BIBLIOTECA MUNICIPAL Y CASA DE LA VILA DE NOU BARRIS
(ANTIGUO HOSPITAL MENTAL DE LA SANTA CRUZ)
HISTORIA Y ARQUITECTURA

INGENIERÍA DE LA EDIFICACIÓN
PROYECTO FINAL DE GRADO

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ENGLISH PART
3. INTRODUCTION
Following I will explain the reasons which have led me to make this work, a small introduction to the project and which is the order defined through it. In the how it will develop following the order already established from the beginning.
The main reason for the present work is to introduce about the history of this building, and try to answer all the questions that people have made about their architectural and constructive aspects. In general, all the neighbors in the area and residents of the neighborhood know currently, the Town Hall of Nou Barris, located in the set, but not everyone knows that we can also find the municipal library and the local police station of Nou Barris. Another point is that most of the people don’t know is that, at the time of its creation, in 1889 it was a madhouse, the largest and most modern in Europe.

Whenever I approached the building I was wondering for the reason of its location. It’s an 100 years old building, so it was strange for that it was so far away from the city center, in an area almost undeveloped at that time. The surprise was that it was a madhouse and that it was necessary to erect on the outskirts of the city so that the sick people could have a quiet environment, unpolluted and in contact with nature, in conclusion, an environment on the outskirts of the city and almost empty.

Another strong point was knowing that the building has had over 500 meters long and over 150 meters wide, excluding the land of crops and other agricultural equipments. These data made me think how big was originally this building, and right now only are 150 meters long and 120 meters wide.

Just knowing this information I had more questions. I thought that I needed to start from the historical context, knowing the causes for which was ordered its construction to give an answer to all my questions; Knowing also the type of sick people that would be hospitalize and know the conditions of life that they would have; Knowing the type of facilities that would have in it, as how would be the lighting, if it would have or not heating and the water installation.

This compendium of things considerably helped me to satisfy my curiosity and learn about the construction techniques that were used in those times, seeing how they have changed in more than a century.

It’s also important to know which are the main characters who acted in this project, since the Most Illustrious Administration of the Hospital de la Santa Cruz, passing by all the technical council of the Town Hall of Barcelona and finally in its main protagonists, the doctor Pi i Molist and the architect Oriol Bernadet.

In this last reference I have to emphasize about the team formed by the last two, Pi i Molist and Oriol Bernadet. They travelled through Europe to analyze the different mental hospitals, since the functionality of the different rooms until the architectural aspects needed. The original project was created by the Doctor Pi i Molist, which drafted Proyecto médico razonado para la construcción del nuevo manicomio del Hospital de Santa Cruz de Barcelona (1860) establishing the needs that had to comply. Thanks to this writing, the architect Oriol i Bernadet designed the final building, (of) which we can see in the present, a little more than a fifth part of this.

As I said earlier, the set is currently composed by the Nou Barris Town Hall, the Nou Barris municipal Library and the local Nou Barris police station. This is due to the fact that with the passing of the years, the center installations remained obsolete. Each time they appeared more private centers with better living conditions, and the sick people, each time less people, created some problems to neighbors of the surrounding area, thus forcing a building reduce in almost half of their land. This was the beginning of the end of the madhouse. A few years later sick people were evicted and subsequently was broken down another part of the set, leaving that we currently known. After this, the rehabilitation came to be able to locate in its inside the Town Hall, the Library and the Police Station.
This work is structured in:

- Historical Background: explanation of everything that surrounds historically about the construction and evolution of the madhouse.

- Construction: Important characters and the construction project.

- Evolution: madhouse evolution.

- Rehabilitation: factors that were taken into account during the rehabilitation and how it was accomplished.

With this short introduction, I would give way to my work, that has answered all my questions about this fantastic building.
6.1. Historical Background

At this point, I will explain the different historical events that occurred before, during and after of the madhouse construction.

We will talk about the historical context and his events, conflicts, revolutions, important facts occurred in this century.

I will talk over the history of the Hospital de la Santa Cruz, since his foundation to the growing and his effect in the environment.

Finally, we will see the reasons that led to build this kind of huge madhouse and characteristics.

