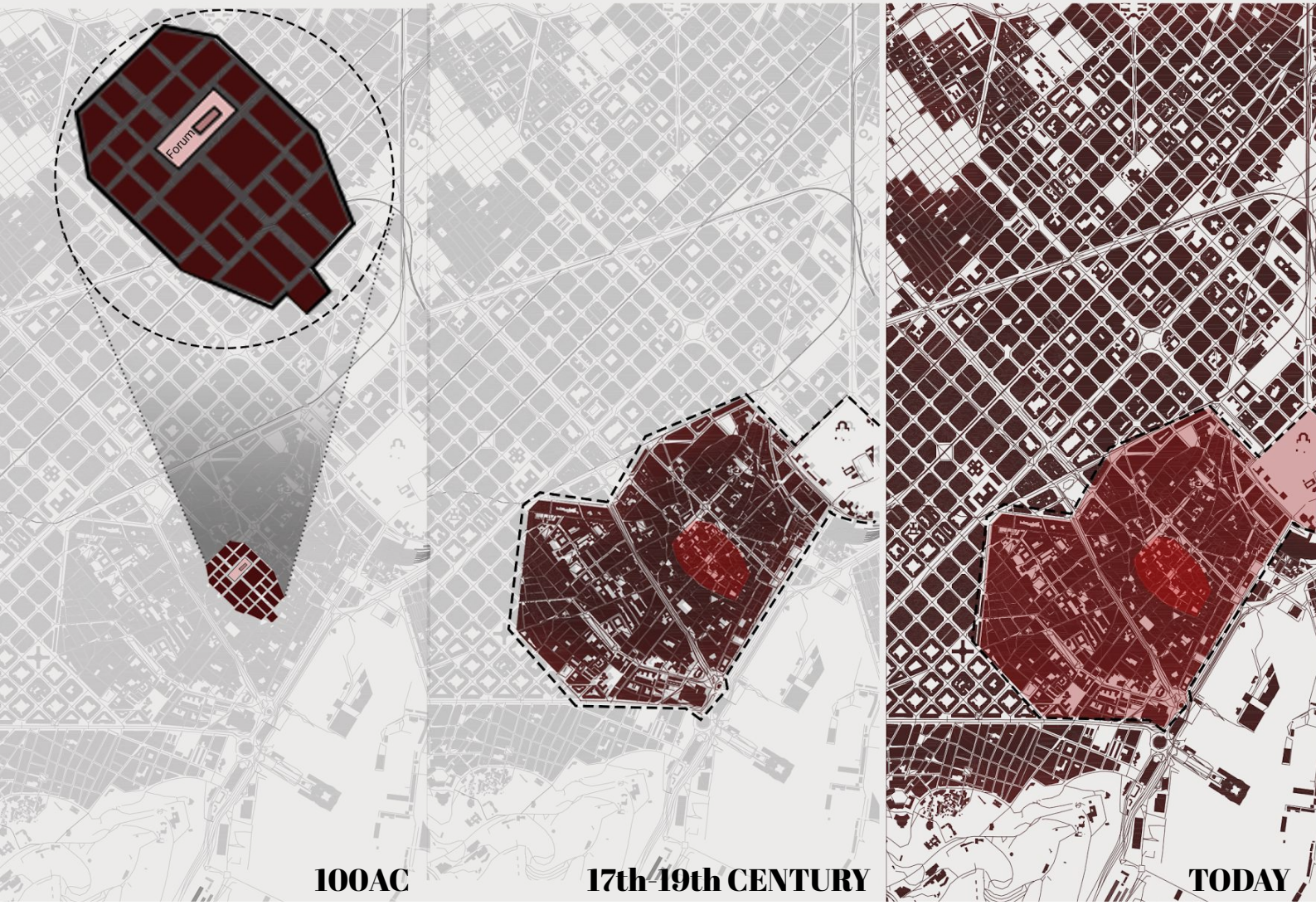
COMMUN



HYPER BLOCK

Rethinking Cedra's Legacy

https://**competitions**.uni.xyz



