

BARCELONA

HERE

BARCELONA IS MY FAV. CITY. I CHOSE IT BECAUSE I LIKE A LOT OF THINGS IN THIS TOWN SUCH AS THE SUN, THE PEOPLE THE ARCHITECTURE, THE LANGUAGE, THE FIESTAS, THE SEA. I NEVER LIVED THERE BUT WENT ON TRIP AND I REALLY ENJOY LA VIDA LOCA IN BARCELONA.

FOR THE LITTLE HISTORICAL REMINDER, BARCELONA SUFFERED LIKE THE REST OF SPAIN FROM A DICTATORSHIP FOR 40 YEARS LED BY FRANCO (NATIONALIST) WHICH ENDED RECENTLY IN 1975, MARKED BY THE IMPROVISHMENT OF THE POPULATION, REPRESSION, WARS CIVIL. THE CITY AND THE INHABITANTS KEEP TRACES OF IT TODAY.

THE CITY HAS A PARTICULAR TOWN PLANNING IN A GRID FORMED BY BLOCKS, DESIGNED BY CERDA IN 1859, WHICH HAS MADE IT POSSIBLE TO EXTEND THE CITY CONSIDERABLY.

THE INHABITANT OF BARCELONA ARE VERY WELCOMING PEOPLE AND ABOVE ALL VERY PROUD OF THEIR CATALAN IDENTITY. MOREOVER IN BARCA WE SPEAK CATALAN AND NOT ONLY SPANISH.

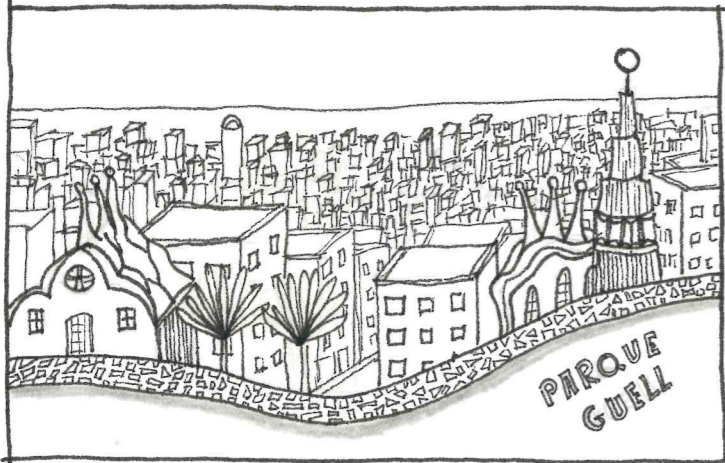
JO PARLO CATALA

THE EMBLEMS OF THE CITY ARE OF COURSE THE SAGRADA FAMILIA DESIGNED BY GAUDI AND STILL UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND THE BARCA FOOTBALL CLUB.

"TAPAS"

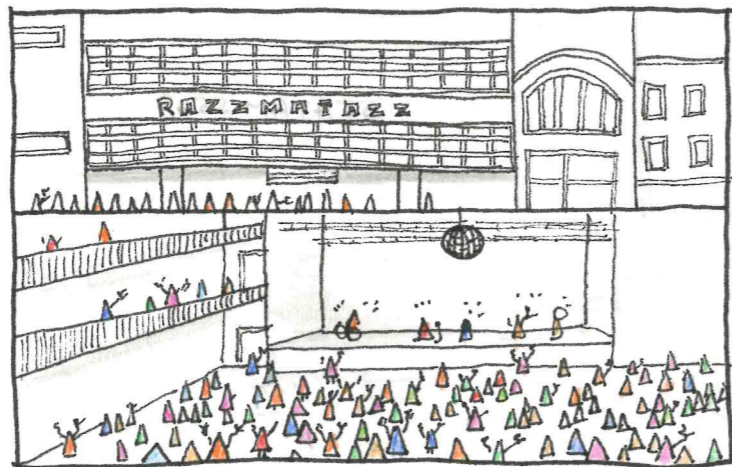
IN BARCELONA CULTURE WE LIKE TO MEET TOGETHER IN A TAPAS BAR. LAS TAPAS ARE MOUTHFULS OF VARIOUS DISHES SUCH AS FISH, CHEESES, CHARLUTERIE, ON A BREAD WITH A TOUCH OF OLIVE OIL AND OF COURSE ACCOMPANIED BY A GOOD BEER OR SANGRIA. IN BARCELONA EACH TAPAS BAR HAS ITS SPECIFICITY. THERE ARE HUNDREDS!



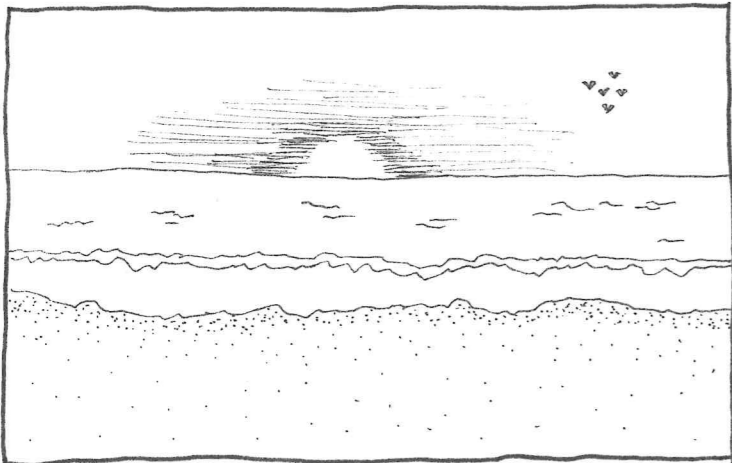


PARK GÜELL IS MY FAVORITE PLACE IN BARCELONA, IT IS MORE IN THE MOUNTAINS, TO GET THERE YOU HAVE TO WALK THROUGH SMALL STEEP STREETS. THE PARK DESIGNED BY GAUDI, BETWEEN 1900 AND 1914, THE DESIGN OF ITS ARCADES, ITS HOUSES, ITS RAILINGS ALL ADORNED WITH MOSAICS OF MULTIPLES COLORS. WHAT I APPRECIATE IN THIS PLACE IS THE VIEW THAT WE CAN ADMIRE A LITTLE HIGHER. SPEND AN EVENING WITH FRIENDS, HAVING A DRINK WHILE WATCHED THE SUNSET DISAPPEARING BEHIND THE SEA, "LA VIDA TRANQUILA". ENJOY THIS VIEW OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL BUILDINGS IN THE CITY, SAGRADA FAMILIA, THE GLORIES TOWER. THIS PARK, A LITTLE OUT OF THE WAY OF THE CITY CENTER, ALLOWS YOU TO BE A BIT QUIETER AND TO LOOK AT THE CITY FROM FURTHER AWAY.

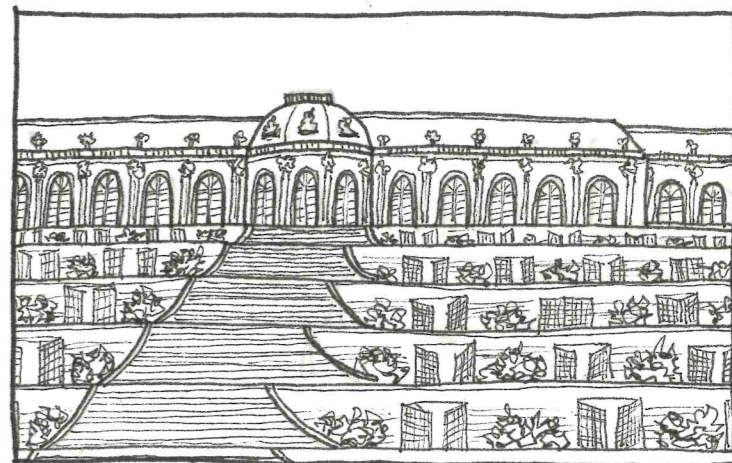
BARCELONA IS ALSO KNOWN AS A CITY OF FIESTAS, ESPECIALLY THANKS TO ITS NIGHTLIFE. THAT'S WHY I'M GOING TO TELL YOU ABOUT A PARTICULAR CLUB THAT I LOVE SO MUCH, RAZZMATAZZ. FROM THE STREET, ITS LARGE BAY WINDOWS SPARKLING WITH COLORED LIGHTS SUGGEST AN EVENFUL ATMOSPHERE. INSIDE, MANY ROOMS WITH VERY DIFFERENT ATMOSPHERES AND MUSIC, A LARGE LIVE CONCERT HALL ON THE GROUND FLOOR, SMALLER ROOMS ON THE FLOORS RESPONDING TO THE SWEET NAMES OF LOLITA OR FUEGO, ... AND THE HIGH LIGHT, THE ROOF TOP DELIVERING A MANIFICENT VIEW OF THE CITY AT NIGHT, SPACE FOR EXCHANGES, FLIRT. RAZZMATAZZ REALLY IS THE PLACE TO BE.



BARCELONA IS AN ALMOST PERFECT CITY FOR ME, BY THE SEA, WITH THE SUN ALWAYS PRESENT. I HOPE THAT CATALONIA CAN FIND ITS INDEPENDENCE OR AT LEAST AN AGREEMENT WITH SPAIN. I WANT THE CITY TO REMAIN MULTICULTURAL BECAUSE IT IS ONE OF ITS GREAT RICHES. MAY THE TRACES OF THE DICTATORSHIP BE A LITTLE LESSENER, LIKE THE POVERTY IN SOME DISTRICTS AND THE BAD CONDITION OF THE BUILDINGS.

