



# Flores & Prats

Archives Universum 1



Archives Universum surge tras varios años visitando los estudios de distintos arquitectos, y comprobando cómo la vida se entremezcla con el trabajo. Universum es la consciencia de lo intensa e interesante que resulta su tarea y la necesidad de explicarlo de una forma detallada, de compartirlo.

Universum suma a la descripción de los espacios de trabajo-vida la explicación de los proyectos que están en marcha en ese momento en el estudio, confiando en que sean trascendentes en su futuro.

Cada número de Archives Universum contendrá una planimetría de los espacios de trabajo realizada por los autores con la que mostrarán, también a través de este procedimiento, distintas formas de representación para señalar aquello que les resulte más relevante.

La narración de cada Universum es doble: una fotográfica en la que se muestran las imágenes, unidas o cortadas, para ofrecer visiones unitarias o múltiples; y otra escrita que reúne textos que pueden explicar ese proceso de trabajo y de vida al que se suman otros de los autores. Las imágenes siguen un discurso narrativo que entendemos coherente para cada publicación, y por otra parte, la colección de textos permite realizar una navegación autónoma, que puede y debe completarse con las imágenes.

El primero de estos Archives Universum, está dedicado al estudio Flores & Prats.

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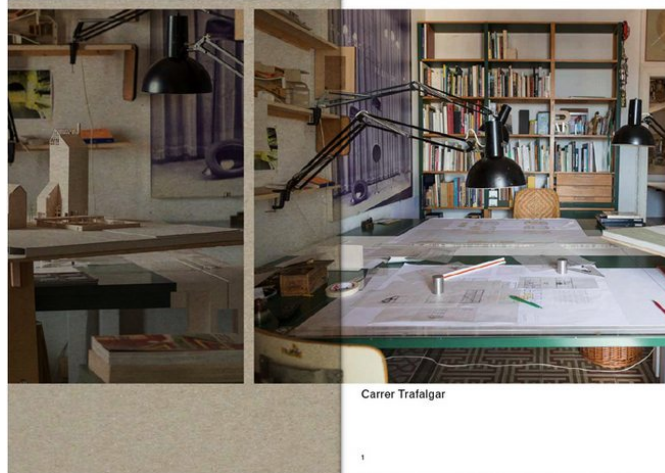
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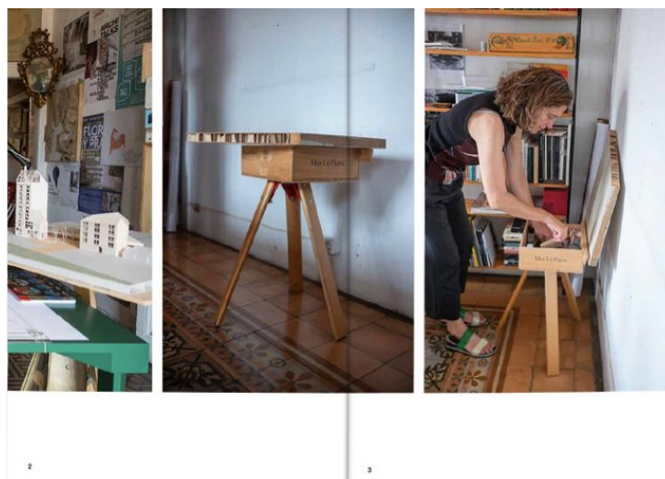
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Carrer Trafalgar

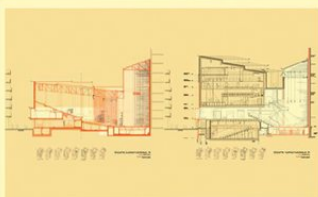


**Saving a big volume of air**  
 This project, developed together with the Rector's Study Office Architects, has consisted with dealing with the recovery and use of an abandoned building in a space of 1000 m<sup>2</sup> in a corner of cultural activities for its city. The former Trafalgar has been used as a formal part of the culture during the whole 20th Century. It has harbored several different programs and occupations, some of them quite significant such as the occupation of students and their gathering at the 1968 riots. However, there were still some pieces of the former floor that had survived and were kept among the walls of the abandoned building, the space of the former stairs, its front, and the steel beams for the public, emergency pavilion in that dimension, it truly breathes today.

The brief of the competition required several performing spaces and spaces where the program could be carried out: for meeting and gathering, with a public condition and program to serve the program to enter and enjoy the building without necessarily taking part in the activities at the performing halls. When we first entered in the building to work for the competition and saw the space of the former stairs, we thought that this was already the public space that was needed. And the program was already there. We immediately started to work on how to deal with the location of that fixed space, working to save the big space that volume of air so relevant and valuable in the very same part of the city. This was the beginning of the project.

To deal with the specific dimensions of the existing space, we decided to create the big table (for 1000 people reading) above the roof of the building. At the same time, the small table with the public condition, was located under the steel beams in front of the stairs, becoming the floor of the space. These two sections are accompanied by transforming the former fly tower of the rings into a high light well, bringing natural light through the facade, and by drawing a division between the new specific function of the building, allowing visitors to cross through guided by natural light. This interior street and the Forum transform this space into a public area, a covered street and plaza, a place with the same kind of dimension of a public space for assemblies and discussions, an extension of the surrounding urban inside the building.

The former Variables is now given back to breathe. The public character of the common spaces makes the building once again become part of the activities of memory taking it to the part of the area but at the same time projecting it into the future of this city.



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