Personal growth

Following the steps of architecture

Architecture is a way of seeing the world. It goes further than a simple profession and includes countless disciplines. For instance, it delivers a debate between the artistic parts within the most technical decisions. Between the nature and the geography. This profession involves a lot of trades and specialists, all of them so essential like crafts related to raw materials such as wood, iron or stone.

Discovering the qualities of architecture

Architecture has taught me to be demanding with myself and to question everything around me. I also have learned that not always everything around me meets and achieves this level of request, however sometimes we are not conscious of the qualities of the issues we are observing. Furthermore is surprising to realize that those elements that in the first place you thought that they didn’t fulfil the level demanded, after taking a deep study of them, can end up surprising you and making you feel delighted with them. A good example of this new point of view happened when I studied urbanism at the architecture school. When I had to value a work from a perspective projection instead of a regulatory point I could perfectly reflect on the importance of considering the context as important as the project. In this context, we find a network that if it is properly structured it can absorb less successful projects in order to improve them by external factors and on the other hand, it can promote good architecture.

I’ve learned to see the country through different eyes valuing the periphery and seeing their potential in order to understand that the infrastructures are also part of the architecture. Now I am aware that we could not understand architecture without urbanism. Therefore, architecture is not only construction. Is a network where each element has its function and you need all the elements working simultaneously in order to have success. It is also a point of view from which to observe the world critically, a set of elements that coexist in harmony. It is the intentional reading that each person makes
from their surroundings and this kind of reading has been developed and integrated on me for such a long time that I can’t even remember when it started.

**Academic evolution**

The degree has taught me a way of working and it has especially helped me to open my mind and to be able to understand my environment by an architecture filter. Nevertheless, it has given me humility on assuming that there is still a lot of things to learn. For instance, one of the facts that has surprised me the most is learning how essential and necessary is the teamwork. I consider myself an analytic person and I like to share my ideas and debate them with my teamwork. Classmates might be experts in different things and when they put their knowledge in common, a simple idea can become great. I think that in the early years of the degree is important to absorb all the knowledge they teach. It is also a good time to not stop asking and realize that this profession cannot be something that you forget once you arrive home. It should be part of your approach and your hobbies. For example, when we designing the windows of Jose Tomas clothes shop we follow the same procedures as in architectural project but realized in a different artistic context.

During the last years I have noticed that making mistakes is how you learn more and from a mistake you find a new opportunity. This means that from an architectural point of view a mistake can be the beginning of a brilliant project since architecture tries to resolve the human necessities or problems and it is at the service of the people.

A different aspect to mention about my academic life is that I had the opportunity of studying in two different schools of architecture: La Salle Bonanova in Barcelona and ETSAV in Sant Cugat del Vallès. In La Salle I gave my first steps as a student. Here they demand a proficiency technical skills and they prepare you to be a very competitive architect. One of their main aims is that when you finish the degree you are able to do a complete and a proper executive project from a technical point of view. In the other hand, the second university has given me the challenge of develop a more artistic skill, something that I appreciated since it fits better with my style. For me it has got a lot of
value the fact of letting your imagination fly away until discovering where you can arrive. I am sure that after this liberty of imagination I will be able to adjust it to the reality. However, I am quite critical with the methods used in both places. I think that architecture should be learned more outside the classroom than inside taking first-hand the five senses (where we could see, touch and perceive architecture). In addition, during the degree we should be able of see in situ countless examples of the different stages of the project. On the other hand, I would like understanding architecture from a plastic point of view, geometric, colour, composition and use of materials and shapes of light. Basically all the elements that really help us to projecting should be the base of the academic pyramid. So there is a lot of learning that should be self-taught and we should have the curiosity to learn everything on our own we feel we need and take this long learning process with us forever.

**Architectonical interests**

Within the different fields comprising architecture, I have a special interest in the mix of the new and old architecture. Especially when we can act in a pre-existing architectural that have become obsolete or a pre-existing that had a specific function and as an architect I can change it for a new one more efficiency that adapts a new use. I think it will be a field increasingly in demand. Academically I have started to work it and fortunately in my recent experience I had the opportunity to rehabilitate a small house attached to a warehouse. I couldn’t understand how anyone around me couldn’t see that there were great opportunities and this is the feeling that motivates me: to be aware of the opportunities that exist to improve something. It is a process that constantly want to move forward to see what will be the next stage.

**Architectonic referents**

There are architects of the twentieth century that fascinate me, especially those minimalist as Mies Van der Rohe and Louis Kant, probably by the use of primary materials in their architecture, the perfect geometry that characterizes his work and especially the minimalist essence that marked a turning point. On the other hand nowadays we also have architects that also influence on my way of seeing the
architecture. I’m referring specifically to the RCR architects who recently (February 2017) have won the "Pritzker" and studied in ETSAV as me. They are able of becoming singular by giving a modest but at the same time strong character inside the minimalist current, taking totally into account the territory in which the project is being done. They obtain a great complicity between his work and the environment.

The study of Carles Enrich is another example of how does the new architecture live with the old one or with the patrimony. He has a special way of projecting very closely to mine. Despite the fact that we can be delighted by concrete known artists, now a days the new technologies bring us a constant access to all kinds of projects done by different professionals from all over the world. Not only from the classic known architects we can increase our knowledge but also with anonymous works from any part of the world. Therefore I have learned that the architecture in an universal language that is talked in different accents and each of them have got something to teach us.

Where am I going

At the moment, I spent most of my time studying and my timetable makes it difficult for me to be working in an office or working in any aspect of architecture. However, I have always been very involved in the family business and as much as I can, I work with my father that is a fashion designer, to produce the different windows that requires his store in Barcelona. I think that this aspect is related to the architecture and the values that it represents. It is a space that serves as a pretext to show people how their own style clothes are displayed by a frame of artistic design, processed very similar to the way architecture does. It is a space that has allowed us to work with our own hands materials such as wood and iron. Furthermore, in this windows it was inspiring to do works like furniture and sculptures that later have been presented in competitions like FAD art. Surely, this bond so close to other fields of design helped me to understand architecture as a discipline of disciplines and that’s why I would like to take it always into account. I’m sure that the day that I will be able to gestionate my own projects, this will be an issue that will characterize my job.