

2 AHI

Architectural
Heritage
Intervention

La Carbonería

Angel Borrego Cubero

06A001281

Built Heritage

In the pursuit of sustainability, the revaluation of history as well as past social and political conflict had a greater impact on the material qualities and performance of our design than the energy simulations we did with our sustainability expert. "There is a material and energetic wealth embedded in the stories of any place that we must incorporate into our designs so that they are truly sustainable" - Ángel Borrego Cubero, the architect of La Carboneria's rehabilitation

The original stairwell of the building had been demolished by its previous owner following the eviction in 2014 of the squatters that had occupied it since 2008. Also, the Town Hall had catalogued the building recently, and, with this protection, it also imposed the obligation to recover the facade that was supposed to look to the never-built ghost boulevard, which however faced now two party walls meeting at a 90° angle barely ten meters away at its further point.

Placing the stairwell and elevator in this furthest corner allowed us to unite the desires and needs of the different actors in the process in a more valuable and sustainable solution for all: The facade that explained Barcelona's enlargement project and its history has been made available for view from the stairwell and walkways and have become part of the local daily life; the small patio is now a tridimensional public space for the neighbours, a more interesting view from their larger windows than the original party walls; and one more apartment could fit in the space vacated by the old stairwell, which helped justify the more complex solution plus it has increased a much needed housing density in this desirable area of the city.

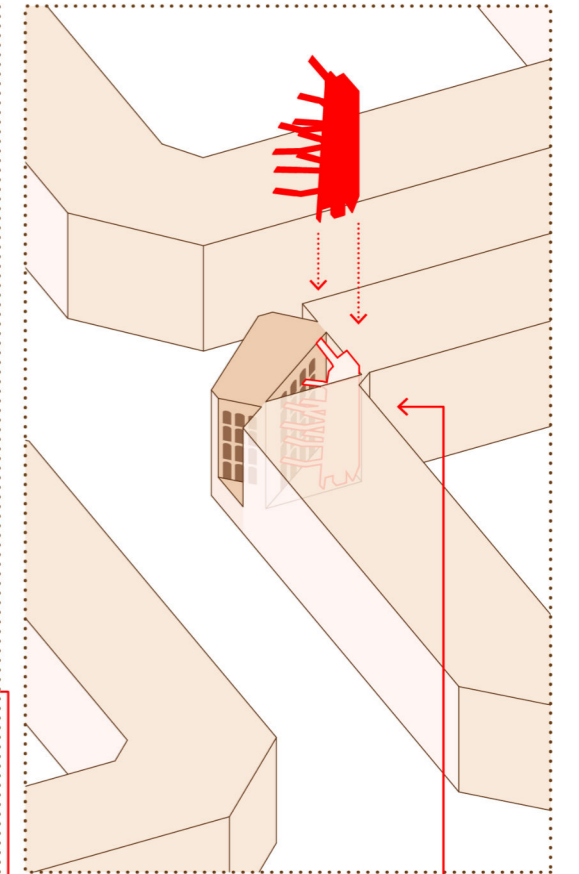
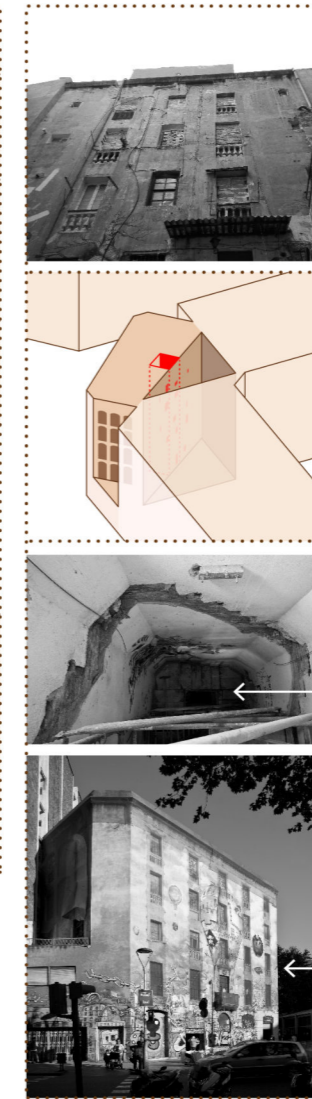
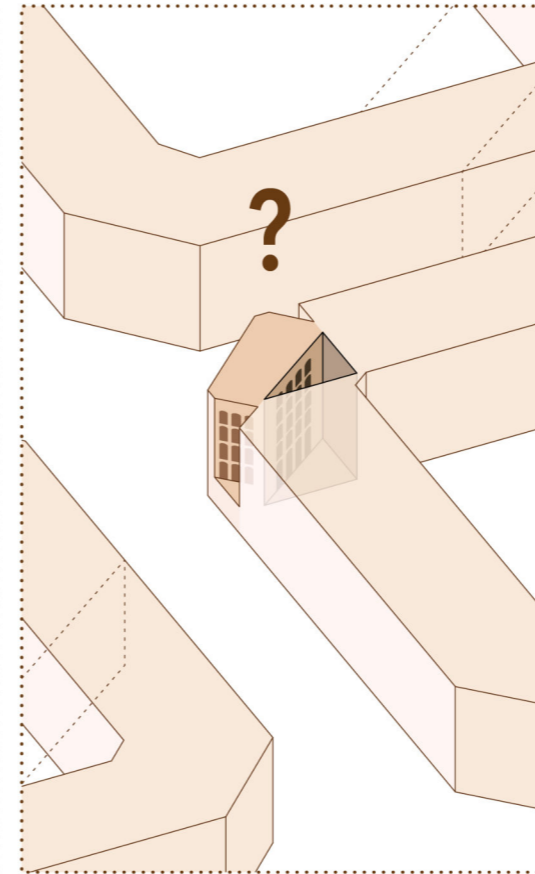
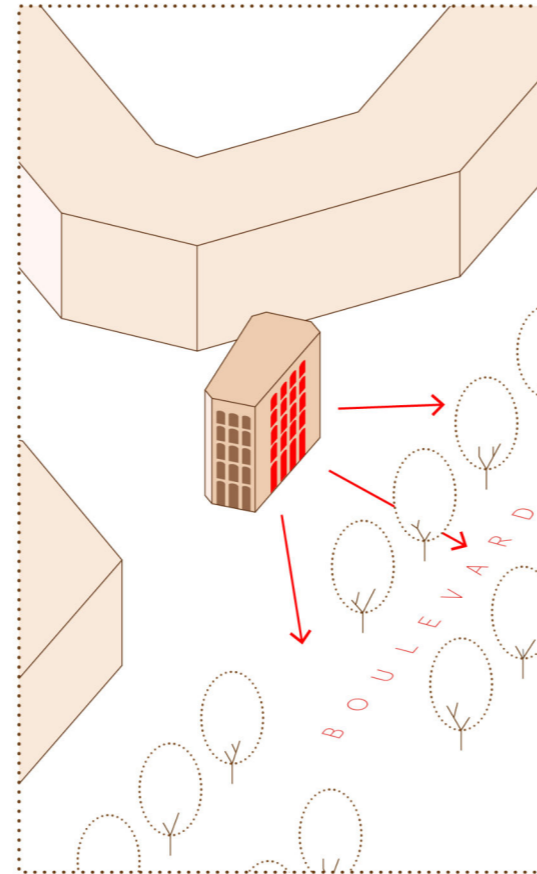
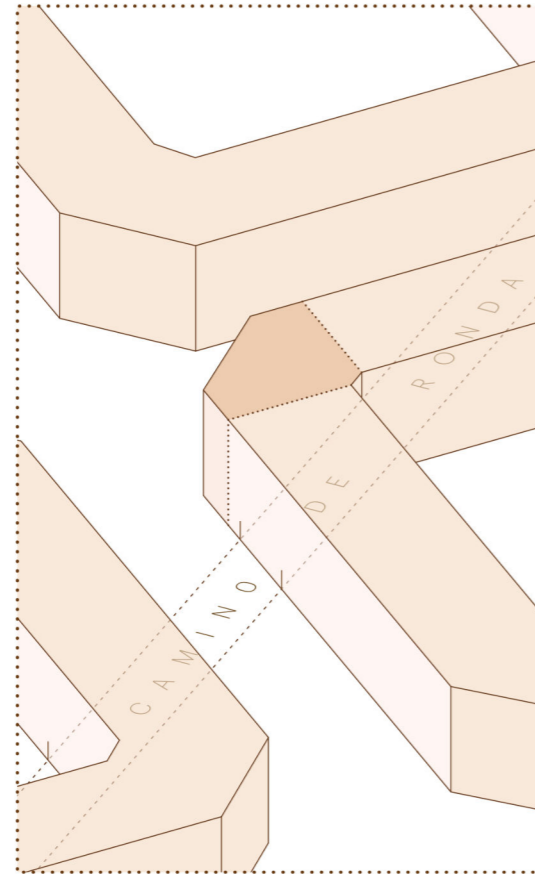
The land plot, property of Narcís Tarragó, was crossed by Barcelona's Wall street (called Camino de Ronda, or 'surveillance road')

