Final Degree Project

Modernist Melilla: History and Architecture

Vol. VIII
Year 2012

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Fundación MELILLA Ciudad Monumental
Introduction

The Foundation Melilla Monumental City aims not only to promote the history, cultural diversity and the vast modernist heritage of the Autonomous City of Melilla, but also aims to be recognized by the UNESCO as a World Heritage City of Melilla.


This Final Degree Project is born of the agreement established in 2005 between The Foundation Melilla Monumental City and the Gaudí Workshop at School of Building Construction of Barcelona (EPSEB) in the Polytechnic University of Catalonia.

The agreement involves the lifting and study of the 565 buildings in the "Catalogue of Architecture of Melilla". In which is agreed to be performed and given to the foundation the lifting and study of 15 buildings in the city each annuity. In late 2012 the Foundation Melilla Monumental City already had seven volumes with the work of seven groups of four students from the EPSEB whose number now stands at more than 100 buildings delivered. This project is going to be the eighth consecutive volume this year.

The selection of students was responsible by Gaudi Workshop, specifically the tutors Luis Gueilburt and Benito Mecca. Like every year, it was published in EPSEB the offer of "graphical survey and studio of 15 modernist buildings in the city of Melilla" and is a must to be two groups composed by two students each group, with experience and knowledge of computer assisted drawing, uprising of building elements, willingness to work in a team and willingness to travel to Melilla for a week in September 2012.

In late June 2012, we find, Gonzalo Calderon and Elizabeth Ubeda, ending the latest subjects of the Degree of Building Engineering. And we decided that we wouldn’t go on vacation without Graduation Project topic and also was clear that we would do the project in group. What was not so clear was what project theme to choose. The proposals that we found interesting were those related to Gaudí department. So we decided to make a visit at the department, and on the board we saw the sign announcing the project Melilla. We thought the project will be ok and consistent with what we had planned to do, so we decided to send our resumes to teachers.

In mid July 2012 we are cited to have a personal interview and explain our experience and why we wanted to do the project on ‘Modernist Melilla’. After this interview, we were invited to attend the presentation of "Modernist Melilla: History and Architecture. Volume VII" and get to know a bit more about this project.

In late July 2012, the teacher Mecca confirms us that students selected for the realization of the eighth volume VIII were: Gonzalo, Elizabeth, Mercedes and Núria. So now we already had the topic project, and the whole summer ahead to work on it before going to Melilla in September 2012.

Luis Gueilburt and Benito Mecca. We knew we wanted to make a survey project of a building, so in March, we proposed to teachers some ideas. We had send several emails, but we did have a proposal when one day while in our college we saw the sign announcing the project Melilla. We thought the project will be ok and consistent with what we had planned to do, so we decided to send our resumes to teachers.

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The content of this volume is divided into three blocks, which will be developed in depth throughout this project:

I. Working memory (pre-trip work, Field work in Melilla, post-trip work).
II. Melilla Architecture History (Architectural Styles and Engineers and Architects).
III. Graphics memory (Data sheet, record of conditions, map and location, plans facades and detail drawings).

Special thanks and sincere to Professors Luis Gueilburt and Benito Mecca to accept us for this project under his direction. His involvement and guidance has been essential to the completion of this work. Thank Professor Javier Tre for lending the measuring equipment, without them the survey would have greatly complicated. And thanks to the Foundation Melilla: Monumental City for giving us the opportunity to know Melilla, this great unknown.

Barcelona, July 2013.
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Building selection

On mid-July 2012 we had already assigned the subject of Final Degree Project: 'Modernist Melilla: History and Architecture'. After attending the graduation project presentation volume VII and reviewing the previous six volumes we had the basis to start with Volume VIII.

On July 19, 2012, we are cited at Luis studio. Luis and Benito told us at this first meeting which has been the protocol followed each year to undertake this project. The first stage must be the selection of the buildings that are going to study. So, Professor Luis, gives us the 'Catalogue of Architecture Melilla (1895 - 1961)' 2003 edition of the Promotion Ministry of Autonomous City of Melilla, from there were extracted the buildings every year.

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The volume VIII contains the study and survey of 15 modernist facades of Melilla, where seven buildings are going to be developed by Mercedes and Nuria, and 7 buildings by Gonzalo and Elizabeth, and the last remaining, which is the most complex, will be among the four students.

It should be noted, and as mentioned previously, this is not the first year that we are performing this type of project. To choose the best remaining buildings turned out to be a challenge for us because our comrades in previous years thoroughly studied each district and selected the most interesting and close to the hotel where they were staying.

Should be noted that the melillenses do not know or make reference to districts, but in this project will be a much used recourse since Melilla Architecture Catalog lists them this way.

