NA BLANCA D'EN MESTRE

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Formentera, España
2006

Keywords

Fig tree
Cultivation
Landscape
Project
Vegetation

In recent decades, many architectures have been dyed 'green' to signal their ecological awareness. But that alternative ends up objectifying the vegetation since it understands plants as the supplement to a decision that does not come from plant logic. This proposal opts for the opposite: architecture adapts to help a tree build, from its own growth metabolism, what we could understand as an 'architected' place.

Na Blanca den Mestre is the most significant fig tree on Formentera Island. The maximum exponent of a popular organic-artificial construction model perfected over generations. A hypostyle hall of 143 pillars distributed in 5 concentric structural bays, supporting a lattice made up by hundreds of intertwined branches that cover an area of 351 m². An example of balance between nature and artifice, which is not only an icon in the plain of the island landscape, but owes its configuration to several functions, among which are the reduction of the vertical surface exposed to the wind, allowing a great horizontal development of the treetop, rendered walkable for the most part, and thus creates a space suitable for collecting fruits, protecting sheep and goats from the intense sun while preventing them from reaching the figs. A material homogeneity making it difficult to establish the boundaries between the tree and its complementary structure. **ARQ**

LEYENDA / LEGEND

- P1. Primera crujía estructural: 29 pilares / *First structural bay: 29 posts*
P1b. Primera crujía estructural bis: 14 pilares / *First structural bay bis: 14 posts*
P2. Segunda crujía estructural: 31 pilares / *Second structural bay: 31 posts*
P2b. Segunda crujía estructural bis: 23 pilares / *Second structural bay bis: 23 posts*
P3. Tercera crujía estructural: 44 pilares / *Third structural bay: 44 posts*
Sin crujía estructural: 2 pilares / *No structural bay: 2 posts*
TOTAL: 143 pilares / *143 posts*

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Arquitectos / *Architects*: Víctor Rahola, Stefano Cortellaro, Marià Castelló
 Diseño / *Design*: Arquitectura Popular de Formentera
 Ubicación / *Location*: Es Pla d'en Mestre, Venda des Ca Marí – Migjorn, Formentera, España
 Cliente / *Client*: Juan Escandell

Planimetría / *Plans*: Marià Castelló
 Superficie construida / *Built area*: 351,92 m²
 Año de proyecto / *Project year*: 2006
 Fotografía / *Photography*: Víctor Rahola, Stefano Cortellaro, Marià Castelló

Víctor Rahola

Architect, Architecture graduate, Escola Tècnica Superior d'Arquitectura de Barcelona (ETSAB), 1973. He won the Premio de Arquitectura de las Comarcas de Gerona (2017), the Premio Cerámica (2017) and the Architecture Enor Awards (2017), among others. He has exhibited in Spain and Japan. His most recent book is *Edifici Collage* (Barcelona, 2011). He taught at the ETSAB between 1977 and 2010.

Stefano Cortellaro

Architect, Architecture graduate, Politecnico di Milano, 1995. He won first place in the Concurso nuevo CAP de Sant Feliu de Codines (2018), in the international competition BARICENTRALE (2013) and in the Premios de Arquitectura de Ibiza y Formentera (2008-2011), among others. He is the author of the book *Morna, Atzaró, la construcción del territorio de Eivissa* (Ibiza, 2017). He teaches at the ETSAB.

Marià Castelló

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Architect, Architecture graduate, Escola Tècnica Superior d'Arquitectura de Barcelona (ETSAB), 2002. His work is deeply rooted in the landscape and culture of Formentera. He has been recognized with the NAN award (2018), the Premios de Arquitectura de Ibiza y Formentera (2018) and the Best Architects '20 (2019). He was an Invited Professor at the School of Architecture of the University of Navarra in 2021.