

5. Plaça de las Navas

District Sants - Montjuïc
Daniel Navas, Neus Solé, Imma Jansana
1982
1750m²

The square is situated at the intersection of Teodor Bonaplata, Jaume Fabra and l'Olivera streets acquiring a quasi-triangular form. It is one of the spaces in the city that used to be a residual and irregular space without any sort of definition from the surrounding buildings' facades. This empty space has been transformed into a new public area as a result of complaints from residents concerning the lack of trees in the neighborhood. The definition of the space's form has been made by using an accurate interpretation of the different geometries involved. Thus, from the observation of the alignment and geometry of the streets defining the intersection, there appears a new order which is blended into the immediate surroundings and which confronts the former chaos, using as starting point its own conditioning factors.

This free space is reached through a few steps connecting the sidewalk, from one side, to an esplanade controlled by strict geometrical rows of palm trees planted in protectors that form, along with the concrete pavement, a checkerboard style flooring. From the esplanade rises a strictly triangular area that is reached by a staircase, enclosed by a small stone wall, crowned with balustrades and traced with benches, lighting and pine trees.

From the esplanade, on Teodor Bonaplata street, a strip of land continues beyond the enclosed area to form a small garden of pine trees, gravel and cobblestones serving as background for Joan Rebull's 'Maternitat' sculptor. After Rebull's death in 1981, the City Council acquired his sculpture and placed it in the new square. It consists of the figures of a mother and child created in 1960. Due to acts of vandalism the original marble sculpture was substituted for a bronze copy in 1995.²⁷

However, this square is part of the 'Pla Fent Barcelona' and is undergoing a total change and modification of space with the construction of a new subterranean parking, that started in 2010, solving by that parking problems and the lack of space. The parking will have 340 spaces distributed among four floors beneath the square. As for the square's urbanization a new layout design is expected with playgrounds, a maintenance area for seniors, benches and the planting of 55 new trees. The private vehicles will only have access to particular entrances in the square.²⁸

According to the Sants-Montjuïc District Councilor Imma Moraleda, "*esta es una muy buena noticia para los vecinos del Poble-sec, ya que hacía falta un aparcamiento en esta zona de la ciudad. Además, una vez finalizada la obra de la plaza, los vecinos ganarán un nuevo espacio diáfano de 4.200m² en un barrio con una densidad de población alta*".²⁹ The constructions are expected to finish by February 2012.



Fig.52 Plaça de Navas is under total reconstruction (2011)



Fig.51 Plaça de Navas plan and aerial view before demolition (1982) (left and middle). New proposal for the square with access to the subterranean parking (2012) (right).

28. Movilidad y transportes. *Luz verde a la urbanización del plaza de Navas*. [online]. Ajuntament de Barcelona [Accessed: 03 January 2012]. Available at: <http://w110.bcn.cat/portal/site/Mobilitat/menuitem.cbe15a34b5efad778a738a73a2ef8a0c/?vgnextoid=cd0c152f19dd2310VgnVCM10000074fea8c0RCRD&vgnextchannel=55840641b867b210VgnVCM10000074fea8c0RCRD&vgnextfmt=formatDetall&lang=es_ES>

29. Servicio de Información de obras. *Empiezan las obras del aparcamiento de la plaza de las Navas del Polbe-sec*. [online]. Ajuntament de Barcelona [Accessed: 03 January 2012]. Available at: <http://w3.bcn.cat/fentbarcelona/noticies/0,2138,1030474419_1030487692_2_1230365876,00.html?accio=detall&home=>>

6. Jardins d'Olga Sacharoff

District Les Corts

Carles Casamor, Marta Gabàs, Manuel Royo

1994

8000m²

These gardens, inaugurated in October 1994, are dedicated to the painter Olga Sacharoff who spent much of her artistic career working from her studio in Putxet neighborhood. They are situated on the Avinguda Diagonal opposite the 'Illa' shopping mall between Caravel.la la Niña and Caravel.la la Pinta streets, enclosed on three sides by buildings.