Barcelona, 1432
The asylum building trade was erected in 19th century.

It’s a period marked by French conquest in Spanish territory, by carlinas wars and different successions the throne of Spain.

For a better understanding, it’s necessary appraise the historical context in the following paragraphs:

**POPULATION**

This century was marked by the expansion of the city and the industrialization. This fact shows an increase of the population, which went from a million to more than two millions.

Catalonia was based on the feudal system, dominated by a few insider ownership. But this mentality was changing over the years. Then, the bourgeois property and the wage system were born. This class came as a response to the industrialization, which started in 1832, moment in which the first textile factory in Spain settled in Barcelona moved by the force of the steam.

As I have said before, this fact led to a mass of the population, with crowding and unsanitary problems, which were solved by urban development plans that they expanded and opened the city to other urban areas connected by the railway.

**DISTRIBUTION AND ENSANCHE**


The population growth was directly related to the area where the people resided. In the city of Barcelona occurred the most remarkable growth, as well as the populations that there was around. In 1787 the population of Barcelona and its surroundings represented 10% of the total Catalan population. In 1877 the 14%. And in 1897 the 27%.

The mas off population was a big problem since the city was surrounded by the walls since 1854. The wall was limiting the space for building, so people stacked at home. The lack of ventilation in the houses and the amalgamation resulted in the emergence of infectious diseases and epidemics of cholera, as suffered Barcelona in 1833 an 1853. All these bad conditions and additional security issues were attempted to alleviate trough urban and public lighting.

These problems were partly resolved, thanks to the confiscations of Mendizábal (1836 i 1836), Esgrader (1841) i Madoz (1855), which was achieved to move cemeteries outside the cities, getting big spaces that were used for the construction of factories and creation of new spaces.

The expansion of the city was, as said previously, thanks to the demolition of the walls (1854) and the Draft Reform and Ensanche (1859), designed by Ildefonso Cerdà. Also expanded the port, adapting it to the new navigation by steam, according to José Rafo project (1860). The sewer network was established in 1891, and in 1893 was installed throughout the city public lighting using electricity.

**INDUSTRIALIZATION**

Most of the lands belonging to Catalonia were in the hands of the Church, the nobility and the municipalities, although there were also proprietary farmers working their lands.

From the second third of this century, the modern State was implemented, and confiscations laws were applied so the nobility had to dissociate from properties less fruitful and went on sale most of the properties of the Church and the lands of the municipalities was implemented.

Most of the lands passed into the hands of new owners, increased finance resources and implemented the capitalist system in agriculture, thus generalizing the bourgeois property.

The changes that the society suffered in the rural environment to introduce the new techniques of farming and irrigation, affected that part of the population that had to migrate to American lands and other part out to the cities, to become the proletariat that handled the new steam industries.

The great boom in the industry led to the construction of industrial colonies in the surrounding area of the rivers. In this way the owners had a greater control over their employees and their families.
Another of the consequences of industrialization was the reduction of jobs needed to produce objects and the implementation of very bad working conditions, as well as sessions for 15 hours for employees, including children. The workers' response to these working conditions was reflected in the fire and destruction of working machines.

All this activity encouraged the creation of banks and the development of the financial system due to the large benefits that were the owners of these factories.

CONFLICTS AND STATE INSTITUTIONS

The beginning of the century is marked by the beginning of the war against the Napoleonic occupation (1808-1814). While skirmishes were happening, the Spanish Constitution of 1812 was proclaimed after a meeting of the courts in Cadiz. With this Constitution the end of old regime started.

The war ended in 1814, putting on the throne to Fernando VII, which reinstated the old regime and introduced absolute monarchy until 1833. During this period, we can highlight the labor triennium (1821-1823) in which the Inquisition was abolished and was the first confiscation of church property, by which the goods of the church became public domain and were sold to new owners so that they take you higher performance.

After the birth of Isabel and the cancellation of the Salic law, began to be noted the reactions of most conservative people, such as Carlos María Isidro. After the death of King Fernando VII, Queen Maria Cristina took the regency, which has led the confrontation between the supporters of Carlos María Isidro (carlinos) between supporters of a constitutional monarchy (gave support to the Regency of Maria Cristina (1833-1840), subsequently to Espartero (1841-1843) and finally to Isabel II (1843-1868)), known as the carlinas wars (produced in 1833-1840, 1848-1849, 1872).