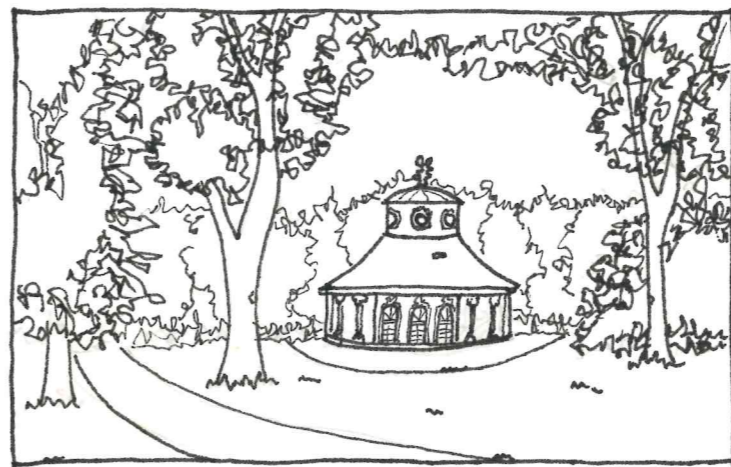


# WORLD HERITAGE



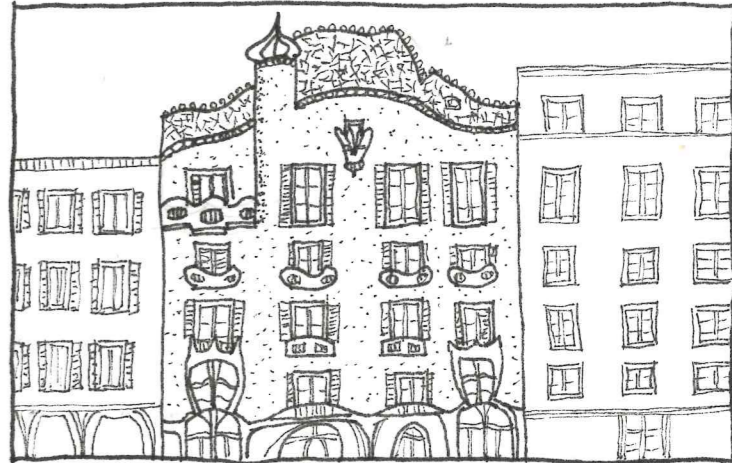
## SANSSOUCI'S SCHLOSS

THE SANSSOUCI'S SCHLOSS IS AN UNESCO HERITAGE SITE SINCE 1990 AND BUILT IN 1745. FRENCH-INSPIRED, THE CASTLE SEEMS REALLY SMALL FROM THE OUTSIDE AND INSIDE WITH ONLY 10 ROOMS. NOTHING REALLY IMPRESSIVE FOR MY PART. THE ADJOINING PARK OPENS WIDE VISUALLY TO SMALL PAVILIONS OF EXOTIC INSPIRATION, SUCH AS THE CHINESE PAVILION. IT HAS BECOME OVER THE DECADES THE EMBLEMS OF THE CITY OF POTSDAM.

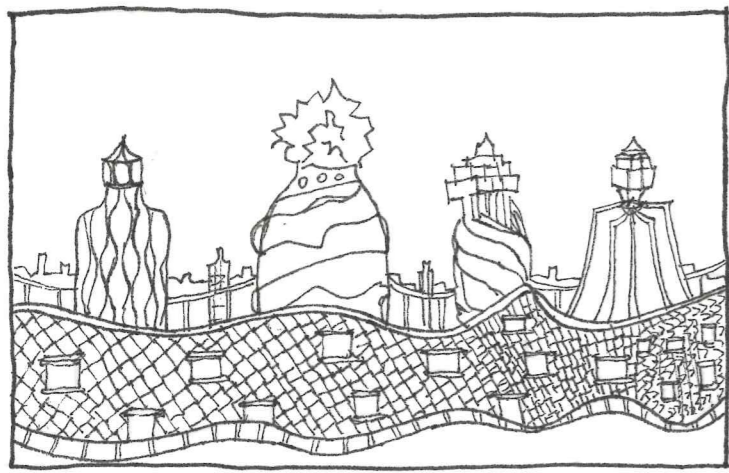


## BARCELONA

AS FAR AS BARCELONA IS CONCERNED, THE MAJORITY OF THE BUILDINGS LISTED AS UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES WERE DESIGNED BY GAUDI FROM THE END OF THE 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY TO THE BEGINNING OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY. ANTONIO GAUDI, A GREAT CATALAN ARCHITECT, HAS CONSIDERABLY CHANGED THE HISTORY OF BARCELONA, 7 OF HIS WORKS ARE NOW LISTED ON UNESCO, THEY ARE ALL IN BARCELONA: PARK GÜELL AND ITS PALACE, CASA MILÀ, CASA VICENS, NATIVITY FACADE AND CRYPT OF SAGRADA FAMILIA, CASA BATLÓ AND CRYPT OF COLONIA GÜELL.

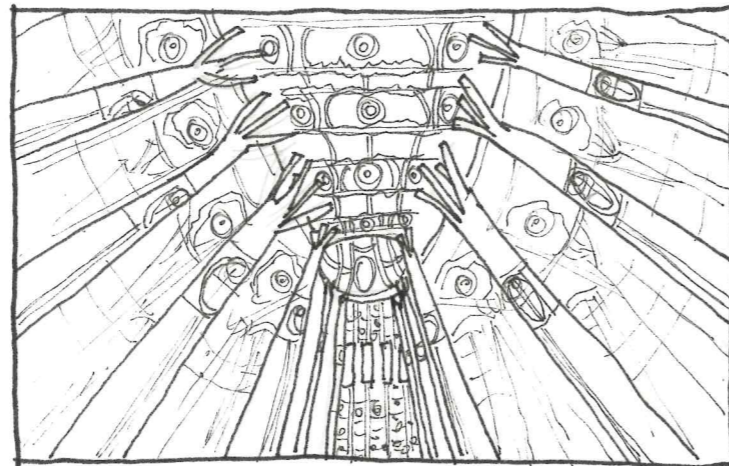




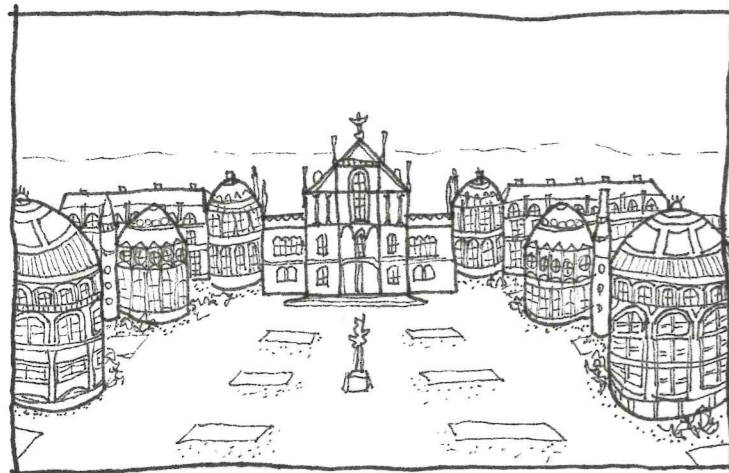


ITS ARCHITECTURAL STYLE CAN BE DEFINED BY HIGHLIGHTING CURVES, ALSO BELONGING TO ART NOUVEAU MOVEMENT. HE FREQUENTLY USES TECHNIQUES SUCH AS MOSAIC, GLASSWARE OR IRONWORK TO CREATE ORGANIC FORMS. AMONG THESE WORKS, I PARTICULARLY APPRECIATE THE CASA MILA BUILT IN 1910. THE FACADE OF THIS ONE COMBINES STRAIGHT AND CURVED LINES, ENTIRELY IN LIMESTONE, WITH WROUGHT IRON BALCONIES ORNAMENTED IN AN ABSTRACT WAY.

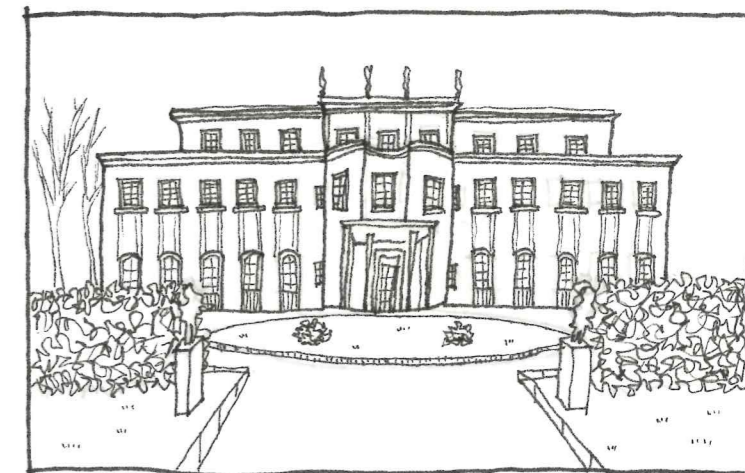
THE SAGRADA FAMILIA IS GAUDI'S MOST FAMOUS WORK AND HAS BECOME A SYMBOL OF THE CITY. THE CONSTRUCTION STILL NOT FINISHED STARTED IN 1882. THE BUILDING WILL NORMALLY BE COMPLETELY FINISHED AROUND 2032. THE LENGTH OF THE CONSTRUCTION IS DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE ONLY FINANCING COMES FROM ALMS AND DONATIONS BUT FROM NO PUBLIC AID. THE FABULOUS ARCHITECTURE OF THIS BUILDING, WITH THE STRUCTURE OF THE CHAINED ARCHES, THE ABSTRACT TOWERS WITH THE NATURALISTIC SCULPTURAL DETAILS.



