

LIVING IN THE
CASES BARATES
Bon Pastor,
1929-2010

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THE BON PASTOR CASES BARATES 1929-2010

The story of the Second Cases Barates (Cheap Houses) Development, called Milans del Bosch, Carles Bonaventura Aribau and Bon Pastor at different points in time, is part of the key moments which shaped the urban history of Barcelona's outskirts over the course of the 20th century.

From when they were built in 1929 to their final conversion in the early 21st century, the Cases Barates reveal the intricacies of the process of integrating low-income housing into the city and the struggle of the urban majorities for the dignity of their neighbourhoods.

The four Cases Barates which have been turned into a museum venue as part of the project to preserve the memory and history of Bon Pastor represent four different periods and ways of life of the working classes in the city of Barcelona.



1 SHORTAGE

1929-1952

LIFE IN THE CASES BARATES DEL BON PASTOR BETWEEN TWO DICTATORSHIPS

In the period between Primo de Rivera's dictatorship and the post-Civil War years under Franco's dictatorship, life in the Cases Barates was no better than merely getting by in spite of the residents' best efforts. The high hopes at the beginning of the Second Republic did not have time to come to fruition while the Civil War took a heavy toll on this community which backed the anarchist movement.

Reprisals, courts martial, National Catholicism re-education and the shortages of the autarchy years shaped the post-Civil War period. In 1945, the neighbourhood, which until then had been part of Santa Coloma de Gramenet, was transferred to the municipality of Barcelona, and if nothing else this galvanised the reopening of its schools. Privations continued until the late 1950s, although the ending of rationing in 1952 made things easier.

Couple on a bike, 1943.
Joana Melenchón's family collection

THE FIRST PUBLIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

Immigrants came to Barcelona in the 1920s, attracted by the construction of the city's Metro and the International Exposition. They had to cope with the difficulties of finding somewhere to live, either by subletting rooms or staying in substandard housing on the outskirts of the city.

The Montjuïc shantytowns were very close to the Exposition site and this prompted the City Council to build the first public housing under the low-cost housing laws. In 1927, the Barcelona Housing Board was set up and in the following year Fomento de la Vivienda Popular, the company responsible for acquiring and developing the land, was established. The construction of four groups of Cheap Houses was approved: Eduard Aunós in the Zona Franca, Milans del Bosch and Baró de Viver on the banks of the River Besòs in Santa Coloma de Gramenet, and Ramon Albó at the foot of el Turó de la Peira.

Map of Barcelona, 1931. City Council Surveying Service. ICGC



Ramón Albó (1), Baró de Viver (2) and Eduard Aunós (3) Cases Barates, 1929. Josep Gaspar Serra. Milans del Bosch Cases Barates (4), 1930-1932. Josep Domínguez. AFB

The idea behind building clusters of single-storey rented houses in outlying areas was to keep costs to a minimum. The groups of cheap houses were seen as a kind of early urban development which would be replaced later on by new neighbourhoods of owner-occupied properties. This rationale supported the choice of cheap land and encouraged purchase from large owners which was easier to manage. The low rent charged was cited as the reason for the poor quality of the housing.

The initiative came late in the day compared to other European industrialised cities. It was driven by a pressing emergency in a setting unconcerned about social policies. Dressed up in paternalistic and philanthropic arguments, it was depicted as an operation which demonstrated Barcelona city council's concern to fix the problem of workers' housing. However, it was unable to deal with a situation which would have needed different approaches and resources, as shown by the large public housing programmes which were being rolled out in cities like Amsterdam, Vienna, Berlin and Frankfurt. Anyway, starting in 1932, an attempt was made to apply these new approaches also in the Catalan capital with the Casa Bloc housing in Sant Andreu, a short distance from the Cheap Houses in the Besòs district.

A HOUSING ESTATE ON THE METROPOLITAN AREA'S OUTSKIRTS

Like Baró de Viver, the Milans del Bosch group was built in areas of the municipality of Santa Coloma de Gramenet, sited on the right bank of the Besòs River, near the border with Barcelona.

The area was largely for agricultural use, although in 1906 the Can Sala factory for starching and bleaching cotton fabrics had been set up there along with the Sanchís dye factory in the following year. The small Estadella and Les Carolines neighbourhoods grew up nearby, the latter hosting several shops including a cinema, first called the Edison and later Ambos Mundos.

The construction in 1929 of the Milans del Bosch housing estate, today called Bon Pastor, brought a step change in the scale of the urban development of this area cut off from Santa Coloma's town centre and Sant Andreu in Barcelona. Shortly afterwards, Sanchís also built a small housing estate for its workers opposite its factory.

- 1 Sanchís house and factory, undated. Ferran Blaya collection
- 2 Aerial view of Can Sala factory in the Bon Pastor neighbourhood, 1953-1955. TAF-Helicòpters. ANC
- 3 The bakery at house no. 150 in the Milans del Bosch Cases Barates estate, 1934. Pérez de Rozas. AFB

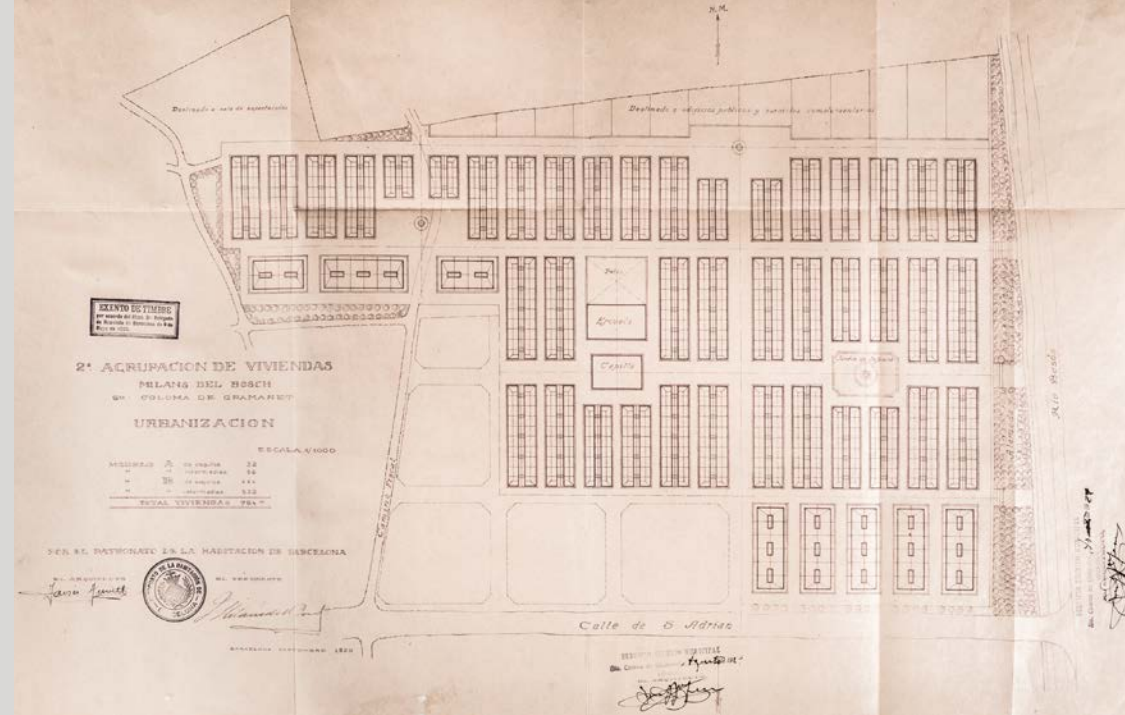


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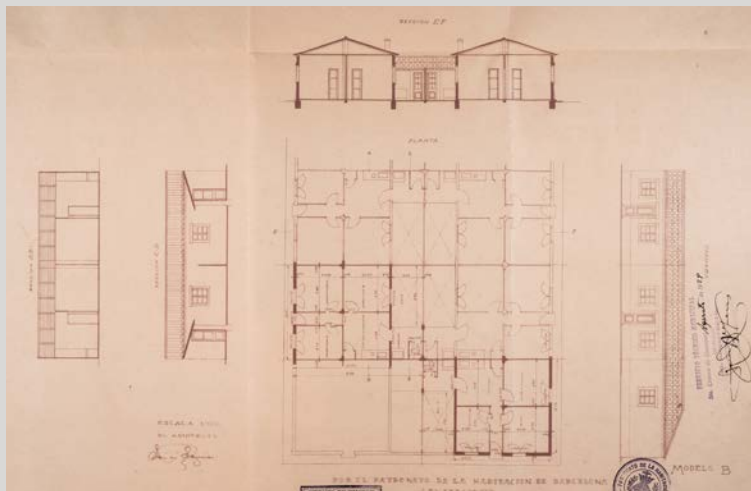
Site development plan. Patronato de la Habitación de Barcelona (Barcelona Housing Board); Xavier Turull Ventosa, architect, September 1928. AMCB

FEATURES OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD AND HOUSES

The design for the Milans del Bosch estate, the largest of the four built, was ready in September 1928 and residents moved in during 1929 as the houses were finished. 781 of the 784 houses planned were built, i.e. almost all of them. Type A houses measuring about 53 m² were arranged in perimeter areas and type B houses measuring about 38 m² formed the bulk of the housing stock. All the houses had three bedrooms and a kitchen-living room and were equipped with a toilet and a washing place in small backyards.

