



<http://repenstarbonpastor.wordpress.com>

a competition of ideas for a participative and zero evictions urban renewal of the popular neighborhood of Barcelona

# Repenstar Bonpastor



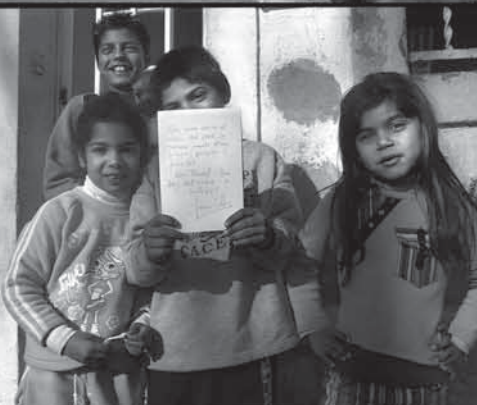
Within the framework of the **World Zero Evictions Days 2009**, the **International Alliance of Inhabitants** summons a competition of ideas for a participative and zero evictions urban renewal of the popular neighborhood of Bon Pastor in Barcelona. The contest "**Repenstar Bonpastor**" aims at the same time to analyze new proposals for the transformation of a neighborhood and generate a debate on the possible transformation of cities, where the inhabitants are not mere customers or users, but the leading actors in the future architectures.

## Repenstar Bonpastor



fotografía: paula del mas





## INTRODUCTION

### motivation

Nowadays, processes of transformation of the city are based on projects of urban renewal, which do not only modify the physical and functional conditions of a determinate area, but also alter the way of life and use of these spaces. Today, the socio-cultural factor, closely linked to these interventions is relegated to unreliable citizen participation experiences and superficial studies, leading to an urban planning lacking of the social and human basis which may give a real response to the needs of the citizens.

In the last years, **Bon Pastor's** neighborhood has ran across a transformation process due to the "Urban Renewal Plan" adopted in 2003. This plan implies the complete demolition of 784 social houses (known as *casas baratas*) built by the City Council in 1929, and the relocation of all the tenants in new apartments. This urban renewal project has generated contrasted opinions, dividing the neighborhood between those who support the plan, those who strongly reject it, and those who accept it due to the lack of alternatives.

In this context, the **International Alliance of Inhabitants (IAI)**<sup>1</sup> calls for a competition of ideas for this neighborhood. The purpose of which is to provide new alternatives for Bon Pastor's transformation, and thus open a discussion about the dominant and alternative forms of "making the city" and the urbanism that prevails nowadays.

1 - International network in defense of the Inhabitants rights, henceforth we will refer to it as IAI. Link: [www.habitants.org](http://www.habitants.org)

### context

Bon Pastor's neighborhood is found on the district of Sant Andreu of Barcelona, at the northern border of the city just on the shore of Besòs River. The "*Casas Baratas*" Group consists of 784 social dwellings that were built in 1929 by the Institut Municipal de la Vivienda (Municipal Institute of Housing), now Patronat Municipal de l'Habitatge (Municipal Patronage of Housing). This type of housing mainly one-story buildings was addressed to the working or middle-low class population. They were located at the boundaries of the city, in low urbanized areas and inexpensive lands.

At the present, the social fabric of the neighborhood is formed by the descendants of the immigrant workers of 1929, and a great number of gypsy families that were relocated from the shanty towns of Barcelona between the 70s and 80s of the last century.

The popular culture and the collective way of life that this type of housing has favoured is now threatened by the execution of the "Urban Renewal Plan", which intends to tear down all of the houses without considering the possibility of conservation and rehabilitation of this heritage.

## TYPE OF COMPETITION

### ideas competition

This is an international, anonymous, open and public ideas competition. It will be developed in only one phase with a final jury intervention.

### awards

- The award of the competition consist in:
- > a **special edition of the competition including all proposals presented** which will be delivered to each contestant or team.
  - > the **publication of the winner proposals in specialized magazines** of architecture, urbanism and social sciences,

The presentation of the results will be made through an exhibition in the neighborhood and in the web page of AIH ([www.habitants.org](http://www.habitants.org)) and the blog ([repensarbonpastor.wordpress.com](http://repensarbonpastor.wordpress.com))

### contestants

The competition is **open to all disciplines**. The participation might be individual or in teams, which may be interdisciplinary. Every contestant is allowed to present one or several proposals.<sup>2</sup>

2 - The appliance of any member of the jury will not be allowed, as well as of any person related with one or more members of the jury in any of the following manners: first degree family ties, partnership, permanent professional relations.

### jury

The jury will be composed of specialists in architecture, town planning and social sciences and by representatives of the community, public administration and IAI.