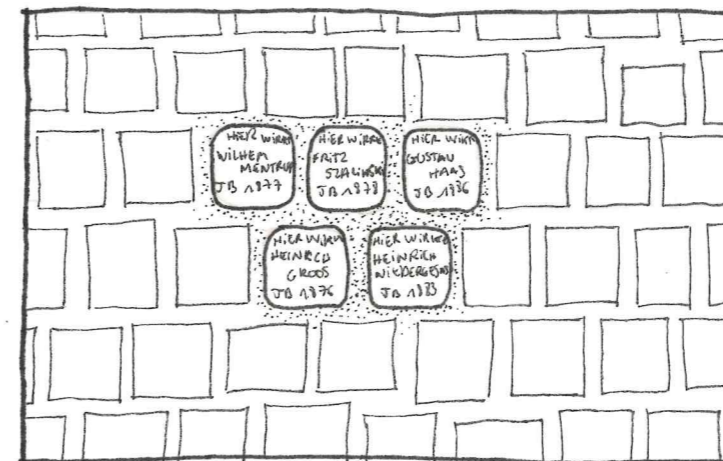
THE HOSPITAL SANT PAUL IS ONE OF THE ONLY BUILDINGS REGISTERED WITH UNESCO (IN 1997) WHICH WAS NOT DESIGNED BY GAUDI. SANT PAUL WAS DESIGNED BY LLUIS DOMENECH I MONTANER IN 1905. IT CONSISTS OF 27 DIFFERENT PAVILIONS. THE ARCHITECTURE IS ALSO PART OF THE ART NOUVEAU MOVEMENT. IT IS DESIGNED IN BRICK, STAINED GLASS AND GLAZE. IT IS RICHLY ORNAMENTED, WITH LARGE VAULTED ROOMS COVERED WITH EARTHENWARE. SINCE 2003-2009 THE HOSPITAL HAS MOVED TO ANOTHER MORE MODERN SITE



# WAYS OF REMEMBRANCE

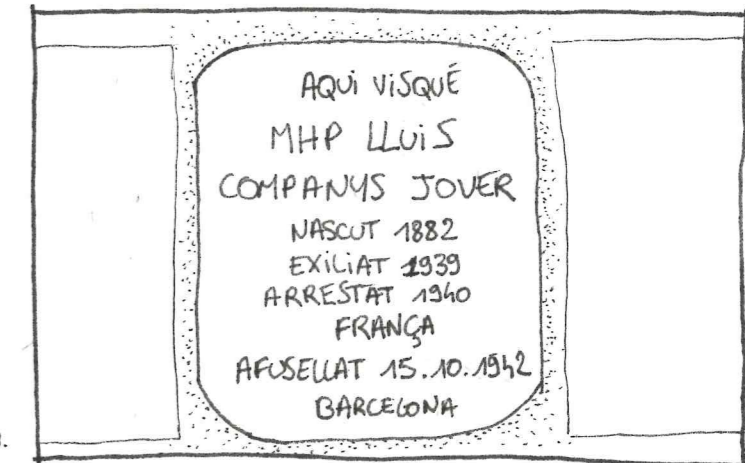


THE HAUS DER WANSEE KONFERENZ THAT WE WERE ABLE TO VISIT IS A BUILDING STEEPED IN HISTORY, A PLACE OF DECISION ON THE QUESTION OF THE JEWS DURING NAZI GERMANY, A CENTER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, THE PLACE WITH A MYSTERIOUS, COLD SOUL, DARK, IN A FABULOUS LANDSCAPE. NOW A MUSEUM, IT ALLOWS YOU TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WANSEE KONFERENZ. ANOTHER WORK, STOLPERSTEINE LED BY GUNTER DEMNIG, CONSISTS OF SMALL COBBLESTONES COVERED WITH A METAL PLATE ON WHICH ARE ENGRAVED THE NAMES OF PEOPLES WHO PERISHED FROM NAZISM. THEY ARE PLACED IN THE STREET, IN FRONT OF THE LAST HOUSE OF THE COMMEMORATED.



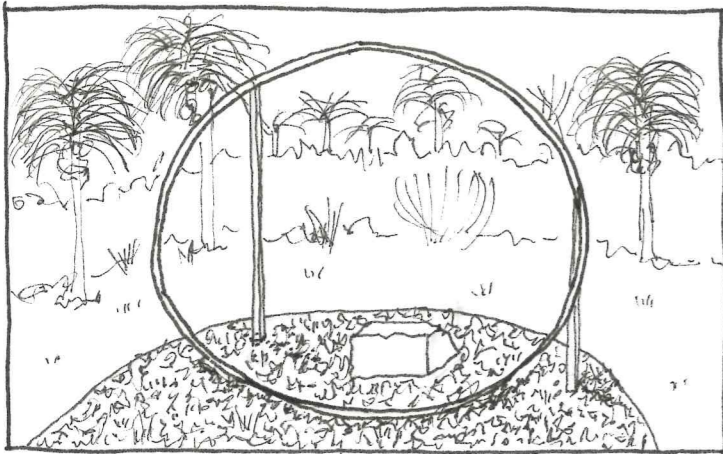
## BARCELONA

IN BARCELONA, THERE IS ONLY ONE STOLPERSTEINE FOR LLUIS COMPANYS JOVER (1882-1940), NOTORIOUS SOCIALIST POLITICIAN, MINISTER THEN PRESIDENT OF CATALONIA. HE THEN WENT INTO EXILE IN BRITANNY DURING THE OCCUPATION OF CATALONIA BY FRANCO'S TROOPS. HE WAS ARRESTED ON AUGUST 13, 1940 IN FRANCE BY A SPANISH POLICEMAN HELPED BY THE GESTAPO AND THE FRENCH POLICE. REPATRIATED TO BARCELONA HE WAS JUDGED THEN TORTURED AND FINALLY SHOT AT THE CASTLE OF MT JUIC, HE WILL LEAVE AS HIS LAST SENTENCE "¡VISCA CATALUNYA!". HIS MEMORIAL STONE HAS BEEN IN PLAÇA SANT JAUME SINCE 2009.



AQUI VISQUÉ  
MHP LLUIS  
COMPANYS JOVER  
NASCUT 1882  
EXILIAT 1939  
ARRESTAT 1940  
FRANÇA  
AFUSELLAT 15.10.1942  
BARCELONA

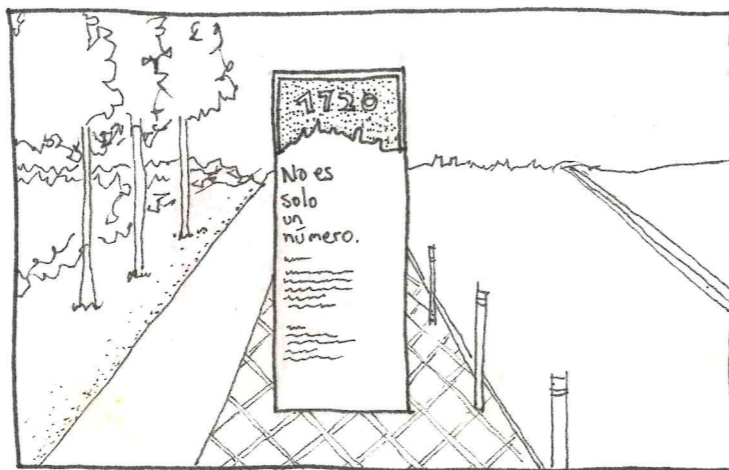




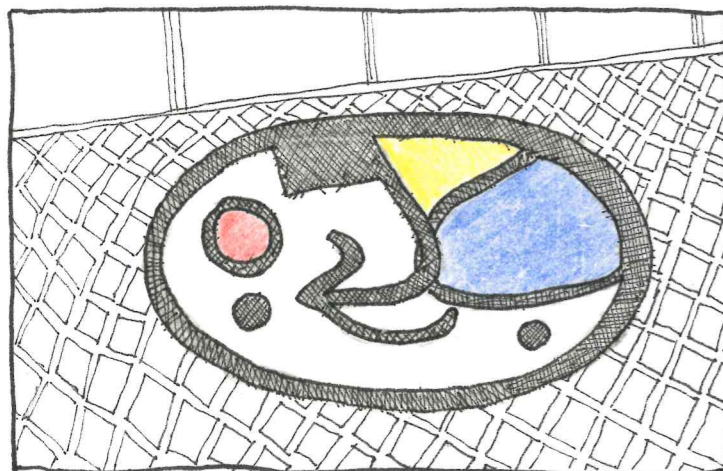
THERE ARE MANY MEMORIALS IN BARCELONA. I CHOOSE THREE OF THEM.  
 SINCE 1987 A MEMORIAL IS DEDICATED TO CITIZENS OF THE CITY WHO PERISHED IN GERMAN CONCENTRATION CAMPS. IT WAS INITIATED BY THE ORGANISATION "AMICAL DE MAUTHAUSEN", AN ASSOCIATION OF FORMER CONCENTRATION CAMP PRISONERS. THE SCULPTURE HAS THE FORM OF A WHEEL AND WAS DESIGNED BY THE CANADIAN ARTIST ANDRÉ FAUTEUX. IT IS LOCATED IN THE PARC DE LA CIUTADELLA NEAR THE CATALANIAN PARLIAMENT.

THE "NO ES SOLO UN NÚMERO" MEMORIAL, LOCATED ON BARCELONETA BEACH, IS AN INITIATIVE OF BARCELONA CITY COUNCIL AS PART OF THE "BARCELONA, CITY OF REFUGE" PLAN.

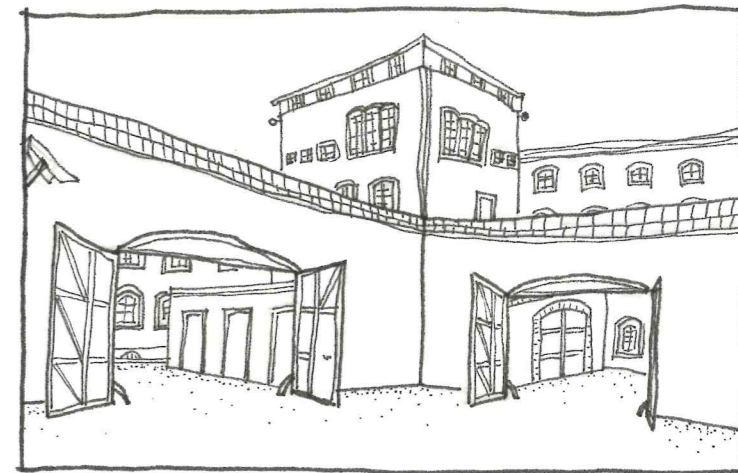
THE MEMORIAL INTEGRATES THE "COUNTER OF SHAME". CURRENTLY, THE COUNTER REFLECTS THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE DEAD OR MISSING IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR, ACCORDING TO THE COUNT CARRIED OUT BY THE "MISSING MIGRANTS PROJECT" OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION. AT TIME OF WRITING THE NUMBER IS ALREADY 117.



