

# 4 AHI

Architectural  
Heritage  
Intervention

La Carbonería

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Built Heritage

The building seems to have been turned inside out. Its most striking façade, that which looked onto the ghost boulevard, is hidden inside a small, triangular courtyard. The stairwell and elevator have been placed at the furthest corner of this patio, allowing the aerial walkways and the dividing wall to generate a three-dimensional communal space that substitutes it and gives access to this long hidden facade.

The large structure adjoining the party wall rests on the walkway that gives access to the roof, which acts as a stabilizing horizontal beam. Mirrors placed on it illuminate the lower floors' apartments and the bottom of the narrow patio in the winter months. The structure is also prepared for the installation of a PV panel array and houses the planters.

The support of the bent walkways is not obvious at first glance, which confers the paths that reach the door of each home a weightless, surreal appearance.

Although the heritage regulations applicable allowed us to gut out the entire building except the facades, the original structure of the building was preserved as much as possible. Only the roof needed replacement. The interior distribution of the apartments protects and emphasizes the original bearing wall that divides the building in two parallel spaces. Storage and mechanical areas follow this middle wall, which becomes the most important element of the interior layout. Openings in this middle wall allow for the visual connection between the living areas of the home, the inner courtyard, and the street as conceived by Cerdà.

Insulation of the roof alongside carpentry and glass designed to insulate thermally and acoustically from the busy Urgell street, an average consumption of less than 60% of the local average was obtained without adding insulation to the exterior facades, thus avoiding damaging the exterior of the building, subtract space inside, and other problems of the multilayer solutions less suitable for the Mediterranean climate.

