



# PLACA DE LES GLORIES CANOPIA URBANA

BARCELONA, ESPAÑA

Situated at the intersection of the large axes of Barcelona (Gran Via, Diagonal and Meridiana) that were introduced by Ildefons Cerdà, the Plaça de les Glòries was the subject of an international competition, won by Agence Ter. This winning project, named the Urban Canopy (Canopia Urbana) is based on a strategy with three main objectives:

Primarily, developing an urban ecosystem that hybridizes city and nature. Secondly, creating a synergic relationship between the underground, the city-ground and the horizons of the metropolis. This vertical relationship regards natural systems as well as human experience. Finally, offering a space that is able to host both the activities that are linked to an urban square as well as those found in a park.

Gloriès, because of its location on the crossing of the main axes of Cerdà, because of its dimensions (around 15ha), and because of its status of an urban space calling for a more significant metropolitan role, is the unique opportunity to develop this strategy.

1 - The first action is to optimize the continuous character of the ground. Without any interruption with the surrounding neighbourhoods, this continuous ground unfolds itself like an open plan that is practically horizontal, authorizing all transits, capable of a maximum versatility.

2 - The second action is to re-establish the natural exchanges between the skyline and the underground, by fertilizing and de-mineralizing the surface, currently mainly impermeable and sterile. This action allows for hydraulic and biological exchanges, vertical as well as horizontal, which are the fundamental conditions for a living space to emerge, biodiverse and able to act as a strong climatic regulator.

3 - The third action proposes a canopy of vegetation. Within the thickness of the "vélum construit" of Barcelona defined by Cerdà (28m), this canopy articulates the green and civic axes of East-Barcelona (Sagrera-ciutadella, Carretera de ribes-Clot, Rec comtal and Diagonal). With its generous dimensions, the 'Urban Canopy' forms strong ecological connections and aids climate regulation.

4 - The fourth action is that of intensification, expressed by a constellation of nodes that punctuate the space of the park. Some 'vertical nodes' act as intensifiers of biodiversity and highlight the direct connection with the canopy, others are links between the infrastructural underground and the urban ground (jardi d'immersió - sortidas metro) or the ground and the metropolitan skyline (node skywalker) and finally 'macro-nodes' that host activities, facilities and specific functions, potentially enclosed.

Finally, the completion of the diagonal line as the major axis is the ultimate action of the project strategy.

# PLAÇA DE LES GLORIES CANOPIA URBANA TRANSFORMATION OF THE GLORIÈS CROSSROADS INTO A PARK-SQUARE

BARCELONA, SPAIN

**Client**

City of Barcelona  
+ Barcelona d'Infraestructures Municipals SA

**Design team**

Agence Ter Landscape Urbanists (lead consultant),  
Ana Coello de Llobet architect & landscape architect,  
JG INGENIEROS,

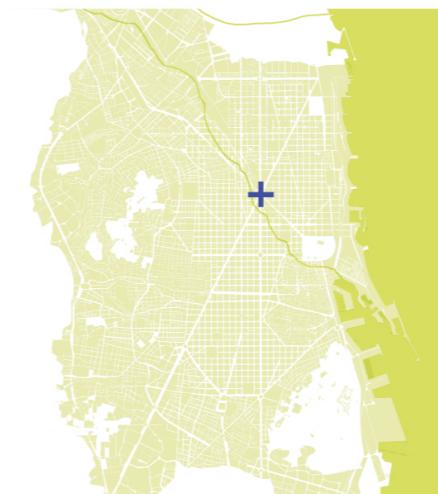
Factors de Paisatge / Manuel Colominas,  
Estudi Xavier Mayor,

Frances Xairo associats SL

**Budget** 35 M€

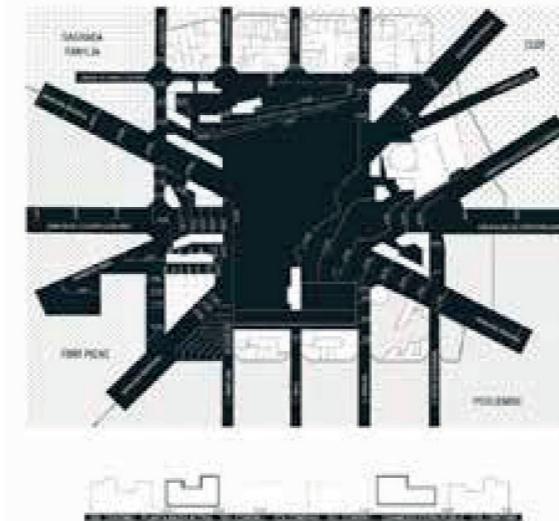
**Area** 15 ha

**Timing** 2014-2021

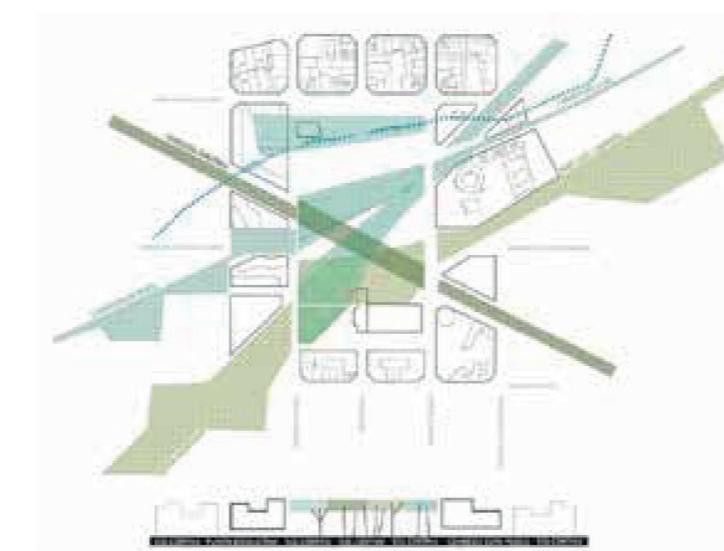




The Diagonal Avenue, the pedestrian promenade and the water mirror



A continuous surface



Trajectories and the Canopy



Nodes for the intensification of biodiversity



The big opening seen from the Northern urban balcony