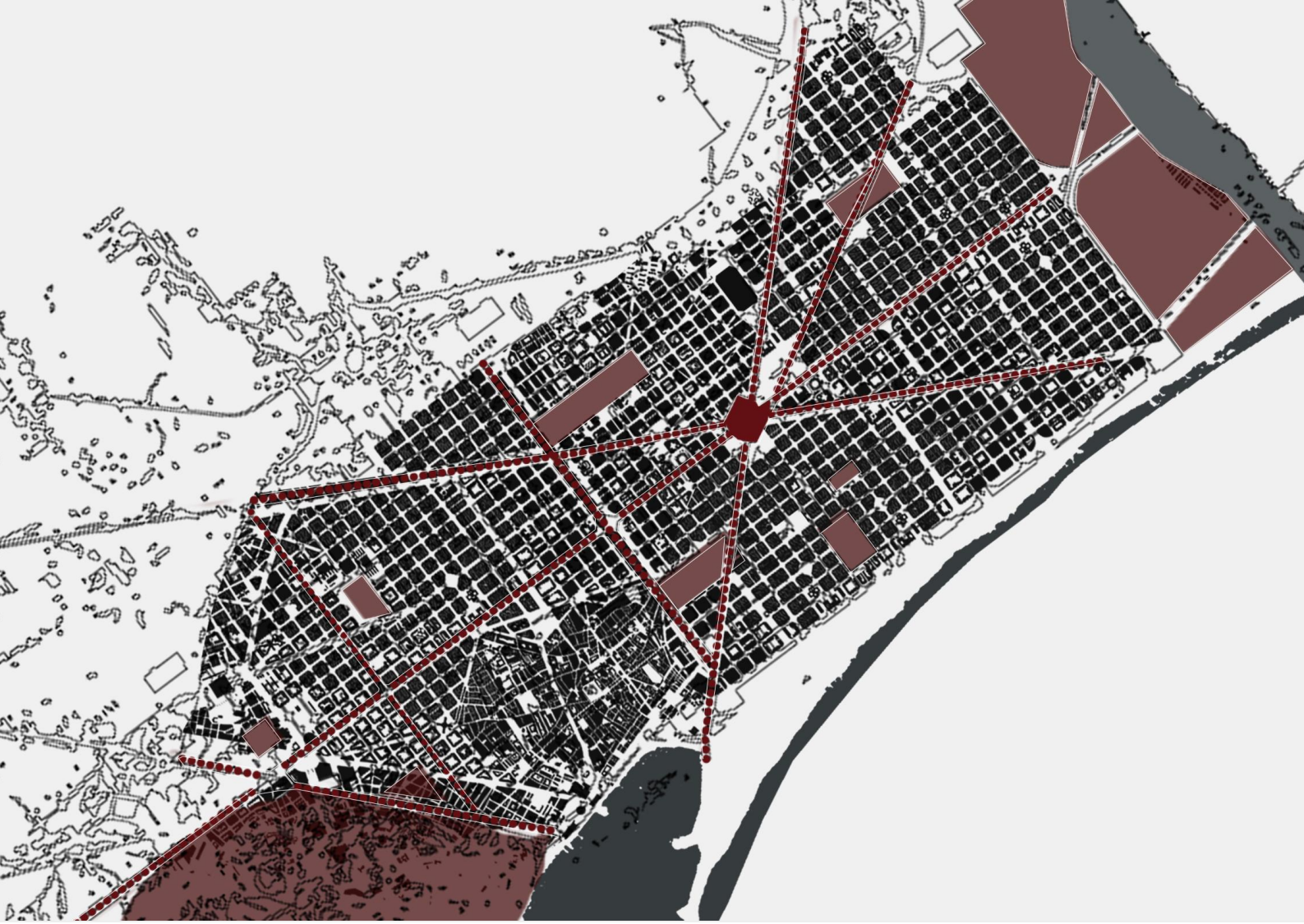
Img 1: 1.Barcino, sketched in its original location. 2. Barcelona hemmed in wall after expansion. 3.Current built density

