

SUPERBLOCK

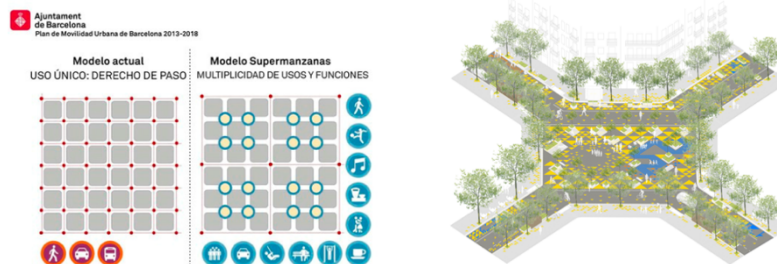
Design sustainability, from the city to the building

Context

Since the city of Barcelona decided to rethink the organization of the urban blocks in the Cerda's *ensanche* in order to transform them into **superblocks**, the subject of the superblock was brought to the fore as a formula for sustainable urban development.

The aim is to free city areas currently addressed to road traffic (roads, parking) and requalify them with green urban areas and infrastructures, leisure spaces, bicycle paths, collective facilities and amenities, among others, in order to improve public spaces and increase pedestrian areas.

The issue earned growing relevance after the **pandemic context of COVID-19**, when cities and public spaces are demanded to become healthier and more sustainable living environments.



Theme & Aim

The aim is to develop a design proposal for a superblock, reflecting upon the concept and its relevance to contemporary cities. **Design sustainability, from the city to the building** challenges students to make research and look for socially and environmentally friendly urban and architectural design solutions, focused on people rather than on cars.

The proposal includes **several working scales**, from the urban design to the design of the superblock, exploring its relationships with the architecture of the buildings and the design of the public spaces, namely through a mixed-uses program (housing, commerce and services, collective facilities, among others).



Partnership with the Municipality of Sintra

The working proposal counts with the **collaboration of the municipality of Sintra**. The intervention area is a priority for the municipality, as established in the master plan.

As such, it envisages a **final exhibition of students' works** near the city council and anticipates a close participation of representatives of the municipality during the semester. Useful contributions are

expected from students' works able to inform the municipality and be applied *in situ*, in the framework of a sustainable urban development paradigm.

Intervention Area

The intervention site is located in Algueirão-Mem Martins, in the northern part of Tapada das Mercês, **Sintra**. It is especially focused on the plot of **Quinta da Marquesa**, framed under the planning unit of Ribeira da Lage. The area also integrates the development of a big **linear green urban park** alongside the **water stream** of Ribeira da Lage.

The proposal departs from the guidelines and urban layout previously established by the municipality of Sintra.