To avoid repeating buildings of previous years, we reviewed the list of those that have been done so far. And to do this we consult, volume per volume, the list of buildings to discard, that is:

Illustrator 3. Melilla plane zoned by districts "Catalogue of Architecture Melilla".

HÉROES
DE ESPAÑA
CARMEN
POLÍGONO GÓMEZ JORDANA
CONCEPCIÓN ARENAL
INDUSTRIAL ISAAC PERAL
PRÍNCIPE BATERÍA JOTA Y COLÓN
HIPÓDROMO REAL
Volume I: Year 2005

**Illustration 4. Volume I buildings of Melilla**

- **Tortosa house**: 11 Juan Carlos I Rey Ave.
- **Reconquista**: 22 Juan Carlos I Rey Ave. with 1 López Moreno St. and Menéndez St. and Pelayo Square.
- **The telegrama**: 6 Cándido Lobera St. with 12 Ejército Español St.
- **The presidente**: 2 Cardenal Cisneros St. with 8 Sor Alegria St.
- **Cámara de Comercio**: 7 Cervantes St. with 15 Pablo Vallesca St.
- **Correos old building**: 1 Ejército Español St. with España Square.
- **Monumental cinema**: 2 Ejército Español St. with 1 Teniente Aguilera de Mesa St.
- **Casino Español**: 13 Ejército Español St.
- **Acueducto**: 2 Reyes Católicos St. with Comandante Benítez St.
- **Casino Militar**: 2 España Square with Duque de Almodóvar St. with Pablo Vallesca St. and Pasaje Emperador
- **Palacio de la Asamblea**: 1 España Square with Duque de Almodóvar St. and Pablo Vallesca St. and General Macías St.

Volume II: Year 2006

**Illustration 5. Volume II buildings of Melilla**

- **Iberia branch office**: 2-4 Cándido Lobera St. with 17 Ejército Español St.
- **Nacional cinema**: 8 Cándido Lobera St. with 8 Pablo Vallesca St.
- **Cázarro Torres house**: 1 Garcia Cabrilles St.
- **Vicente Martinez house**: 1 Cardenal Cisneros St.
- **Art Decó**: 28 General O’Donnell St. with 6 Sidi Abdelkader St.
- **Military Pavillions**: 30-36 General O’Donnell St. with 1 Torres Quevedo St.
- **Mellyno house**: 12 General Pareja St.
- **Crystals House**: 18 General Prim St. with 10 Sidi Abdelkader St.
- **California ice-cream saloon**: 2 Justo Sancho Miñano St. with 5 General marina St.
- **Enrique Nieto house**: 2 López de Vega St. with 2 Reyes Católicos Ave.
- **Sinagoga Or Zaruah**: 8 López Moreno St.
Volume V: Year 2009


22 Álvaro Bazán St. with Alonso Guerra St.
38 Álvaro Bazán St.
46 General Polavieja St. with Pedro Navarro St.
Umed
6 Reyes Católicos St. with Lope de Vega St. with 2 Sor Alegria St. and 5 Cardenal Cisneros St.
10 Cardenal Cisneros St.
2 Cardenal Cisneros St.
10 Duquesa de la Victoria Ave.
14 Antonio Falcón St.
1 Antonio Falcón St. with 4 Doctor Morandeira St.
1 Juan Carlos 1 Rey Ave. with 1 Castellar St. and Padre Lerchundi St.
16 General Marina St. with 2 General Pareja St.
1 Reyes Católicos St. con Juan Carlos 1 Rey Ave. and 4 Severo Ochoa St.
4 López Moreno St.
Real Club Maritimo
General Macía St.
6 Duquesa de la Victoria Ave.

Volume VI: Year 2010


Spanish Cinema
3 Jiménez e Iglesias St. 10 Valladolid St.
2-4 General Villalba St. with 1 Ceruta St. and 1-3 Valladolid St.
62 General Polavieja St.
9 Sor Alegria St
19 General Polavieja St.
14 General Prim St.
Real Market
9 General Villalba St. with La Legión corner
10 Reyes Católicos St.
19 Alonso Martin St.
16 General Prim St.
1, 3 and 5 Catafalca St.
22 Álvaro de Bazán St.
4 Miguel Zazo St.
2 Cardenal Cisneros St.
54 General Polavieja St.
Until now it has already been performed the study and survey of 103 modernist buildings.

Before start looking for buildings that could be candidates for this year, we created a Microsoft Excel table to list all registered buildings in the "Catalogue of Architecture of Melilla" and discard the already done. The list was divided into two halves and each half was assigned a color: Green and Blue. Green group were responsible Gonzalo and Elizabeth and group Blue Mercedes and Núria. This was done to divide the task to select the best of each half and avoid repeating the buildings between us.