Premise

Barcelona, a city known for its unique planning has seen drastic changes due to population growth and rapid urbanisation. It has always been a bounded city, dense since its founding by the Romans:

- Founded as 'Bacino' (walled city), having an orthogonal outline of 1.5km perimeter inhibiting 1000 people.
- The middle age-city grew and became complex: extended wall was built in 1260 to accommodate.
- 15th century-wall expanded to encompass Raval neighbourhood [1]
- 19th century- highest population density in spain, miserable living and working conditions.

In 1854, to deal with the constant rapid growth of the city the spanish government finally gave the order to take down the walls. As soon as the walls were demolished, plans began for the expansion of the city to promote the Ensanche Project (Eixample District) giving rise to the **'City of Cerda'.**



Img 2: plan proposed by Ildefons Cerda

Birth of Cerda

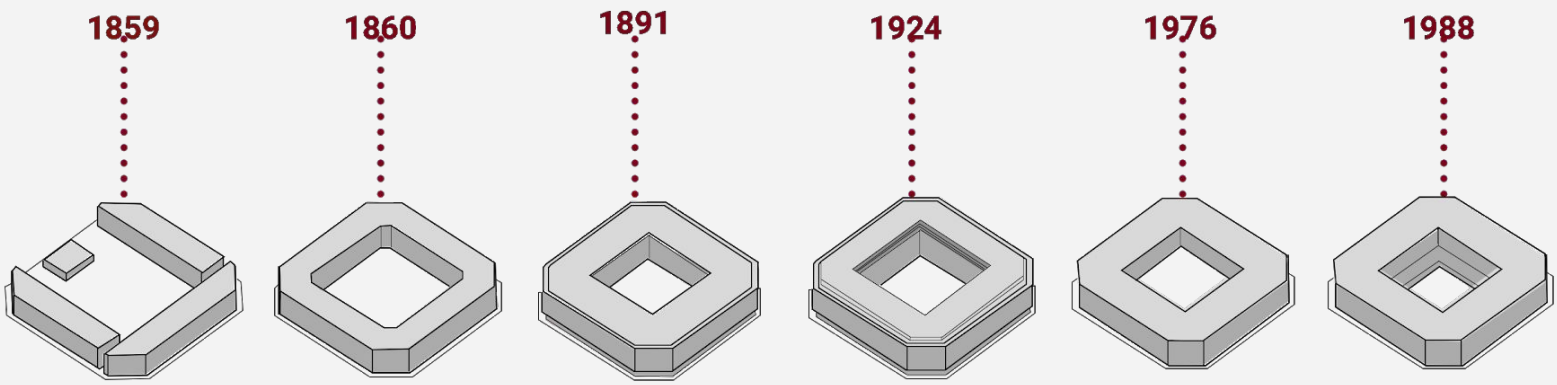
In 1855, ***Ildefons Cerda***'s utopian plan was approved by the central spanish government. The design envisioned a rationalised open city, with a grid of wide streets. The principle elements were **block dwellings** (manzanas) and street **corners cutting at 45⁰ angle** to facilitate traffic and air movement.

Each manzana was almost identical in terms of height and area (113mx113m). Every Cerda Block was supposed to have an internal courtyard to receive sun, ventilation and joie de vivre.

What was unique about Cerda's grid was the refusal to address hierarchies apart from few exceptions (diagonal avenues and the Gran Via).

The goal was to combine rural living (green spaces, ventilation, fresh air, community) and urban living (commerce, facilities, culture)

So what made the humanitarian marvel collapse?