During the 1990s the Diagonal underwent considerable changes and one of the most significant is the creation of small gardens along its layout.³⁰ They are an example of the western countries' trend of creating small green areas between large apartment and office blocks to ventilate and regenerate degraded spaces or zones of high urban density. "*Con ello se busca el contraste entre una arquitectura despersonalizada y la naturaleza humanizada. Dentro de esta línea de actuación, a partir de los años ochenta Barcelona busca renovar numerosos espacios urbanos y construye parques y jardines sobre terrenos baldíos.*"³¹

Olga Sacharoff gardens consist of waved-shaped lawns or mounds providing a receding perspective and depth of field. The undulations of the mounds, an allusion to the sea waves, are inspired by the names of the adjacent streets which are named after Columbus' caravels that carried him on his first voyage to the Americas. The space has an impression of a small forest and open grassland conveyed as a static and simple scene of unspoiled nature. The lawns are attractively lined with rows of poplar and acacia trees to provide shade and protection. Street lamps are interspersed between the trees and pathways are paved with marble dice over which the grass has gradually grown. Arranged randomly and asymmetrically across the lawn are white marble cubes that serve as seatings. They appear as they are natural features of the whole landscape.³²

30. FABRE, Jaume. Huertas, Josep M. 'Jardins d'Olga Sacharoff'. Web Art Públic [online]. Departament Urbanisme. Ajuntament de Barcelona- Universitat de Barcelona [Accessed: 03 January 2012]. Available at: < www.bcn.cat/artpublic >

31. MORALES FOLGUERA, José Miguel. 'Jardins d'Olga Sacharoff'. Web Art Públic [online]. Departament Urbanisme. Ajuntament de Barcelona- Universitat de Barcelona [Accessed: 03 January 2012]. Available at: < www.bcn.cat/artpublic >

32. Ibid.

The gardens seem to be only visually appreciated by the adjacent buildings than to be used. It is a space that is almost always empty except for a few neighbors who use the space as a playground for their domestic animals.



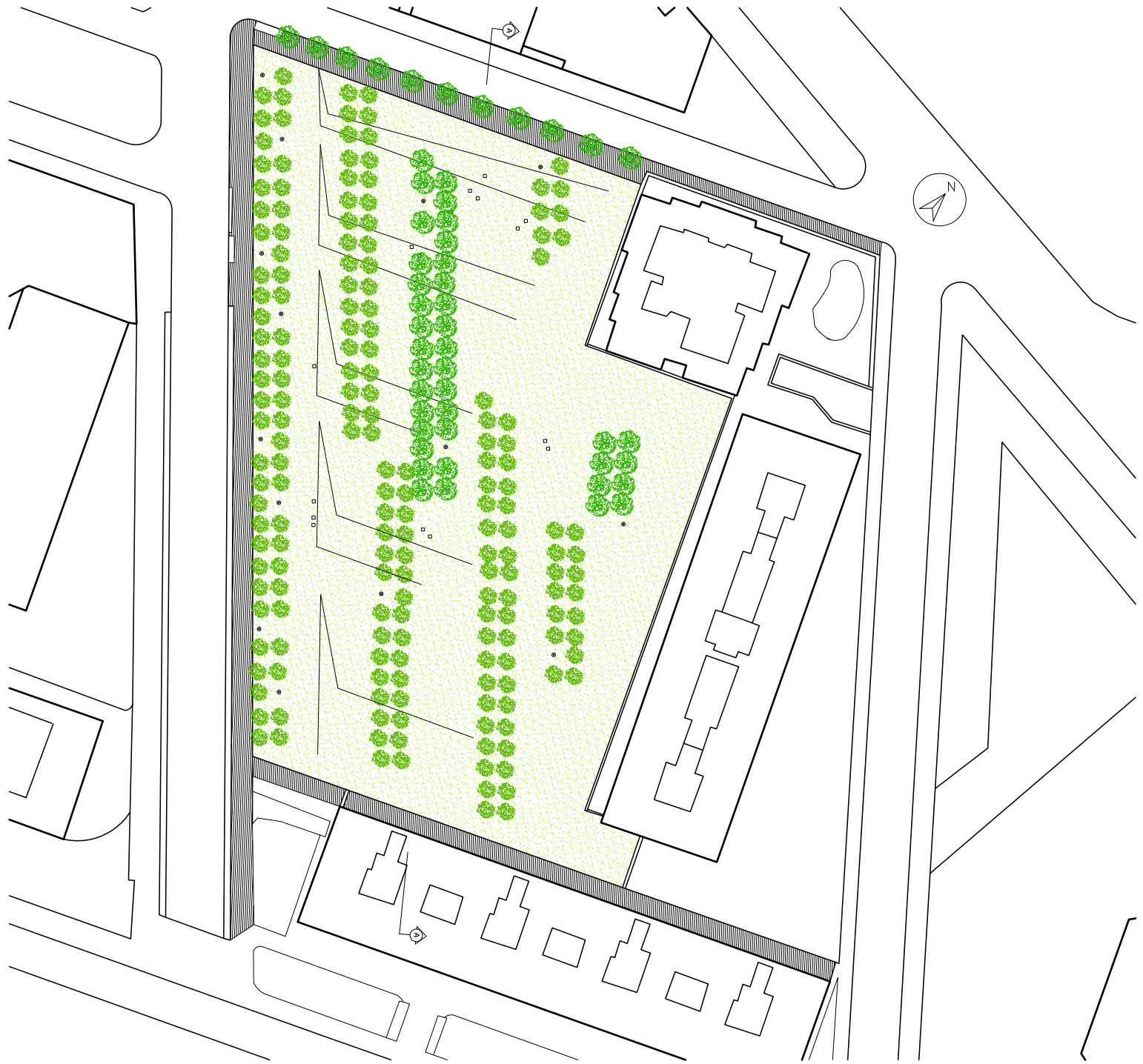
Fig.53 White marble cubes used as seating



