



## Towards Superblock Barcelona

- » By implementing the superblock programme, the City Council is taking a leap in scale to make the city a closer, healthier, safer, more sustainable and more human place
- » This new stage will make it possible to extend the transformation of Sant Antoni to the entire Eixample district, a priority area of action with the potential for a huge impact on the rest of the city due to its population density, volume of traffic, high pollution level and the need for more pleasant green spaces
- » In the coming years, the Superblock model will be extended gradually with citizen participation, creating a network of 21 green hubs and 21 neighbourhood squares, and gaining 33.4 Ha of space for pedestrians and a further 6.6 Ha of green space
- » The aim is to make one out of every three Eixample streets a green hub, so that local residents will have a hub or a square similar in size to one of Gràcia's squares within a maximum of 200 metres
- » The first step is to launch two public competitions to turn four streets – Consell de Cent, Girona, Rocafort and Comte Borrell – into green hubs and four crossroads into squares during this term of office
- » The winning green hub proposals will be tasked with defining the street model for the 21st century, which will gradually be introduced in the rest of the city and will give priority to pedestrians, leisure, relaxation, greenery and biodiversity
- » The aim is for the project plans to be drawn up from next May and for work to start in the first quarter of 2022, with an investment of €37.8M during this term of office

## » A public space model for people

Barcelona City Council is moving towards a healthier, more sustainable public space model designed with people in mind. A model that encourages social relations, fosters local trade and focuses on the needs of the city's children and senior citizens.

It was with this aim in mind that during its last term of office, the City Council began rolling out the Superblock programme, which prioritises street-calming and gives more weight to pedestrians and sustainable mobility, creates more green space and encourages trade and citizen interaction. The Poblenou, Sant Antoni and Horta blocks are now established experiences that are well received both locally and internationally. They have improved indicators such as pollution – 33% less NO<sub>2</sub> at the Borrell/Tamarit crossroads in Sant Antoni – and retail activity – 20 new street-level establishments in Poblenou – up 30.7%.

Now the municipal government is taking a leap in scale to consolidate this way of building the city and bringing it closer, rebalancing pedestrian and traffic use, and increasing Barcelona's green hubs. This means spreading the transformational capacity of Superblocks, implementing a network of green hubs and new squares that link facilities and green spaces, enhancing people's safety, where clean air and pedestrians take first place and traffic is reduced.

Thus, the idea is to go from local actions limited to one area to cross-cutting, city-wide interventions that permeate actions already under way, such as those on Avinguda Meridiana, Avinguda de la Diagonal or the 22@ district, interventions particularly in the Cerdà grid that serve a structural purpose. That will also mean taking a further step towards finding an answer to the challenges set in the Climate Emergency Declaration or the new Urban Mobility Plan.