During this period from 1833 to 1868, the construction of a liberal State faced to moderate people and progressive people, due to the different confiscation to the church (Mendizábal in 1836, Espartero in 1841 and Madoz in 1855); the creation of regulations of the freedoms of the press and assembly, and the obligation to use the Spanish and the new judicial organization of the State (provinces, judicial districts, municipalities).

In 1868 moderate people and progressive people joined to give force to the September revolution, with which Isabel II was forced to flee to France. The provisional government established, enacted various decrees regulating the freedom of the press and assembly, association, education and religious tolerance. Shortly after it was convened to courts for drafting the new constitution in 1869.

The first Spanish Republic, focused on the reorganization of the State from a federal structure and social reforms, was proclaimed in 1873.

Universal male suffrage was introduced from 1890.
6.1.2. History of the Hospital de la Santa Cruz

To refer to the creation of the Hospital, we must go back to the year 1401, year of its creation.

At that time, the city had several hospitals of small size. The vast majority of these hospitals passed a few very hard economic times due to the plague that ravaged the population in previous years. After studying the different hospitals and their economic and hygienic conditions, there was an agreement between Consell de Cent and the Capitol of the Barcelona Cathedral to merge various hospitals in order to preserve its heritage and create a hospital that was a landmark in medicine around the world. Hospitals that were chosen for their merger were: the Hospital of Pere Desvilar, that of Marcus, Santa Margarita Hospital, the Hospital of Colon, Vilar Hospital and the Hospital of Santa Eulalia del Campo.

At the same meeting of constitution of the new hospital, the location and the start of the works of the whole were agreed. The works began the same year of its creation (1401) and was built next to the Rambla, it was placed in the old Hospital of Colon, located between the Betlem street and the new street that was created, Hospital street.

The original building consisted of 4 main bodies located around a central courtyard with arcades. It was the biggest and modern hospital in Catalonia.

Most of the works ended in 1414, making different maintenance work in later times.

The management of the center was composed of two canons and two lay people, elected by the Capitol of the Cathedral and of the Consell de Cent. In this way, they managed the institution through the Very illustrious Administration (VIA).

For the next five centuries, it was the only general hospital of Barcelona and provided assistance to the entire province; this fact did it to become a reference point at national level. From its origins, medicine lessons were done creating great doctors.

Thanks to these good references and the VIA, the society made donations so the city had one of the best hospitals of the period, thus financing the improvements in both clinical level and facilities.

At the end of the 19th century, due to the great mass that Barcelona city suffered and as a result of the increase in the number of patients they saw the need to sanitize and depopulate the hospital, moving patients to facilities created in the outskirts of the city. The Mental Hospital de la Cruz Santa (the object of the study), which joined the patients with mental problems, was created in 1889.

The first stone of current Hospital de San Pablo was placed on 1902. It was inaugurated on January 16, 1930.
Trabajo Final de Grado
Biblioteca Municipal y Casa de la Vila de Nou Barris (antiguo Hospital Mental de la Santa Cruz). Historia y arquitectura

Rafael Rubio Matito

Acceso Hospital de la Santa Cruz

Hospital de San Pablo y de la Santa Cruz
6.1.3. The need to built a madhouse

OVERCROWDING AND CAPACITY PROBLEMS:

As I explained in the historical events of the 19th century, Barcelona suffered a great mass of people, mainly due to industrialization, the creation of the bourgeois class and the wage labor system. This led to health facilities in the city were obsolete, in terms of amount of people to attend and quality.

These were the main reasons because new locations for hospitals on the outskirts of the city were defined.

MENTAL HOSPITAL:

Mental type diseases was one of the less understood. People felt contempt against the mentally ill people, they thought it was different people who decreased the status of the city. Mental hospital facilities also evidenced the appalling conditions in which they lived, since society didn't give donations to help such people. In the worst cases, the mentally ill lived in hospitals of a general character with other patients, thus mixing illnesses that did not have any kind of relationship.