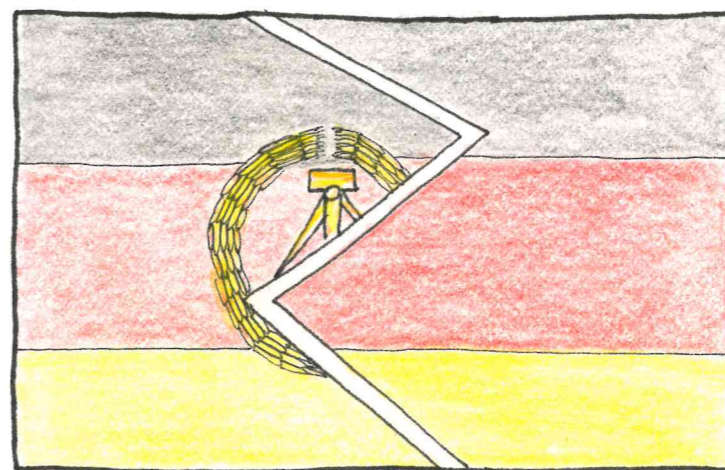
THE MOSAIC DEL PLA DE L'OS IN RAMBLAS. BY JOAN MIRÓ MADE IN 1976, THE MOSAIC IS MADE UP OF MORE THAN 6000 PAVING STONES, IN MIRÓ'S FAVORITE BASIC COLORS WHICH WERE MADE ESPECIALLY FOR THIS OCCASION. THE ARTIST WANTED TO OFFER PASSERS-BY THIS WORK WHOSE PURPOSE IS TO WELCOME TRAVELERS WHO ARRIVE IN BARCELONA BY SEA, AIR AND ROAD. IT BECAME AFTER THE TERRORIST ATTACKS OF AUGUST 17-18, 2017 A MEMORIAL. 16 PEOPLES WERE KILLED.



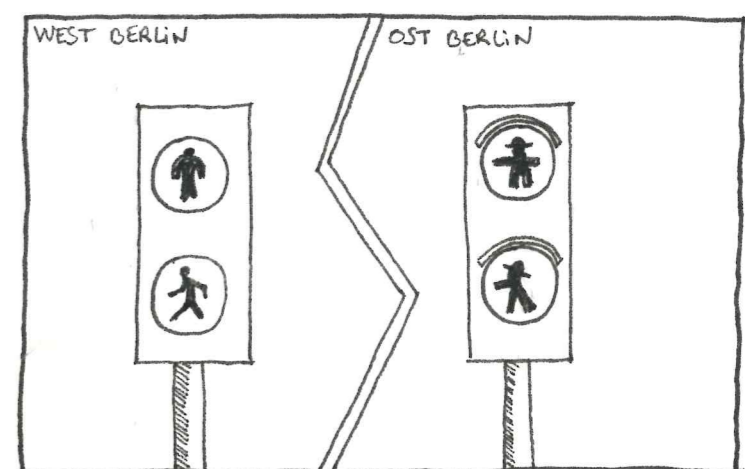
# BOUNDARIES



WE WERE ABLE TO VISIT THE PRISON OF GEDENSTÄTTE LIDENSTRASSE IN POTSDAM, A FORMER PRISON BELONGING TO THE AUTHORITY OF THE DDR REGIME AND WHERE ALL THE POLITICAL OPPONENTS OF THE REGIME WERE LOCKED UP. THE PRISONERS WERE HELD IN INTOLERABLE CONDITIONS. TO KNOW THAT THIS HAPPENED IN GERMANY ONLY A FEW DECADES AGO IS HORRIBLE. IN ADDITION, THE PLACE SHOWS US THE SUFFERING THAT MAY HAVE BEEN EXPERIENCED WITHIN THIS BUILDING. THIS IS PROOF OF THE DIVISION BETWEEN WEST AND EAST GERMAN DURING THE COLD WAR.



TODAY THE DIVISION THAT I STILL FIND VISIBLE IN BERLIN IS EXPRESSED BY THE REPRESENTATION OF THE MEN ON THE PEDESTRIAN LIGHTS WITH THE AMPELMANN ONLY PRESENT TO THE EAST PART DURING THE WALL, IT IS ONE OF THE TRACES OF DAILY LIFE IN BERLIN, BECAUSE THERE ARE ONLY A FEW PARTS OF THE WALL IN CERTAIN PLACES IN THE CITY. ALTHOUGH SOME HAVE SINCE BEEN CHANGED.





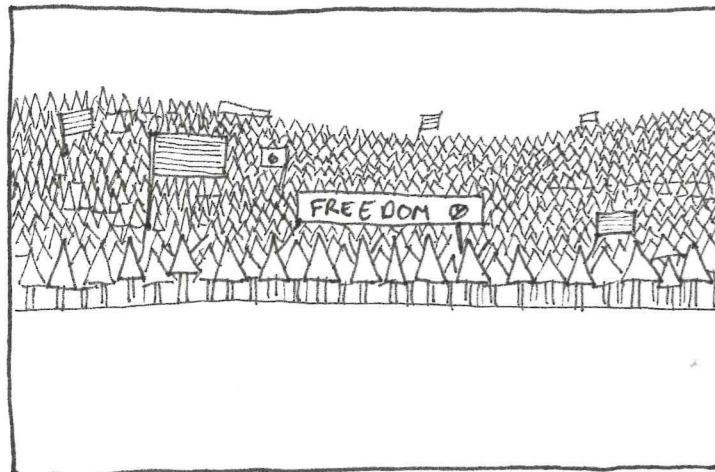


FOR CENTURIES, CATALONIA HAS CLAIMED ITS STRONG IDENTITY WITH SPAIN, BUT FOR SEVERAL DECADES A QUESTION HAS ARISEN, SHOULD I TAKE ITS INDEPENDENCE, THIS QUESTION WAS ALSO ASKED IN 2017 DURING A REFERENDUM. THE RESULT WAS WITHOUT APPEAL 90% OF VOTERS WANTED CATALONIA TO GAIN INDEPENDENCE.

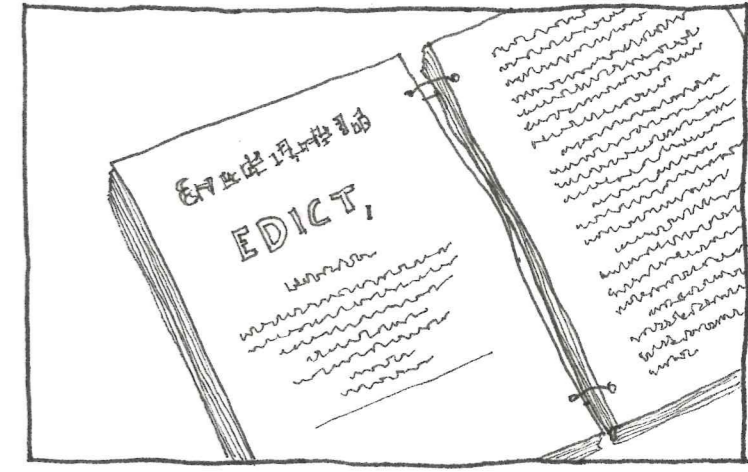
ONLY SPAIN DOES NOT REALLY WANT THIS DIVISION, BECAUSE CATALONIA IS THE RICHEST REGION IN SPAIN AND LOSING IT WOULD UNBALANCE THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY. THE COUNTRY THEREFORE RULED THE REFERENDUM ILLEGAL. IN ADDITION, THIS REFERENDUM TOOK PLACE IN VIOLENCE WITH MANY DEMONSTRATIONS.



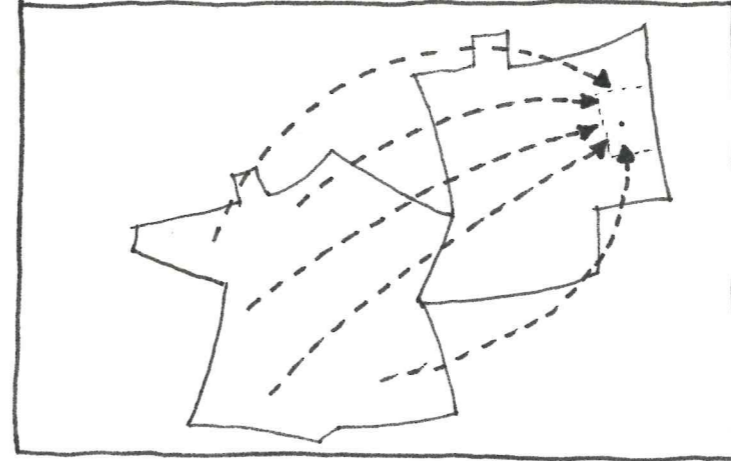
I WAS ALSO ABLE TO SEE DEMONSTRATIONS FOR INDEPENDENCE IN BARCELONA WHEN I WAS THERE IN 2019, DURING THE DAY LARGE FAMILY AND FESTIVE DEMONSTRATIONS WERE ORGANIZED THEN WHEN NIGHT FELL ANOTHER KIND OF DEMONSTRATION TOOK PLACE, WITH VIOLENCE, COMMITED POLICE FORCES THUGS.