Meanwhile, the teacher Luis and Benito called us again on July 26 at the Patrimony department. There we met the last year students of Volume. They gave us a folder containing enlarged photographs in din-A3 of a Melilla building that was never done. This folder will be a guide for us, as each building we select this year will have a folder with the same contents as this.
So we already had everything we needed to search for new buildings that will contain Volume VIII of this year, and we started to work on it and have a provisional list as soon as possible.

The teachers Luis and Benet recommended us that we must chose more than 15 buildings if we were exclude any building for any reason, because this had happened the previous years and it was very difficult to find new buildings and rebuild the folders there. Also colleagues of Volume VII recommended us that we should seek the closest buildings to the hotel and make better use of our time saving long journeys concentrating our buildings in the same area.

Also at the meeting the teachers told us to discard all single-storey buildings because this buildings would be very small and uninteresting. They also told us that we must remove all those buildings we think that can be military, because in Melilla is prohibited to do photos at military buildings, including the airport itself because is also military.

The July 31 we sent by e-mail to teachers Luis and Benet a provisional list of buildings that we thought might be interesting this year. In this list we proposed for the common building for the two groups the following four buildings:

Illustration 13. Top left Villa Amor, Top Right Red Cross Hospital, Bottom left Carmen market and bottom right Melilla Bullring.

The Green group building list was:
1. 7 José Antonio Primo de Rivera St. with 12 Sidi Abdelkader St.
2. 2 Reyes Católicos St. with Comandante Benitez St.
3. 10-12 Padre Lerchundi St. with Callejón de la Soledad
4. 34 Juan Carlos 1 Rey Ave. with 1 Castellar St. and Padre Lerchundi St.
5. 3 Cardenal Cisneros St. with 6 Lope de Vega St.
6. 7 Cardenal Cisneros St. with 5Sor Mejri St.
7. 3 Sor Alegria St.
8. 4 Gabriel Murales St.
9. 10 Sor Alegria St. with Comisario Valero St.
10. 15 General Prim St.
11. 17 General Prim St. with 8 Sidi Abdelkader St.

And the Blue group building list was:
1. 21 General O’Donnell St.
2. 20 General O’Donnell St. with 6 General Pareja St.
3. 4 Tarragona St.
4. 2 Duque de Almodóvar St. with Pablo Vallescá St. (Castrense Church)
5. 1 Jardines St. with 2 Santiago St.
6. 22 Castelar St.
7. 11 Lope de Vega St. with Comisario Valero St.
8. 14 López Moreno St.
9. 25 Cándido Lobera St. (Cabanillas House)
10. 20 Pablo Vallescá St. (Correos and Telégrafos)

For the group building we doubted between Villa Amor and Melilla Bullring. But we ended up choosing for Melilla Bullring because we did not have enough photos of Villa Amor to make the folder, instead of the bullring had a lot and we neither knew where exactly Farhana road was. Already on August 5 the teacher Luis answered us the e-mail removing several buildings that he thought wouldn’t look good enough in our project. So the final list was:

Volume VIII: Year 2012

Green Group (Gonzalo and Elisabet):
1. 7 José Antonio Primo de Rivera St. with 12 Sidi Abdelkader St.
2. 2 Reyes Católicos St. with Comandante Benítez St.
3. 3 Cardenal Cisneros St. 6 Lope de Vega St.
4. 10-12 Padre Lerchundi with Callejón de la Soledad
5. 34 Juan Carlos 1 Rey Ave. with 1 Castelar St. and Padre Lerchundi St.
6. 7 Cardenal Cisneros St. with 3 Sor Alegría St.
7. 3 Sor Alegría St.

Blue Group (Mercedes and Núria):
8. 21 General O’Donnell St.
9. 20 General O’Donnell St. with 6 General Pareja St.
10. 14 López Moreno St.
11. 20 Pablo Vallescá St. (Correos and Telégrafos)
12. 25 Cándido Lobera St. (Cabanillas House)
13. 2 Duque de Almodóvar St. with Pablo Vallescá St. (Castrense Church)
14. 1 Jardines St. with 2 Santiago St.

Edificio Común:
15. General Millán Astray St. with Querol St. (Bullring)
MODERNIST MELILLA: HISTORY AND ARCHITECTURE

Illustration 15. 7 José Antonio Primo de Rivera St. with 12 Sidi Abdelkader St.

Illustration 16. 2 Reyes Católicos St. with Comandante Benítez St.
Illustration 17. 3 Cardenal Cisneros St. with 6 Lope de Vega 6

Illustration 18. 10-12 Padre Lerchundi St. with Callejón de la Soledad
Illustration 19. 34 Juan Carlos I Rey Ave. With 1 Castelar St and Padre Lorchundi St.