These facts, together with the hygienists' trends of that time, helped the transfer of the sick to the outskirts. In this way the construction of new equipment was also required, which favored the status of the city, showing their concern for this type of disease.
In this section we will discuss important characters that appeared during its design and construction phases.

It should be noted the existence of two characters whose importance in this architectural complex is of transcendental importance, we’ll talk about Dr. Pi i Molist, author of the project which established the foundations for the building of the mental Hospital, and the architect Josep Oriol i Bernadet, who designed the project of the building set.

In second term we will explain the previous acts that occurred during the 19th century and which justify the need to build an asylum.

Finally, we will explain Proyecto médico razonado para la construcción del nuevo manicomio del Hospital de Santa Cruz de Barcelona, where bases that should accomplish a madhouse were established.
6.2.1. Important characters

Through the history of the hospital we can find many people with a great prominence, such as the VIA (Very Illustrious Administration), different managers and doctors who the Hospital has had, but in the top of them, there are two people, Dr. Emili Pi i Molist, psychiatrist who wrote the bases on which had been governing the Madhouse and the architect Josep Oriol i Bernadet, who wrote the project for the construction of the Hospital.

DOCTOR EMILI PI I MOLIST

Spanish doctor, who was born in Barcelona in October 15 of 1824, and died in Barcelona in 1892. Son of the archaeologist and historian Andreu Avel·lí Pi i Arimon.

Since his childhood, he showed a great passion for botany. At 19 years old he run away the enlistments to military services organized in Barcelona in the year 1843 and was installed in Palma de Mallorca. Shortly after, he wrote and published a booklet “Noticia histórica de los progresos y estado actual de la Botánica en las Islas Baleares”.

On his return to the Barcelona city, in 1846, he completed his degree in medicine of the University of Barcelona. After few months, he wrote, "Memoria sobre el modo más asequible de erigir un asilo, hospital o casa de locos para uno y otro sexo” with which he won the contest organized by the Society of Friends of the country of Barcelona for the construction of a madhouse.

In 1849 he was awarded with the title of partner of the Royal Academy of Medicine and Surgery of Barcelona.

As professional, Pi i Molist specialized in psychiatry and devoted his activity to improvements in medical care of the mentally ill people. Since 1855 he was a doctor of the Service Annex of the Hospital de la Santa Cruz de Barcelona. Among his writings include Colonia de orates de Gheel (Bélgica) (1856), in which he explained his visit to a Belgian village that hosted to all kinds of mental patients that did not require special restrictive measures. He also wrote Proyecto médico razonado para la construcción del nuevo manicomio del Hospital de Santa Cruz de Barcelona in 1860 (which will be studied in the present study), where showed solid theoretical knowledge and experience accumulated in their visits to the most important european establishments. These visits were useful as the basis for the construction of the new asylum at the Hospital de la Santa Cruz, of which he was appointed as first director in 1889. In the clinical field, his most important work is the extensive monograph Apuntes sobre la monomania (1864).

In the field scientific-literary, his most important work, published in 1886, was Primores de Don Quijote, book where he tried to demonstrate that Alonso Quijano’s disease was in accordance with the principles of medicine admitted mental in the nineteenth century and in close relationship with the concepts on the monomania. The work received the highest praise of all the medical and literary criticism.

On December 19, 1889, he made the inaugural speech with which culminated the effort to which he had devoted much of his life. After three years, Emili Pi i Molist died at the age of 67 (1892), without seeing his work completely finished, since on the day of its opening only one-third of the building was constructed.

![Photo of Emili Pi i Molist](image-url)
Josep Oriol i Bernadet was born in Alfar (Girona) in 1811 and died in the resort of Les Escaldes (Andorra) in the 1860s, since he came down of an infection 10 years before his death.

Born in a family of simple craftsmen, he passed the childhood showing a great interest in drawing. At the age of 19 (1830) began his studies in architecture at the Escuela de la Junta de Comercio. After 3 years of studies, Josep Oriol i Bernadet got the title of architect academic of the Real Academia de San Fernando de Madrid on August 15, 1833.