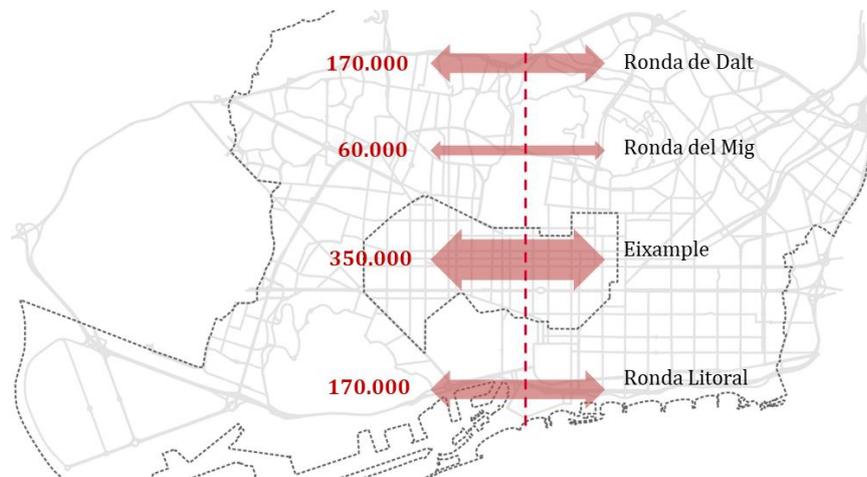


## » The Cerdà grid, priority area

This leap in scale to a Superblock Barcelona will start in the Cerdà grid, the priority action area for tackling the city's transformation. The Cerdà Plan included the whole Eixample and some parts of the Gràcia, Sant Martí and Horta-Guinardó districts and was designed to modernise Barcelona at the end of the 19th century while achieving better public health conditions. In the current situation, this extensive part of the city offers an excellent opportunity for reviving that spirit of urban transformation with a 21st century version of the Cerdà Plan.

The idea is to create a grid of green hubs and new squares there, enabling the streets to become greener and giving priority to pedestrians. A map of preferential routes for moving around on foot, where walking is safe, quick, comfortable and convenient.

Within this framework, tackling the whole of the Eixample grid will serve as the starting point. This is an area with a very high population density, high levels of traffic and pollution, and a lack of green spaces. The Eixample district is currently the centre of metropolitan Barcelona, so improving it will benefit the whole city.



*Daily vehicle traffic flows on the city's main roads and in the Eixample section.*

The municipal government's target is for every Eixample resident to have a square or green hub no more than 200 metres from their home. It is in this patchwork, based on the intersections of the new green hubs which will be built, that new neighbourhood squares will also appear, taking advantage of the typical chamfered block corners to gain some 2,000m<sup>2</sup> for each one – the equivalent of a Gràcia square. Tarmacked spaces devoted almost exclusively to traffic these days will become relaxation-friendly areas where greenery, play, permeable paving and other uses will play a key role.

The Eixample has 61 streets: 34 vertical, 21 horizontal and 6 diagonal. The roadmap for the coming years envisages turning 21 streets into green hubs and generating 21 new squares at the crossroads. This will achieve:

- ✚ 21 new green hubs, meaning 33 km of traffic-calmed streets (three times Avinguda Diagonal).
- ✚ 21 new squares, amounting to 3.9 Ha.
- ✚ 1 out of every 3 Eixample streets will be a green hub.
- ✚ A total increase in pedestrian space of 33.4 Ha (equivalent to Parc de la Ciutadella).
- ✚ 6.6 Ha of urban green (6 Eixample blocks).
- ✚ Everyone living in this area will have a green hub and a square no more than 200 metres from their home.

And all this while maintaining public transport access throughout the area.