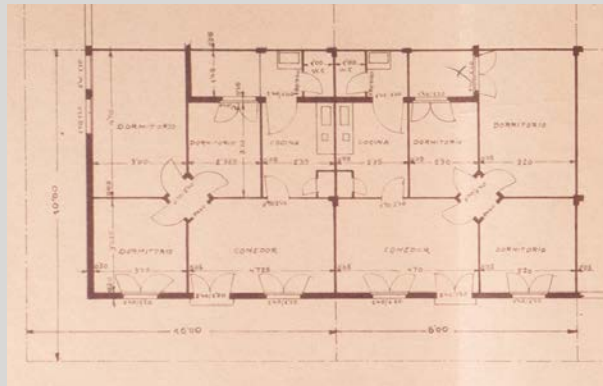
As in the agricultural and industrial settlements, the groups of low-cost houses were laid out in a grid pattern typical of the founding towns and which was most clearly visible in Milans del Bosch. Four squares and other areas were arranged along the main streets for a chapel, a kindergarten, a school, a civil guard barracks, and also the company store which operated until the Civil War.

The complex was designed with a simple, uncluttered and respectable appearance using traditional elements and techniques. However, the limits of this type of inexpensive construction soon became apparent, and poor maintenance aggravated the effects of exposure to damp and the flooding of the river.



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- 1 Houses Type B, ground plans, elevations and sections. Patronato de la Habitación de Barcelona (Barcelona Housing Board); Josep M. Sagnier Vidal, architect, September 1928. AMCB
- 2 Houses Type A, ground plan. AMCB
- 3 Flooding in the Cases Barates development neighbourhood, 1933. Pérez de Rozas. AFB
- 4 Bullet casing workshop at explosives factory No. 11 (La Sanchís). Montserrat Tarradellas archive
- 5 Furniture recovered after the Cases Barates were bombed on 29 May 1937. Unknown photographer. ANC



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FROM REPUBLICAN HOPE TO THE HORROR OF WAR

Under the Second Republic, Baró de Viver was renamed Pi i Maragall and Milans del Bosch was called Bonaventura Carles Aribau. With the Cheap Houses the population of Santa Coloma increased by more than 4,000 inhabitants and from 1930 steps were taken to incorporate the Colomense territory located on the right bank of the Besòs into the municipality of Barcelona.

However, the scarce resources available and the reluctance of the Barcelona Housing Board to pay the municipal taxes during the time of the rent strike, led the Colomense city council to request on several occasions, between 1931 and 1937, the incorporation of the two estates into Barcelona, an offer that was initially refused.

This insecure administrative situation led to the emergence of a community organisation anchored in workers' solidarity initiatives, often accompanied by activism in anarchist trade unions such as the CNT and the FAI, which helped to shape the character of the Cheap Houses.

The urban development of this outlying area also stirred up the Church. In 1935 it was approved the establishment of the new Bon Pastor parish, defined as "missionary" by the press, and the scene of the murder of the priest on July 19th, 1936.

The neighbourhood was heavily involved in the Civil War: many local men fought in the militia battalions while women took over the jobs they left behind. Furthermore, in May 1937, the Cheap Houses were hit by bombs from fascist air force aimed at the nearby factories, which caused nine deaths and several injuries.

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A NEIGHBOURHOOD UNDER ECCLESIASTICAL GUARDIANSHIP

The post-Civil War period was shaped by the aftermath of the conflict: political repression, National Catholic indoctrination, widespread poverty and displacement of some of the people from the Cheap Houses. The insecure social situation, with many men on the run, dead or imprisoned, forced a lot of women to become heads of families working in factories or the informal economy or running businesses.

In 1940, the arrival of Monsignor Joan Cortinas prompted vigorous re-Christianisation work together with great parish activism to alleviate the needs of an area beset by the repression of the new regime which court-martialled 40 people from the Second Group of Cheap Houses, now once again called Milans del Bosch.

During this period, the neighbourhood was a social laboratory of National Catholicism in which several women's congregations were prominent and got involved in catechesis, education, assistance and other charitable activities.



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1 Monsignor Joan Cortinas, 1940s.
Ferran Blaya collection



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2 Blessing of the first stone of the Cases Barates development parish church.
23 April 1944. Pérez de Rozas. AFB

3 Good Friday procession with the church bell tower in an advanced stage of construction. 1950. Ferran Blaya collection



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4 Map of the area removed from Santa Coloma de Gramenet and added to Barcelona, 1943-1944. AHSCG

5 Opening of the work on Santa Coloma de Gramenet Bridge. 11 April 1945. Pérez de Rozas. AFB



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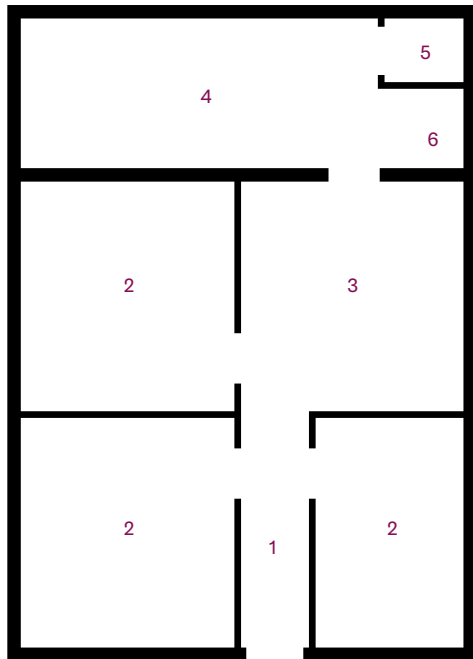
The Church's influence also contributed to the progress of the negotiations, resumed in 1939, once the war was over, for the addition to Barcelona of the area of Santa Coloma on the right bank of the Besòs, which came into effect in 1945. The agreement helped to reopen schools and the streets were named after towns in Lleida province instead of just having numbers, although the neighbourhood continued to be excluded and cut off.

In April 1945, the evangelising mission was confirmed with the inauguration of the unfinished Bon Pastor church, designed in neo-Romanesque style. The opening of the church also led Monsignor Cortinas to ask the authorities to call the neighbourhood Bon Pastor.

THE PATRONAT MUNICIPAL DE L'HABITACIÓ (BARCELONA HOUSING BOARD) HOUSES

Most of the houses built by the Patronat in 1929 were type B, such as the one reconstructed here. Though small, they were an improvement on the conditions of workers' housing at the time. They had three bedrooms, a dining room with a kitchen and a small backyard featuring a toilet and washroom. The finishes were simple: cement floors, light-coloured painted walls, wooden doors and windows, and lath and plaster ceilings. The water pipes were exposed as was the wiring with one light point per room.

Tenants tailored the space to their requirements by making alterations, including repainting interiors and sometimes moving the kitchen to the backyard, which was first recorded in 1949. The furniture, made of wood and from a variety of sources, catered to basic needs while sewing machines and radios were the most modern appliances in some houses.



20, Barnola street
Schematic plan

- 1 Hallway
- 2 Bedroom
- 3 Kitchen-dining room
- 4 Backyard
- 5 Toilet
- 6 Washroom



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Inside one of the Cases Barates of the
Patronat, undated. F. Ribera. IMHAB

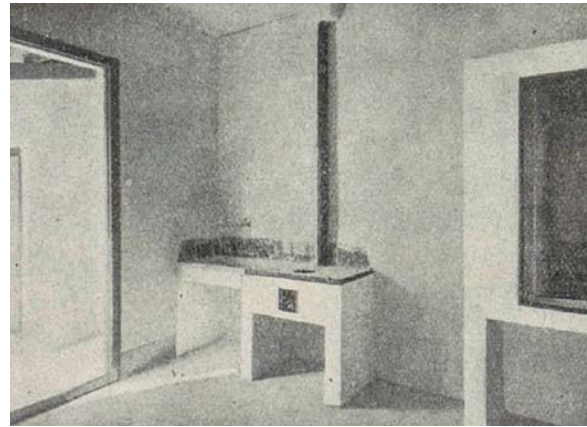
THE ARRIVAL OF THE FIRST RESIDENTS AND MOVING INTO THE HOUSES

Residents started moving into the houses from May 1929 onwards, mainly migrants from inland Catalonia and other Spanish regions. The houses were officially awarded by the Patronat although there is also evidence of squatting in empty properties and swaps between residents, many of whom were not on the population register in Santa Coloma de Gramenet, the town where the estate was built.

- 1 Sant Adrià Boulevard, 1930s. Ferran Blaya collection
- 2 Interior view of a cheap house, picture published in the magazine *El Hogar Patrio*, August 1929. BNE
- 3 View of the Cases Barates, undated. Unknown photographer. IMHAB
- 4 Model lease agreement. IMHAB



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PATRONATO DE LA HABITACIÓN DE BARCELONA

CONTRATO DE INQUILINATO

Vivienda de la _____ de _____
n.º _____ cuarto _____

En Barcelona a _____ de _____ del año mil novecientos _____
reunidos D. _____ natural de _____
provincia de _____ de _____ años, de estado _____
su profesión _____ vecino al presente de _____ con
cédula personal _____ clase, n.º _____ expedida como habitante
en la _____ de _____ n.º _____ cuarto _____
a _____ de _____ de 19 _____ en concepto de Arrendatario;
y D. _____ de _____ años, de estado _____
y vecino de _____ con cédula de _____ clase, n.º _____
expedida en _____ a _____ de _____ de 19 _____ como
dueño en dicha calidad, hemos contratado el arrendamiento del cuarto
de la casa n.º _____ de la _____ de _____ sita
en _____ por tiempo de _____ precio de _____
cada año, pagadas por _____ con las demás condiciones que se
estampan al dorso.

Formalizado así este Contrato, y para que conste, lo firmamos por
sextuplicado. Fecha ut supra.

El Arrendatario, _____
POR EL PATRONATO DE LA HABITACIÓN:
El Arrendador, _____

Grupo _____

Habiendo sido exceptuado del pago del timbre del Estado por acuerdo del Ilmo. Sr. Delegado de Hacienda de esta provincia, fecha 9 de Mayo de 1926, se redacta en papel común.

