



1. PREVIOUS

Square

The previous square was the result of the opening of the Via Laietana, and defined in two levels, the Roman wall level and the city level. The statue of Ramon Berenguer was placed in 1950. In 1959, the Avant-Cambra building annexed to the Chapel of Santa Àgata was built, and the current state of Tapineria was defined with two levels, that of the city and that of the Roman wall.

The previous situation came from these interventions made in different stages, with the final addition of a fence and a pitosporum closure that separated the square from the Roman walls, which were residual spaces that were not accessible.

The separation in two levels of all these spaces was one of the issues to be solved by the intervention. The lower spaces beside the Roman wall, both in the square and in Tapineria were discontinuous spaces full of corners, including those on the wall. They became residual and fragmented.

The parking of tourist buses on Via Laietana distorted the continuity and the width of the routes along its sidewalk. No transversal permeability existed.

Tapineria

Between the Cathedral Avenue and the square, Tapineria was very narrow, and between the square and Plaça de l'Àngel, was distorted as a public space with the passage of vehicles, parking and the biking, which affected negatively the continuity.

Existing vegetation by the wall

Some valuable trees, such as a ficus in front of the patio of the Marés Museum, an erythrin on the side next to the Cathedral Avenue; the rest of trees and vegetation along the Roman wall created a confusing vegetal structure that formed hidden corners and made difficult the necessary diaphaneity.

2. SCOPE

The objective is the unification of Ramon Berenguer Square from the limit of the roadway to the Roman wall, with the integration of all the different spaces, previously fragmented, in a single continuous space, therefore broader and more accessible than the previous one. Special attention is brought to the low spaces along the Roman wall.

3. INTERVENTION DESCRIPTION

Square

The intervention integrates the different fragmented spaces of the previous square, in a single continuous and mineral space, at the level of Via Laietana, a sober, open, diaphanous space system that qualifies its urban context, especially the Roman wall, integrates pedestrian paths, longitudinal, diagonal and transversal.

The square is transformed into a new pedestrian gate to the Gothic Quarter, a qualified void open to the Roman wall and Santa Àgata chapel, and the Cathedral pinnacle, with a promenade along the Roman wall.

King's statue

The central position of the statue is maintained as an element of the square's identity, and counterpoint to the facade of the wall.

Limit between the square and the space facing the wall

A transition is made with two stands along the entire boundary between the two levels, upper and lower, allowing sitting. The stands have groups of steps, which allow the continuity between the square and the lower spaces in front of the wall. An exhaustive integration of those spaces has been carried out with a system of articulated pavements and permeable gravel surfaces.

Tapineria

It is transformed into a pedestrian one level platform at both ends of the project, close to the square it unfolds at two levels so that all its width becomes a double level street, integrating the lower spaces in front of the wall and transforming them into a low walk, which runs from end to end of the street, which improves its role as a walkway.

At both ends, longitudinal accesses in gentle ramps open the lower spaces to the urban level, integrating the new spaces in front of the wall as routes in a simple and clear way.

Permeability

A pedestrian crossing allows access to the square across Via Laietana, improving the role of the square as a gateway to the Gothic Quarter.

Pavements

Gray granite flamed in the whole square, sandstone in Tapineria. The stands and steps are of white / light gray marble.

Lighting

Four 15 m tall corten steel sober masts, placed on both lateral spaces, bring vertical and light structure, with LED projectors that lit the square, the statue and the wall, with soft illumination.

Trees

The previous cypresses are integrated but they were scarce in order to solve the vertical structure of the square and the sculpture in relation to its urban environment, which is made up of very tall buildings, which have a strong presence. The structure of cypresses is complemented by lateral structures of 8+8 albizzia that give depth to the space of the square in all directions, shade in the lateral spaces and filter the presence of the buildings. The ficus and eritrina qualify the spaces in front of the wall.

4. FINAL EVALUATION

Ramon Berenguer el Gran square and Tapineria street is an open public space fully integrated in the system of public spaces along the Roman wall, in continuity with its surrounding areas; the sober platform puts in value the Roman wall, Santa Àgata chapel, the king's statue, and Via Laietana urban context, integrating the change of scale and dynamics, bringing new permeability.

The spaces in front of the Roman wall are fully integrated and used as steps for resting; the two-level promenade along the wall is an enriching experience and a functional pedestrian connection.

