Dressing up the Square / Vestir la plaça

The appropriation of public space by citizens is highly dependent on the space’s character. Showing off its new attire, the Sant Miquel Square in Olot takes on a domestic touch which leads one to perceive it as the neighbourhood’s communal space. With minimum costs, the foundations have been laid for the square once again to become the centre of social life, a space where all of the neighbours can meet and feel at home.

By applying a selective layer of paint, this intervention comprehends and enhances the spatial quality, geometry and construction systems of the square’s architecture. Tops, patterns and carpets provide the wall of concrete blocks with a sense of lightness, brightness and colour, following its own inflection and highlighting the textile nature of the support.

The geometric patterns evoke domestic life and also the events which are characteristic of the neighbourhood, such as the paper-costumes parade, the traditional farandula dances and the outdoor concerts under the marquee. This action strengthens the uniqueness of every space but most importantly, it creates a backdrop which is easily capable of hosting a wide range of activities and users, including games.

The project defines and develops one of the actions included in the Comprehensive Plan for Urban Rehabilitation - the result of a participative process led by Paisaje Transversal. In the same way salt enhances the flavour of a stew, the correct amount of paint strengthens the square’s identity and unifying character, and by extension that of the neighbourhood as a whole.