

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries nature was reappraised. It was a time when conservationist ideas took shape and nature became an element representing balance, rationality and morality compared with the cluttered, dense and depraved city. These were the years when, for example, nature became important in education, the first hiking centers were founded, garden city projects were devised and urban parks emerged in big cities. There is no doubt that all these movements would have an impact on new urban development projects and a significant influence on the new designs for workers' settlements which were being set up on a mass scale along Catalonia's rivers, especially the Ter and the Llobregat. In "Gardens of Industrialization" we have examined 15 gardens, observing nearly a thousand examples and more than a hundred different species. This volume and density prove the existence of a rich vegetation heritage while also showing how the advent of factories on the banks of the Ter involved not only a physical occupation of the land but also its symbolic occupation.

A la fi del segle XIX i començament del XX es produeix una revaloració de la natura. És el moment en què adquireixen forma les idees conservacionistes i la natura es converteix en un element que representa equilibri, racionalitat i moralitat enfront de la ciutat, desordenada, densa i depravada. Són els anys en què, per exemple, la natura esdevé important en l'educació, es constitueixen els primers centres excursionistes, s'imaginen les ciutats jardí i apareixen projectes de parcs urbans per a les grans metròpolis. No hi ha dubte que tots aquests moviments es deixaren notar en els nous projectes urbanitzadors i tingueren una notable influència en els nous projectes de colònies industrials, que s'estaven instal·lant de manera «massiva» a la vora dels rius catalans, especialment el Ter i el Llobregat. Amb el treball «Els jardins de la industrialització» s'han analitzat una quinzena de jardins, en els quals s'han observat prop d'un miler d'exemplars i més d'un centenar d'espècies vegetals diferents. Un volum i una densitat que proven l'existència d'un ric patrimoni vegetal, al mateix temps que constaten com l'arribada d'industrials a la vora del Ter no només va implicar una ocupació física del territori, sinó també la seva ocupació simbòlica.



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The Gardens of Industrialization: an Example of Symbolic Colonization of the Territory

“... far away, bordering the rivers, industrial facilities stick out like poisonous darts thrown on the landscape by the city ...”

Rubió i Tudurí, 1926

Some Colors of Industrial Heritage: from Gray to Green

For some years the elements that make up Catalonia's industrial heritage have been studied, recovered and reassessed. Much of the Museu del Ter's work revolves around this theme, and we have made many efforts to highlight this heritage. The museum takes a broad perspective in confronting this challenge, trying to bring together as many of the elements

making up this heritage as possible, and the subject of gardens is a good example.

For several years we have been studying the turbines, explaining the drive shafts and describing the working conditions at the Ter factories. We have assessed the importance of the rivers and canals, and ultimately many aspects pertaining

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Paraules clau: patrimoni industrial, patrimoni natural, jardins, transformació social



■ The owners' tower, and the garden that circled it, at the Can Riva factory (Les Masies de Voltregà). The Oliveras de la Riva family, in charge of the factory for many years, spent long periods of time there. The current state of the gardens is not the same.

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to the industrialization begun in the 18th century have been worked on and continue to be worked on. This industrial world, full of smoke, obligations, hierarchies and so on, has often been described as *gray*, but at the Museu del Ter we are convinced that it is fitting to introduce some color into this *grayness*, and some of the research conducted¹ points in this direction.

There is no doubt that the arrival of factories to the Ter's banks brought a series of changes that transformed life in the Ter basin at its root. It went from a predominantly rural society to an urban one in which industry played a significant role. This is because industrialization is more than just technical changes and increased production. Among many other changes it led to a concentration of work, a new labor discipline and the transformation of society as a whole: from ways of life to cultural expressions and from mentalities to new forms of social organization.

Amid this climate, worth noting is the emergence of centers for recreation and culture, cafés, theaters and all kinds of associations, among which the Cors de Clavé is a highlight. Far from appearing as a contradiction or an opposite reality, this associative movement must be understood as another reality of this world. It would be erroneous to imagine only a gray and dark Manlleu from strikes, lock-outs and the tensions experienced over these decades. At the same time, with the same key figures and the same city, a large-scale associative movement emerged and made Manlleu a very dynamic society.

