



DEFEND
RIGHT TO
THE CITY?

LA CASITA DEL PUEBLO CAÑADA

LOCAL
COOPERATION
GROUP
(ASFE-MADRID)

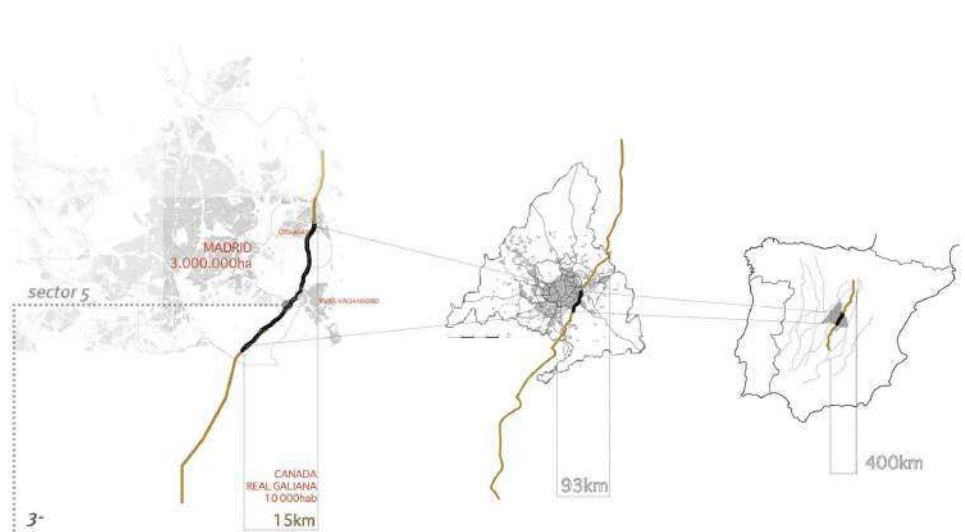


1- Inhabitants mobilized for their rights in the sector 5 of Cañada (2009)

2- Evictions in Cañada (2011)

3- Location of the Cañada Real Galiana, Madrid (Spain)

4- Google Earth view of the Sector 5 of Cañada Real Galiana



A COMMUNITY CENTER FOR AND WITH CANADA INHABITANTS

InBuildin a space of right with the participation of non recognized citizens co-creation as an advocacy tool

The team of local cooperation of **Arquitectura Sin Fronteras** in Madrid has been working in Cañada Real district sector 5, since 2011, with neighborhood association "Alshorok" and Cañada residents.

Cañada Real is one of the largest informal settlements in Europe. It began to develop in the '50s and it has been growing until to reach a population of 8.000 people in an area distributed along 14 km., divided in 6 sectors where different ethnic groups live together.

In this years the residents have shown their interest in the place where they have been living and they have fought against the demolitions, they have worked to redefine the principal access, to improve some services and they have created new meeting places to compensate the governments indifference.

From this, the residents have shown the need to have a protected meeting place, a place to speak about their legalization problems, to make creative activities, a place to give arabic lessons to children that don't know where to go to do this. "La Casita" is the response to these needs and it is the place that demonstrates the interest of Cañada's residents to continue to live there.



PARTICIPATIVE DESIGN

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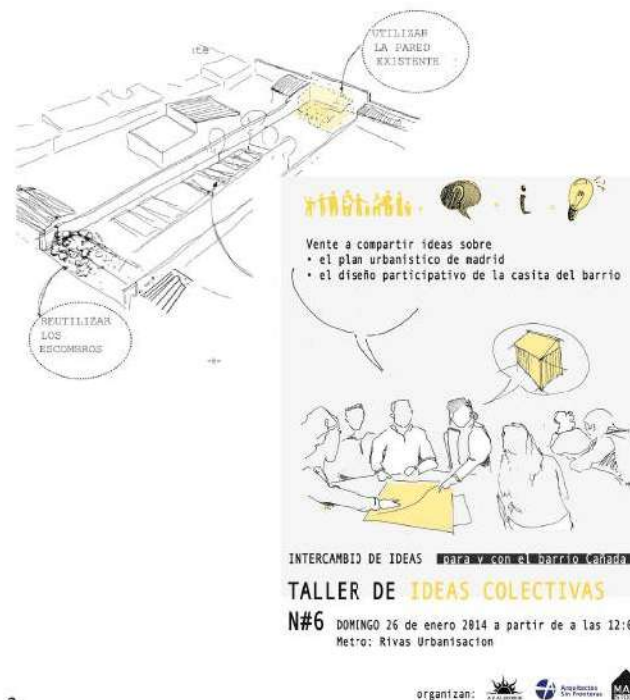
1- Workshop on the design of the "Casita" (April 2013) inhabitants model and architects model to exchange about the design!