Between 1834 and 1836 he participated with Antoni Celles and Josep Mestres i Gramatges, the foreman of in the lifting of the testimonies of the roman wall, in restoring the perimeter. Shortly after, on April 6, 1836, he was appointed professor of Mathematics from the Sociedad Económica de Amigos del País de Tarragona.

He was a member of the Real Academia de las Ciencias y las Artes de Cataluña since December 31, 1835, of which he was its president in 1857.

Later he became professor of the Escuela de la Junta de Comercio, where in 1841 he founded the professorship Line Drawing. He was a professor Universidad literaria de Barcelona between 1845 and 1851, when it was incorporated in the faculty of the newly created Escuela de Ingenieros de Barcelona.

Between 1842 and 1856 he was the municipal architect of Sabadell.

**Faculty**

In regard to his career as a teacher, he began at 25 years as a professor of mathematics at the Sociedad Económica de Amigos del País de Tarragona. Shortly after he joined to the Escuela de la Junta de Comercio, which was the first professor of lineal drawing.

In 1846 he founded the Boletín Enciclopédico de las Nobles Artes. Consisted of a series of publications that not only spoke of the world of the artistic and plastic arts, but, that also penetrated into different concerns about the management of the territory, the conservation of monuments, the technical advances applied to the industry, even in the public opinion on issues of municipal ordinances or the quality of the new constructions of buildings both public and private.

In 1851, he joined Escuela Industrial Barcelonesa as a Professor of lineal drawing.

He always showed a great concern for technical training in drawing, arithmetic and mathematics of the working classes, performing a series of publications on these subjects to secondary education in the institutes integrated into university, without forgetting the primary schools.

He published more than 20 works on arithmetic, geometry, mathematics, algebra, linear drawing, art and arts and crafts.

**Architecture**

As an architect, he was the author of projects related to the new technical developments and social in the industry’s world, medicine, the new technologies of communication and transport, without forgetting their participation in the formulation of the new architectural and innovative requirements health of the society of their period.

Within the architecture we can find it in three different classifications, such as free architect, municipal architect in Sabadell and an architect of health buildings.

Regarding free architect, we highlight 3 projects in establishments of medical-hygienic-care type of Catalonia. These projects involved not only the modernization and renovation of medical and health care practices, but also the implementation of a new architectural language that became constructions at the same level of the best in Europe.

These constructions guarantee the connection between Josep Oriol Bernadet and the main Catalan medical figures of mid-1800, as the hydrotherapy experts Manuel Arnus and Josep Llobet i Vallosera, and doctors Josep Antoni Pujades and Emili Pi i Molist.

The first of these works was the Hospital and Hospital y Casa de Beneficencia de Sabadell built between 1842 and 1847, which was followed by two emblematic works of architecture in those years, the Balneario de la Puda de Montserrat and the Instituto Mental de la Santa Cruz.
We emphasize, in the first place the project of Balneario de La Puda de Montserrat (Esparraguera), projected in 1846. This spa then directed by the doctor M. Arnus became the first modern building of the new plant in mineral-medical waters of Catalonia and Spain as the spa Rius in Caldes de Montbui, until then the most important of Catalonia, it was not upgraded until 1853 by M. Garriga i Roca while the new complex of the Baños de Carratraca in Málaga, one of the oldest in Spain, projected in 1849, was not opened until 1855.

The Balneario de La Puda was designed by Josep Oriol i Bernadet commissioned by the “Sociedad de Aguas de la Puda” created in 1845 and promoted by the renowned physician Dr. A. Pujades, owner and director of the Hospital Mental of Sant Boi de Llobregat.

Josep Oriol i Bernadet drafted a large-scale set composed by three bodies, two side and one in the center. To the right and to the left of the central body were the buildings dedicated to galleries of bathrooms and stays of the bathers; in the central part of the building a great body in shape of a dome allowed to place the library, a meeting hall, rooms aimed at Board members and to the kings, as well as a coffee and a gallery for the orchestra. Completing the set a separate construction of octagonal that was devoted to chapel for 300 people, a lobby, two grandstands and sacristy.