A good example is the fact that in 1909 Manlleu already had the highest number of institutions in the diocese (more than cities like Manresa and Vic); it had the greatest number of social and political institutions and was less influenced by the church. A global perspective enables us to see how industrialization led to the

emergence of a new society. This industrial consolidation was accompanied by the arrival of newcomers. The number of factories grew while the physical appearance of the city was transformed; the massive presence of workers meant the appearance of many groups and organizations; the textile industry and controversies between workers and manufacturers came to the Ter basin at the same time as the train, the hospital and public lighting. In short, it was a more open and dynamic society—a society with more colors.

“The Gardens of Industrialization: an Example of Symbolic Colonization of the Territory”² aims to dye this gray we have called into question green. The research is based on exhaustive fieldwork, a thorough inventory that enables us to lay the foundations for speaking about this symbolic occupation of the territory. Before going into the research, however, it is appropriate to give some background.



■ A current photograph and one from the mid-20th century of a deer found in the gardens of the La Farga de Bebiè industrial colony (Montesquiu). The sculpture is surrounded by a boxwood hedge. MUSEU DEL TER, 2011. FAMILIA BABLER COLLECTION

The Gardens of Industrialization: Background

The late 19th –and early 20th centuries –were a time of reassessing nature. Conservationist ideas took shape over this period. There was a reaction against man’s power to destroy and despoil. It was necessary to protect the most important landscapes. It is in this context that we must place the beginning of Spanish national park policy, with the creation of the Ordesa National Park in 1916. The creation of the body of foresters in the 19th –century is fairly representative. This body did not limit its obligations to economic exploitation of the forest; rather, over the years it took up defense and conservation of the forest of its own accord. Propaganda work ultimately led to the environment of the late 19th and early 20th century with the creation of the Spanish Arbor Day, educational in nature and aimed at people without the scientific training of foresters (Casals Costa, 1988).

This was also the period in which cities did away with their walls and added other land needing to be organized and integrated into the old street plan to the spaces they had occupied for centuries. Trees and gardens played

an important role in many of these city expansion projects. The ultimate goal of these projects is found in a very specific quote from Cerdà: according to him, it was necessary to “urbanize the countryside and ruralize the city.” The *garden city* projects that appeared across Europe at the hand of developers like British urban planner Ebenezer Howard, the founder of garden cities Letchworth and Welwyn (Choay, 1983), can be understood in this context.

The case of Madrid with developer Arturo Soria demonstrates the positive valuation nature would acquire as an ideal component of the urban landscape among some sectors of Madrid society. Barcelona created its parks and gardens service in 1917 with Rubió i Tudurí as director (Casals Costa, 1992).

Nature became an element representing balance, rationality and morality versus the messy, dense and depraved city. Nature was elevated for ecological reasons, like the defense of the forest undertaken by foresters for climatic reasons and the maintenance of natural equilibrium; reasons of patriotic exaltation, since the mountain repre-

sents the national spirit that has stood the test of time and is the place where the essence of the country remains uncorrupted, making efforts to conserve nature and recover land lost to deforestation a patriotic issue; and hygienist reasons, given that nature is identified with a space opposite the city, removed from its vices and problems. We stressed above that during the period of growth and expansion of Europe’s main cities the need to include nature in a number of ways was taken into account: the most radical was the garden city projects.

These positive characteristics of nature make it a very useful tool in the hands of regenerationist schools of thought. Nature became an important element of education. It was a way to remove children from the vices of the city and educate them in love for the homeland, order and morality. Hiking centers undertook the task of bringing nature closer to urban populations and promoting familiarity with the country’s nature. For hiking promoters, spreading this activity among young people was suited to removing them from outside influences, i.e. educating them in the school of patriotic mountaineering. Arbor Day, which was introduced

by forester Rafael Puig i Valls in 1898, is essentially a pedagogical tool that seeks to teach children to love trees and nature.