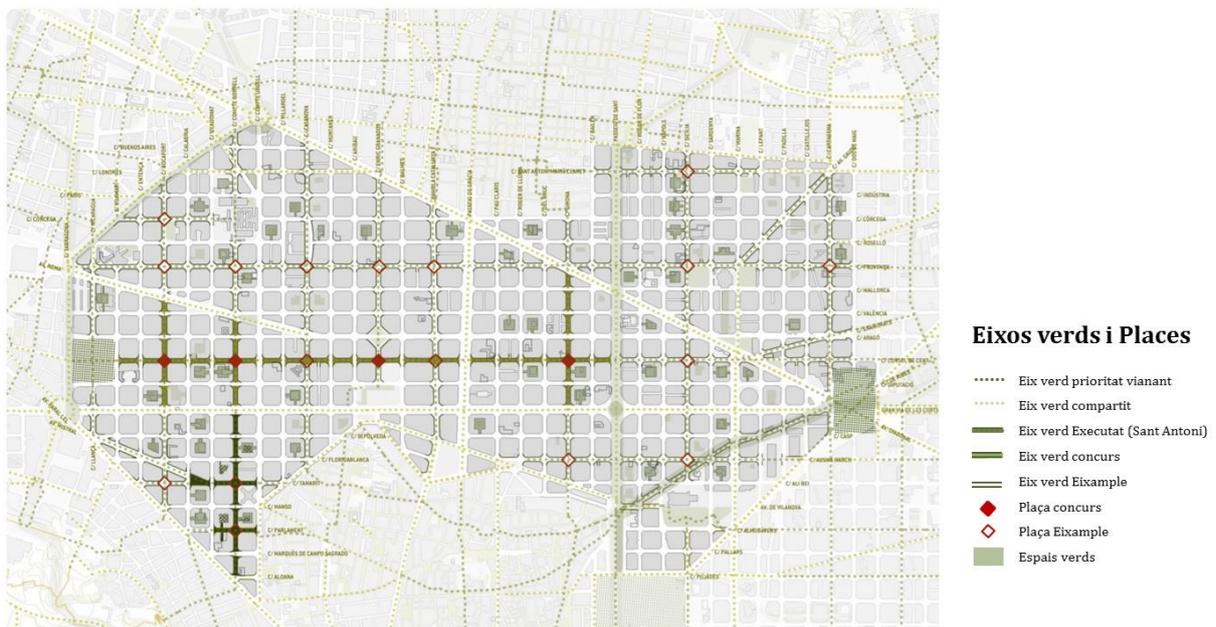


## » First steps this term of office

The immediate launch of two public ideas competitions will signal the start of this transformation. These will enable the bases for this new model to be laid and the urban changes which will be applied to all the work that will gradually be done within the framework of this project to be defined.

One competition will be for the conversion of the first four streets (Consell de Cent, Girona, Rocafort and Comte Borrell) into green hubs, and to define the street model for the 21st century. The actions that flow from this will make it possible to consolidate and make permanent the emergency measures adopted as a result of the pandemic on Consell de Cent, Girona and Rocafort.

The other competition will foresee the design of the first four squares, which will be at the crossroads of Consell de Cent-Rocafort, Consell de Cent-Comte Borrell, Consell de Cent-Enric Granados and Consell de Cent-Girona.



## » Competition for four new green hubs and a new street model

The first competition will have a twin objective. On the one hand, the teams responsible for drafting the urban development plans for the first four green hubs will be chosen. In total they will add up to 4.65 km and cover 11.12 Ha:

- C/Consell de Cent, between C/Vilamarí and Passeig de Sant Joan (in the Nova Esquerra, Antiga Esquerra and Dreta de l'Eixample neighbourhoods).  
Length: 2.8km. Surface area: 64,540 m<sup>2</sup>.
- C/Girona, between Gran Via and Avinguda de la Diagonal (in the Dreta de l'Eixample neighbourhood)  
Length: 0.75km. Surface area: 16,244 m<sup>2</sup>.
- C/Rocafort, between Gran Via and Avinguda de Roma (in the Nova Esquerra de l'Eixample neighbourhood)  
Length: 0.6km. Surface area: 12,797 m<sup>2</sup>.
- C/Comte Borrell, between Gran Via and Avinguda de Roma (in the Nova Esquerra de l'Eixample neighbourhood)  
Length: 0.5km. Surface area: 10,010 m<sup>2</sup>.

On the other hand, the drafting team will be chosen for the green hub public space model document, which will include the template for the 21st century street. In other words, the common characteristics of all the structural interventions in streets regarded as green hubs, in the first four hubs and those that will be planned over time.