Illustration 20. 7 Cardenal Cisneros St. with 5 Sor Magia St.
Illustration 21. 3 Sor Alegría St.

Illustration 22. 21 General O'Donnell St.
Illustration 23. 20 General O'Donnell St. with General Pareja St.

Illustration 25. 14 López Moreno St.
Illustration 27. 2 Duque de Almodóvar St. with Pablo Vallsacó St.

Illustration 28. 1 Jardines St. with 2 Santiago St.
Illustration 29. General Millán Astray St. with Querol St.
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The previous year’s folder

As already mentioned above, our previous classmates gave us a sample folder which is the main material for our fieldwork in Melilla.

The folder has on the cover the general picture of the building and has indicated just below its address.

Illustration 30. The last year’s folder.

The content within it is a collection of photographs enlarged of the building delimited general and detailed but without measurements, and then in Melilla place the actual measurements.

Illustration 31. Enlarged photograph.

Inside also contains blank sheets if it’s needed to make some sketches in situ or take some extra annotation from the building.

Processing photographs from the catalog

The only information we have about the buildings in Melilla is the Catalogue of Architecture of Melilla, which contains the list of over 500 buildings, covering the year 1895-1961, a period which highlights the modernist movement of Melilla.

But these images need pretreatment before printing. Because most photographs are made from a perspective that distorts the building. So we need a program that will partially correct this effect, and we decided to use the Adobe Photoshop CS5.

Illustration 32. Adobe Photoshop CS5

We will now detail the steps to transform these images:

1. Select the photo to be treated. As can be seen in the image has a deformed effect being the higher the narrowest and the bottom the widest.

Illustration 33. General Photograph deformed of a building.
2. Inside the Photoshop CS5, duplicate the layer, as shown in the LAYERS menu appears original and its copy layer.

Illustration 34. Menu Layers of Photoshop CS5

3. Select the duplicated layer and go to Edit menu / Transform / Skew and modify the picture until you see the building completely straight as shown in the picture.

Illustration 35. Skewed Photograph

4. But that’s not all, we still have to remove the color, so it will be easier delimit on this entry. So select the modified layer previously and go to the menu Image / Adjustments / White and Black for color removal. See Figure 36 to see the result.

Illustration 36. White and black photograph

5. How even so leaving the black and white picture is too dark, we’ll go to the menu Image / Adjustments / Brightness and Contrast to clear the photograph for later, print and in Melilla, we could write on it easily.

Illustration 37. Brightened photograph
6. As there are plenty of white space, we cut the picture with the part we really need.

Illustration 38. Finished Photograph.

7. And finally we need to delimit what we have to measure the building in Melilla.


The making of the cover’s folder

The cover of the folder would be the same as previous years, but with a little innovation. Apart from contain the address and a general photography of the building, this year we also added a plane where is the property and putting the situation of our hotel in order to guide us without getting lost in Melilla.

Illustration 40. Plan on the cover of the folder.

So this year, the folder will have on the cover the general photography of the building, the district to which it belongs, the address, and a map taken from Google Maps with the location of the building and the situation of Amphora Hotel where we will be staying in Melilla.

Illustration 41. Finished folder.
Every year we used a folder color assigned to each of the districts, and this year we followed the same criteria, in order to differentiate the buildings closer to each other.

Illustration 42: The folder of the selected buildings.
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Materials needed for the field work in Melilla

Reviewing previous projects we made a list of materials and tools that need to perform the field work in Melilla. The essential material for the measurement was prepared, which are the folders of buildings.

![Illustration 43. The folders and a DIN-A3 wooden board for use as a support](image)

We had the opportunity to use a Leica TS06 total station but as this equipment is so delicate and expensive, and take them to Melilla by plane would be expensive so in the end we discard it.

![Illustration 44. Leica TS09 total station](image)

So we decided on the following material for measurement:

![Illustration 45. From left to right, a 50m measuring tape and 5m flex meter.](image)

As we had no pictures of all angles of the buildings and detail we got two DSLR Canon EOS 550D 18 Megapixel, two lenses 18-55mm for short distances and a 75-300mm for those locations that may be inaccessible.

![Illustration 46. From left to right, a Spectra HD150 laser and a Leica Distro D8 laser](image)

We also took a compact digital camera for shots that are not required to be of quality and a laptop to download all photos that are made every day and they can be reviewed.

![Illustration 47. SLR camera EOS 550D, 18-55mm lens and 75-300mm lens](image)

![Illustration 48. A digital camera and a laptop](image)