located within the Montjuïc Park, which were abandoned due to poor condition.

Finally, on 5th June of 1951 and by private agreement between the both parts, the tennis courts of Montjuic were granted to the Reial Societat de Tennis Pompeia with the duty of taking care for the preservation of it in all its aspects.

Conditions required by the City Council:

1º.- The Real Sociedad de Tenis Pompeya is committed to put in a perfect state of operation and use the tennis courts and the staff like locker rooms, showers, sanitary and water distribution, networks and electrical installations located in the campus where the tennis courts are situated, as well as caring for the perfect preservation of all these services only by itself.

2º.- Also, the Real Sociedad de Tenis Pompeya will proceed, at its own expense, to install a fence around the perimeter surrounding the enclosure, according to the orders of Mr. Architect of Parks and Gardens of the Hon. City Council.

3º.- The Society has to take care of trees, gardens and plantations of the enclosure, increasing and improving the vegetations according to what the service of Parks and Gardens ordered.

4º.- The Real Sociedad de Tenis Pompeya can’t make new or modify elements in existence without the authorization from the Hon. City Council.

5º.- All works improvements, elements and gardens in the grounds that could be made, will belong to the Hon. City Council and if the deal between both parts finished the Real Sociedad de Tenis Pompeya won’t be able to complain or beg a compensation.

6º.- The Exc. City Council or in its representation the Municipal Delegation of Sports reserves the right, it considers when it pertaining, to use exclusively all the mentioned facilities to celebrate in them the Contests, National or International Tests of Tennis that it considers opportune, without the Real Sociedad de Tenis Pompeya has right to intervention. In such case the Exc. City Council would warn the Real Sociedad de Tenis Pompeya with eight days of anticipation, its decision to use in advance, coming forced the Society from that moment to stop all activities in the tracks and enclosure and annexed facilities until the act or festival organized by the Exc. City council is finished, and without this Society neither their associates haven’t privilege for the attendance to such acts.

7º. - The use right that settles down agrees for a year to count automatically from this date considering itself prorogued for periods of equal duration if any of the parts warns the other of its will of end this agreement with a month of anticipation.

8º.- In compensation of the expenses that the Real Sociedad de Tenis Pompeya could realized in the improvement of playgrounds and facilities and in their conservation, at the moment there aren’t a canon or economic indemnification paid to the Exc. City council, but if a period of five years is passed, this agreement will continue and the indemnification will be determined.

9º. - When the Exc. City council or its name the Municipal Delegation of Sports has the closing the Park of Montjuic to the celebration of acts and manifestations of festive character, cultural, sport or of any other class, the Real Sociedad de Tenis Pompeya will not be able to demand an exception that let its access to the enclosure of the Park.

10º. - This concession or permission of use is understood unique and exclusively in favor of the Real Sociedad de Tenis Pompeya, reason why the same will not be able to carry out cession of its rights in favor of other natural or legal person, expiring this concession or permission automatically in case that the Real Sociedad de Tenis Pompeya breach this pact.
After a period of preparation of all the facilities of the tennis courts, because of these were in a deplorable state, Jose Bial Vila, president of club, write a letter to the City council begging to spread the area of the tennis courts annexing the adjacent zone, that include the free spaces and the strolls that surround the tennis facilities, with the purpose of being able to carry out the works that the club would like to do. Pleading to the City Council that in that zone there aren’t trees and it could be a good place to build news tennis courts.

In this letter, Josep Bial Vila, tells to the City Council the improvement works that the club has made since 1951 to 1953, explaining the cost of them, that ascends to seven hundred fifty thousand pesetas and exposing that if the City Council gives the place that surround the tennis they will spend another two hundred fifty thousand, which will altogether represent a total investment of a million pesetas, all this voluntary and it contributes to the improvement and embellishment of a zone of municipal park without it represents, for the public coffers, any cost.

He reiterates in the request of the cession of adjacent lands and the consequent metallic construction of a close to verify therefore the total fence of the enclosure of the club. He exposes that if the City Council gives its permission to the club to stay there, the works of extend will be begun immediately and thanks of it, the number of member will increase. This will mean the cancellation of all the debts contracted by the Society. When undertaking the huge work plan within the enclosure of the Park of Montjuic, which the Meeting Board of directors aims is to re-print on the progress of the Society, that boom and that achieved popularity in the past, therefore, the City Council shouldn’t deny their support.

Works and improvements made since 1951 to 1953

- Total restoration of the pavilion.
- Extension and decoration of the changing rooms with the installation of 250 individual closets.
- Build a new bar.
- Installations of a new central heating.
- Installation of a new kitchen.
- Build some warehouse to keep the sport things and all king of staff for the employed of the club.
- Restoration of the gardens and strolls.
- Total reconstruction of the central tennis court, steps, seats, shield walls, painting and metallic fences.
- Construction of a swimming pool of 12.50 x 8 meters.
- Construction of three new tennis courts.
- Installation of complete network of irrigation pipes.
- Construction of a bowling.
- Fence total of the enclosure of the club, with 350m of walls with metallic posts and wire fences.
- Retaining wall of earth in the angle of the tennis court nº 3 of 17 meters in length by 80 centimeters in width.
- Remove of 50 cubic meters of earth for the explanation of adjacent lands to the central tennis courts.
- Installation of multiple metallic awnings, tables for the service of restaurant and the swimming pool, chairs and armchairs etc.
- Installation of a table of Ping-pong.
- Installation of a football table.
What lacked to complete the program established by the club:
- Construction of three tennis courts for contests.
- Installation of the lighting system in the main tennis court to turn it into appropriate conditions of illuminated tennis court of contest.
- Qualification of enclosure for parking of cars.
- Construction of a great dance floor.

