AERIAL VIEW FROM "CENTRO" CULTURAL CENTRE

DESCRIPTION OF THE INTERVENTION

Putting in relation the scale of the square with the city that surrounds it was a basic aspect of the project. The new volume to re-link occupied 2.5 hectares, which represents 1.6 times the size of Plaza de la Cañada in Vizcaya or four times the Barcelona's Plaza Real. Creating such large space for a town of 64,000 inhabitants meant considering it a square as well as a park. The new park opened occupied almost half of the total area (1.3 ha), and thus regain their original use.

Despite this formal and functional differentiation, the park is understood as a part of the street and building alignment, allowing to blur boundaries and recover the unity of the whole. The layout of the park is attentive to the visual from the Cultural Center and its most frequent routes avoiding where possible the front view of the building and supporting diagonal vistas that help to minimize its volume.

The park is divided into two parts: On the northern most side, a small grass drum that houses, as an unusual feature in the city that hikers and allows elements around, adding complexity to the site. On the south, the park is divided into a series of small and more intimate gardens that allow a more quiet stay. These two garden systems exist: a water garden, which occupies around 1,500 m² and embodies the access to the subway station. These metal structure acts as a center point and hinge of the different circulation areas of the square. It may become a visual reference, and a meeting point, a quieted sheltered surface that may host events and social activities.

The granite paving is placed in contact with the building of Cerámica, acting as an outside hall/boulevard and restoring the North-South connection. The north recess by the Cultural Center hosts a new sculpture by the artist Enrique Pacheco. The new access to the park underneath seeks integration by means of its geometry and chromatic treatment of Corten steel. The entire surface of the Plaça Catalunya is covered by an urban system that serves to maintenance vehicles and neighborhood services. Paving with granite and asphalt responds to the language used in other areas of the city. Orange paving that varies in dimension helps to adapt to different dimension geometries and those discontinuities resulting from the vents of the subway station and underground parking. The accuracy of granite paving dimensioning solves limits with the asphalt, tree grates and other urban elements. Granite areas support every urban element of the park: benches, fountains, paper baskets, lighting, ducts, and sewage systems. This strategy tires the asphalt areas from elements, Maintenance will mainly affect: granite areas, which places can be easily changed, avoiding asphalt repainting.

The new canopy consists of a trapezoidal inclined plane that offers different heights. It hostes the metro access and may serve as a meeting point, visual reference or host different public events. Its structure consists of standard profiles. The covering slats are made of a mix of wooden micro compound and a polymer matrix, requiring no maintenance.

Vegetation criteria are based on maximum conservation of existing species (pines, grove, trees), using the bases of the square and surrounding streets vegetation, such as pines, paulownia and trees. The vegetation of the site is mainly species: trees and shrubs. Washingtonian palms and palms have been chosen in the canopy areas and intense flowering and bushes in the small gardens.