Fig.55 Wave-shaped lawns



Fig.54 Panoramic views of the square



7. Plaça Molina

District Sarrià – Sant Gervasi

Jordi Garcés, Enric Sòria

Preliminary plan 1988, execution 1995, remodeled in 1998 and 2010

7500m²

Plaça Molina is a road junction located in Sant-Gervasi Galvany neighborhood between Balmes and Alfons XII streets and the fact that makes it an interesting space is that it is divided in half by Via Augusta. In 1868 it was a space marked by the conflict between public use and the presence of an open railway line that nowadays became the current street system. This railway line was part of Sarria train that has been one of the major structuring elements and energizer of the neighborhood but at the same time a significant danger and an urban barrier. Between 1925 and 1929 the route between Plaça Catalunya and Muntaner was covered giving rise to the Via Augusta the current axis and backbone of the neighborhood.³³

Before, the square suffered from poor space organization, difficult pedestrian accessibility, unrelated crosswalks, a lack in architectural forms, and a high proportion of its surface destined for traffic. Therefore, the architects tried to reduce the surrounding traffic to its minimum, provide free space for pedestrians especially nearest to shops and premises, and to give a formal treatment to the open spaces with the notions of “clarity, versatility and economy” (Garcés, Sòria, 1993: 156).

Underneath the square lies a station (Sant-Gervasi) with two lines (Sarria-Tibidabo) of the ‘Ferrocarrils Catalans’ with two openings, remodeled in 2010, and located in the mountain side of the square. On this side, one station opening is a staircase and the other is an elevator with the shape of an old restored kiosk. The rest of the space is taken by restaurant terraces, few benches, drains and ventilation, and planted with 6 acacia trees and 2 circular parterres with poplar trees and dracaena

plants. Complementing the circular parterres is a circular granite paved space, in the corner with Balmes street, with an incorporated plaque tribute to the magazine *Dau Al Set*, placed in 1998 and designed by ‘Foment de les Arts Decoratives FAD’.³⁴

On the sea side of the square several benches and restaurant terraces are also located in addition to 6 parkinsonia, 3 albizias and 2 poplar trees planted in 5 circular parterres. On the side of Alfons XII street we encounter another circular granite paved space containing a bronze bust of the poet Joan Maragall sculpted by his son Ernest Maragall Noble. The bust is placed on a 3 meters high pyramidal base in front of which is a simple inscription with the name, dates of birth and death and the signature of the poet.

This public art was inaugurated in 2010, a year dedicated to Maragall’s 150 anniversary, in the presence of the Mayor Jordi Hereu and the ex-Mayor Pasqual Maragall the poet’s grandson.³⁵

Another significant element is a fountain that used to stand in the municipal district of Sant-Gervasi. However, the exact date of the fountain is not exactly known, in fact, the only indication that it might have been constructed in 1874 comes from a worn out inscription on a stone tablet that reads “Homenaje al pueblo. Varios vecinos. 1874.” This inscription clashes with the coat of arms of Sant-Gervasi, Barcelona, Catalonia and Spain and another undated inscription that reads “Gratitud al ayuntamiento”.³⁶

In the 1998-1999 rehabilitation of the square, Jordi Garcés substituted the fountain’s original base with a rectangular platform that became a place for skateboarders reinventing by that a new use to the

33. Sarria – Sant Gervasi. Sant Gervasi - Galvany [online]. Ayuntamiento de Barcelona [Accessed: 03 January 2012]. Available at: <http://w110.bcn.cat/portal/site/Sarria-SantGervasi/menueitem.8d353f48d6257d6d7ca67ca6a2ef8a0c/?vgnextoid=cd1432fe7f23a210VgnVCM10000074fea8c0RCRD&vgnnextchannel=cd1432fe7f23a210VgnVCM10000074fea8c0RCRD&lang=es_ES>

34. *Dau al Set*. *Web Art Pública* [online]. Departament Urbanisme. Ajuntament de Barcelona- Universitat de Barcelona [Accessed: 03 January 2012]. Available at: <www.bcn.cat/artpublic>

