

THE FACE OF BARCELONA IN 1993

After the 1992 Olympic Games, the people of Barcelona will find themselves in a renovated city. The Olympic appointment will leave its imprint on urban development with a new sea-side quarter, a rejuvenated and competitive port, a vast highway network, a futuristic airport and an advanced-technology communications system.

By Julio Rexach



The Olympic Village will sponsor the creation of a new quarter: Nova Icaria.

As happened in the case of the 1888 and 1929 Exhibitions, Barcelona, the City of the Counts, will undergo a major transformation in some districts. According to Joan Busquets, Town-Planning Co-ordinator of Barcelona City Council, Ciutat Vella and the old port will have to be renovated. The large storage buildings of the Raval or the Ribera quarter will have to be found new uses. The port will have to adapt its buildings and the new sea-front will begin at Barceloneta and extend to the Maresme.

The Olympic Village will give a new appearance to Poble Nou and will be the first bastion of this new front, which will definitively shape the maritime vocation of the city. The '92 strategy will eliminate the railway cutting and Montjuïc will, at long last, be the great park of the south and the window onto the Mediterranean.

IN SEARCH OF THE SEA

The integration into the city of the port will be a fact. Following a process happily inaugurated in the Moll de la Fusta, the ultimate objective is the functional integration into the urban fabric of the port areas which are no longer essential for harbour activities, which have been steadily moving westwards. Thus commercial areas, nautical centres, restaurants, spectacles etc. will be organized.

According to the ideas of the architects **Jordi Garcés** and **Enric Sória**, the sheds lined up along the Paseo Nacional will be converted into a large precinct designed for various commercial activities. An extra footbridge to the pier will facilitate direct access to the waters of the port. The port's General Warehouses will undergo a thorough internal reconstruction which will enable the building to have new industrial uses, taking advantage of its closeness to the sea. With this new urban development, the free beach will take on greater importance.



The present marine station will be remodelled and inserted into the ground floor of a new office-building intended to house the headquarters of the maritime traffic and trade enterprises, customs etc. The other existing buildings will be demolished and the surface of the jetty will be converted into a loading area while, in the basement, a large car park will be built with direct access to the new office complex.

A new inlet will be provided with a small auxiliary harbour and an esplanade at the end of the jetty. This future inlet will facilitate the rapid launching of small craft. Likewise, it will no longer be complicated to bathe from the rocks of the breakwater. Advantage will be taken of the building of the protective jetty for the new inlet to design various points with sets of steps, little squares and natural swimming pools.