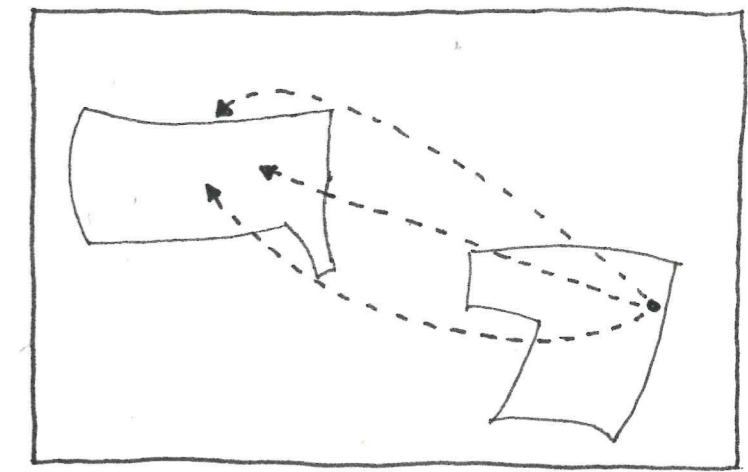
# MIGRATIONS DIVERSITY



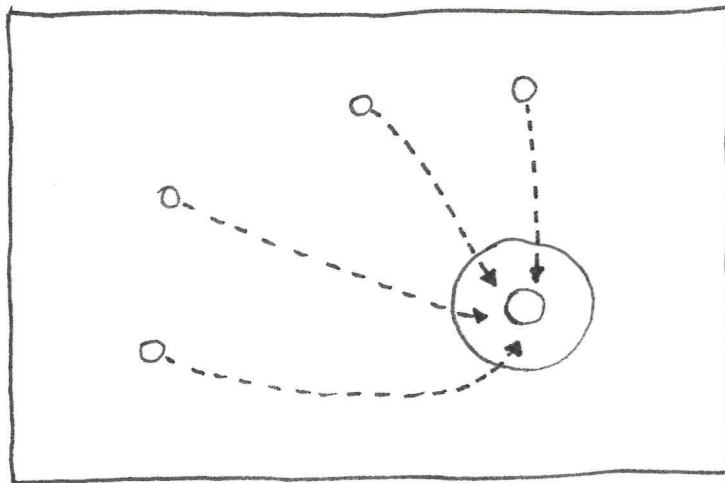
THE EDICT OF POTSDAM SIGNED ON OCTOBER 29, 1685 BY THE DUKE OF PRUSSIA CONTRADICTS THE EDICT OF NANTES (SIGNED BY LOUIS XIV), WHICH WAS INTENDED TO FORCIBLY CONVERT PROTESTANTS TO CATHOLICISM IN FRANCE. THIS EDICT HAD REPERCUSSIONS SUCH AS THE IMMIGRATION OF 20000 PEOPLE TO BRANDENBURG. THESE HUGUENOTS FLED PERSECUTION TO BE WELCOMED IN PRUSSIA WITH CERTAIN ADVANTAGES, BUT ABOVE ALL FREEDOM OF WORSHIP.



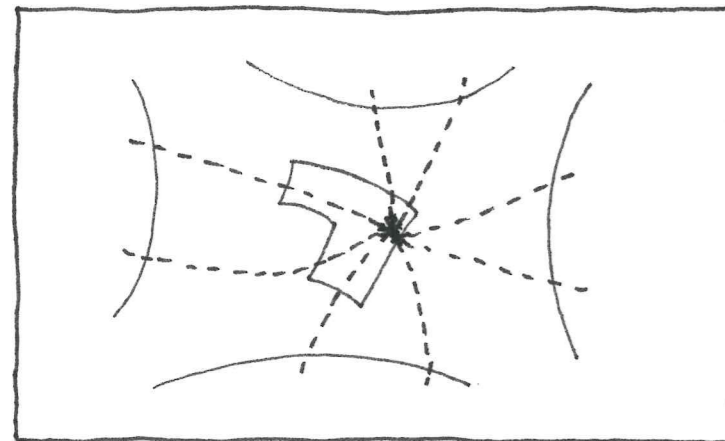
**BARCELONA**  
 DURING THE END OF THE XIX<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AND THE BEGINNING OF THE XX<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY, THE EMMIGRATION WAS HIGHER THAN IMMIGRATION. WITH THE RUMOURS AND TESTIMONIES FROM PEOPLE THAT HAD GONE TO "MAKE THE AMERICAS" AND RETURNED HAVING AMASSED GREAT FORTUNE, MANY ABANDONED THEIR HOMES IN SPAIN AND EMBARKED IN SEARCH OF BETTER LIFE. BARCELONA, AS A CITY WITH A PORT AND ACCESS TO THE SEA, SAW LOTS OF LOCALS WANTING TO LEAVE BEHIND THE POVERTY WITH DREAMS OF A PROSPEROUS LIFE. THERE WAS AROUND 250000 PEOPLE WHO LEFT THE TOWN.



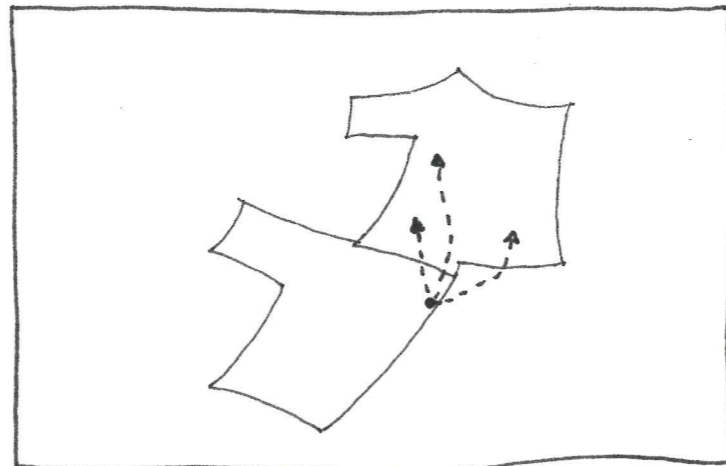




AT THE HEART OF THE CIVIL WAR THAT DESTROYED SPAIN DURING 1936-1939, MANY PEOPLE SAW BARCELONA AS A POINT OF ACCESS CLOSE TO THE BORDER WITH FRANCE. FROM THERE THEY COULD FLEE THE HORDE OF FRANCO FIRST, AND THE DICTATORSHIP, AFTERWARDS. THERE WERE TWO CLEAR AND NEW MIGRATORY MOVEMENTS. THOSE WHO WERE STILL COMING TO BARCELONA, WERE NOW NOT ONLY SEARCHING FOR BETTER OPPORTUNITIES, BUT ALSO FLEEING REPRESSION. IN A LARGE CITY IT WAS EASIER TO GO UNNOTICED AND DISAPPEAR IF IN THEIR TOWN THEY WERE NOTICEABLE FOR THEIR POLITICAL AFFILIATION.

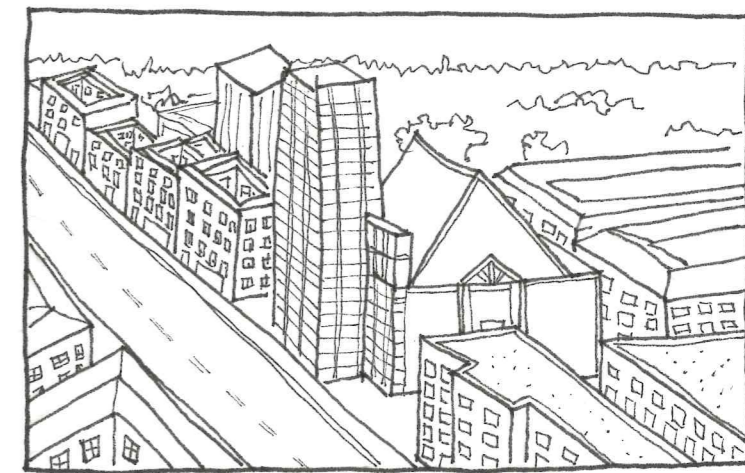


IN THE BEGINNING OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY, BARCELONA WAS A BOOMING CITY, MANY PEOPLE LIKE FARMERS CAME IN THE CITY AND LEAVED THE COUNTRYSIDE. EVENTS SUCH AS THE 1929 INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION, INDUSTRIALISATION WORKS SUCH AS THE METRO AND A LARGE INCREASE IN HOOSING TO EXPAND THE CITY OFFERED A LOT OF WORK TO THESE PEOPLE. HOWEVER, SUCH A SURGE OF PEOPLE HAD NOT BEEN CONTEMPLATED OR ANTICIPATED, THEREFORE THE CITY WAS OVERWHELMED. FOR EXAMPLE, BETWEEN 1900 AND 1910, IN BARCELONA THERE WAS 740 335 INHABITANTS, OF WHICH 43,6% WERE NATIVE TO THE CITY, 19,2% FROM THE REST OF CATALONIA AND 29,6% FROM THE REST OF SPAIN.

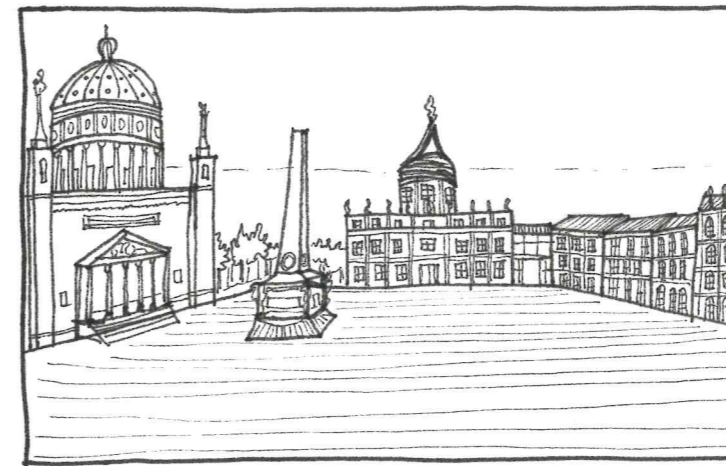


WITH THE END OF THE DICTATORSHIP, BARCELONA STARTED TO EXPERIENCE SOMETHING NEW AND STRANGE. IMMIGRANTS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES WERE BECOMING A NOTICEABLE PART OF SOCIETY ON A WIDER SCALE. AT FIRST, ACCESS WAS EASY, BUT AS ARRIVALS STARTED TO INCREASE, THE LAW AND THE CONSTITUTION WAS MODIFIED. ONCE AGAIN, THERE WAS PREJUDICE AGAINST FOREIGNERS. FOR EXAMPLE, IN 2001, THE CITY COUNCIL TOOK MEASURES AGAINST THE "BLACK CORNER". IN PLAÇA DE CATALUNYA, AN IMPORTANT NUMBER OF SUB-SAHARAN PEOPLE WERE EXPELLED FROM THEIR FIRST POINT OF CONTACT IN THE CITY AND IMPRISONED AT A DETENTION CENTRE. LATER THEY WOULD BE DEPORTED TO THEIR HOME COUNTRIES.