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THE RENTS

The Barcelona Housing Board set the rent and the terms of use of the houses and banned any alterations to them. The social crisis exacerbated by unemployment following the closure of the International Expo and the indirect fallout from the 1929 world crash led to the rent strike of 1931 which was widely supported in the Cases Barates and whose demands would continue until 1942. New residents who came along after the Civil War often had to present letters of recommendation from the Church or from people close to Franco's regime if they wanted to rent a house.

SMALL HOUSES AND LARGE FAMILIES: ORGANISING DOMESTIC SPACE

The small size of the houses, the large number of family members and the diverse makeup of the groups living in them made organising daily life especially challenging. During the post-Civil War period, poverty and housing shortages forced many families to sublet their homes or share bedrooms.



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- 1 Interior of a cheap house in Can Peguera, 1929-1938. Gabriel Casas. ANC
- 2 Bellmunt Street, 1940s. Lola García's family collection
- 3 Women sewing and children playing in the street in the Second Cases Barates estate, 1930-1932. Josep Domínguez. AFB



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STREET LIFE

The estate's isolation from city centres, the features of the families, the kind of housing and its shortcomings nurtured a strong sense of community. The streets were viewed as extensions of the home which made them places for socialising where people worked, cooked, ate, played and organised parties and open-air dances and also slept in the summer.

- 4 People cooking in the street, 1940s. Ferran Blaya collection
- 5 Girl from the Cases Barates in front of a fountain, 1949. Joana Melenchón's family collection
- 6 Young men on a bike, 1940s. Teresa Bullich-Fradera's family collection

ECONOMY OF SCARCITY

Families often had to supplement their wages with other production work, which many women did at home, or with small businesses, in which the children were also involved. People had to make ends meet. Raising animals in the small backyards enabled them to vary their diet with higher protein intake or earn some extra money.



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- 1 Fecsa worker, 1930s. Ángel López's family collection
- 2 Greengrocer's at 14, Bellmunt Street, 1940s. Lola García's family collection
- 3 Porters from the Cases Barates looking for work in the city centre, 1930s. Teresa Bullich-Fradera's family collection
- 4 A woman holds two chickens in the street among furniture recovered after the Cases Barates were bombed on 29 May 1937. Unknown photographer. ANC
- 5 Bonaventura Carles Aribau School, 1932-1934. Unknown photographer. AFB

THE SCHOOL, A CRUCIAL INSTITUTION

Shortly after finishing the houses, the Patronat built schools on the Cases Barates (Cheap Houses). The time of the Second Republic, when the school of the Second Estate was renamed Bonaventura Carles Aribau, was extremely productive. A proactive teaching method was used, as can be seen in the Vilabesòs school notebooks (1934-1935) published by the teachers and pupils which bear outstanding testament to life in the neighbourhood. The schools closed at the end of the Civil War and were not reopened until 1941-1942 with new teachers as part of the process of adding the two Besòs Cases Barates estates to the municipality of Barcelona.

CHRONOLOGY 1929-1952

1929

The Second Cases Barates (Cheap Houses) Estate approved the previous year is built. Between May and December, people start to move into what is now known as Bon Pastor, then called Milans del Bosch.

1930

The Santa Coloma de Gramenet population register shows 433 houses occupied out of the 781 which have been built with a total of 2,347 registered inhabitants. The Sacred Heart chapel, built by the Patronat Municipal de l'Habitació (Barcelona Housing Board) on the Milans del Bosch estate, is opened in July. Barcelona City Council suggests that the area of Santa Coloma on the right bank of the River Besòs should be added to Barcelona.

1931

In March, the schools on the Milans del Bosch, Baró de Viver and Eduard Aunós estates built by the Patronat are opened; the school in Ramon Albó started up in the following year. The Second Spanish Republic is proclaimed on 14 April. The Milans del Bosch estate recovers the designation of Second Cases Barates (Cheap Houses) Estate before finally being renamed Bonaventura Carles Aribau. The National Confederation of Labour (CNT) calls a rent strike in Barcelona which is widely supported in the Cases Barates.

Santa Coloma de Gramenet Town Council declares for the first time that the Cases Barates are an unsustainable burden on the municipality.

In September the first private bus route between Sant Andreu and the Second Cases Barates Development comes into service.

1933

The Patronat Municipal de l'Habitació (Barcelona Housing Board) is reformed due to the severe crisis brought about by debts compounded by the rent strike.

1935

During the Black Biennium, there are around a hundred evictions in the Second Cases Barates (Cheap Houses) Estate even though the estimated unemployment rate stands at 70%.

Bishop Manuel Irurita sponsors the founding of Bon Pastor parish on land negotiated with industrialist Enric Sanchís. A building is fitted out as a rectory. For the time being, the Sacred Heart chapel is used for religious functions.

1936

On 19 July, antifascist workers help to thwart the military uprising against the Republic in Barcelona and the Sant Andreu light artillery barracks, which had joined the coup d'état, is besieged. On this tumultuous day, Bon Pastor's parish priest is murdered during the assault on the parish house while in the early hours of the 20th, Sant Andreu barracks, which holds an arsenal of 30,000 rifles, surrenders.

In the Cases Barates, where there is considerable anarcho-syndicalist activism, subcommittees of the Antifascist Militias are set up and quite a few of the residents enlist in the militia battalions.

Significant collectivisation takes place in the agricultural and industrial areas around the Cases Barates.

1937

Nine people are killed on 24th Street in the Second Cases Barates Estate during the bombing by the fascist air force on 29 May targeting local factories.



ANC

1939

On 26 January, Franco's troops enter Barcelona and Santa Coloma on the following day. Santa Coloma Town Council resumes its efforts to hand over to Barcelona the area on the right bank of the Besòs.

1940

Monsignor Joan Cortinas, later known as *pare Botella* (Father Bottle), takes over the parish of Bon Pastor.

1941

The Parish Charity Dispensary opens staffed by doctors and volunteers and until 1976 was the only healthcare centre in the area.



ADB

Santa Coloma Town Council agrees with Barcelona that the latter will pay part of the expenses of teachers in the schools on the Baró de Viver and Milans del Bosch estates and which were reopened in 1941 and 1942 respectively, after the teaching staff were purged by the Francoist authorities.

1944

The Patronat rebuilds the twenty-one Milans del Bosch houses destroyed by the bombing in 1937 and repairs the store.

1945

On 1 January, Milans del Bosch and Baró de Viver are added to Barcelona in accordance to the agreement concluded in 1943. Bon Pastor church is dedicated. It is an unfinished neo-Romanesque building designed by Josep M. Sagnier and funded by the Junta Nacional de Reconstrucción de Templos Parroquiales (National Board for the Reconstruction of Parish Churches) as part of the re-Christianisation projects.

The rector of the parish church, the priest Joan Cortinas, pushes for the neighbourhood to be renamed Bon Pastor. Driven by poverty and political crackdowns, some residents leave the neighbourhood and

go to work in other countries in Europe and Latin America.

1946

Housing swaps between families living in the Cases Barates are recorded. This arrangement lasted for a long time and led to a degree of mobility in the neighbourhood.

1947

Start of regularising leases and readjusting rents for the Cases Barates which is completed in 1949.

Bus route G operated by Tramvies de Barcelona starts running between Sant Andreu and Bon Pastor.

There are reports of business activities being conducted in the houses.

1948

The Patronat's documents mention that animals are kept in the backyards of the houses.

1949

Overcrowding of the houses prompts several residents to undertake building work to increase the floor area available to them.

1950

It is reported for the first time that some residents have to move out of the neighbourhood on medical advice because of the damp.

1951

Discontent with the regime and the economic crisis leads to a boycott of trams and a general strike which spreads from Barcelona to the Vallès region.

Engine manufacturer ENMASA, the successor to the former Elizalde, sets up in Bon Pastor in a factory commissioned from architect Robert Terradas which would open in 1957. In 1959 it would begin to produce Mercedes engines under license and in 1981 it would join the automobile group under the name of Mercedes-Benz Spain SA.

1952

End of rationing of staples.

Barcelona hosts the 35th International Eucharistic Congress.

New emergency housing is completed in Mollerussa Street: 60 'refuge' housing units and 48 'shelter' housing units.



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'DEVELOPMENTALISM'

1953–1974

AN ERA OF ECONOMIC REVIVAL AND GROWTH

The second house describes living conditions during the sluggish economic revival in the 1950s and the 'developmentalist' push in the 1960s up to the crisis in the mid-1970s.

Firstly, the 1953 County Plan and the subsequent local zoning plans earmarked the areas around Bon Pastor for industrial uses while cementing the neighbourhood's residential aspect.

Meanwhile, the 1959 National Economic Stabilisation Plan brought about sustained economic growth in a technocratic approach, albeit at great cost to the working class. Habits changed and many items typical of early mass consumerism appeared; by the end of the period, like other neighbourhoods Bon Pastor was packed with cars.

The 1973 oil crisis, whose effects were especially felt from 1975 onwards, signalled the end of this time of economic expansion which in social terms was accompanied by the emergence of local community movements calling for urgent attention to neighbourhood problems.

NEW PLANNING MODELS

The 1953 County Plan and the subsequent 1955 Local Zoning Plan allocated the agricultural land surrounding Bon Pastor to industrial use. It was also decided to extend the Baró de Viver and Milans del Bosch housing estates and urban equipment.

In 1958, the serious housing shortage prompted a Social Emergency Plan for Barcelona after one had been brought in for Madrid in the previous year. The construction of the new Bon Pastor residential estate to the south of the Cheap Houses was approved. Teamed up with developers, several companies including La Maquinista, Mercedes, Banco Central and Telefónica, among others, built a total of 761 dwellings for their employees there.