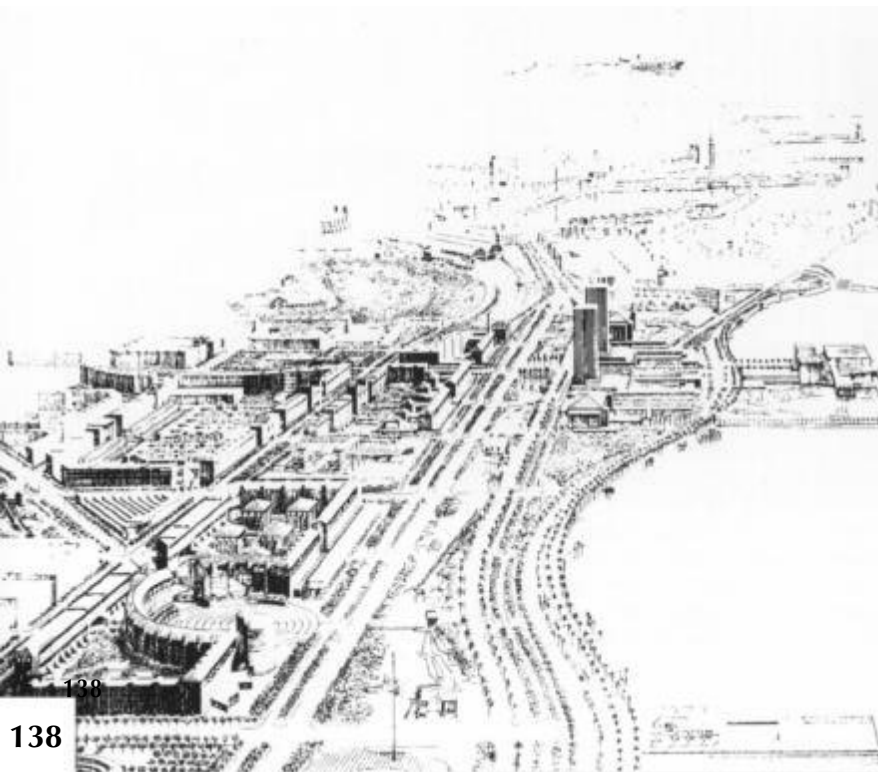


BIRTH OF A NEW DISTRICT

With the building of the Olympic Village in the Nova Icaria area, Barcelona will regain a large part of its sea-front. This area, previously occupied by ageing industrial buildings, will be radically changed in terms of its land-use, shape, accessibility and system of equipment.

The urban reorganization of this sector will effect about 130 hectares, 45 of which will be used for the Village proper. For the first time, an Olympic village will be a quarter integrated into the complex reality of a built-up area. The proposed urban area of Nova Icaria will have multifarious and superimposed uses. Priority will be given to residential use at various income levels, to commerce and to collective leisure. The sea-side hotel zone will take on great importance and set the tone and character of the quarter.

The athletes' village, integrated for the first time into the city centre.



The construction of Nova Icaria — a project by the architects **Oriol Bohigas, Josep Martorell, David Mackay** and **Albert Puigdomènech** — implies a series of different actions with a total investment of more than fifty billion pesetas. According to the indicative statistics of the preliminary project, the Olympic Village will be able to house about 15,000 athletes in the 1,908 dwellings to be built.

Demolition began on 3rd August 1987, after the City Council had acquired ownership of the land. The total area to be rebuilt is some 150,000 square metres, which will encompass thirteen blocks. Of the manufacturing complex established at the end of the last century, only the chimney of the Folch Works has been preserved as a characteristic feature of this area of Poble Nou, formerly known as the Catalan Manchester.

BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH

It is planned that the remodelling of Barcelona Airport, entrusted to **Ricardo Bofill**, will be completed in 1991. This will make it possible to move up from the present six million passengers per year to a figure of about twelve million. The long thin shape of the platform means that the terminal building will be a linear one and that the boarding piers, triangular modules, will penetrate very little onto the platform so as to render it more convenient to use.

The pedestrian route will be on the first floor. There will be waiting rooms within the modules for the passengers who will board the jet aircraft directly through the fingers. On the ground floor, inside the modules, will be the pre-boarding halls for the passengers who have to use buses to reach aircraft parked in remote positions.

The area on the air-side will be completely new, covering the present building with the raised street and four boarding modules. The landside facade will have the present technical block, the existing building — used for national traffic — with a renovated structure, and the new inter-

national terminal building. Between the two halls there will be a promenade with a pergola. The parking area in front will be greatly enlarged and will be landscaped with trees and gardens. This remodelling will ensure adequate functioning of the airport for 30 years.

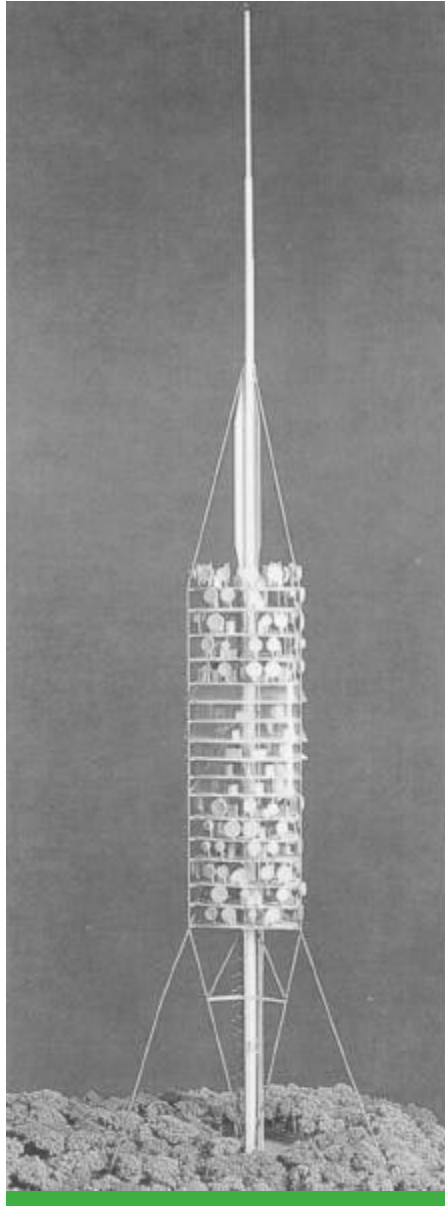
As for the road network, the construction of the ring roads will ensure an absence of saturation, according to traffic forecasts, until 1995. Barcelona and its metropolitan area are linked to its neighbouring region by twelve highways and motorways with a total of 41 lanes. With the ring roads, the capacity will be considerably increased and there will be a noticeable decrease in traffic density in the various urban cores, and it has been calculated that traffic density in the Barcelona by-pass will be reduced by 15 per cent, thus eliminating almost completely the present jams.