Like an answer for the request of the club, the City Council of Barcelona, on date of 15th of June of 1954, wrote up norms in exchange for give the piece of land that the club needed to increase the tennis courts, the norms consisted of:

1º. - The City council trusts to the Real Society of Pompei Tennis the care and conservation of the tennis courts located the Park of Montjuic and other sport facilities, existing constructions of all nature within the perimeter so that, this Society, affiliate to the sport Federation and especially dedicated to the practice and promotion of tennis, try to do a correct use of them.

2º. - The regime that settles down will be ended five years, to count of the date of its approval by the City council.

3º. - The Real Sociedad de Tenis Pompeya will pay in the municipal Box, per advance trimesters, the amount agreed of 500pts monthly, like participation in the yields that it obtains by the use of the tennis courts.

4º. - The entrance in the enclosure will be free for the public generally, and the facilities could be used according to the conditions and tariffs that the Corporation approves.

5º. - The Real Sociedad de Tenis Pompeya, will be forced to take care of the conservation and improves all the facilities, buildings, constructions, gardens, etc. That exist within the enclosure and In the total fence of it.

6º. - Within both first years counted from the adoption in the agreement to which these norms are accompanied, the Real Sociedad de Tenis Pompeya will have to do the following works:
   a) Build two new tennis courts for contests, without destroying any tree.
   b) install lighting system in the main track.

Also it will be able to construct a dance floor for the celebrations.

The accomplishment of these improvements and whichever others can take place will require previous permission in writing of the City Council and in any case their direction and inspection will be in charge of the municipal Technical Services.

When it affects the trees and gardens, the conformity of the corresponding service will have to be successfully obtained.

7º. - Whichever improvements, extensions and constructions of all nature take to effect in the enclosure, will be of property from the Municipality when finalizing the regime of established advantage, without right to perceive any kind of indemnification.

8º. - The City council reserves the right to use the days and in form that it considers advisable, all a part of the facilities, with the condition of warning it in eight days ahead.

The members of the club will lose, in those cases, their habitual prerogatives.

9º. - When the City Council wants to close the Park of Montjuic to the celebration of acts and manifestations of any nature, the Real Sociedad de Tenis Pompeya will not be able to demand an exception that let it has access to the enclosure of the Park.

10º. - The Real Sociedad de Tenis Pompeya will have to take care of, under its responsibility, of the effective monitoring so that the users use the sport facilities keep the due composure and respect to the moral convention, decency and hygiene and, in particular, that comply with Sides, Decrees and Regulations of security for the people and things related to the police of this class of establishments, as well as the instructions of the City Council.
11º. - All the expenses that take place, or are of consumption, entertainment, services, contributions, even the territorial if it will be demanded, taxes and wills of all nature, will be of account of the Society, on whom the payment of the wages, pays will also depend and other costs of the employers that works in the enclosure, whatever their category or work and will be had to them, to all the effects, like supervisory Organization of the same, with the consequences that spring from the works norms of application.

12º. - The established regime could not be delegated, yielded, rented, or transferred, under any modality, by the Real Sociedad de Tenis Pompeya. In case of dissolution of this one by any cause services to the arranged, it will be without effect, this deal will be ended and all the facilities will be under what condition nº 7 says.

13º. - The breach or defective fulfillment of these norms will mean the automatic cancellation of the established regime if the Society, was warned and it will not rectify its attitude and it will correct the deficiency indicated within the 15 days following to the notification.

14º. - Finished the term of duration that pays attention to the norm second, the City council will be able to consider, taking care of the interest general of the City and the sport conveniences of the same, the possibility of proroguing the regime established in the form and conditions that determines, without the fact to continue using the facilities in the period that will mediate between the completion of that one and the municipal agreement on the future form of use of the enclosure, grants to the Real Sociedad de Tenis Pompeya to continue delegating of the advantage that trusts to it.

15º. - It is terminated and cancelled the subscribed agreement to 5th June of 1951 between the City Council and the Real Sociedad de Tenis Pompeya.

When the period of five years was finished, the club begged to the City council the extension of it. The City council accepted but it established new conditions:

The conditions number. 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 will remain with any change.

Norms 2 and 3 will be written as it follows:
2) The regime that settles down will last 5 years to count of 1st of June of 1960.
3) The Real Sociedad de Tenis Pompeya will pay to the City Council, per advance trimesters, the amount agreed of 1000pts monthly, like participation in the yields that are obtained by the use of the tennis of Montjuic.