- Yves Cabannes (urbanist)
- Santiago Cirugeda (architect)
- Manuel Delgado (anthropologist)
- Raquel Fosalba (activist)
- Michael Herzfeld (anthropologist)
- Francisco Marín (anthropologist)
- José Luís Oyón (architect)
- M<sup>a</sup> Teresa Tapada (anthropologist)
- Günther Uhlig (architect y urbanist)

## CRITERIA AND APPROACH

### judging criteria

- > **Respect for the social, historical and architectural patrimony of the "Casas Baratas"**  
Whether it is rehabilitation or renovation, the proposed intervention for the "*Casas Baratas*" shall respect the architectural, historical and ethnological value of this social housing typology. The recognition of the particular ways of life – uses of public space, community relationships, signs of collective identities, etc – direct consequence of this urban morphology, will be evaluated positively.
- > **Active local participation**  
The responses shall consider participatory methodologies in order to promote an active community involvement during all the process of the neighborhood's transformation.
- > **interdisciplinarity approach**  
Competition responses shall involve an interdisciplinary and integrated approach: they should tackle both the physical transformation of the space and the analysis of the social and cultural context of the neighborhood. Teams formed by students or professionals coming from different disciplines such as architecture, urbanism, social and human sciences or fine arts, will be valued positively.
- > **Feasibility and sustainability**  
It will be positively evaluated all the information given for the physical implementation of the project, plus the use of sustainable technologies and materials, as well as the integration within the neighborhood and its environment.

### issues and approach

Graphical documentation and texts included in the proposals should reflect at least, 3 complementary approaches to the neighborhood:

- > **Socio-cultural**  
Proposals must include a diagnosis and analysis of the socio-cultural context of the neighborhood, and a participative process scheme which involves the neighbors in the future decision making.
- > **Urban**  
A graphic proposal, i.e. an urban plan of the neighborhood, scale 1:2000 which illustrates the urban space configuration defined by the proposal and its relationship with the environment.
- > **Zoom**  
The proposal must choose one particular area of the neighborhood to be developed in detail.

Some **possible topics to develop** in the proposal are:

- > Rehabilitation of the *casas baratas* solving current edification pathologies and providing solutions to the new housing needs of its inhabitants.
- > Intervention in the public space of the neighborhood
- > Design of new housing buildings in the empty lots resulting from the execution of the 1st phase of the Urban Renewal Plan1 or in abandoned structures /buildings identified in the neighborhood.
- > Transformation of existing buildings in the neighborhood into public equipments.
- > Intervention in recently built apartments or in new public spaces, in order to meet the housing needs identified in the analysis and diagnosis of the neighborhood.

## DOCUMENTATION TO SUBMIT

### documents

- 1 Maximum three posters A-1**  
1 to 3 posters, in size DIN A-1 (594 mm x 840 mm) with vertical orientation, including texts and graphic documentation.
- 2 A CD-ROM**  
A CD-Rom with the posters in digital version.
- 3 One closed envelope**  
With the identification of the contestant or the team.

The contestants may use all kinds of material (texts, drawings, images, tables, graphs, timelines, plans, photographs, collages, 3-D images, etc) to describe and/or illustrate its proposal on the three levels of approximation to the neighborhood.

### language

The official languages to submit the proposals will be one of the following: Catalan, Spanish or English.

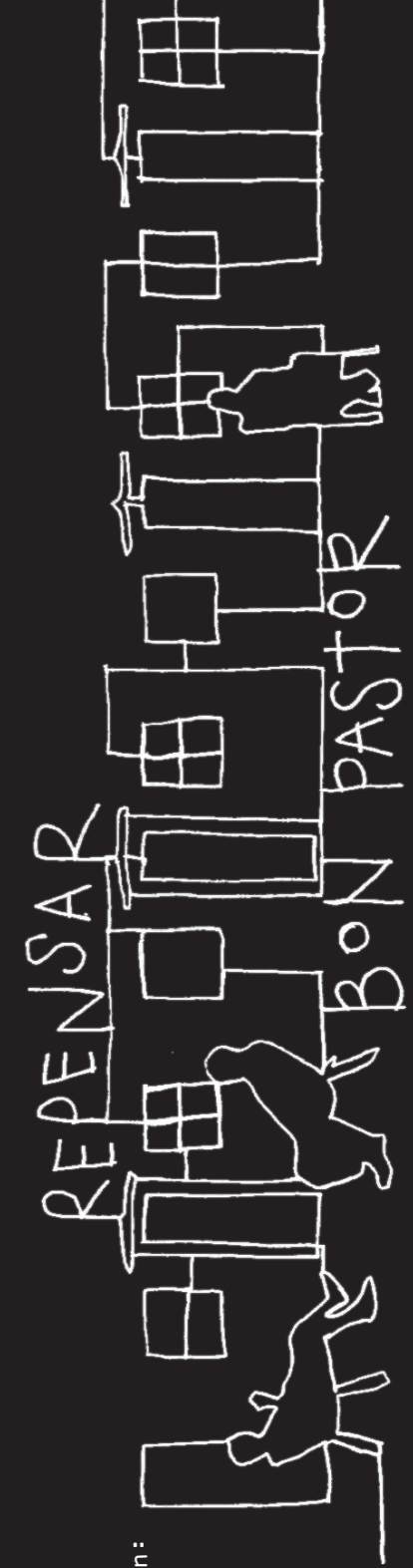
### delivery and reception

The proposals must be delivered or sent directly by regular mail until **14:00 hours on Tuesday, February 23, 2010** to the P.O Box that will be published in December 2009.

### calendar and deadlines

- 29th of October 2009  
Presentation Act of competition (Centre Cívic de Bon Pastor)
- 3rd of November 2009  
Competition opens for registration until submission deadline
- Until 15th of December 2009  
Reception of contestant's queries
- 28th -29th November 2009  
4rd -8th December 2009  
Guided visits to the neighborhood
- 23rd February 2010.  
Submission deadline
- 10th -11th March 2010.  
Jury encounter and deliberation of the results
- 15th March 2010  
Announcement and presentation of the results

+ info  
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