The most ambitious projects are those related to the second ring road and to the so-called coast road ("Cinturón del Litoral"), in which the Diagonal — El Prat — Cinturón del Litoral flyover system will close the ellipse as a result of which Barcelona will put an end to a malady that has been endemic for a decade or more.

The effectiveness of the ring roads will, of course, have to be supplemented with other infrastructural works of a new kind that have been tried out in other countries, such as the United States. These are the so-called "park and ride" systems, whereby large car-parks are built in the outskirts with their own services and connected to the underground railway and bus networks. In Barcelona, it is planned to build such car parks in the following areas: the Olympic Village, Morrot, Nudo de la Trinitat and Poble Nou.

THE TECHNOLOGICAL WAGER

The advance of electronics, data-processing and telecommunications in all fields of human life means that technology has



Advanced technology will improve the quality of life in the capital and its area

The telecommunications tower, as designed by Norman Foster.

taken on a decisive role in the organization of the Olympic Games. Barcelona is also aware of this challenge and has already dedicated much effort to planning in this sector for 1992.

The future telecommunications tower will be situated, if there are no last-minute changes, in the Collserola Park, near Tibidabo. This stylized tower, designed by **Norman Foster**, the British architect, will be a centre for broadcasting radio-electric signals to the most important population centres and will be connected to the main transmission networks.

The futuristic 256.5 metres mast will be made of aluminium, steel and glass. It will have various mobile platforms on the outside with parabolic aerials linked to the central nucleus, of limited diameter, and all the cables will be outside the metallic pole. The tower will receive and transmit via satellite, will be connected to the optic cable network of the city and will serve as a link to all kinds of radio-electric signals.

Josep Maria Vila, COOB'92 director-general for technology, highlights *inter alia* the following benefits:

— The communications tower, which will be an effective radio-electric coverage point for services of all kinds;

— The earth station, which will be situated in Vallès and which will render possible a high-speed data-communications link via satellite for television, telephones, telefax, etc.;

— The international switchboard, which will make possible an international link-up, via optic fibre cable, with France and submarine links with Italy, Greece, Turkey, Israel, the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada;

— Optic fibre cable links with the main telephone exchanges, particularly Madrid and Valencia, and radial and transverse links within Catalonia; and

— A transfer of technology from the highly-specialized worldwide enterprises to the Spanish firms collaborating with them in carrying out the various projects needed for the Olympic Games.

Telecommunication will play a major role in the Olympic gathering.

It is obvious that telecommunications are going to be of vital importance in the Olympic appointment. **Félix Arias**, an industrial engineer and director of Special Telephonic Projects, puts it quite clearly; "*Adequate telecommunication services, both quantitative and qualitative, are indispensable not only to ensure the success of the Games, but also to guarantee that they can be held at all*".

All these works in progress and others will make a decisive contribution to the fact that, in 1993, Barcelona and its metropolitan area will not resemble all that much what we are familiar with today.

Barcelona offers the visitor the discovery of a modern city. When the works — some planned and others in progress — are completed, the Catalan capital will be much more attractive than it is now, with communications of a European standard, a more efficient port, an adequate air terminal and, in particular, an effective telecommunications network which will guarantee the media coverage of the Olympic Games.

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