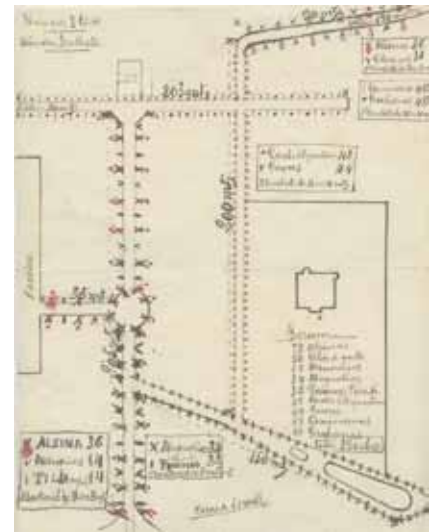
Another example is the urban parks created in North America in the second half of the 19th century. They sought to introduce nature in the great urban masses so it would play a moralizing and redemptive role. As such, the design and size of these parks had to resemble authentic natural environments as much as possible. The element that turned parks into generators of public well-being was the presence of the natural environment. The first large urban park in North America was New York's Central Park, on which construction work began in 1856. After Central Park was created, many North American cities decided to create their own large parks as well. The park movement was the name given to the movement promoting the creation of parks in North American cities. Frederick Law Olmsted, the designer of Central Park and the first landscape architect, was the main exponent of this movement (García Hermosilla, 1994).

All of these movements influenced the new urbanization projects and also had a significant impact on the

new projects for industrial colonies on the Ter and land development by the industrialists.

A Tour of the Gardens of Industrialization: the Research

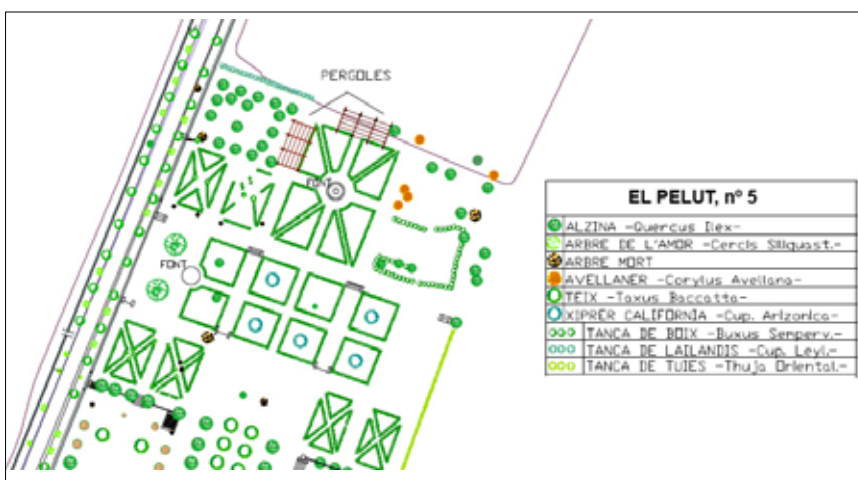
The interest in working on the industrial gardens of the Ter is based on two observations made by the Museu del Ter. On one hand is the surprising number of gardens and urban landscape planning of different types linked to this historical process affecting the Ter basin beginning in the first third of the 19th century. This is the case with the gardens and other *urban landscape planning* of the territory tied to the process of industrialization taking place around the use of water power from the river with the building of factories and colonies that transformed the economic, social and cultural structure of the territory and with it also the landscape. These gardens and *allées* and the urban landscaping of the colonies have great historical significance that has been neither studied nor recognized. On the other hand, the widespread unfamiliarity with the reality of this heritage in our territorial context has resulted in the danger of many of these gardens disappearing for good. Or, to put it in a positive light, there is an opportunity to make this heritage



■ Sketch of El Pelut (Orís) with a list of species planted. Although the design of the gardens is not shown, the main layout can be traced. MUSEU DEL TER