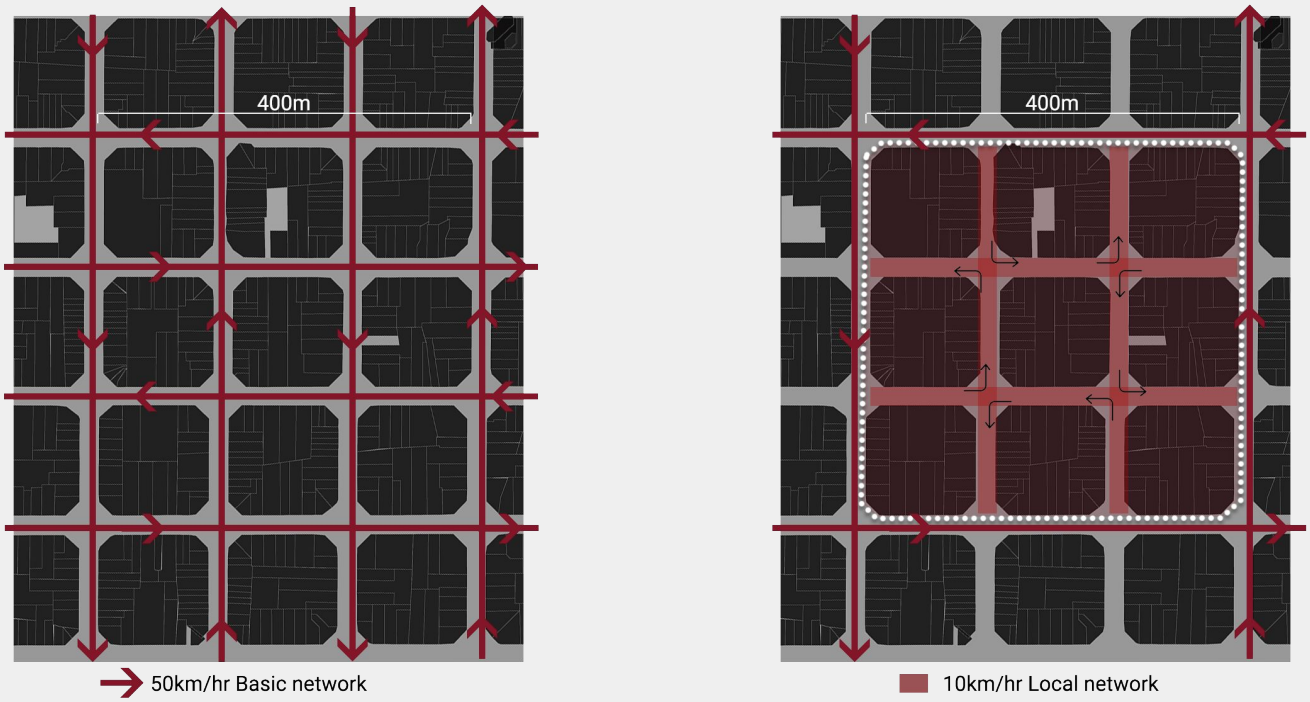
Img 2: Evolution of cerda block with

Issue

Cerda imagined a garden city for Barcelona but with growing demands of population, majority of the land was covered for construction. As a result, green spaces disappeared, roads became narrower, provision of sunlight and ventilation and therefore psychological well-being was compromised.

A city whose core idea was for the place to breathe for both ideological and public health reasons, is tied up in the fumes of pollution. Grid lines have become choked with cars and city's pollution and noise levels have skyrocketed.[2]**What was once a design to make Barcelona healthier, now has to be dramatically rethought for the same reasons.**

Salvador Rueda's urban planning scheme- 'Superillies' is an effort to make barcelona vehicle free. It consists of creating superblocks (nine existing blocks of the grid) that **limits the vehicular movement to the superblocks perimeter. Only the residents or local business owners of the block are given permittance.**