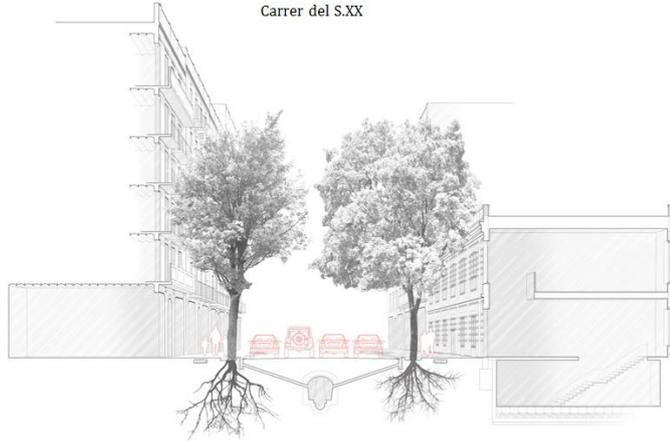


- 1 Consell de Cent
- 2 Girona
- 3 Rocafort
- 4 Borrell

**TOTAL: 4,65 km , superfície 11,12 Ha**

**EI CARRER**

Carrer del S.XX



**EI CARRER**

Carrer del S.XXI



<b>NOVA INFRAESTRUCTURA AMBIENTAL</b>	<b>PROXIMITAT Àrees d'estada Àrees de joc</b>	<b>Nova materialitat</b>	<b>Permanències</b>	<b>Accessibilitat</b>
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The new street model and, therefore, the first four green hubs that will drive it, will have to meet a series of criteria and parameters that will put people, greenery and civic uses at the centre of the design:

- The right to public space and proximity. It will have to generate spaces for walking in, spaces for children to play in and comfortable spaces for people to relax in. It will also have to envisage flexible spaces capable of accommodating various occasional uses such as fairs, concerts and other events. All with a feminist perspective, prioritising children and older people, and fostering local services and commerce.
- Greenery, energy and water: a new environmental infrastructure. Greenery will be maximised, in proportional terms as well as quality. At least 20% of the surface area will have to be permeable (unpaved) and half of this will have to be planted with herbaceous plants. The model will ensure that at least 80% of the surface area will be in the shade in summer thanks to plant cover, and the possibility of putting shade structures in place that can also generate energy will be considered. New drinking fountains at strategic points will also be considered and street lighting will be adapted to the new uses.
- New materials, accessibility and permanence. Innovative solutions will be encouraged both in terms of the use of new materials and construction solutions and urban furniture. Inclusive urban furniture will be used along with low environmental impact solutions and materials. The emphasis will be on pedestrian access, civic uses and greenery, while always ensuring accessibility for services essential to the proper functioning of the city. And the new hubs must respect the heritage and particular style that gives shape to the urban landscape in the Cerdà grid, but with a modern interpretation serving today's needs. The solutions proposed must therefore integrate the area's archaeological and heritage features along with the existing buildings.

The winning team will be tasked with drafting the green hub public space model document, as well as the plans for the Consell de Cent hub. The second team will draw up the plans for the Girona hub, the third for the Rocafort hub and the fourth for Comte Borrell.

## » Competition for four new squares

The purpose of the second competition is to select the teams that will draw up the plans for developing each of the first four squares planned. The intention is for these new squares to be the central features in the transformation of this part of the city.

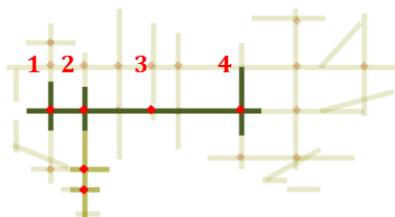
The competition envisages urban development that will give a structure to the following crossroads:

Plaça Rocafort - Consell de Cent. Area Joan Miró. At the junction of Rocafort and Consell de Cent streets (in the Nova Esquerra de l'Eixample neighbourhood).  
Surface area: 2,000, m<sup>2</sup>, approx.

Plaça Borrell - Consell de Cent. Area Germanetes. At the junction of Comte de Borell and Consell de Cent streets (in the Nova Esquerra de l'Eixample neighbourhood).  
Surface area: 2,000, m<sup>2</sup>, approx.

Plaça Enric Granados - Consell de Cent. Area Seminari. At the junction of Enric Granados and Consell de Cent streets (in the Antiga Esquerra de l'Eixample neighbourhood). Surface area: 2,000, m<sup>2</sup>, approx.

Plaça Girona - Consell de Cent. Area Concepció Market. At the junction of Girona and Consell de Cent streets (in the Dreta de l'Eixample neighbourhood).  
Surface area: 2,000, m<sup>2</sup>, approx.