These schemes, which were inspired by post-war mass housing plans in other European countries, introduced new types, forms and materials such as exposed concrete and brickwork.



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1 View of the new Bon Pastor market shortly after its completion, 1962. Joana Melenchon's family collection

2 Aerial view of the new Bon Pastor residential polygon under construction, 1962. TAF-Helicopters. ANC



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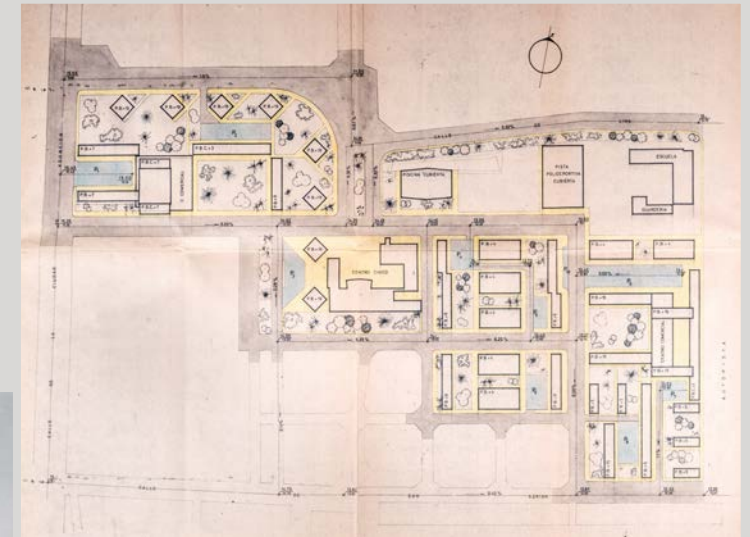
Densification also impacted the Cheap Houses. Between the late 1940s and the early 1950s, 60 shelter housing units measuring only 19 m² were built along with four buildings hosting 48 hostel housing units in Mollerussa Street measuring about 38 m². In 1965, two blocks featuring business units and 108 flats were completed on the site of the company store.

PLANS FOR DENSE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

The changes in their surroundings called into question the survival of the Cheap Houses which were seen as the remnants of an outmoded idea of social housing. The little houses were judged inadequate because of their unhealthy conditions and the wasteful use of the land given the high demand for and shortage of developable areas during the property speculation era in the Barcelona of Mayor Porcioles.

The Local Zoning Plan presented in 1965, approved in 1968 and revised in 1971, suggested replacing them with superblocks featuring high-rise residential buildings which altered the layout of the roads and changed the scale of the complex.

This scheme, which in its first version envisaged the construction of 2,460 housing units coupled with school, sports and social facilities, resulted in the construction of four blocks hosting a total of 208 flats in Lima Street.



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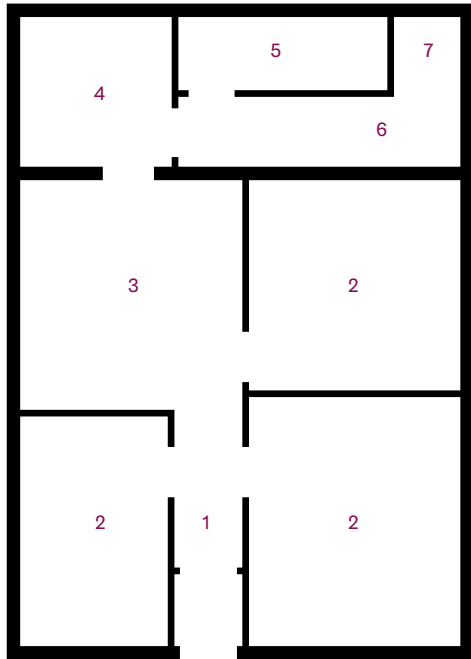
- 1 Photo of the neighbourhood, the Cases Barates and the new housing blocks in "El barrio del Buen Pastor", *Cuadernos de Arquitectura y Urbanismo*, 61 (1965), p. 6. COAC Library
- 2 Advertisement in the magazine *Arquitectura*, 112 (April 1968). COAC Library
- 3 Local redevelopment plan for the Milans del Bosch housing estate, general planning. Street network. Patronat Municipal de l'Habitatge (Barcelona Housing Board); Luis Jara Álvarez de Sotomayor, architect, 1965. AMCB
- 4 Construction of four residential blocks on Lima Street, 1972. J. Ribera. IMHAB

SEARCHING FOR MORE SPACE IN THE HOUSES

The needs of usually large families and better economic conditions led to some changes in the houses such as adding a small vestibule in the hallway, moving the kitchen to the backyard and building a new bathroom.

Damp was also reduced in the houses by more effective insulation of the floors, which included a layer of hydraulic or stoneware tiles laid on top of the cement. Dining rooms and bedrooms were repainted using a range of methods or lined with wallpaper while kitchens and bathrooms were fitted with new appliances and finished with ceramic tiles.

The house's fittings were also brought into line with the new habits which often clashed with the limited space available: butane stoves and electric shower heaters were introduced alongside the first household appliances and new furniture sets for bedrooms, dining rooms and kitchens.



18, Barnola street
Schematic plan

- 1 Hallway
- 2 Bedroom
- 3 Dining room
- 4 Kitchen
- 5 Bathroom
- 6 Backyard
- 7 Washroom



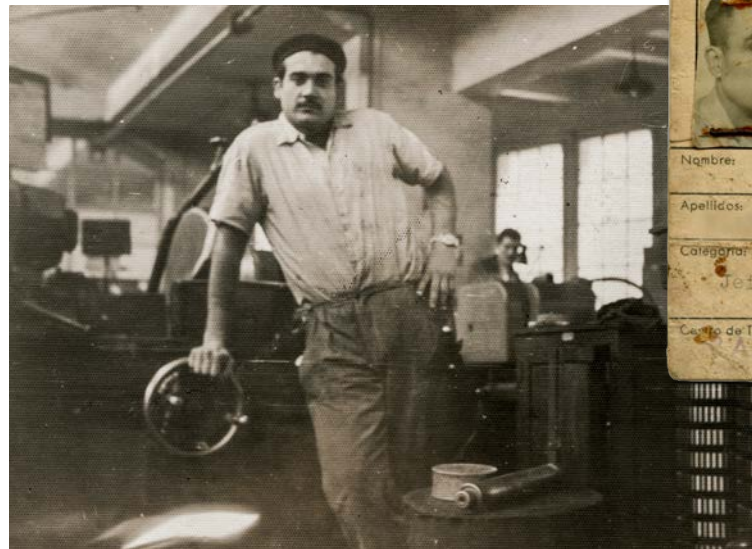
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10, Ardèvol street, 1960s.
Cristóbal Baños' family collection

WORK, A DEFINING FACTOR IN IDENTITY

The construction of factory estates around Bon Pastor consolidated it as a neighbourhood of industrial working-class families. The routines of work, both productive and reproductive, defined many aspects of daily life and contributed to shaping people's identity and gender roles inside and outside the home.



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1 Can Sala workers on their way home from the factory, 1950s. Teresa Bullich-Fradera's family collection

2 Pegaso factory worker, 1960s. Rosa Martin's family collection

3 Can Sala workers, 1950s. Teresa Bullich-Fradera's family collection

4 Bon Pastor resident on a business trip to Berlin, 1960s. Amparo Asensio's family collection

BUSINESS OPERATIONS IN THE CASES BARATES

Although the Patronat had envisaged the Cases Barates as a residential development, a number of local people started small businesses in their front rooms because the area had a large population. Biosca Street became the neighbourhood's commercial hub. Several families set up stalls in Bon Pastor market when it opened in 1961.



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- 1 Fraile poultry and egg shop at 42, Salomó Street. Manolita Fraile's family collection
- 2 Melenchón sisters' butcher's stall in Bon Pastor Market, 1960s. Joana Melenchón's family collection
- 3 5, Bellmunt Street, 1960s. Amparo Asensio's family collection
- 4 21, Barnola Street, 1960s. Cristóbal Baños's family collection
- 5 The first washing machine, 23, Barnola Street, 1962. Teresa Bullich-Fradera's family collection

GREATER HOUSEHOLD TECHNOLOGY

The spread of butane gas cookers and the purchase of domestic appliances due to better utilities and more affordable prices helped to push up family earnings, often because women combined two jobs: indeed, greater household technology made it easier for women to enter the workforce while still doing domestic chores. Coupled with the Cases Barates' low rents and the steady rise in wages over the period, this led to an increase in household disposable income which was used to buy new products, thus changing consumer spending patterns, and also to enable young people to stay in education for longer.



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DEEPENING COMMUNITY LIFE

Celebrations brought family and social life together. Weddings, births and first communions were seized as an excuse to undertake work on the house and buy new furniture. Street parties and open-air festivals and the neighbourhood's patron saint's day were the venue for shows and competitions. Sports were a prominent leisure activity, the most popular of which were football and cycling, and also for a few years Greco-Roman wrestling.

- 1 Monsignor Joan Cortinas at the football ground, 1960s. Ferran Blaya collection
- 2 Celebration in Salomé Street, 1950s. Manolita Fraile's family collection
- 3 Festivities in Bellmunt Street, 1950s. Lola García's family collection

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE TRANSPORT

As they lived in a neighbourhood with few public transport services, locals who frequently had to travel long distances used bicycles and in some cases motorbikes. Several Biscuter microcars came along, manufactured in the neighbouring town of Sant Adrià, and in the 1960s SEAT 600s and other makes of vehicle became commonplace. Mobility habits changed and the area's streets were lined with parked cars.