This spa resort exceeded the economic capacity of the Sociedad de Aguas de la Puda, that in 1858 just leasing the spa, with the condition the continuation of the works according to the plans designed by Josep Oriol Bernadet.

Another of his most important projects is the Hospital Mental de la Santa Cruz, object of this work.

The Hospital Mental de la Santa Cruz was situated in Sant Andreu del Palomar.

This new hospital set was designed in relation to the public charity law of the liberal triennium enacted in 1821 and restored in 1836 that forced the hospitals of insane and sick mental to be separated from other hospitals and to avoid abuse. In Barcelona these guidelines were followed by the more enlightened medical class and even the authorities themselves.

Hospital de la Santa Cruz discussed the question of how to take care for the mentally ill, and as until then a part of them were taken to the old madhouse of the Santa Cruz and some farmhouses of the Plan, it was decided to build a new and modern Center.
Josep Oriol Bernadet worked very closely with the renowned physician Dr. Emili Pi i Molist, who travelled the year 1857 by different European countries to visit psychiatric hospitals most advanced in Western Europe (France Switzerland, Germany, Netherlands and Belgium) and set the model to be applied in Barcelona that the Hospital ordered to Josep Oriol i Bernardet the same year.

This hospital, raised as a vanguard for the therapy of the sale, has been considered a masterpiece of science of his time, and highlighted the fascinating functionality of its architectural design.

Unfortunately the sudden death of Josep Oriol i Bernardet in 1860 left the set without direction, and this fact, together with the lack of resources, delayed the construction.

Finally, the first stone was put in 1886 and opened in 1889, although the first patients would not arrive until four years later.

Also participated in 1848, in a Commission that ruled on the improvements that should go into the buildings of Barcelona to reconcile the comfort, the ornament and strength with the health.

Also, had an important role as architect of particular building sites. Despite its intense academic and scientific occupation and its not too long life, he appeared in Barcelona in a score of buildings housing throughout the old city both in reforms and new building in which leaves its stylistic footprint. These works include the reformation of the house of Miquel Garriga i Roca in the street Molas made in 1857.

It should be noted, also, other activities such as architect, as was his performance in surveys as the expropriation of the property of Joaquín Fiter de Roca, affected by the opening of the Princesa street in which intervened jointly with Francisco Daniel and Molina.

**Urbanism**

His dedication as a surveyor and director of local roads, in addition to being an architect, made possible its dedication to management tasks of the territory in a few years of strong transformations as a result of the start of construction of the railway network, the improvement of the network of roads and highways, as well as the best use of the potentialities of the new territory for agricultural and industrial activities.

We can highlight their participation in the construction of two railway lines, from Barcelona to Granollers and Barcelona in Sant Joan de les Abadesses. This railway section designed by the engineer Pedro Andrés and Puigdollers in 1850, and in 1854 arrived in Montcada, was attended with the direction of works of Josep Oriol Bernadet, whereas the flatwork were awarded to the engineer Cerdà.

Concerning the management of territory, he also had a remarkable participation in the planning of new city centers. In 1847 draft the Ensanche of Sabadell, and in Barcelona participated in 1854 on a draft new alignments in the Hostafrians quarter where it should be placed a foundry and plumbing plant.
Industry

The work of Josep Oriol Bernadet was not limited to the aspects so far outlined. As a man of his time and his adopted city, Barcelona, he lived very near the intensification of the industrial revolution within the city walls. It is was not limited, however, to become an observer but actively participated in the discussion on the problems generated by the excess of facilities of vapors in the city, while it was one of the first designers of factories outside the city walls that were introduced in the new technologies of the time.

Good sample of this is his participation in the Informe sobre vapores that issued the Real Academia de Ciencias y Artes in response to the request of Town Hall of Barcelona from 1844.

Josep Oriol Bernadet was, together with Josep Anton Llobet i Vallosera, Agustín Yañez, Pedro Vieta, Balcells Falguera, one of the six members of the Commission which was enlarged with two new members Melchor Prat Solà and Josep Roura i Estrada.

The Informe sobre vapores of the Academy delivered on 10 March 1845 industrialist exudes the spirit of the academics and the Academy, with responses that are trying to reconcile the industrial interests considered social interests and public health.