Uncertainty created by the the political rejection of Cerdà's plan, made Mr Tarragó design a facade looking to the boulevard pushed by city officials

Cerdà's ultimate rejection of large symbolic avenues for the city ensured the facade to the Boulevard was quickly hidden from view

That facade, the small patio, and the building in general suffered continuous neglect

A new structure gives access to each housing unit individually, allowing the 'boulevard' facade to become part of the city and the building's daily life



1850

1850

CERDÀ'S PLAN STARTS
PLAN IS APPROVED

Political uncertainty regarding

CERDÀ REJECTS
BOULEVARD

Boulevard generates a surprise facade

1900

1950

Olympic games '92

2000

OCCUPIED*

former owner
demolishes stairwell

OSS

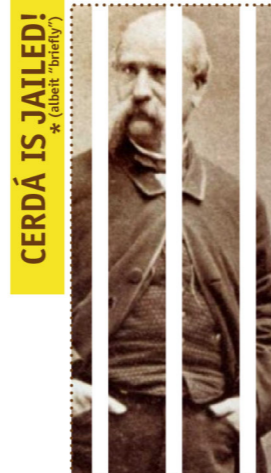
DEMOCRATIC town halls

2008
LEHMAN
BROS.

POLICE EVICTION



Barcelona 1806 Proyecto I. Cerdà
○ Situación proyecto



CERDÀ IS JAILED!
* (albeit "briefly")



TOWN HALL COMPETITION
For the design of the new city expansion



TOWN HALL PROPOSES BOULEVARD
Architect Antoni Rovira i Trias (in red, La Carboneria's location)