35. BONET, Llorenç. Joan Maragall. *Web Art Pública* [online]. Departament Urbanisme. Ajuntament de Barcelona- Universitat de Barcelona [Accessed: 03 January 2012]. Available at: <www.bcn.cat/artpublic>

36. FABRE, Jaume. HUERTAS, Josep M. Font de la Plaça Molina. Homenatge al poble. *Web Art Pública* [online]. Departament Urbanisme. Ajuntament de Barcelona- Universitat de Barcelona [Accessed: 03 January 2012]. Available at: <www.bcn.cat/artpublic>

space. This new activity led to the disfiguration and degradation of the platform's soft stone, hence, the City Council installed 14 iron bollards with chains preventing skateboarders from playing in the area. *"Actualmente, entre los bolardos de hierro, la desaparición de cualquier uso y la nueva base de piedra, la fuente se lee como un elemento ajeno a la plaza, a pesar de ser el más antiguo."*³⁷

Apart from the granite in the circular spaces, the square is paved with asphalt with the exception of a band of panots, next to the buildings, to connect better with the converging sidewalks.

Although the square is divided by streets, it is well used not only by passersby but by people staying on the benches or in the terraces which makes it a place to be as much as a crossing place.



Fig.58 Sant-Gervasi fountain on the sea side of the square

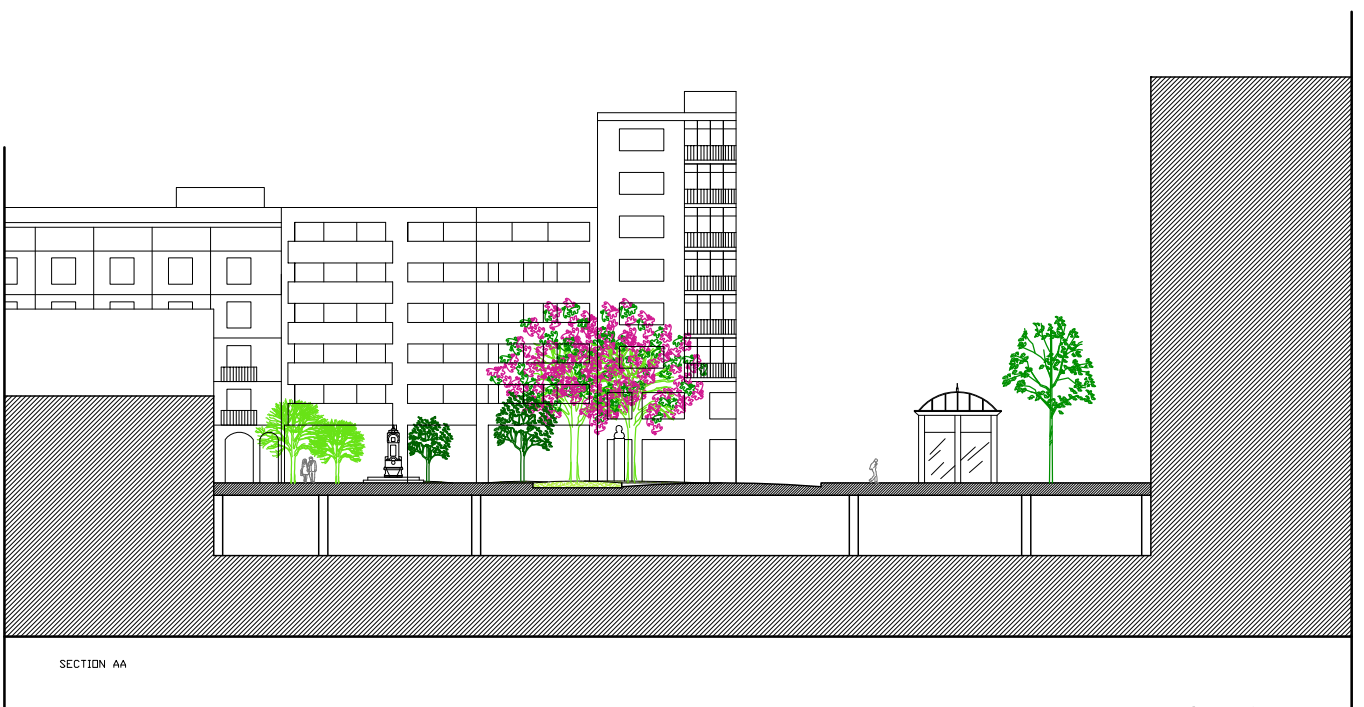


Fig.56 Panorama of the mountain side with the train entrances



Fig.57 Sculpture of the poet Joan Maragall (left). The sea side of the square with the fountain in view (right)

