The project Cantiere Barca discusses the public space of a concrete neighborhood as a space of negotiation. We initiated and generated a spacial setting which was realized in cooperation with residents. Building and designing together was an essential tool within the process of appropriation. The project takes its starting point in questions, that apply for many spaces in contemporary cities: How do we want to live together in the future? What is happening today in our public spaces? How can we together develop and realize ideas for the future of our cities and neighborhoods?

Barca is a common suburb of Turin, planed in the 1970s for economic migrants of the car industry. It is a typical example of city planning of late modernism: a neighborhood unit consisting social housing apartment buildings, two schools, a couple of playgrounds and a little centre with a supermarket. This was the plan, but the supermarket never moved into the designated building. Soon also the baker and the butcher went bankrupt. A little bar on a lawn remained as well as the inhospitable low-rise supermarket building used by a few social services.