- 4 "La Carraca" bus in Sant Adrià Street, 1960s. Ferran Blaya collection
- 5 Ardèvol Street, 1960s. Joana Melenchón's family collection

CHRONOLOGY 1953-1974

1953

Approval of the Urban Development Plan for Barcelona and its Area of Influence, known as the County Plan. The land around the Cases Barates is zoned as industrial.

1955

The Local Zoning Plan for the area next to the Besòs River sets the boundaries of the industrial areas and cements the residential aspect of the Bon Pastor and Baró de Viver neighbourhoods.

1956

The Rent-controlled Housing Act is passed. The Instituto Municipal de la Vivienda (Municipal Housing Institute), renamed the Patronato Municipal de la Vivienda (Municipal Housing Board; in Catalan, Patronat Municipal de l'habitage: the institutional use of Catalan was not allowed by the Franco's regime) lays the foundations for a major house building programme.

1957

The lifting of the regime's autarchy policy leads to the appointment of technocratic ministers close to Opus Dei. Josep Maria de Porcioles is named mayor of Barcelona.

1958

The severe housing crisis prompts approval for the construction of the new Bon Pastor residential estate next to the Cases Barates, a measure included in the Pla d'urgència social (Social Emergency Plan.)
Start of the supply of butane gas cylinders in Barcelona.

1959

The Pla d'estabilització (Stabilisation Plan) to stimulate and internationalise the economy is approved and the period of economic growth with no democracy begins.
Televisión Española starts broadcasting in Barcelona on 15 February with the Real Madrid vs. CF Barcelona football match.
Bus route 11 between Bon Pastor and Fabra i Puig metro station comes into service.

1961

The Bon Pastor market is opened which cements

the fledgling urban hub in Sant Adrià Street. The first stone is laid for the parish schools, opened in 1964.



Ferran Blaya's collection

1962

Severe flooding of the Besòs in September and heavy snowfall in December.



Josep Capsir's family collection

1963

La Maquinista closes its Barceloneta workshops and steps up its presence in Sant Andreu where it has been operating since 1918.



TAF. ANC

The parish schools open a kindergarten which continues to welcome pupils until 1971.

1964

Construction of a wooden bridge between Bon Pastor and Santa Coloma to replace the footbridge swept away in the 1962 floods.



Angel López's family collection

1965

The Local Zoning Plan for redeveloping the Bon Pastor estate, officially still called Milans del Bosch, envisages replacing the Cases Barates with blocks of flats and facilities. It would finally be approved in 1968.
Two blocks with 108 flats replacing the former Patronat de l'Habitatge store building are completed.

1968

The Association of Heads of Households backed by the parish is set up in Bon Pastor.



Josep Maria Romero's collection

1970

Start of construction of four tall residential blocks on Lima Street; this is the first phase of the 1968 Local Zoning Plan which would be revised in 1971.

1971

Construction of the Molinet pedestrian bridge between Bon Pastor and Santa Coloma.



Ferran Blaya's collection

1972

Strike in the metalworking industry which is widely supported in large factories such as La Maquinista, ENMASA and SEAT and shows the strength of the workers' movement in Barcelona.
Local residents demonstrate to demand the installation of a traffic light in Bon Pastor after a child is run over.

1973

The oil crisis breaks out, marking the onset of far-reaching industrial restructuring. After a year of protests which brought together most of the people of Bon Pastor, a traffic light is installed in Sant Adrià Street.

1974

A community protest action simulates laying the first stone of the local health centre.



3 RENOVATION

1975–1993

CHANGING TIMES AND PERSPECTIVES

The period covered here is the Transition and democratic reconstruction. Following a long process in which the community movement played a key role, in 1976 the General Metropolitan Plan was approved which scaled back Barcelona's growth forecasts. In view of the situation in the outlying districts which had few resources and high unemployment rates, the new democratic City Council rolled out vigorous urban planning policies. First they addressed the districts focusing on public space and facilities, in what was known as the "darker town planning", and then the conurbation by capitalising on the projects tied to the 1992 Olympic Games.

In the discussions about reconstructing or renovating the housing estates, the Patronat opted in the case of Bon Pastor for refurbishment with schemes run between 1981 and 1994.

The end of this period was shaped by the 1991 world crisis, although it did not hit Barcelona until two years later in 1993 because of the stimulus to the local economy provided by hosting the Olympic Games.

Festive lunch in Barnola Street, 1980s.
Concha Rodríguez's family collection

GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT AND SUPPORT FOR REFURBISHMENT

In 1968, dissatisfaction with municipal management led to the founding while still under Franco's dictatorship of an Association of Heads of Households, which was succeeded in 1976 by the new Bon Pastor Residents' Association. Sensitivity to social issues also led some priests to join the movements that were driving the protests.

After the first democratic municipal elections held in 1979, a new administrative division of Barcelona was introduced and in 1984 Bon Pastor was included in the Sant Andreu district. Its residents called for urban planning reforms, facilities and transport.



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- 1 Association of Heads of Households members pictured at the Centro Blanco. 1970s. Josep Maria Romero collection
- 2 Symbolic laying of the first stone of the Bon Pastor health centre by local residents. 1974. Ferran Blaya collection
- 3 Àger Street after the redevelopment work. 1987. Mariano Velasco. IMHAB
- 4 Adding a floor to a casa barata, undated. Mariano Velasco. IMHAB
- 5 Refurbishment work in a casa barata, 1982. Mariano Velasco. IMHAB



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The 1976 General Metropolitan Plan kept the option of replacing the cheap houses with blocks of flats, yet in the 1980s there was a wide-ranging discussion about refurbishment or replacement. Total replacement was decided on in the Baró de Viver and Eduard Aunós housing estates while in Ramon Albó, renamed Can Peguera and located on healthier land, the residents opted for refurbishment.

Bon Pastor also chose refurbishment and the Municipal Housing Board ran a number of renovation schemes between 1981 and 1994. Some residents benefited from while others had already had work done on their own. In 1986, a Special Plan was drawn up which envisaged replacing some of the homes with others of various types while maintaining the appearance of the cheap houses. Likewise, Enric Sanchís Boulevard was turned into an urban hub equipped with public spaces, a community centre and, later on, a library.

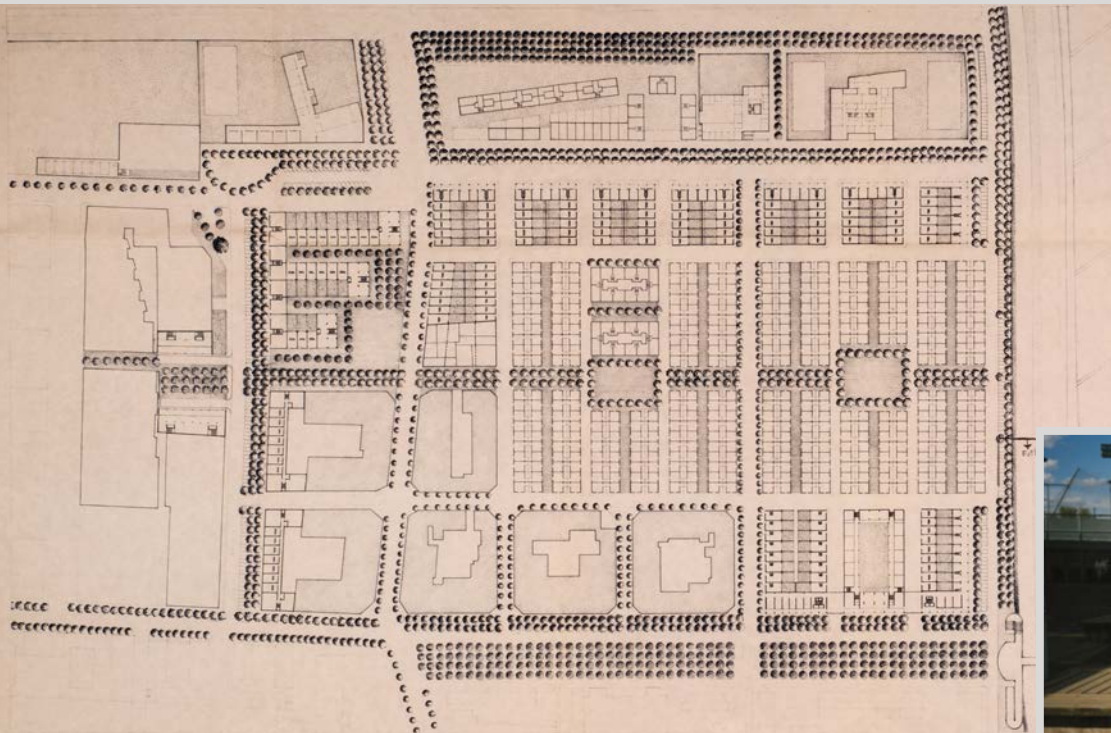
In 1992, Barcelona's ring-roads were opened. In Baró de Viver and Bon Pastor the Coastal ring-road was covered by two large concrete slabs. They restored the land taken up by the infrastructure for local community use as a public space, sports area and connection with the Besòs River, whose course was turned into a Metropolitan River Park in 2000.