37. BONET, Llorenç. Font de la Plaça Molina. Homenatge al poble. *Web Art Públic* [online]. Departament Urbanisme. Ajuntament de Barcelona- Universitat de Barcelona [Accessed: 03 January 2012]. Available at: < www.bcn.cat/artpublic >



8. Plaça de John Lennon

District Gràcia
Jaume Graells
1993
1020m²

The square, homage to the Beatles singer John Lennon, is located near the market between Quevedo, Puigmartí and Ramis streets where the last two appears to be part of the square, only separated by bollards. It is part of Graells urban interventions and reforms of Gràcia's squares.³⁸

Unlike the traditional squares in Gràcia, it is an example of modern urban planning set into this historic neighborhood. This is due to the fact that unlike the northern part of Gràcia, the southern part of the district (where this square is located) is known to be an industrial area with working class buildings, hence, this zone contains newer plazas some of them replacing old industries. In the past there were hand-weavers workshops and later, with emergence of steam, they became cotton industries. Plaça de John Lennon was part of the ground of 'Vapor Nou' and to the south of the square there still remains few industrial buildings between Puigmartí and the market.³⁹

The square is paved diagonally with 60x40cm red terrazzo slabs divided every four meters by strips of 60x20cm grey concrete slabs. The side streets, Puigmartí and Ramis, form part of the plaza separated from the interior of the space by bollards and paved in 20x10cm black terrazzo crowned on the sides by 60x20cm of granite strips. The square is filled with benches, lighting, plants, a playground with green vinyl flooring and a potable fountain. It is planted with rows of tipuana, parkinsonia, jacaranda and Judas trees all following the same diagonal layout. It also has a motorcycle parking and a terrace for the neighboring restaurant.

On the wall behind the playground a sculpture is placed and consists of a vinyl-record made of

38. GRAELLS, Jaume. John Lennon. *Web Art Pública* [online]. Departament Urbanisme. Ajuntament de Barcelona- Universitat de Barcelona [Accessed: 03 January 2012]. Available at: <www.bcn.cat/artpublic>

39. MARTI VALLS, Josep. La Gràcia industrial I obrera, les places noves. *Itinerari per la Vila de Gràcia II* [online]. [Accessed: 03 January 2012]. Available at: <http://www.avclesseps.cat/itineraris/201002viladegracia2.pdf>

bronze and steel dedicated to John Lennon with “doneu una oportunitat a la pau” or “give peace a chance” inscription. Currently, this piece has been subjected to vandalism with spray paint.

It is a place full of senior people sitting on the benches, of children playing in the playground, and adults drinking in the terrace. Unlike the other squares of Gràcia, this square is mainly used by residents more than tourists.