On the other hand, within this same industrialist vision, Josep Oriol i Bernadet, aware of the need for trained technicians to apply scientific and technical innovations in industrial production, was also concerned about get to the Catalan capital the creation of a Colegio de Ingenieros. In this sense deployed along with other professors of the Escuela de la Junta de Comercio a great activity to involve to Barcelonan institutions in defense of the Escuela Industrial was established in 1851 that had been abolished in 1855, precisely the same year, the Board of professors thanked publicly Josep Oriol i Bernadet and professor of the professorship of machinery of the Junta de Comercio, Hilario Bordeje i Piñà have been the architects of the pronouncement of the municipal corporation in demand of higher technical studies in the city.

In his activity as a designer of industrial facilities, we know for the time being, his direct participation in two factories in the plain of Barcelona. One in Sant Marti (Can Ricart) and the other in Hostafrancs, as well as small participation at facilities of vapors inside the city walls.

The factory of Can Ricart was designed by Josep Oriol i Bernadet year 1853. Built on the orders of the industrial and important businessman Jaume Ricart to locate the section of prints of cotton which was part of the industrial complex of his company that had spinning in el Raval (the Tapias-Sant Oleguer Street) and tissue in Manresa.

In the whole of the factory of Can Ricart we must point out, also, symmetrical composition of all of the vessels of the whole, and especially of the main body perfectly in accord with the neoclassic architecture. It emphasizes the central body of symmetrical openings as shown in the drawing of the facade of the initial draft of the 1853. The other bodies as well as the entire structure of the various buildings of the complex there remain today, although with slight modifications, the height and the layout of holes and openings of the original design. The research work in a variety of files and documentation in industrial archeology in course have allowed us to recognize in detail both the interior structural elements such as the foreign compositional.

In 1854, a year after the project to manufacture Jaime Ricart, Josep Oriol i Bernadet signed another project of the industrial type. It was a building for Josep Nogués and Company intended to cast metal and plumbing. Occupied facilities in this case, a large enclosure parallelogram that was located on the west side of the road Creu Coberta, probably near present Erenni Square, the building had a symmetrical composition from an axis center with 14 side openings and a body excelled at each end with 5 openings of semicircular arches.

Unfortunately, the great works that projected Josep Oriol i Bernadet were destroyed with time. La Puda, closed for years and rubble, while the Hospital Mental de la Santa Cruz has suffered serious mutilations remaining only a small part. Therefore, Can Ricart is currently one of the few works of this renowned architect and scientist it still totally upright and saved the structure and the original stylistic features.

Biographers point out, also, their participation in the management of of several factories to work with the hydraulic power of the Canal de la derecha del Llobregat.
During the professional life, he always kept an attitude of defense of the legacy, which, in some cases, was linked to the defense of the architecture and criticism of the engineers who were not sensitive to the legacy. An attitude that is clear in the comments that he made in the Boletín Enciclopédico:

"Tenemos entendido que uno de los ingenieros de caminos ha opinado en un dictamen que en razón al estado ruinosa de aquel monumento histórico no había más remedio que echarlo abajo. También Sabemos que el arquitecto D. José Oriol Mestres en Otro dictamen Ha sido de pareces que a toda costa debía conservarse aquel IMPORTANTE recuerdo de los romanos, librándolo miedo medio de un entendido restauro de la ruina que tal Vez le amenaza. Ignoramos subasta qué punto ha estado en apoyo Derecho el ingeniero para relacionarse sobre una obra que nada Tiene que ver con la integridad del puente y que Pertenece exclusivamente al Dominio de las nobles artes; pero no Podemos menos que asegurar que razón de Mucho peso ha debida Tener el Sr. Maestros para apoyar apoyo opinión, pues en el mero Hecho de tratarse de la conservación de un monumento tan IMPORTANTE como el que nos ocupa, no habrá necesitadas más que recordar la práctica que en esta materia se Halla establecida en Todos los países en que los ingenieros de caminos no se ocupan de ARCHOS triunfal. Por Nuestra parte, felicitamos al arquitecto informante miedo haber Sabido sostienen en este punto la sólida posición en que le colocó su cometido, al Mismo tiempo que nos atrevemos a indicarle que puede el honor de apoyo Profesión y para gloria suya, Fuera muy conveniente que Diese publicidad a apoyo dictamen"
6.2.2. Events leading to the construction

To be able to view the previous events to the beginning, we need to refer to the reasons why it was built, which have been explained previously.