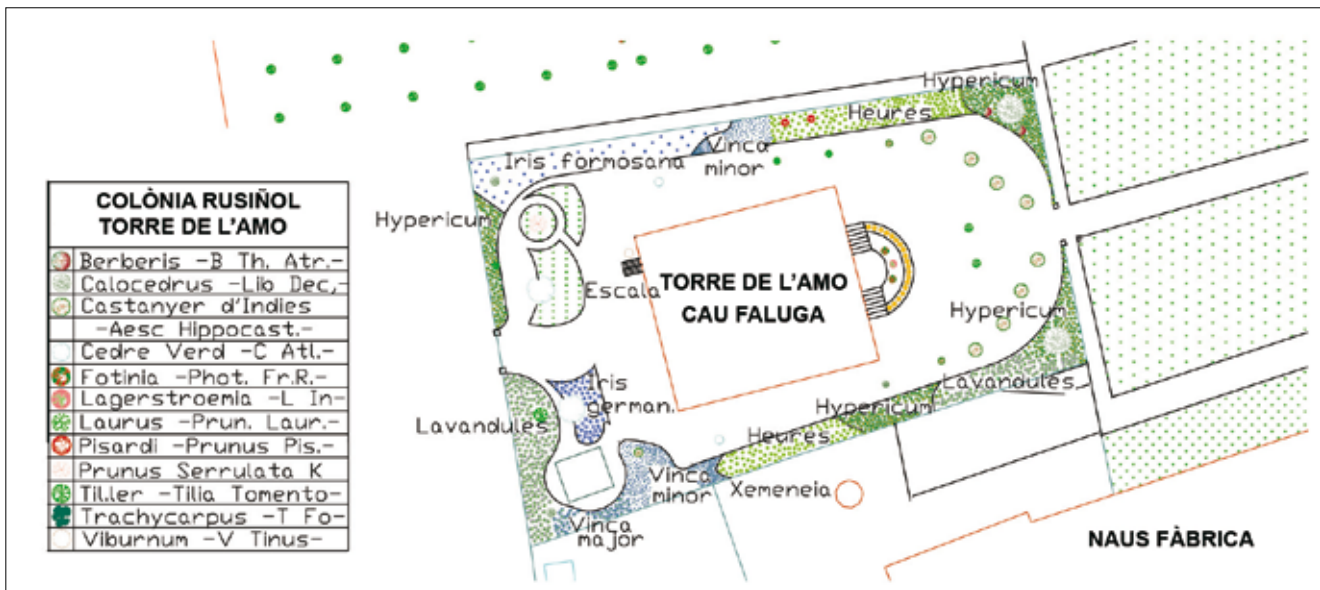
known and consider recovering some of these landscape interventions. We must not forget that gardens are one of the least recognized types of cultural heritage. The fact that they are living organisms and require continuous maintenance and that the passage of time inevitably affects or transforms them or leads them to disappear more easily than built heritage should not downplay their cultural value and the importance of their being known. The fragility of the garden reality is an invisibilization factor for the historical, artistic and urban importance of gardens and the urban landscape interventions of the territory (Capel, 2003).

The research has therefore been designed with one main goal: rebuilding and describing the urban landscaping interventions associated with the factories and colonies of the Ter River in the Osona region with the ultimate aim of drawing attention to them as an indispensable part of an important cultural landscape. Of late, the industrial heritage of factories, colonies, water infrastructure, manufacturing centers and so on is being revalued by the administration and owners,



■ Current map of one of the gardens at the Ymbern colony (also known as El Pelut) in Orís. This is one of the most noteworthy "industrial" gardens of the Middle Ter basin.

DRAWN IN-HOUSE. MUSEU DEL TER



Current map of the Torre de L'Amo garden at the Rusiñol colony in Manlleu. Santiago Rusiñol and his brother Albert, heirs of a dynasty of Manlleu textile industrialists, built this tower and garden when they inherited the property circa 1880. DRAWN IN-HOUSE, MUSEU DEL TER

and there is starting to be social recognition of their historical, cultural, urban planning and landscape value. But the industrial landscape of the Ter is marked as much by its groves and gardens as by its canals, factories and colonies. In fact, they all form part of the same whole and the same history, which would be incomplete without paying the necessary attention to these elements.

Methodologically, we have focused on compiling the different sources that we felt could contribute relevant information to the subject matter to be studied. With regards to the literature, in part we focused on publications of a generic nature that dealt with this industrial subject matter or the topic of nature. This compiling allowed us to obtain a good conceptual framework, though not a very in-depth one regarding gardens. To get more individualized information we worked with different monographs relating to the colonies and factories of the Middle Ter. These texts contributed to deeper knowledge of each of the properties, but as we imagined, the subject of the gardens was nearly non-existent.

Another source of information was what we gleaned from different archives and libraries. We consulted the municipal archives of Manlleu, Roda de Ter, Les Masies de Roda, Sant Hipòlit de Voltregà, Les Masies de Voltregà and Torelló. We also consulted general archives like the Historical Archives of Osona, the Historical Archives of the City of Barcelona and the National Archive of Catalonia. The information obtained was limited, but in some cases we found very valuable documents like a map from the early 20th century—with the landscaping of the gardens of the Ymbern (El Pelut) colony in Orís. Simultaneously, we worked on scouring the newspaper library for articles discussing the gardens in local newspapers and magazines.