Fig.61 View of the square from the corner of Quevedo and Ramis Streets

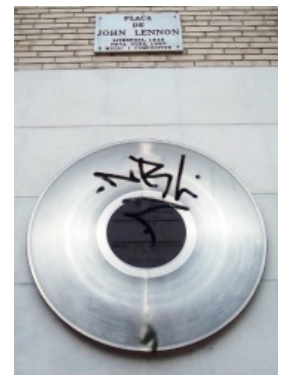
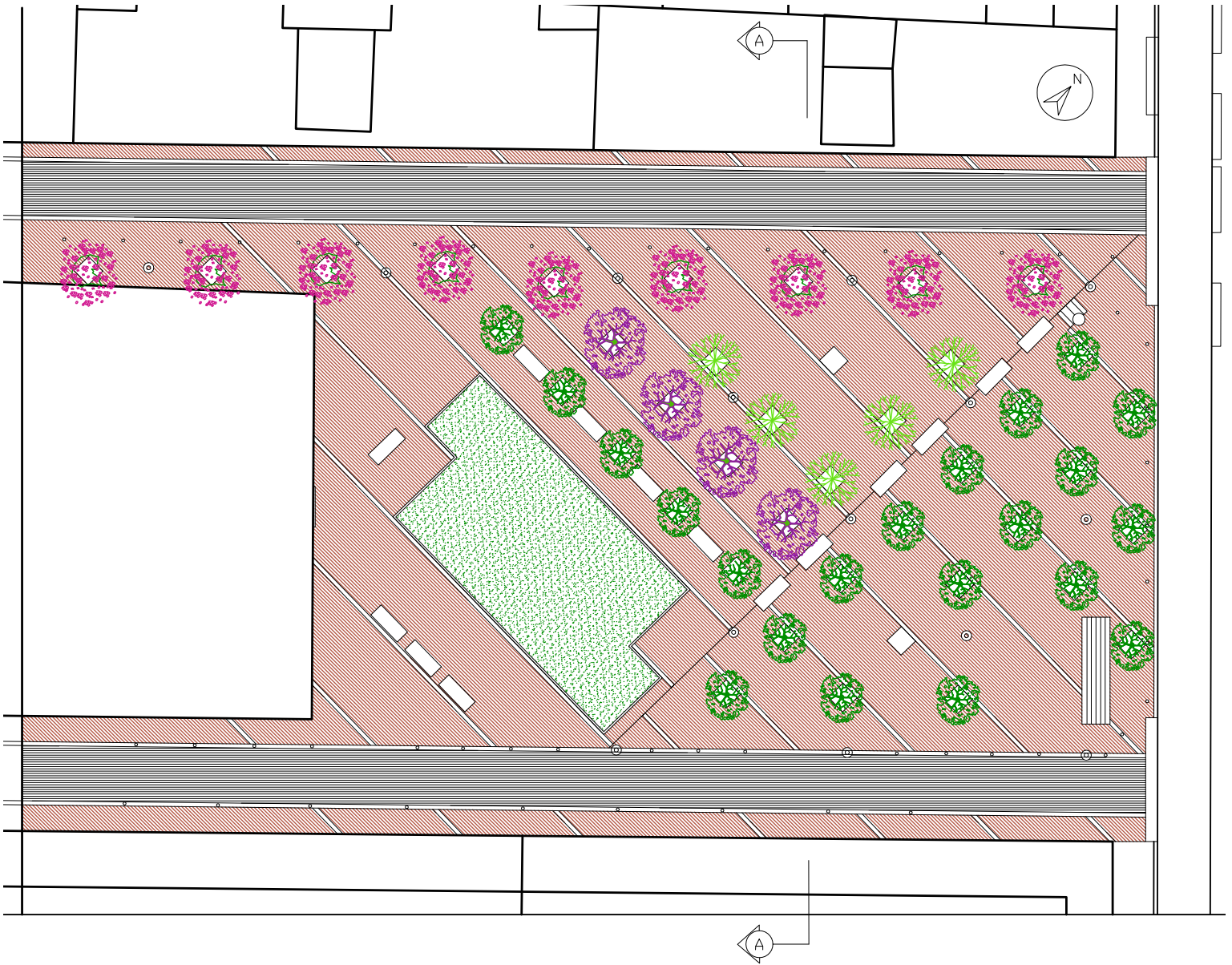


Fig.59 Panoramic view of the square from Puigmartí Street (left). The bronze and steel record sculpture dedicated to John Lennon (right).



Fig.60 Another Panoramic view of the square



9. Plaça d'Anna Frank

District Gràcia
 Ignasi Sanfeliu, Sara Pons
 1998-2001
 450m²

This small square is the result of a protest of a group of residents in the Carrer Sèneca against a bookshop in their street selling Nazi literature. Their unsuccessful insistence on changing the name of their street to Anne Frank and their 7,500 signatures in favor of naming a place in the district of Gràcia after her was rewarded in 1998. It led to the conversion of a recessed area on the Travessia de Sant Antoni into a small garden and children's play providing Jaén Street, until then a cul-de-sac, with an outlet.⁴⁰

Next to the square is a cultural center, 'Centre Artesà Tradicionariu', a recently remodeled building that first belonged to the 'La Fraternidad y el Artesano' until it was confiscated by the phalangists in 1939. In 1976 the building was converted by the neighbors into an 'Ateneu' and it was bought by the City Council in 1980 until 1993 when the actual 'Tradicionariu' is born.⁴¹

A Core-Ten steel plaque, designed by Ignasi Sanfeliu, bearing an extract from Anne's diary was placed in the plaza.⁴²

In 2001 a new realist style figure of the young diarist, designed by Sara Pons, was placed in the square on a canopy with a book in her hand carved with an inscription in Spanish. Another tribute to Anne is a multi-colored mosaic mural placed behind the sculpture designed by the pupils of Escola Massana. It has an inscription from Anne's diary and a sentence from the City Council that reads, "reposició del monòlit per acte vandàlic."⁴³ However due to acts of further vandalism the square was rehabilitated, the design had been modified, the sculpture has been readjusted and the mural no longer exists.

Coming from Jaén Street, the square is reached either by a staircase paved in granite or reached

by a side ramp paved in 40x40cm concrete slabs. The square itself is paved with yellow polished concrete and is separated from the ramp by a small enclosed garden with two celtis trees. The space is used by young people and children especially when workshops or any cultural event is taking place in the center.

In spite of that, the space is subjected to further acts of vandalism with spray paint on the wall and on Pons sculpture, and Sanfeliu plaque is being used as a poster and advertising stand.