- 1 Special plan for internal renovation of the Bon Pastor neighbourhood. Intervention summary plan. Patronat Municipal de l'Habitatge (Municipal Housing Board); Lluís Alegre Heitzmann, architect, assisted by Jaume Barnada and Albert Martínez, July 1986. AMCB
- 2 Model of the Besòs slab, property of the Barcelona History Museum. Pep Herrero-MUHBA



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- 3-5 Building the Bon Pastor slab, 1991-1992. Juanjo Sánchez
- 6 Family celebration on the slab, 1990s. Lola García's family collection
- 7 View of the slab from a balcony, 2005. A.F. Calahorro



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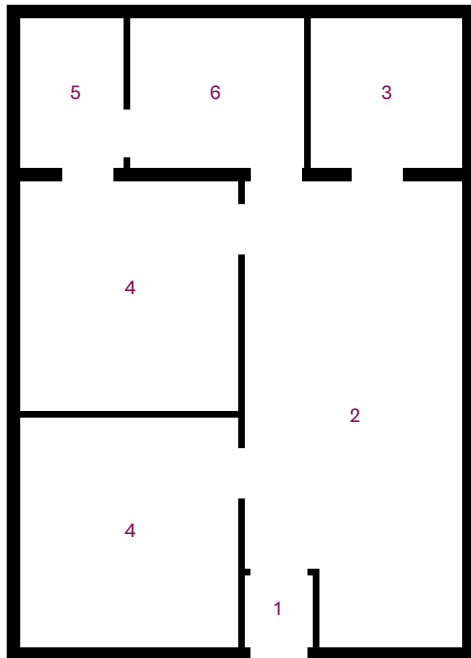


THE FIRST RENOVATIONS IN FIFTY YEARS

By 1973, the need to refurbish the Cases Barates was already under discussion and in the 1980s the Patronat Municipal de l'Habitatge (Municipal Housing Board) began to roll out the first regular schemes. They featured a range of choices available to residents in exchange for a rent increase.

The houses where work was carried out were re-roofed, ceilings and outer walls were insulated, new tiled floors were laid and windows were replaced by ones with roller blinds. The houses were made more comfortable in line with new habits prompted by the smaller size of family units.

There was also the option of increasing the floor area of the houses with a second half-storey, a solution preferred by the Patronat to adding a whole new floor to prevent residents from subletting part of their home.



16, Barnola street
Schematic plan

- 1 Hallway
- 2 Living Room
- 3 Kitchen
- 4 Bedroom
- 5 Bathroom
- 6 Backyard

→
New kitchen at 10, Ardèvol Street, 1989-1992.
Cristóbal Baños' family collection



WOMEN AND THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE COMMUNITY MOVEMENT

In 1968, the Association of Heads of Households, as it was called in Franco's 1964 Associations Act, had been founded in Bon Pastor. It was the forerunner of the Residents' Association which was set up in 1976. Women played a key role in the Barcelona community movement, and in Bon Pastor they were prominent in the organisation of the demonstrations to demand the first traffic lights and building the local health centre which was opened in 1976.



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- 1 Protest event with the symbolic laying of the first stone of the health centre, 1974. Joana Melenchón's family collection
- 2 Leaflet calling for the construction of the health centre, 1975. Ferran Blaya collection
- 3 Cover of the Association of Heads of Households newsletter, 1975. Josep Maria Romero collection
- 4 Demonstration to demand a health clinic in the neighbourhood, 1975. Víctor. AFB
- 5 Demonstration to demand a sports centre, 1970s-1980s. A. F. Calahorra

YOUNG PEOPLE LAY CLAIM TO THEIR OWN SPACES

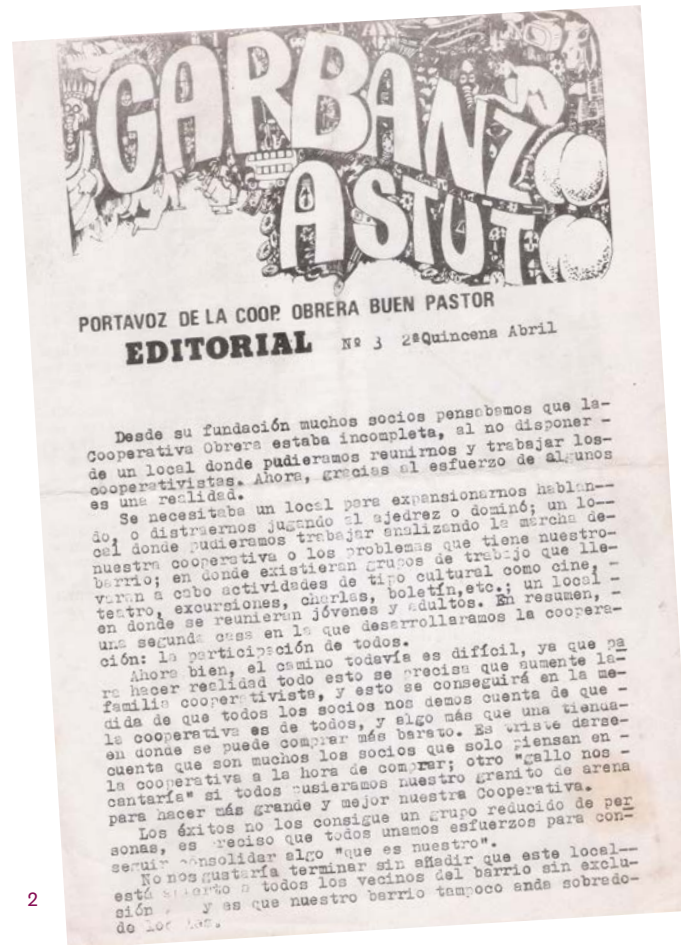
In the Transition's climate of great expectations and recovery of freedom, young people embarked on new pathways and built their own cultural frameworks which widened the gap with the previous generation. However, the times were tough with rising youth unemployment and the lure of hard drugs which had a shocking impact on some young people in the neighbourhood.



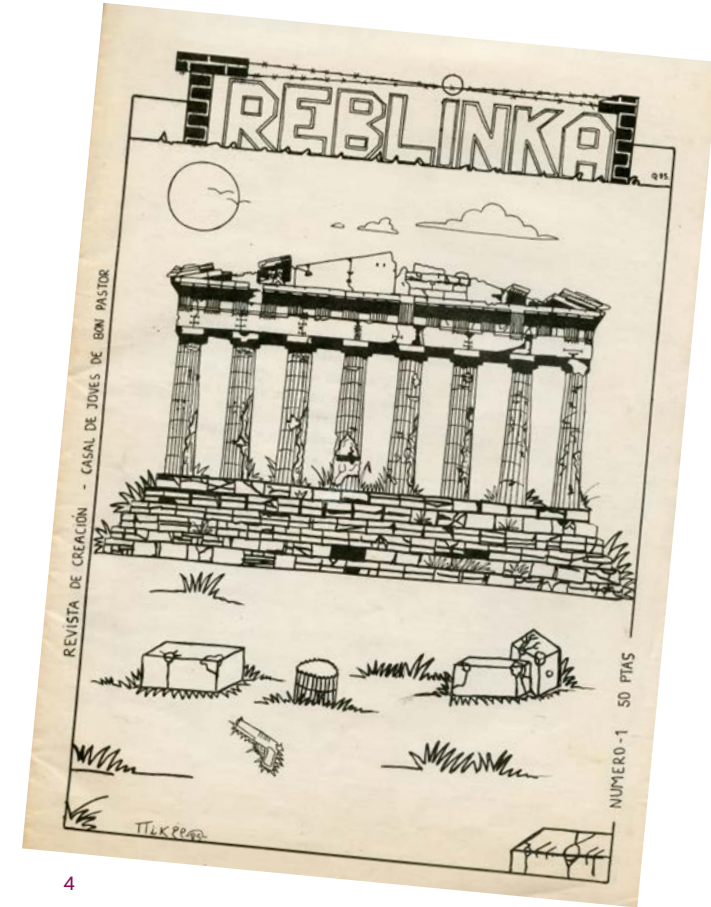
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- 1 Young admirers of Bruce Lee, 1970s. Antonio Rongera's family collection
- 2 Magazine *El Garbanzo Astuto*. *Portavoz de la Cooperativa Obrera del Buen Pastor* [The Cunning Chickpea. The Voice of the Bon Pastor Workers' Cooperative], 1970s. Pepín collection (Fem Soroll association)
- 3 Group of young people at the Centro Blanco, 1970s-1980s. A. F. Calahorro
- 4 *Treblinka*, Bon Pastor Youth Centre's magazine, issue 1, 1980s. Santiago Cordero's family collection
- 5 Bon Pastor Youth Centre cafeteria, 1980s. Santiago Cordero's family collection

A MORE COMFORTABLE AND TECHNOLOGICAL HOME

Reorganising space and renovating the houses led to more family gatherings, moments of relaxation and entertainment. Despite the recession, families were able to afford a greater variety of products and new appliances were brought into the home as phones, colour TVs, videos, music systems and more were commonly purchased.



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- 1 23, Vilamajor Street, 1980s. Ángel López's family collection
- 2 14, Bellmunt Street, 14. 1980s. Lola García's family collection
- 3 Interior of a refurbished house, May 1984, Mariano Velasco. IMHAB
- 4 Living and dining room after refurbishment at 24, Barnola Street, 1980s. Rosa Martín's family collection

RUMBA TRES, FROM BON PASTOR TO INTERNATIONAL STARDOM

This iconic Catalan rumba group formed by three young men from Bon Pastor, the brothers Pedro and Juan Capdevila and their friend José Sardaña, started out in 1963 as Los Espontáneos before changing their name to Rumba Tres in 1970. They became popular throughout Spain in 1973 and then achieved international renown which cemented their success over the following decades.

- 5 Los Espontáneos (Rumba 3) with Mr Capdevila, 1960s. Ferran Blaya collection

CHRONOLOGY 1975-1993

1975

On 20 November, dictator Francisco Franco dies and the challenging Transition to democracy begins.

The Bon Pastor Workers' Cooperative is set up, reviving the tradition of consumer cooperatives in the Cases Barates. Based at 42, Tàrrrega Street, it begins trading the following year.