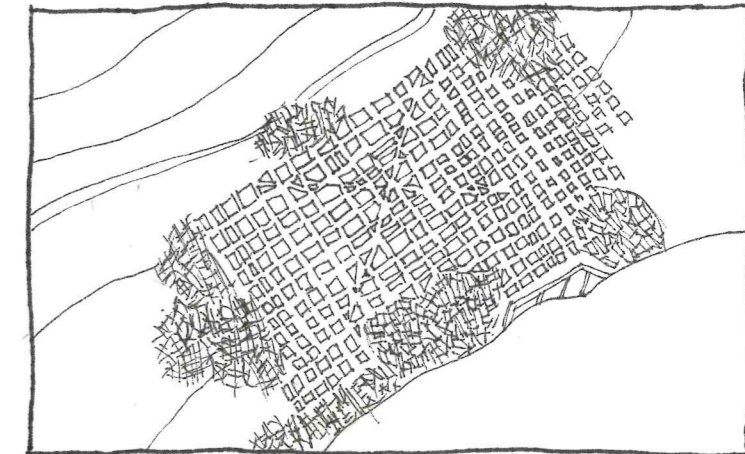
# URBAN DEVELOPMENT



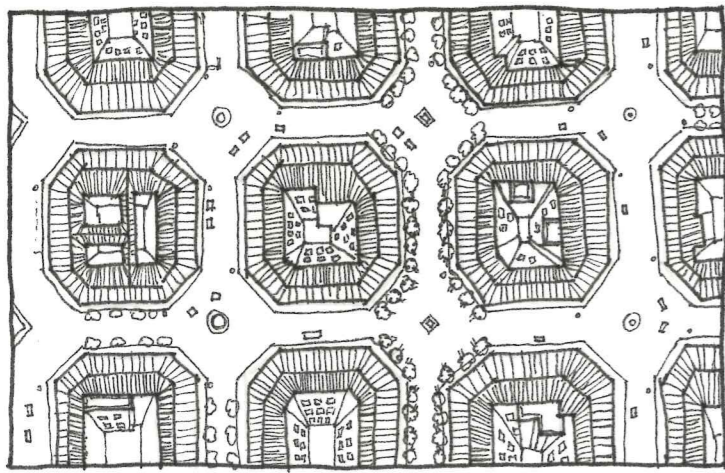
THE CITY OF POTSDAM, LARGELY DESTROYED BY BOMBING DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR, SAW SOME OF THESE BUILDINGS REBUILT IDENTICALLY AFTER THE END OF THE WAR. WHAT INTRODUCED A DEBATE LIKE THE CASE OF THE RECHENZENTRUM AND THE GARNISON KIRCHE. WHAT TRACES TO KEEP FROM HISTORY FROM AN ARCHITECTURAL POINT OF VIEW, SHOULD WE DELETE PART OF THE STORY BECAUSE IT IS DARK.



TO RESITUATE, BARCELONA IS A COASTAL CITY, IT DEVELOPED TOWARDS THE PLAINS AND THEN THE MOUNTAINS. THE GREATER BARCELONA OF TODAY ACTUALLY INCLUDES SEVERAL OLD PERIPHERAL VILLAGES SUCH AS GRACIA. THE FACES OF THE CITY CHANGED CONSIDERABLY, PARTICULARLY IN THE MID SIXTH CENTURY.





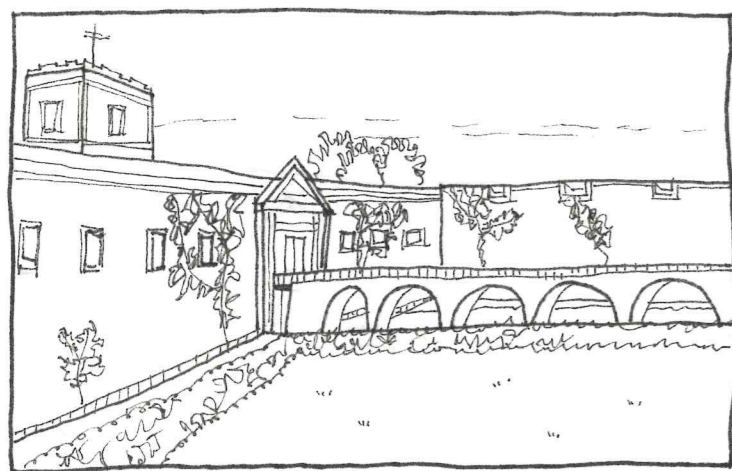


A LARGE EXTENSION OF THE CITY TOOK PLACE IN THE 1850S, DESIGNED BY ILOEONS CERDA. THIS DISTRICT NOW CORRESPONDS TO THE EIXAMPLE. IT WAS DESIGNED ON A BLOCK DIAGRAM AND LARGE STREETS. THE RECTANGULAR BLOCKS ARE CHAMFERED AT THE CORNER, AND ALL HAVE AN INTERIOR COURTYARD. THE PLAN IS BASED ON A HYGIENIST IDEA AND A DESIRE FOR LIGHT ACCORDING TO CALCULATIONS SO THAT EVERYONE BENEFITS FROM THE SUN DURING THE DAY.

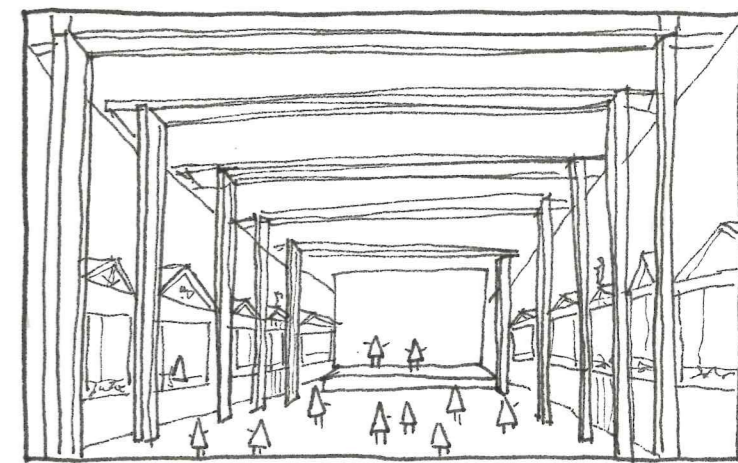
THE HISTORIC CENTER HAS BEEN LARGELY PRESERVED. THE SMALL STREETS, THESE STONE HOUSES. EL BARRIO GOTHICÒ ROUGHLY CORRESPONDS TO THE OLD FORTIFIED ENCLOSURE OF THE CITY. IT HAS UNDERGONE MANY TRANSFORMATIONS SUCH AS THE CONSTRUCTION OF LARGER INFRASTRUCTURES, ALWAYS RESPECTING THE EXISTING BUILDING AND THE HISTORY OF THE DISTRICT.



THE MONTSJUIÇ CASTLE IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THE OLD BUILDINGS CONSERVATION. FIRST A MILITARY FORTRESS BUILT BETWEEN 1640 AND 1779, THEN USED AS A PRISON DURING THE CIVIL WAR, AND THEN DURING THE FRANCO REGIME UNTIL 1960, THEN IT BECAME A MILITARY MUSEUM. THE MONUMENT IN A GOOD CONDITION OF CONSERVATION IS TODAY ONE OF THE BUILDINGS TO SEE, MOREOVER ONE CAN APPRECIATE AN INCREDIBLE VIEW OF BARCELONA AND APPRECIATE THE SUNSET FROM THE WALKWAY.