To date of 27th December of 1966, finalized the period established by the previous agreement, the City Council returns to establish new conditions regarding the renting of the tracks:

1º. - The City council trusts to the Real Sociedad de Tenis Pompeya the care and conservation of the tennis courts that are located within the Park of Montjuic, so that this Society, affiliate to the corresponding sport Federation and especially dedicated to the practice and promotion of tennis, try to take care of it.

2º. - The regime that settles down will be ended five years, to count of the date of its approval by the City council.

3º. - Despite the established in the preceding norm, the City council reserves the faculty of at any time, to recover those lands included in the present authorization that it considers necessary for his aims. For the effectiveness of this norm, it will be enough that the City council notifies its decision to the Real Sociedad de Tenis Pompeya fifteen days ahead.

4º. - The Real Sociedad de Tenis Pompeya, will pay to the City Council per advance trimesters, the amount of 1,500 monthly pts, like participation in the yields it obtained by the use of the tennis courts.
5º. - The entrance in the enclosure will be free for the public generally, and the facilities could be used according to the conditions and tariffs that the Corporation approves.

6º. - The Real Sociedad de Tenis Pompeya, will have to take care of the conservation and improves of all the, buildings, constructions, garden, etc. that exist within the enclosure. Also the ordinary and extraordinary repairs will run of their account that must take place.

7º. - Whichever improvements, extensions and constructions of all nature take to effect in the enclosure, will be of property from the Municipality when finalizing the regime of established advantage, without right to perceive any kind of indemnification.

8º. - The City council reserves the right to use the days and in form that it considers advisable, all or part of the facilities, with the condition of warning it in eight days ahead. The members of the club will lose, in those cases, their habitual prerogatives.

9º. - When the City Council wants to close the Park of Montjuic to the celebration of acts and manifestations of any nature, the Real Sociedad de Tenis Pompeya will not be able to demand an exception that let it has access to the enclosure of the Park.

10º. - The Real Sociedad de Tenis Pompeya will have to take care of, under its responsibility, the effective monitoring so that the users use the sport facilities keep the due composure and respect to the moral convention, decency and hygiene and, in particular, that comply with Sides, Decrees and Regulations of security for the people and things related to the police of this class of establishments, as well as the instructions of the City council.

11º. - All the expenses that take place, or are of consumption, entertainment, services, contributions, even the territorial if it will be demanded, taxes and wills of all nature, will be of account of the Society, on whom the payment of the wages, pays also depend and other costs of the employers that works in the enclosure, whatever their category or work and will be had to them, to all the effects, like supervisory Organization of the same, with the consequences that spring from the works norms of application.

12º. - The established regime could not be delegated, yielded, rented, or transferred, under any modality, by the Real Sociedad de Tenis Pompeya.

In case of dissolution of this one by any cause services to the arranged, it will be without effect, this deal will be ended and all the facilities will be under what condition nº 6 says.

13º. - The breach or defective fulfillment of these norms will mean the automatic cancellation of the established regime if the Society, was warned and it will not rectify its attitude and it will correct the deficiency indicated within the 15 days following to the notification.

14º. - Finished the term of duration that pays attention to the norm second, the City council will be able to consider, taking care of the interest general of the City and the sport conveniences of the same, the possibility of proroguing the regime established in the form and conditions that determines, without the fact to continue using the facilities in the period that will mediate between the completion of that one and the municipal agreement on the future form of use of the enclosure, grants to the Real Sociedad de Tenis Pompeya to continue delegating of the advantage that trusts to it.

In July of 1967, before the period of five years is fulfilled since the new agreement of 1966 was signed, Jacint Casanovas Boniquet, the president in that moment, sends an official letter to the City council explaining that the club has arrived at a point of development that it is necessary to extend the facilities. However, for this objective is necessary to spend a lot of money and with the quotes and contributions of the members it wouldn’t be enough. Nevertheless, with the subsidies that National Delegation of Sports education gave, this project would be possible to carried out. As requisite to obtain the subsidies it is necessary to have in property used lands or to enjoy in guaranteed form and by a term no inferior to 20 years.

Mr. Jacinto Casanovas, appealing to the measures made by the club from 1954, requests the City Council that grants to the club the use of the facilities by a minimum period of time of 20 years and to be able to enjoy the subsidis.
Has not been found any documentation that explains exactly what happened, if the City Council accepted or not the request of Mr. Casanovas, however, thanks to the collaboration of Mr. Antonio Vallecillos Sanchez, manager of the club, we have been able to know that the term of renting, before periods of five years, happened to a period of 10 years. Also we know that at the end of the sixty the works of extension of the club were begun equipping it with one more floor, was constructed what nowadays it is the dining room and the room of TV, both located in the first floor. Between 1970-1972, approximately, the tennis court nº 7 was constructed and at the beginning of the 80’s the gymnasium and at the beginning of the 90’s was constructed the room games.

Thanks to the interviews realized we know that for about twenty years, approximately, any type does not become of agreement of renting with the City council nor is pleased any type of quota by the cession of lands, however, like requirements:

- The club has to become position of all the expenses related to the maintenance of the facilities.
- The entrance is open to all type of public.
- Three days to the week, during 2h in the afternoons, a tennis court is yielded for the Sants-Montjuic district.