Pepin's collection (Fem Soroll association)

1976

After a long process in which the residents' associations play a key role, the General Metropolitan Plan is approved. A health centre is opened in Bon Pastor to replace the parish dispensary. The Bon Pastor Residents' Association is legally established.

1979

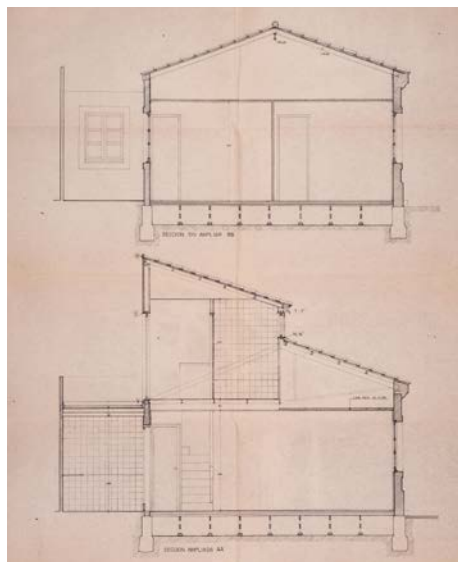
First democratic municipal elections in Barcelona. The Socialist Party of Catalonia wins in Bon Pastor followed by the Unified Socialist Party of Catalonia. There is a major strike at Can Sala, the historic textile mill near the Cases Barates del Bon Pastor.



Josep Capsir's collection

1981

The Patronat Municipal de l'habitatge begins renovation work on the Cases Barates del Bon Pastor which continued until 1994.



AMCB

1983

Change in Bon Pastor parish: Mgr Josep Soler replaces Mgr Joan Cortinas who retires from pastoral work.

1984

Bon Pastor is added to Sant Andreu under the new administrative division of Barcelona into ten districts.



ADB

1985

Passing of Royal Decree Act 2/1985, known as the Boyer Act, which brings old leases to an end without terminating existing agreements.

The Patronat runs a pilot project for redeveloping public space in Ager Street which is opened the following year.



Mariano Velasco. IMHAB

1986

Spain joins the European Economic Community. Barcelona is chosen to host the 1992 Olympic Games.

The Patronat commissions a special Interior Renovation Plan for the Bon Pastor Cases Barates and suggests replacing parts of the urban structure without changing its appearance.

1987

Barcelona City Council specifies the New Downtown Areas, one of which is in la Sagrera.

1990

The Can Sala textile mill closes.

1991

First demonstrations calling for the metro to be built out to Bon Pastor.



Santiago Cordero's family collection

1992

After six years of building work which significantly alters the city, Barcelona hosts its Olympic Games.

An opening ceremony is held in Baró de Viver and Bon Pastor after slabs are laid over the new Coastal ring-road to provide an area for community use.

1993

The 1991 general recession hits hard, although in the case of Barcelona it comes two years later due to the impact of the Olympic investment on the urban economy.



4 REFRAMING

1994–2010

END OF A CYCLE AND NEW EXPECTATIONS

The period was shaped at first by the world recession of the early 1990s, which struck Barcelona after the 1992 Olympic Games, and later on by the exhilarating years featuring new urban businesses, especially in tourism and property, coupled with the start-up of the digital economy. This lasted until 2008 when a new global recession hit which was worse than its predecessors and had significant social fallout.

In Bon Pastor, the limited success of the housing renovations during the previous period, especially in tackling the healthiness issues which had bedevilled the Cases Barates right from the outset, fuelled the discussion about the future of the houses and neighbourhood. The choice between redeveloping the whole estate with new blocks of flats and continuing to renovate the houses using other methods was vigorously discussed by residents and academics working in the city.

In the 2003 referendum on the plan approved by the City Council the previous year, the Cases Barates' residents voted by a large majority in favour of redeveloping the neighbourhood, which was the option advocated by the Bon Pastor Residents' Association. The group against the redevelopment set up an alternative organisation, the AVIS del Barri Association, which kept up their opposition to the process.

After the Patronat Municipal de l'habitatge awarded the first flats in 2006, Bon Pastor began a new relationship with its territory, conserving to a large extent the same residents who already lived there.

CHANGE OF COURSE. REMODELLING AND URBAN CONNECTION

At the turn of the century, the major urban development operations planned for La Sagrera and La Maquinista and the somewhat limited success of the refurbishment also helped to amend the General Plan's intentions for Bon Pastor. The new special plan agreed in 2002 finally opted to replace the cheap houses since further renovation was considered unfeasible. The plan provided for the phased construction of a thousand flats for purchase, rent or lifelong use in blocks surrounded by pedestrian areas.

In 2003, following heated discussions with fierce disagreements between local people, the plan was finally accepted by the majority of the residents of the cheap houses in a referendum and in 2006 the first homes were handed over. In 2010, the opening of Bon Pastor metro station marked the culmination of longstanding calls for transport and fully connected the area to the rest of the city.

Amendment to the General Metropolitan Plan for the Bon Pastor Cases Barates (Cheap Houses) estate. General development. Barcelona City Council. Urban Planning Division. Department of Transformation Planning; Jordi Romero Sabi, architect, April 2001. AMCB



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- 1 Urban development work on Enric Sanchis Boulevard with the community centre completed, 1998. Josep Gri Espinagosa. BCNROC
- 2 Human chain to demand the metro in Bon Pastor, 3 October 1998. Pepe Encinas
- 3 Opening of the metro station in Bon Pastor, 2010. Valentín Viñas Sánchez. AMDSA



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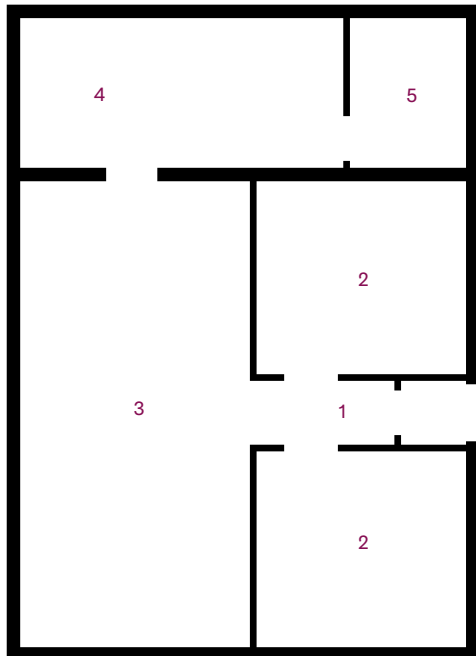


THE LAST TIMES IN THE HOUSE OF A LIFETIME

The house as it can be seen today is largely the same as its residents left it in 2016. It consists of a living and dining room, two bedrooms and the area, originally the backyard, for the kitchen, the toilet and a staircase up to the roof terrace. It is a corner house and so its layout is slightly different from the others.

Features from earlier periods are blended with other contemporary ones such as aluminium windows with plastic blinds, tiled floors and stuccoed walls. There is also evidence of DIY alterations involving customised solutions.

From 2007 onwards, fewer changes were made to the inside of the homes as their inhabitants awaited the move to the new flats replacing the Cases Barates. This had been decided in 2003, albeit not without some controversy, with the approval of a large majority of their residents.



41, Claramunt street
Schematic plan

- 1 Hallway
- 2 Bedroom
- 3 Living Room
- 4 Kitchen
- 5 Bathroom



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Birthday party at 20, Barnola Street,
1990s. Lola Vilaplana's family collection



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CLOSURE OF FACTORIES AND NEW LAND USES

In the decades before and after the turn of the century in the golden age of globalisation, industrial offshoring gathered pace with the closure of key factories in the area such as Can Sala, La Maquinista, Fabra i Coats and Mercedes. Strategic zones were freed up near the Cases Barates for large schemes which also triggered a conversation about the destruction of industrial heritage (this was the case of La Maquinista) and new kinds of residential neighbourhoods.



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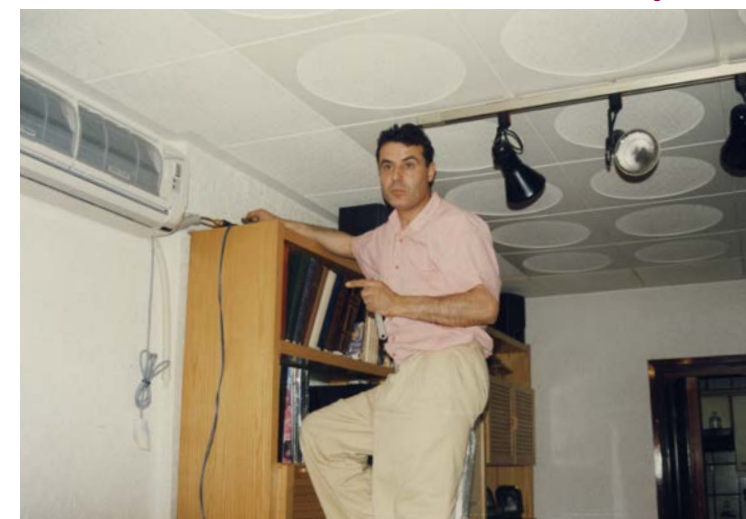
TAILORING THE HOUSE TO CHANGING NEEDS

Although the move to the new flats was planned for the medium term, it was still several years away from actually happening. Hence the houses had to be tailored to the needs of a population that was not only ageing but also unsettled by the consequences of the recession; indeed, the downturn sometimes meant family members were forced to move back home. In terms of household equipment, the patterns were similar to those of any other working-class neighbourhood. Devices including wireless and mobile phones, flat-screen TVs and DVD players, microwave ovens, air conditioners, computers and videogame consoles started to come into use, among others.