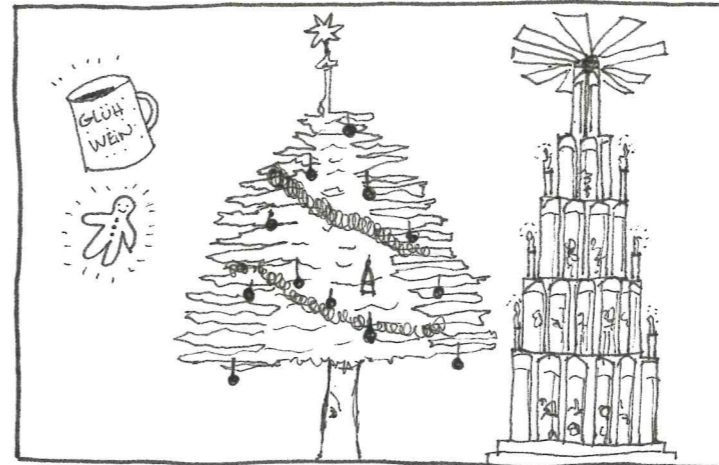


# FESTIVITIES



## BERLIN

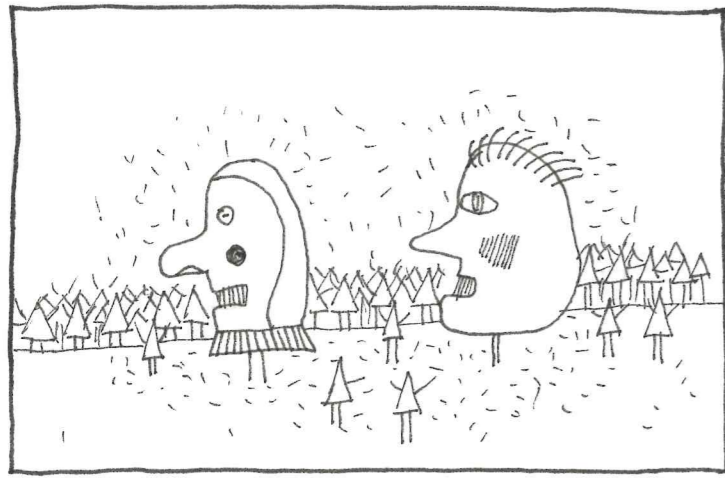
CHRISTMAS MARKETS IN BERLIN ARE AN INSTITUTION AND A TRADITION IN GERMAN CULTURE, THE CITY IS MADE UP OF SEVERAL SMALL MARKETS. THE ONE WE VISITED WAS THE LGBT+ MARKET AT NOLLENDORFPLATZ. THE MARKETS ARE MADE UP OF SMALL DECORATED (MOUNTAIN) CHALETS, YOU CAN DRINK GLÜHWEIN THERE IN A FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE, STROLL THROUGH THE ALLEYS OR EVEN SEE A WEIHNACHTSPYRAMIDE. THE GERMAN CHRIST. MARKETS ARE VERY KITSCH FOR MY TASTE, THEY ALSO START VERY EARLY, AT THE BEGINNING OF NOVEMBER! SURELY TO WARM PEOPLE'S HEARTS GIVEN THE COLD WEATHER THAT IS COMING.



IN BARCELONA, ANOTHER FIESTA TAKES PLACE: LA MERCÈ, WHICH IS MAINLY KNOWN FOR THESE PAPIER-MACHÉ GIANTS WHICH SAW THEIR APPEARANCE WITHIN THE FESTIVAL DURING THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY. IT TAKES PLACE FROM SEPTEMBER 21 TO 24 EACH YEAR. FOR A BIT OF HISTORY, THIS PERIOD IS DEDICATED TO THE VIRGIN MERCÈ, WHO WAS CONSIDERED THE BENEFACTRESS OF THE CITY OF BARCELONA AFTER THE END OF THE LOCUST PLAGUE IN 1685. HOWEVER, THIS VIRGIN HAD ALREADY BEEN VENERATED SINCE THE MIDDLE AGE. THE WORD MERCÈ MEANS SERVICE, COMPASSION, HELP... THE DAYS CONSTITUTING THIS CATHOLIC HOLIDAY BECAME OFFICIAL PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN THE CITY AT THE END OF THE 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY.

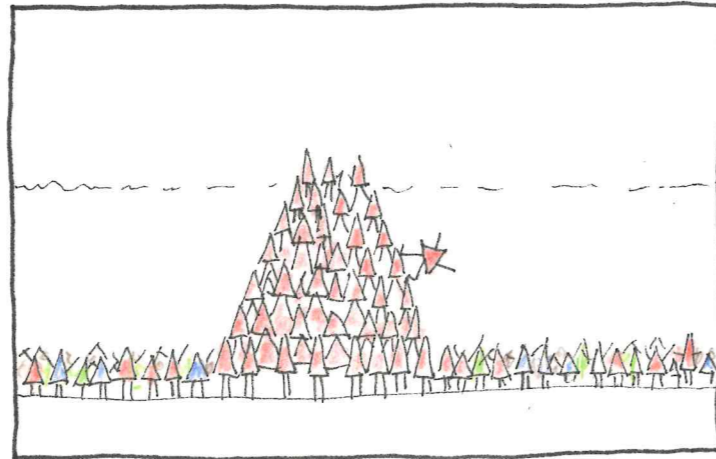




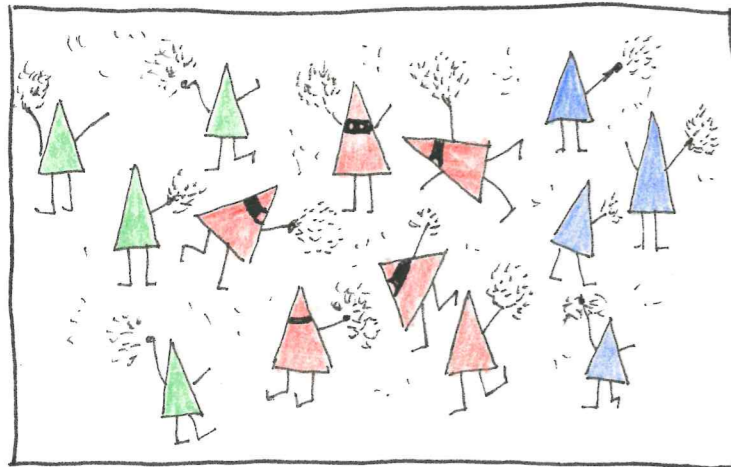


DURING THIS CELEBRATION MORE THAN 600 EVENTS TAKE PLACE THROUGHOUT THE CITY, IN SQUARES, STREETS, MUSEUMS, PARKS, DANCE, PARADES, CIRCUS AND THEATER. ABOUT 2 MILLION PEOPLE PARTICIPATE EACH YEAR. TO GIVE AN OVERVIEW OF THE DIFFERENT EVENTS THAT TAKE PLACE HERE IS A PROGRAM. THE FIESTA BEGINS ON THE FIRST DAY WITH A SPEECH CALLED THE PRÉGO, IT IS GIVEN BY AN ARTISTIC PERSONALITY OF THE CITY, WHICH LAUNCHES THE FESTIVITIES.

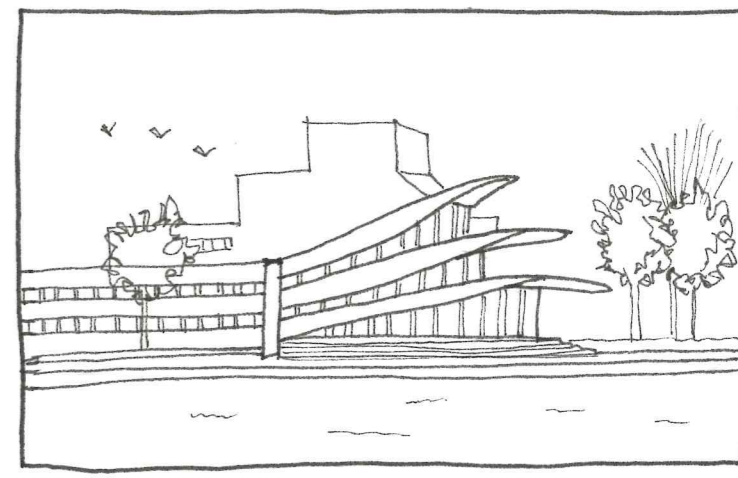
THEN THERE IS A PARADE IN THE STREET WITH THE PAPIER-MACHÉ GIANTS WILL PERFORM A PLAY CALLED "EL TOC D'INICI", WHICH IS IN FACT A DANCE OF THE GIANTS IN ORDER TO REVEAL TO THE PUBLIC THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GIANTS WHICH WERE MADE BY COMMITTEES IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN A COMPETITION. LATER IN THE DAY IT IS THE TURN OF THE PAPIER-MACHÉ DWARF TO PARADE, GREET THE PUBLIC AND AMUSE THE CHILDREN.



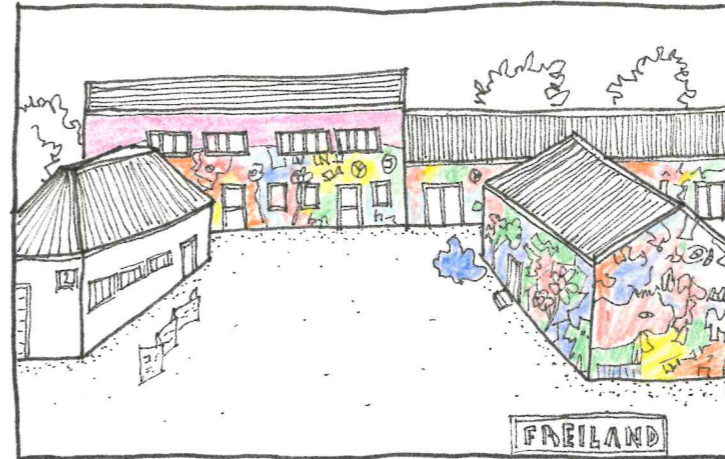
THESE PARADES OF GIANTS TAKE PLACE EVERY DAY AND THE INHABITANTS ARE AWAKENED TO MUSIC FROM 8AM TO PARTICIPATE. AFTER THAT, IT IS TIME FOR CASTELLERS AND THEIR HUMAN PYRAMID, A REAL SPORT IN BARCELONA! WHEN NIGHT FALLS, THE CHARACTER OF MASCLE LABRO COMES OUT OF HIS LAIR TO SAY SATIRICAL VERSES TO INAUGURATE THE CORREFOC, WHICH CONSISTS OF A PYROTECHNIC BATTLE BETWEEN DIFFERENT CLUBS IN BARCELONA AND COMES TO SOUND THE END OF THE FESTIVITIES.