Fig.62 Panoramic view of the square

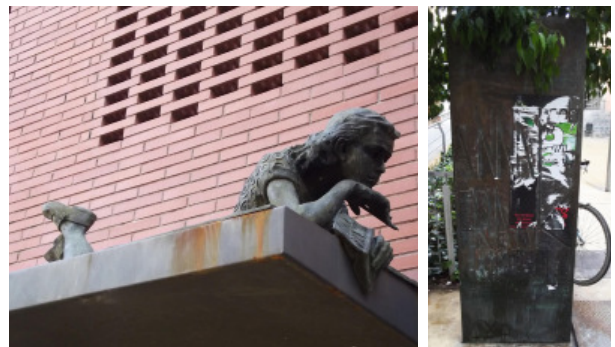


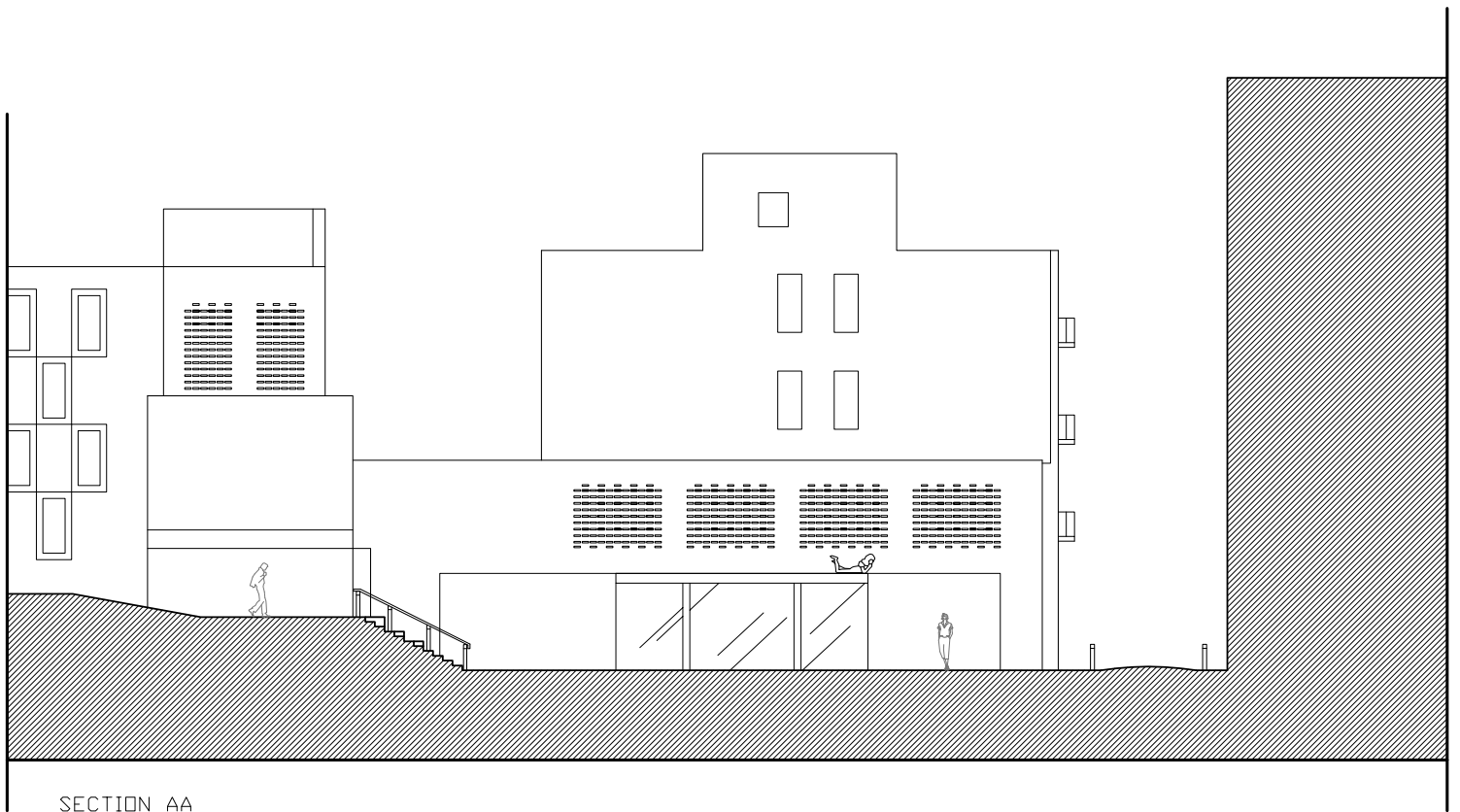
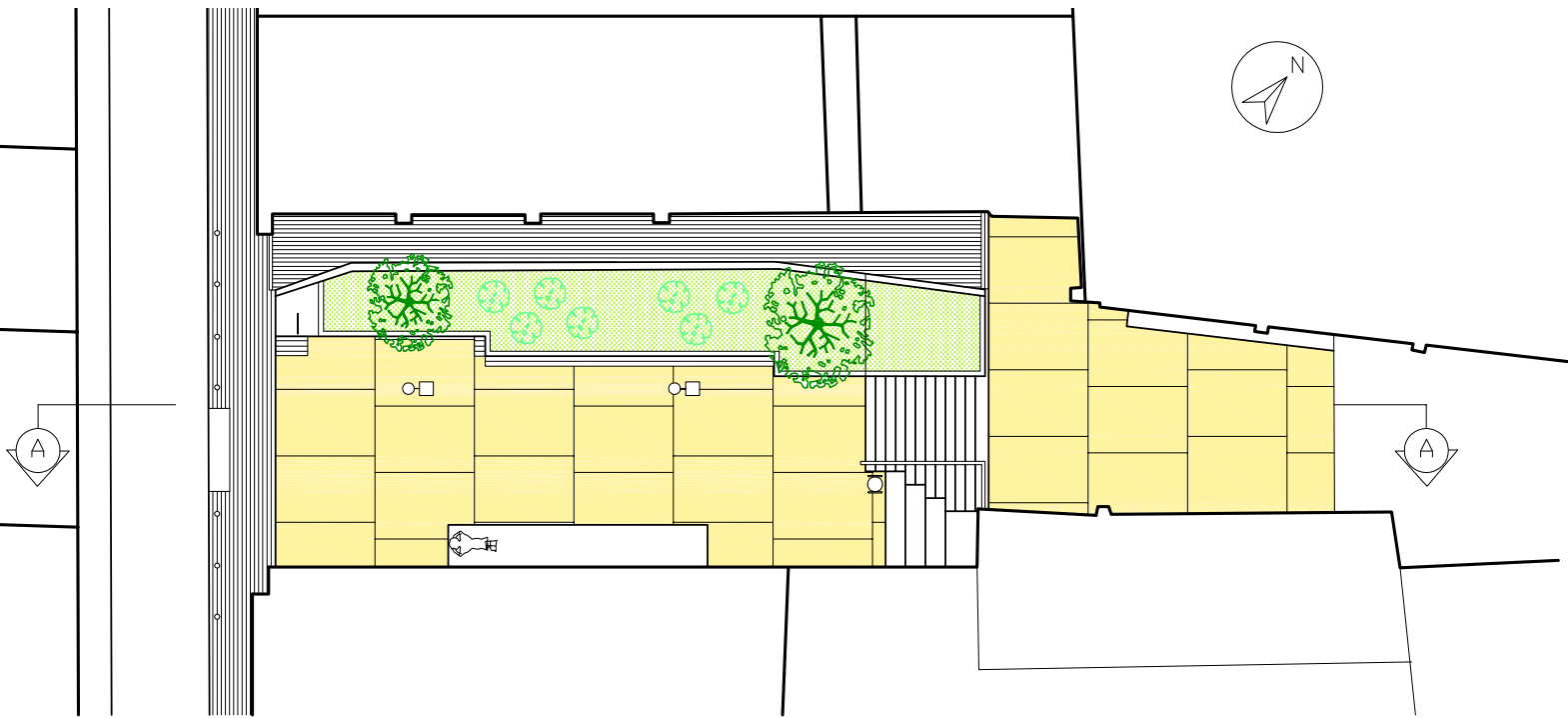
Fig.63 Sculpture of Anna Frank (left). Core-Ten steel plaque serving as a poster stand (right)

40. FABRE, Jaume. HUERTAS, Josep M. A Anna Frank. *Web Art Públic* [online]. Departament Urbanisme. Ajuntament de Barcelona- Universitat de Barcelona [Accessed: 03 January 2012]. Available at: < www.bcn.cat/artpublic >

41. MARTI VALLS, Josep. El barri de les places i la vida associativa. *Itinerari per la Vila de Gràcia I* [online] [Accessed: 01 January 2012]. Available at: < <http://www.avclesseps.cat/itineraris/201002viladegracia.pdf> >

42. A Anna Frank. *Web Art Públic* [online]. Departament Urbanisme. Ajuntament de Barcelona- Universitat de Barcelona [Accessed: 03 January 2012]. Available at: < www.bcn.cat/artpublic >

43. Mural a Anna Frank. *Web Art Públic* [online]. Departament Urbanisme. Ajuntament de Barcelona- Universitat de Barcelona [Accessed: 03 January 2012]. Available at: < www.bcn.cat/artpublic >



SECTION AA