But certainly one of the most important tasks undertaken was an elaborate and exhaustive *plant inventory*. The different colonies and factories located on the banks of the Ter in the Osona region were visited one by one. This was a total of 15 properties between the towns of Montesquiu, Sant Quirze de Besora, Orís, Sant Vicenç de Torelló, Torelló, Les Masies de Voltregà, Manlleu,

Gurb, Roda de Ter and Les Masies de Roda.

We followed a single methodology and applied it to each of the properties, structuring all of them in the same way: the site's geographical location, a brief historical contextualization of the property accompanied by photographs and historical maps (from the compilation of documents explained above), and an analysis of each of the gardens that are part of the different establishments. This analysis consists of a formal description of the garden, an inventory of the different plant species identified and the most outstanding inert elements that shape the gardens, and the current layout of each garden.

The analysis was accompanied by one of the most important parts of the research: the memory of those who experienced this reality. Oral history has been very present in the analysis of each of the gardens, and in this respect we should highlight the considerable number of interviews that were conducted. We sought to present an attractive and heterogeneous range of key figures, so we used a wide variety

of interviewees: gardeners, residents, factory managers, colony owners, workers and so on. These individuals completed the more formal analysis and made it possible to “humanize” these spaces.

Conclusions: an Inventory, a Dictionary and Some Reflections

The different inventories made allowed us to obtain a list of species that made up the gardens of industrialization, among other things. We ascertained what the volume of specimens was and discovered the variety of species that

1) Public gardens: here the paradigmatic example is the gardens of the Ymbern (El Pelut) colony. This colony was founded by the cotton industrialist and politician Eduard Calvet, a Barcelona resident whose family was from the Maresme. The Calvets did not build their residence in the colony, but despite this and probably motivated by his social orientation, Eduard Calvet designed large gardens open to all colony residents. From the perspective of landscape quality, they are likely the most important gardens of the sphere we are studying. The research

ists on the Ter (created in 1895 by the Coats company, which would become the well-known Fabra i Coats company). Because of the importance of the colony's gardens, at some times the company had five gardeners on staff.

4) Other interventions: there are other very significant urban landscape planning interventions, but we can highlight, for example, the so-called *allées*, lines of trees running along either side of a path or road. Among many others, here we can highlight the interesting cypress allée at the Coromina colony and the cedar



■ Current photograph of the El Pelut gardens (Oris). In addition to its botanical interest, some inert elements like the fountain and gazebo are noteworthy. MUSEU DEL TER, 2011



■ The gardens of Cau Faluga have recently been restored paying as much respect as possible to the original project. MUSEU DEL TER, 2010

shaped this rich botanical heritage. In total there were over a thousand specimens and over a hundred different species. This fact led us to create a *botanical dictionary* with the most common species of the Ter. The range of species includes the horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), the giant sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*), linden trees, white mulberry trees, loquats, evergreen oaks and other oaks, among many others.

In addition to plant species, we also observed different types of landscape interventions and urban landscape planning of high historic and cultural interest, among which we can highlight the following:

will also need to include a work on the municipal gardens of the towns and cities of the banks of the Ter such as Manlleu and Torelló.

2) The private gardens of the manufacturers' homes: there are a number of these, most of them transformed or all but lost as the homes were abandoned. However, one high-quality example has been preserved from the Coromina colony, the former property of the family of Noucentist architect Josep M. Pericas. The magnificent terraced classicist garden of this architect's home has been preserved.

3) The urban landscaping of the colonies: noteworthy here is Borgonyà, a colony from Scottish industrial-

allée bordering the canal towpath of the Borgonyà factory.

In short, this serves as more evidence that the setting up of factories on the Ter's banks to harness the power of the river did not merely involve physical development of the territory with productive aims (factories, dams, canals, etc) but also symbolic development (which we could call *civilization* under the terms provided by Noucentisme) which is largely reflected in the examples of urban landscape planning that can be found all along the river and that are connected with cultural trends that revalued nature and turned it into an urban planning tool from the 19th century on in Europe and America. ■

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NOTES

- To give some examples, the museum has worked on workers' choirs in the Middle Ter and women's work at the spinning mills on the Ter. The results of these and other investigations are part of the permanent exhibition *Industrial Society* located in the Museu del Ter.
- Research conducted by the Museu del Ter from 2009 to 2012 within the framework of the research programs of the Ethnological Heritage Inventory of Catalonia.

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