Img 1: 1. Transformation of traffic movement after superblock imposition

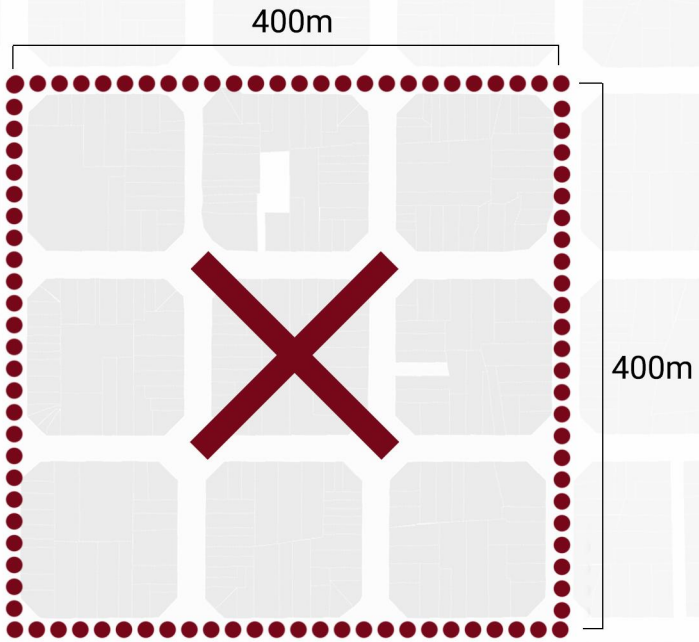
Incrementality

Although superblock is a step in the right direction, it isn't the permanent solution for existing and future issues sprouting from population growth.

A city like Barcelona is meant to attract people. As a result, it is one of the densest cities of Europe. Population density is deemed to grow in the coming years as more and more people are moving to cities in search of better opportunities.

Is there an alternative design scheme to attain controlled urbanisation?


Given a second chance, can it be planned differently?
Think outside the block!



Brief

Cerda 20 invites visionary ideas for redesigning the city with one of the most unique planning, set in the distant future, '2050'. The brief is set up to identify what should have been and what it can be in the future.

Challenge: Musing over culture and heritage of Barcelona, redesign Cerda blocks, recognizing the current and possible social and environmental challenges. Also plan pedestrian and vehicular movement around it.

The participants are encouraged to come up with their own urban guidelines (facilities, road widths, vehicular and pedestrian movement etc) for the area.

The area of 9 Cerda blocks (400mx400m) forming a superblock is to considered for the intervention of 'Cedra 50'.



Visionary

Considering current and future issues and requirements while keeping the essence of the city alive



Rational

Can be unconventional or traditional but should align with the grounds of logic



Optimize

Should be equipped with basic facilities at walkable distance

Complying

Should serve all residential, commercial, institutional requirements

Objectives

Designing a self sufficient structure or structures resembling a small town in terms of functionality inhabiting **5000-6000 people.**