# FORMER INDUSTRIAL SITES

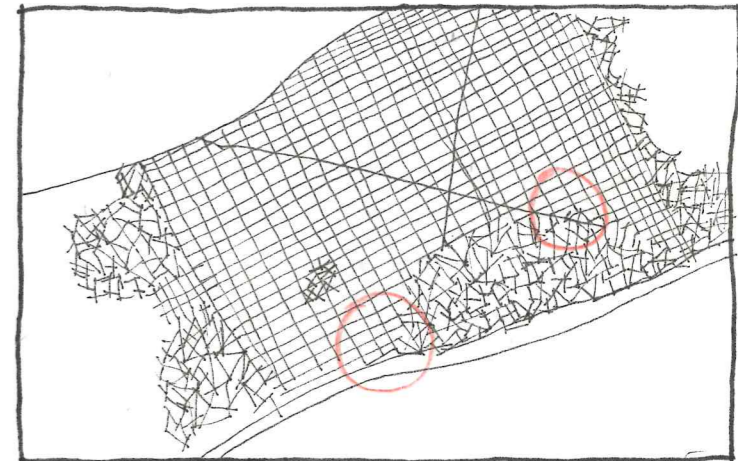


SCHIFFBAUERGASSE AND FREILAND ARE BOTH FORMER INDUSTRIAL SITES THAT HAVE BECOME IMPORTANT CULTURAL CENTERS FOR THE CITY OF POTSDAM WITH A MUSEUM, A THEATER AND A SCHOOL OF DESIGN FOR ONE AND AN ALTERNATIVE ART CENTER, WORKSHOPS FOR THE OTHER.

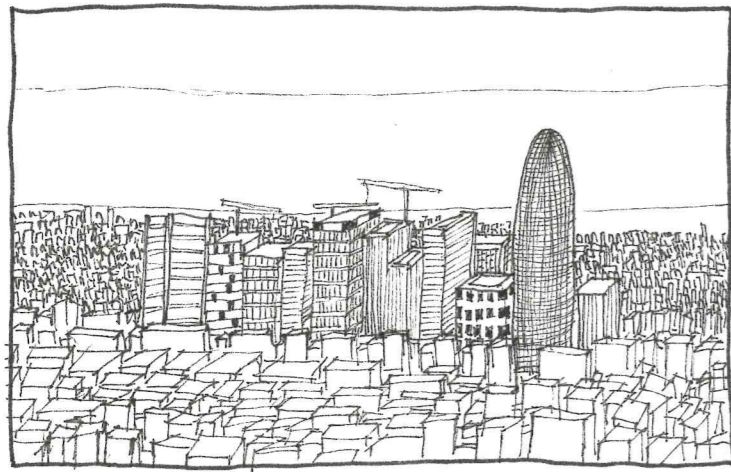


I AM GOING TO TALK ABOUT TWO DIFFERENT OLD INDUSTRIAL SITES WHO HAVE CHANGE IN RECENT YEARS.

THE FIRST ONE IS THE 22@ DISTRICT IN THE NORTH OF THE CITY CENTER. THE SECOND IS PORT OLYMPIC, NEAR FOR THE BEACH AND IN THE SOUTH OF THE CITY CENTER.

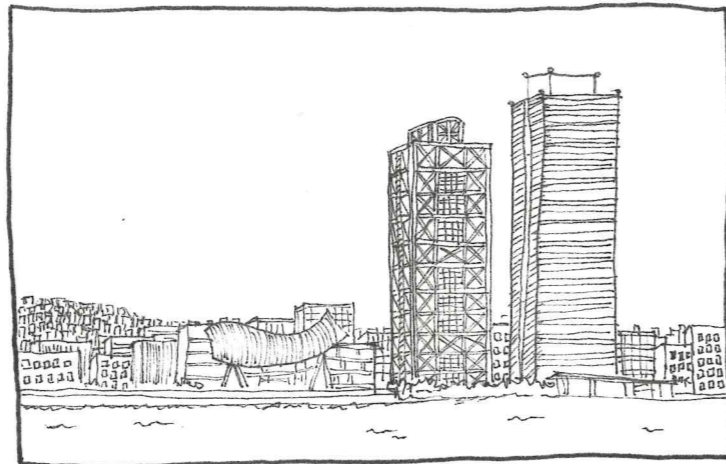




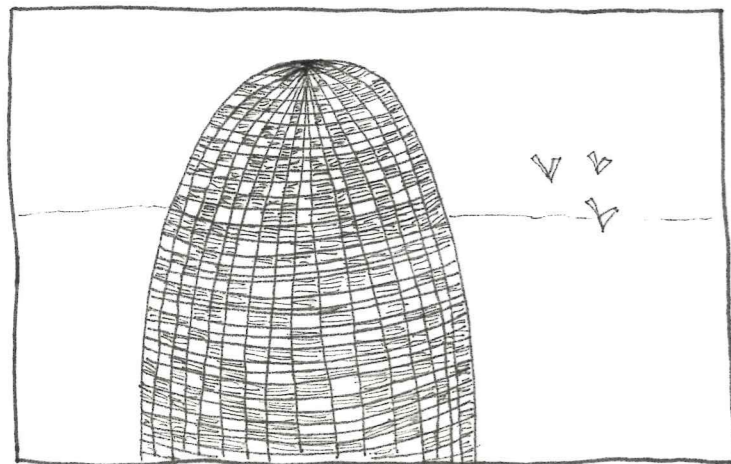


THE 22@ DISTRICT IS ACTUALLY A LARGE-SCALE PROJECT OF THE CITY TO MODERNIZE THE OLD POBLENOU DISTRICT WHICH WAS THE DISTRICT OF THE INDUSTRIAL BOOM OF THE CITY DURING THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION. THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN THOUGHT ABOUT SINCE THE END OF THE 20TH CENTURY. THE DISTRICT HAS BECOME AN IMPORTANT ECONOMIC CENTER OF THE CITY ATTRACTING MANY COMPANIES MAINLY IN THE TECHNOLOGY SECTOR. IT COMPOSED LARGELY OF OFFICES, UNIVERSITIES AND BILT HOUSING.

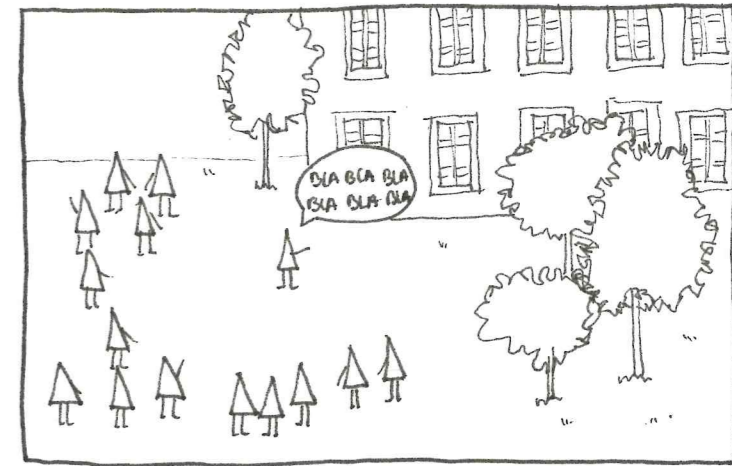
THE PORT OLIMPIC IS A DISTRICT COMPLETELY REBUILT ON THE OCCASION OF THE 1992 OLYMPIC GAMES. BEFORE THAT THE PLACE WAS OCCUPIED BY INDUSTRIES, HOUSING FOR IMMIGRATES WORKERS WITHOUT ACCESS TO THE SEA. THE PROJECT HAS REALLY BEEN ABLE TO CREATE A SEASIDE WITH A PROMENADE AND THE BEACH. MOREOVER THE DISTRICT HAS BECOME THE PLACE TO PLAY SPORTS AND PARTY. THIS HAS REALLY ALLOWED BARCELONA TO DUST ITSELF OFF AND TAKE ITS PLACE AS A MAJOR MEDITERRANEAN CITY.



MANY BUILDINGS IN ITS TWO NEIGHBORHOODS HAVE BECOME SYMBOLS OF THE CITY SUCH AS THE GLORIES TOWER WHICH WAS DESIGNED BY JEAN NOUVEL BETWEEN 1999 AND 2005 AND IS OFTEN NICKNAMED THE SUPPOSITORY. AS WELL AS THE 2 TOWERS OF THE PORT OLIMPIC, THE MAPFRE TOWER BY THE ARCHITECTS ORITZ AND LEÓN AND THE HOTEL OF ARTS BY BRUCE GRAHAM. OR THE SCULPTURE "THE FISH" BY FRANK GUEHRY.



# CONCLUSION



TO BEGIN WITH, I FOUND THE SEMINAR PARTICULARLY INTERESTING. THE FACT OF DISCOVERING NEW THINGS ABOUT GERMAN HISTORY OR CULTURE WAS VERY ENRICHING. THANKS TO THIS SEMINAR I WAS ABLE TO DISCOVER PLACES WHERE I WOULD NOT NECESSARILY HAVE GONE TO DISCOVER BY MYSELF, SUCH AS THE HAUS DER WANSEE KONFERENZ WHERE I PARTICULARLY LIKED THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE PLACE WITH THE LAKE AND ITS LANDSCAPE DESPITE WHAT HAPPENED THERE. THEN I FOUND THAT DRAWING A PARALLEL BETWEEN THE DIFFERENT CULTURES WAS QUITE CLEVER. AS A LOVER OF HISTORY, I MORE APPRECIATE THE MOMENTS OF HISTORICAL VISITS. HAVING CHOSEN BARCELONA AS MY FAVORITE CITY AND WHERE I HAVEN'T REALLY LIVED FOR LONG HAS

ALSO ALLOWED ME TO LEARN THINGS THAT I DIDN'T KNOW. AND THIS MADE IT POSSIBLE TO DRAW A PARALLEL WITH FRENCH CULTURE, WHICH IS MY ESSENCE, EVEN IF IT HAS MANY SIMILARITIES GIVEN THE HISTORICAL, GEOGRAPHICAL AND POLITICAL LINKS. AS AN ERASMUS STUDENT, IT ALLOWED ME TO FEEL MORE LIKE AN EUROPEAN CITIZEN THAN JUST A FRENCH CITIZEN. THE SEMINAR WAS A SURPRISE DURING THE SEMESTER BECAUSE IT BECAME MY FAVORITE CLASS, ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE ARCHITECTURE CURRICULUM.