

Site

Gironella is a municipality that has grown, during the last decades, divided by the river Llobregat. Its historic centre is located on top of a 20 metres high hill on the east bank of the river, where the medieval castle was set. Favoured by a more flat topography, the modern part of Gironella is placed on the other side of the river, next to the road linking Barcelona with Berga.

The 20 metres vertical break between the historic centre and the new area of the town has generated a social fracture. Over the years, the historic centre has been depopulated due to difficulties in accessibility. The narrow and stepped streets that lead to the town main square represent a huge effort to the elderly and the little ones.

Goal

The proposal involves the insertion of a new access to the historic centre in order to enhance the urban connectivity between the two parts of the town, boosting the use of the old town and avoiding social exclusion. We suggest the location of the elevator in a strategic point of Cal Metre path, former acces to the early XX century textile industries along the river. The position, right in the middle of the path, triggers the incorporation of this unused track as a new, great, natural public space, in contact with the river, for Gironella's inhabitants.

Integration

Gironella's river facade is formed by a series of medieval remains that mean an architectural and

historic heritage for the town, such as the stone wall and the industrial colonies. Our proposal seeks to be integrated respectfully as a new layer in the historical memory of the place. We also recognise Cal Metre path's vegetal layer as a first grade of public space relationship and we look for material continuity with the factories.

Materiality

The structure was entirely done in a local workshop and moved to the work area in 4 tranches. It consists of 4 80.8 tubular columns and 80.6 tubular rings placed every 1.5 metres. L 100 profiles welded to the rings allow holding the ceramic lattice sections.

The upper 16 metres of the case are covered with a ceramic lattice, made by holed bricks placed on their side faces, allowing natural ventilation and lighting and solar filtering. The lattice inner face is left open allowing a visual relation with the stone wall during the entire journey.

The lower 8 metres of the case have a glass enclosure to ensure a close relation with Cal Metre river path and its trees, which create a magnificent shadow area that changes with the seasons.

The election and placement of the ceramic material responds to industries texture relationship criteria. There are also some economic reasons, low cost product, easily executed and non maintenance needs, some climate aspects, such as case's solar protection and ventilation and, at the same time, having the opportunity of letting in filtered light.