Parks, urban forests, playgrounds



Courtyards, plazas



Urban landscapes, rain gardens



50%

Open spaces



Footpaths, crossings, skywalks



Promenades, street furniture, spillovers



Tunnels, bridges, tracks

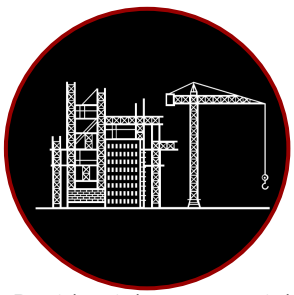


15%

Pedestrian corridors



Roads/ tracks/ flyovers to facilitate vehicular movement



Residential, commercial, institutional program buildings



Services: water, electrical substation, etc



35%

Built and roads

Programmatic Outline

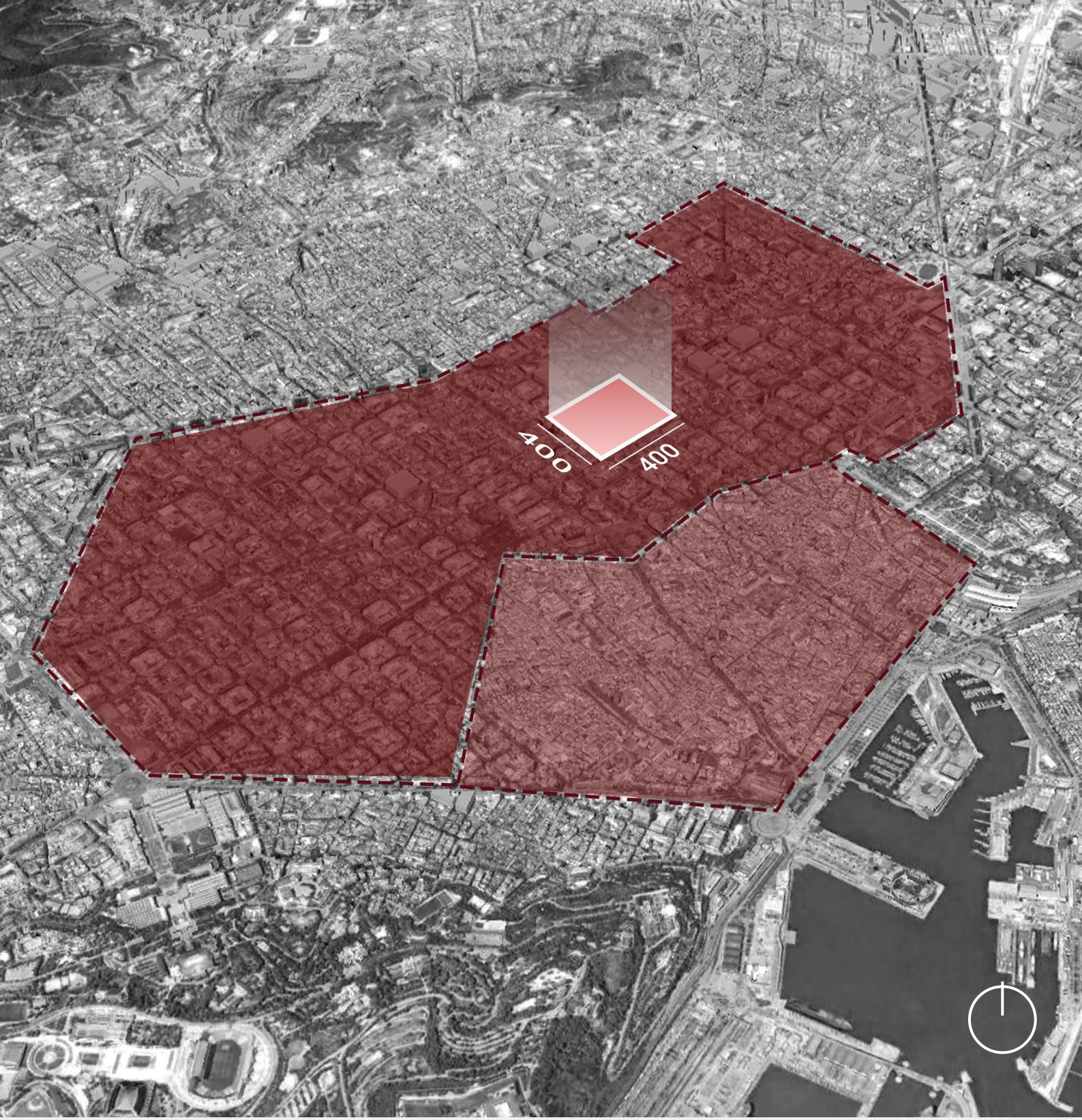
The programmatic functions provided for future barcelona city are in no way exhaustive. Participants are free to explore



Context

The Eixample district is part of the notorious expansion project of the city planned by Ildefonso Cerdá in 1859, when Barcelona extended its old city walls.
It's also the first place, where the concept of superblocks is being tested out.