2- Workshop poster and sketches to collect and rise "collective ideas"

3- Picture of the elected slot, where a house had been demolished

4- First meetings and workshops "we are going to show that we are able to maintain our neighborhood" (December 2012)

5- Workshop "Building without cement" (March 2013)



INVOLVEMENT OF THE INHABITANTS FROM THE IDENTIFICATION OF NEEDS TO THE FUNDRAISING

Inhabitants who revendicate their rights and ability to be part of the negotiation and part of the neighborhood upgrading project

After a study of the entire sector the plot where La Casita was to be built was chosen: an abandoned lot where a house had once been demolished. We wanted to transform a highly degraded area, full of rubbish and rubble, into a meeting point with a neighborhood orchard where Arabic classes for children could be taught and where a meeting place could be established.

Numerous meetings between technicians and neighbors were performed using general assemblies and individual meetings to recollect as many ideas as possible.

In the Cañada it is not possible to build a permanent dwelling, so it was decided the building would be dismantlable. Concrete or brick would not be used, we would use wood.

No money or any kind of subsidy was available for construction so we opted for the recycling of everything that we could use. Some of the neighbors worked recycling materials and could easily get pallets for use it in the walls. We also had a great amount of rubble, so we decided to use it to make the base of the house together with recycled wheels.

We studied various proposals and designs between technicians and neighbors. Many of the neighbors worked as builders and some of the technicians were architects. We chose a horizontal dialogue, where everyone had the same voice so that everyone could contribute in each area. The neighbors brought their expertise in construction, needs and ideas while technicians performed calculations and drew plans and details.



**EXPERIMENTATION
EXCHANGE OF
BUILDING PRACTISE**

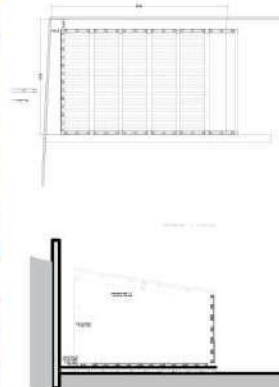
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1- Construction workshop of the entrance wall, with gabion technic, recycling demolished house ruines (January 2014)

2,3,4- "us, we do build, you (architects) have to tell us how to build" Abdul

Workshops Co-construction of the "Casita" (June-July 2014)



Plan and section of the community center "la Casita" done with low cost material on site palets, ruines, and building work wood

WITH LESS, CREATIVITY AND INVENTIVITY COME FROM EXCHANGE AND CO-CONSTRUCTION

Learning from inhabitants self builders, learning from architects to find appropriate and low cost solutions

Besides the effort to seek economic constructive solutions, we also looked for a way to get money. We conducted a crowdfunding with the design of La Casita where 44 co-financers contributed € 3,005 and made a couple of parties where we got the remaining money.

Once the money was obtained and an agreement had been reached on how to build and design La Casita we got down to work.

Neighbors and technicians perform trash cleanup and rubble recycling days where they are transformed into walls and sidewalks.

We started building the base of La Casita reusing wheels that the neighbors brought packing solid with crushed debris and compacting later. We made a small retaining wall with this base using a gabion wall of rubble.

This base was covered with sand and a plastic that impedes the transmission of moisture to the structure.

A timbered baseline protected against moisture and termites was performed. On it a series of frames were built with everyone's help for lifting.

These frames were joined together with the distance of the long side of a pallet to place these in between as the buildings enclosure system.



**APPROPRIATION
EMPOWERMENT**

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1- Inauguration
of the "Casita"
(October 2014)

3- English and
arabian classes in
the "Casita"
Picture taken by
the inhabitants
for the website
"Casa arabe"
(March 2015)
source: [http://
www.casaarabe.
es/](http://www.casaarabe.es/)
(February 2015)

4- Workshop
"what do
you dream
for Cañada"
(February 2015)

2- Workshop to
extend and finish
the "Casita"
organized by
the inhabitants
on their own
(December 2014)



EXTENSION OF THE "CASITA" BY THE INHABITANTS

The community center "La Casita" has been appropriated by the inhabitants who decided to extend it and organize their own activities

Finalized the initial project "La Casita", and realizing a need for more space where to teach Arabic to boys and girls of Cañada. The community decided to build an extension, following the same design construction principles and recycling materials without foundations.

Basic services as water, electricity were set up and toilets were built to adequate the space. A new path, built by the community with recycled rubble, goes through the plot connecting the entrance with the pavilion.

Other organizations have supported the community, such as Casa Arabe. The past January they visited this place and donated books to La Luna Association to support the children's classes.

The work continues and it is planned more participative DIY workshops of furniture, common orchard improvements...

Currently, Arabic classes are taught to more than 150 boys and girls at the weekends in La Casita. Neighbours meetings are happening and also the reflection group of ASF Madrid is meeting here.

Today in La Casita, Arabic lessons are given to more than 150 children on weekends, assemblies of neighborhood associations are made, and even the meetings of the Reflection Group ASF-Madrid.