



CEPSA refinery in Santa Cruz de Tenerife, the first in Spain

1929



Demolition of the CEPSA refinery. Informal group of activists - today the non profit Amigos del Tanque - opposes the demolition of Tank 69 and begins a fight to have it listed as industrial heritage and repurposed as a cultural space

1995



El Tanque and its site are declared a BIC (protected industrial heritage), the first in the Canary Islands

2014

2022

El Tanque Garden is an ecological restoration project of an industrial heritage area that endows the Cabo Llanos neighborhood of Santa Cruz de Tenerife with its first green public space. Around a former oil refinery tank, reused as a cultural space since 1997 and protected industrial heritage since 2014, this banana garden recalls the agricultural landscape prior to industrialization, staging **the city as a place of coexistence of different times, cultures and sensibilities that have shaped the identity of the city.**

The El Tanque Cultural Space is former oil deposit, representative of the industrial history of the Canary Islands, which has been part of the urban geography of Santa Cruz de Tenerife since 1929 when the first refinery in Spain was built here. Faced with its imminent dismantling, the non-profit Amigos del Tanque advocated reusing one of these tanks, and succeeded to have it **declared a protected heritage along with its entire plot, since 2014; in 2022, they proposed calling a public design contest for the restoration of its environment, which was in a state of decay.**

Menis's rehabilitation design covers the perimeter of El Tanque with **banana trees as a way of remembering the agricultural activity that existed in this area before the CEPSA refinery** was located here in the 1930s. As the exuberant subtropical vegetation colonizes the industrial relic, framing its overwhelming presence, the memory of the agricultural past is restored **to build a sense of cultural continuity and belonging.**



Rehabilitation of the site is completed