However, as previously established the district didn't turn out as it was supposed to; Eixample has seen drastic changes in its FAR. It increased in the first 70 years till it finally declined in 1979. Urban population growth is inevitable aspect of our future and therefore FAR of cities is deemed to increase. Eixample district proves to be the ideal place for intervention.



Site Plan

The site for cerda50 is an empty plot of size 400mx400m. The planned site area is to be treated as the design scheme that can be adopted in the entire city. Participants are free to use the old road layout or come up with the new model.

FAR 15 | Site Area 1,60,000m^2 | Height restriction: 65 floors

Guidelines

You have to deliver an architectural outcome on the following site, based on the given outlines.

• Recommended number of sheets/presentation images/boards:

5 (Five) of size **[2362px** x **3544px]** or **[400mm x 600mm** in **150 dpi]** in portrait digital format (**JPEG only**).

Minimum 3 (Three) & **No maximum sheet limit.** Each image should be less than **15MB.** (Do not submit PNG format)

Minimum requisite submission are sheets/boards + Cover image containing:

• Site plan (Compulsory)
• Key conceptual sections x 1 (Minimum)
• 3D views x 4
• Cover image / Thumbnail of size 2000px x 1000px or larger in aspect ratio 2:1.
• Answering 6 FAQ's.#
• This is the link for new file sizes, here.

#The FAQ's have to be answered as instructed in the FAQ document in the 'additional resources folder'.

Deadlines

Discover the competition schedule and deadlines on the competitions page or on this link - Schedule.

Resources

This competition contains additional resources that will help you complete the design process quickly. This folder is made available on your profile dashboard as soon as you register.

This additional resources folder of this competition contains: Submission Format files in PSD | AI | InDD, FAQ Questions, High Res maps.

Rules

+ The competitions is open for **students and professionals** from all the disciplines of design.

+ The team limit for this competition is **4 members maximum per team.**

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+ You can register more than one team but they have to be registered separately.

+ Ensure that the final sheets submitted **do not include your name or any other mark of identification**. Your submission is linked to your user account which stands as your identification.

+ This is a design **ideas challenge only.** There is no built commission/realization associated with the problem.

+ In case of publication in yearbook we will reach out separately for selected entries.

Pro-Tips

+ Use exploded views to discuss multi levelled conceptual models better.

+ Mention sheet number on corner of every sheet.

+ Plagiarism of any idea / form / design / image will be disqualified with a notice.

+ All the sheets or images will be viewed on a digital device. **e.g.** Laptop screen or projector. Uploaded sheets or images will not be physically printed for evaluation. The submission hence should be prepared for digital viewing only.

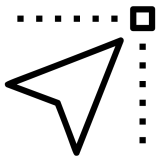
+ Submit JPEG images only. (PNG will not function)



Awards

Grants of up to a total of **20,000$** can be won on this challenge. Learn more about the full conditions on the competition page here.

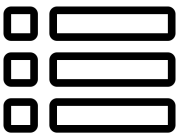
The entries will be judged by an international jury of the competition on the following criterions:



Presentation
The fundamental to a good entry is a good presentation.



Concept/Idea
Quality of thought and intent in pre-design phase.



Spaces/Programme
How the spaces are calculated and ordered.



Design Outcome
The final architectural outcome of the solution.

Judging Criteria

The judging panel can also add other criterions based on their internal discussions - which will be in line with the problem statement. Participants are advised to fulfil above given criterions first in their design.

About

COMMUN

Commun serves as a unit block for UNI in the field of Urban Design. It intends to break the fusion of traditional design barriers and methodologies by making it a platform for experimentation and conceptual exchange of ideas in urbanism, society, culture and ecology. It is a research initiative dedicated to provide opportunities for designers from all domains to explore ideas that go beyond the boundaries of the discipline and enrich our built environment holistically; thereby opening up possibilities for promotion of urban design thought at a global level.

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COMMUNITY HYPER BLOCK



Envisioning the future Barcelona

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