

public library in an old market

2005 - 2010

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- developer: diputació barcelona,
santa coloma de gramenet city council
- commission: 1st prize open competition
- built area: 2.351 m²
- cost: 3.877.931 €
- location: sagrada familia square
santa coloma de gramenet, barcelona
- prizes: selection 1st barcelona architecture exhibition



Integral intervention in an ancient market's upper floor, converting it into a new cultural pole (library, bar and cinema). A closed volume, with a blurry geometry and doubtful architectural value is transformed into an opened space with the degree of representation that today's facilities must have. Starting from the necessary answer to site's conditions (preexisting structure, space required by services, limited height...) it is conceived a light building without façades, an interior with no walls. It is just a stretch of public space suitably protected.

In order to optimize the budget and reduce waste production, the proposal takes advantage of pre-existences. Through precise surgery on the existing mass, the new space is been qualified with light, air and visual relationships... As a result, the new diaphanous space is defined by the continuous ceiling's plane (trimmed to allow light entrance), by three metallic volumes lively coloured (where the server spaces are placed) and a perimeter skin made of stainless steel mesh that boundaries and qualifies the space, enriches the interior-exterior dialogue and regulates the flows of energy and the light.