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1 Festive lunch in one of the Fabra i Coats mill's industrial units, 2000s. Purificación Aparicio's family collection

2 Mercedes-Benz technician in his work coat. 36, Salomó Street, 2003. Maite Sánchez's family collection

3 Mercedes Benz factory industrial unit, 20 November 2019. Carmen Cazalla

4 36, Salomó Street, 2002. Maite Sánchez's family collection

5 Fitting air conditioning at 36, Salomó Street, 1998. Maite Sánchez's family collection

FAMILY MEMORIES

The houses, especially if lived in by the elderly, tended to become places where a lifetime's memories were held. As more space was available and there were full-wall units in the living room fitted with shelves and display cabinets, special objects such as photographs, travel souvenirs, gifts and other family belongings were given pride of place.

- 1 First day of school, 1996. Maite Sánchez's family collection
- 2 14, Bellmunt Street. 1990s, Lola García's family collection
- 3 5, Bellmunt Street, October 2017. Marta Delclòs
- 4 Photographic research process, exploring the residents' collections, October 2018. Marta Delclòs



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5-6 Moving out of the Casa Barata at 48, Tàrraga Street to a new flat, April 2018. Marta Delclòs

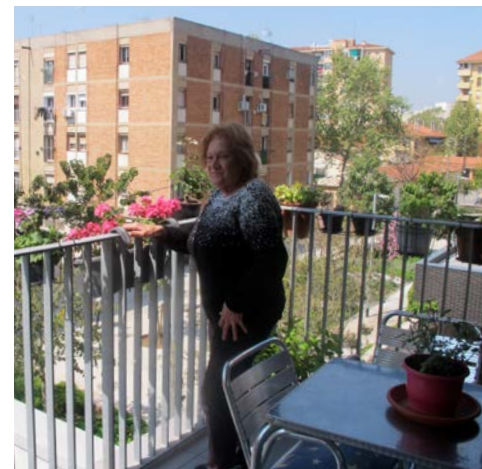
7 A resident on the balcony of one of the new flats in the third stage in Biosca Street, April 2019. Marta Delclòs



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TOWARDS A NEW WAY OF INHABITING

The move from the small houses to flats was a big change for the people living in the Cases Barates. Even though the higher quality of the new homes was appreciated, it was not easy to leave somewhere which had come to stand for the continuity of family endeavour and get used to new habits and ways of relating to neighbours and public space.

CHRONOLOGY 1994-2010

1994

The La Maquinista factory closes and shifts its operations to Santa Perpètua de Mogoda.

1995

The local councils of Barcelona, Santa Coloma de Gramenet, Sant Adrià de Besòs and Montcada i Reixach decide to restore the Besòs River and sign an agreement which is backed up in 1996 with the Besòs River Basin Protection Consortium. The goal is to build the Besòs River Park.

1996

In December the amendment of the General Metropolitan Plan for the Sant Andreu-La Sagrera sector is approved. Demonstrations continue to call for the metro to be brought to Bon Pastor.

1998

The Patronat puts forward a special plan to replace the Cases Barates with new residential blocks, prompting divergent views in the neighbourhood.

A human chain is made from Bon Pastor to Orfila Square in Sant Andreu to call for a metro station in the neighbourhood.

The Besòs Consortium is set up to deliver integrated urban, economic and environmental coordination of the final stretch of the river system with Montcada, Santa Coloma, Barcelona, Sant Adrià and Badalona.

2000

The Besòs River Park run by Barcelona Provincial Council is unveiled.

La Maquinista shopping centre opens, keeping the name of the former factory despite the demolition of its heritage complex.

The team led by architect Jordi Romero Sabí wins the open ideas competition for redeveloping the Cases Barates del Bon Pastor run by Barcelona City Council.

On 22 December, the City Council initially approves the Redevelopment Plan for the Cases Barates del Bon Pastor which envisages replacing them with blocks of flats, earmarked for re-housing in the first four phases and new residents in the fifth and final phase.

2001

Construction of metro line L-9 is approved including a station at Bon Pastor.

2002

Agreement between the Spanish Ministry of Development, the Catalan Government, the City Council and railway operator RENFE to site the high-speed train station at la Sagrera. The Redevelopment Plan for the Cases Barates del Bon Pastor is approved in May.

2003

Disagreements over the terms of the Redevelopment Plan negotiated by the Bon Pastor Residents' Association, Barcelona City Council and the Patronat Municipal de l'Habitatge lead to a rift in the neighbourhood and the founding of a second association, AVIS del Barri, which campaigns against the scheme.

The referendum called in October by the Bon Pastor Residents' Association endorses the replacement of the Cases Barates with social housing flats after securing a large majority of votes in favour from their residents: 429 votes for, 171 against and 1 blank ballot.

2004

The Catalan Government passes the Neighbourhoods Act for areas whose physical and socioeconomic surroundings need to be restored. The amendment to the General Municipal Plan for the Sant Andreu-La Sagrera sector is finally approved.

The Forum of Cultures is held in Barcelona in the Besòs coastal area.

Bon Pastor Library is opened on Enric Sanchís Boulevard.

2005

Closure of the Fabra i Coats mill in Sant Andreu.



Amics de la Fabra i Coats Archive

2006

The first of the Redevelopment Plan's five phases for Cases Barates is completed with the award of 152 flats.



Ferran Blaya's collection

2007

Mercedes-Benz Spain's vehicle factory in Bon Pastor near the Cases Barates closes down.

2008

The impact of the outbreak of the financial system crisis due to the global property bubble starts to be felt, bringing construction and other business sectors to a standstill and hitting the working classes hard in many ways.

2009

Renovation work begins on the Bon Pastor Market building, which would reopen in 2019. Activists, organisations and academics against the complete demolition of the Cases Barates organise the 'Rethink Bon Pastor' international ideas competition to come up with alternatives to the redevelopment and publish their findings the following year.

2010

The second phase of the Redevelopment Plan is completed with the handover of 190 flats. This means that almost half of the re-housing process has been completed. Bon Pastor metro station is opened and the neighbourhood is fully connected to the city by public transport after decades of community struggle to achieve this goal. In December Barcelona City Council approves a modification of the Redevelopment Plan for the Cases Barates del Bon Pastor, including the conservation of a part of the original houses for preserving the historic memory of the neighbourhood.

AFTER 2010

The period after the global crisis which has broken out in 2007, and hits Barcelona the following year is challenging and long-lasting. In Bon Pastor, the onset of the recession comes at the same time as two great goals for most people are achieved: the phased re-housing in the new blocks, although some community groups and academics continued to decry the process, and the neighbourhood's direct connection with the city via the metro.

In 2016, Bon Pastor is added to the Barcelona Neighbourhood Plan which seeks to improve the social situation of the most deprived areas. In the same year, its connections are stepped up when the long-distance bus map is completed with routes H-4, H-8 and V-33.

In 2019, the former state school reopens as the Rubió i Tudurí Institute vocational training school specialising in gardening and landscaping.

In November 2022, the last flats are handed over to the residents of the Cases Barates del Bon Pastor: now that the re-housing is concluded, a stage ends for the neighbourhood and another different one begins.

In March 2023, after a long process of preparation and research, the MUHBA Bon Pastor was inaugurated in the Sant Andreu district.

MUHBA Bon Pastor. Museum Project Cases Barates

The project began in 2010 on the initiative of the Bon Pastor Residents' Association which gained the backing of the Sant Andreu District and the Barcelona Municipal Institute of Housing and Renovation. The plan was cemented by a partnership with Muhba, which is part of the ICUB. After a decade of work, funding through the Neighbourhood Plan has made the new museum venue possible. The whole process, from the historical research to building the collection and the work on the houses, has been a joint effort between Muhba, community associations, universities and other institutions. The project would not have been possible without the enthusiastic, methodical and long-lasting cooperation of the people of Bon Pastor and the Bon Pastor Residents' Association.

Project director: Joan Roca i Albert

Heritage recovering and reconstruction of four houses
Living in the Cases Barates. Bon Pastor, 1929-2010

Organisation and production: Museu d'Història de Barcelona, Institut de Cultura, Ajuntament de Barcelona
Direction: Joan Roca i Albert and Carmen Cazalla Ocaña

Curator: Paolo Sustersic

Coordinators: Carmen Cazalla Ocaña and Aina Mercader Sbert

Research and documentation: Aina Mercader Sbert and Paolo Sustersic

Graphic documentation: Marta Delclòs Raventós

Personal property documentation: Natalia Hervás and Paolo Sustersic

Archaeological monitoring: Toni Fernández, Jordi Ramos and Natalia Hervás

Exhibition design: Andrea Manenti

Graphic design: Andrea Manenti and Paula Sánchez Martínez

Preventive conservation and restoration: Natalia Hervás, Ona Curto, Olga Ceni and Aitana Valderrama and Mar Valiente (CRAB Restauració)

Image and document management: Carmen Cazalla Ocaña and Aina Mercader Sbert

Language review and translations: Addenda

Models: Taller de maquetes de l'ETSAV-UPC

Museum production and assembly: Croquis, S.A. and Alliance Brother, S.L.

Transport: Alliance Brother, S.L.

Audiovisuals

Bon Pastor, a century of Barcelona. Direction: Paolo Sustersic and Joan Roca. Script: Paolo Sustersic. Coordination: Carmen Cazalla and Aina Mercader. Research and documentation: Aina Mercader and Paolo Sustersic. Graphic documentation: Marta Delclòs. Plans photography: Marta García. Production: Broadcaster Content Agency

Bon Pastor. Participatory construction of a housing museum. Direction: Carmen Cazalla and Joan Roca.

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