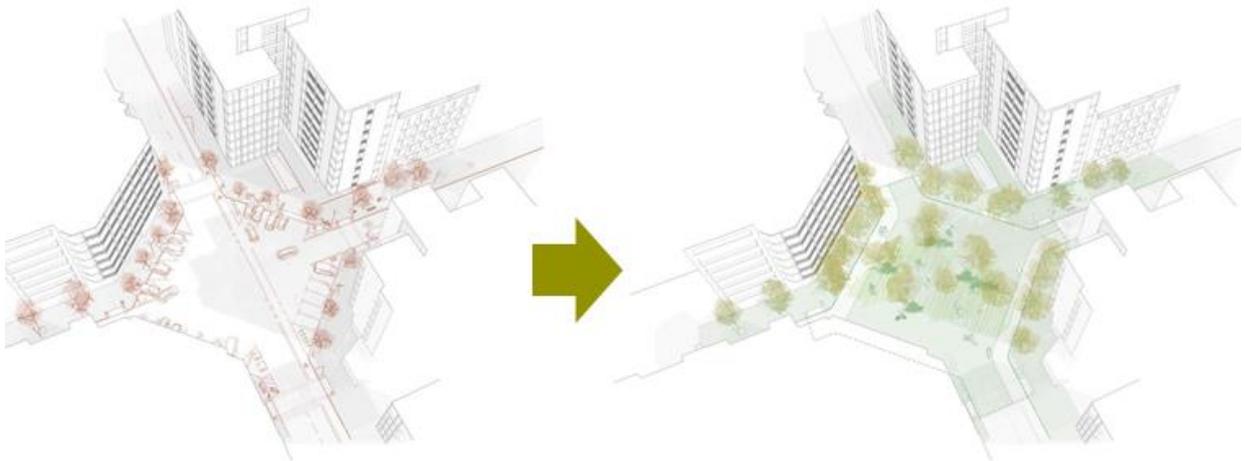


1. Consell de Cent – Rocafort
2. Consell de Cent – Borrell
3. Consell de Cent - Enric Granados
4. Consell de Cent – Girona

**TOTAL: 0,8 Ha** (aprox)

All these interventions are encompassed in a total area of approximately 0.8 Ha. The criteria that must be met include: generating spaces for walking that encourage journeys on foot; planning comfortable spaces to relax in, shaded in summer and sunny in winter; developing spaces that allow children to play freely; creating flexible spaces that can accommodate occasional uses such as fairs, concerts and various types of events; fostering the relationship between public spaces and ground-floor premises; defining spaces for bar and restaurant terraces, respecting current licences and grouping zones in spaces compatible with other public uses; adapting the proposed plans to the specific, physical and social requirements of each site and taking gender criteria into account in designing the space, among other aspects.

### De la CRUÏLLA a la PLAÇA



*From CROSSROADS to SQUARE*

## » A city project with dialogue and participation

The city government wants this to be a city project that is implemented gradually and constructed through dialogue and with the participation of all stakeholders and the general public. That means continuing the listening process adopted in each superblock transformation process.

A central office will therefore be set up for the project along with an advisory body to monitor and validate plans and their subsequent implementation. The eight cross-cutting and multidisciplinary teams that come out of the two competitions will coordinate and work together in applying the new public space model. The projects will be worked on with local residents and associations, plus economic stakeholders and professional associations, on a city and neighbourhood level. Altogether this will enable the best ideas to be collected and the ensuing proposals to go ahead with the maximum possible consensus.

Barcelona City Council will support this transformation with a campaign to notify and inform the general public of the new projects that will be carried out in the coming years. And anyone interested will be able to view all the information on the [barcelona.cat/superilles](http://barcelona.cat/superilles) website.

## » Calendar and budget

During this term of office, the plan is to carry out the structural work on the four green hubs and four new squares included in the two competitions. In order to meet this schedule, the two competitions were published in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJ) this Wednesday and a decision will be taken in March 2021. A participatory process lasting three months will start in April and the plans will be drafted from May – two months for the street model and eight for the projects – to enable work to start in the first quarter of 2022.

The City Council will invest €37.8 million in these initial transformation processes, €32.8 million for the green hubs and €5 million for the squares. This will mark the start of the implementation of the green hub programme, which should set out a new way of building the city and will continue to be rolled out and provided with more resources in the future.