The first step taken by the Hospital de la Santa Cruz, was the acquisition of the Vireina’s house, located in the district of Gràcia, in which already began to carry out the work of fitting to set up in it a madhouse. But this was quickly flooded, since to build on an already existing building, the space required was not enough. For this reason, on April’s 22, 1840, the Town Hall asked the Central Government through a file, that the Capuchino’s convent was given with all accessories to establish the Madhouse there.

Following this request, the matter that concerns us was hold on. In 1846 Pi i Molist submitted to the contest organized by the Sociedad de Amigos del País de Barcelona for the construction of the loony bin “Memoria sobre el modo más asequible de erigir un Asilo, Hospital o Casa de locos para uno y otro sexo, fuera de las murallas de esta ciudad, acompañada de un proyecto de Reglamento interior para el régimen del Establecimiento” with which, he won the contest. This writing was a little push to the succession of events and that argued and ordering the different ideas that la VIA (Very Illustrious Administration of the Hospital de la Santa Cruz) had above the construction of the loony bin.

In 1849, the City Hall created a Commission to transfer patients to a more convenient place, but these measures were not effective enough.

In 1854, the Administration resumed the process, placing it at the Quinta de Alegre, current district of Gràcia. To do this, he thought necessary to take into account the opinion of the Academia de Medicina y Cirugía Económica de Amigos del País, deciding that the possible location was favorable for the improvement of the sick. On April 12 of the same year, Pi i Molist wrote “Indicaciones sobre la construcción de un Hospital de locos en la quinta Alegre, situada en la vecina villa de Gracia”, taking as reference the plan that he created for the contest and adapting it to the needs and conditions of the possible location. Because of this writing, the MIA invited Pi i Molist to a meeting date may 12, 1854, where he proposed making a trip to study the different madhouses that had throughout Europe. After this trip, Emili presented on January 18, 1855 “Descripción de varios Manicomios de Francia, Inglaterra, Bélgica, Alemania e Italia, visitados en los meses de junio, julio, agosto y setiembre de 1854”, compendium of practical knowledge he had acquired during his trip.

After several changes in the Department of maniacs, of the current hospital, it was sawn that definitely, the current hospital was obsolete, and the MIA decided, with date of June 25, 1857, to instruct Dr. Emili Pi i Molist, the medical project reasoned in accordance to which should raise levels and build the asylum; works that were commissioned to the architect Josep Oriol i Bernadet.

After the assignment, Pi i Molist and Oriol i Bernadet, undertook a tour of Europe to see the different hospitals and discover the advantages and disadvantages of its construction, model and location.

On his return from this trip, Pi i Molist drafted “Bases del proyecto médico para la construcción del Manicomio de la Santa Cruz”, which delivered with date of November 17, 1857 to the MIA, which explained the main concepts that the architect needed for the creation of the planes. While Bernadet drew the plans, Molist, wrote the definitive “Proyecto médico razonado para la construcción del manicomio de la Santa Cruz de Barcelona” dated June 8, 1859.

Bernadet finished drawing plans on November 7 of the same year

Although the planes and the project were already written, problems were still emerging, preventing the start of construction.

First obstacle: the establishment was classified as public and provincial, which meant that the Diputación de Barcelona had the right to decide on the construction of the Madhouse project, so that not is could go further in its construction if the Diputación de Barcelona did not approve.

Second obstacle: the declaration of confiscation the properties of the Hospital. This cause a followed by lawsuits between the Hospital Administration and the State, which delay the process even more.

Third obstacle: the lack of budget. The Hospital had no money and neither the city nor the State wanted to finance it. A problem that was solved thanks to the contribution of a benefactor who contributed to the cause.
Once solved these problems, took four years to acquire a property which meet the necessary conditions for the construction of the loony bin.