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Process and Plastic Transformation
Contemporary Architecture in Mediterranean Historical Centers

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Historical urban fabrics of Mediterranean cities have well-defined characters: they are a temporary synthesis of continuous and physical transformations, more or less homogeneous, recognizable and readable through the study of stratification and fusions that characterized their typical formative process, in relation with masonry material they are composed/constructed. Their conservation results positively effective if paradoxically they continue to transform themselves. How to make such transformations coherent, constructively and expressively, compared to the inherited reality they fit into? Through a certain kind of typological studies, it was possible to read and codify the type of process that has led to the formation, often only apparently complex, of historical centers that we are now protecting against any type of intervention.

This work-in-progress paper intends to reflect on the coherent and processual use of reinforced concrete in the transformation process of historic centers.

A material that has undergone a formative process that was concluded in its full and complete 'elastic' development, born and realized in the technologically-advanced areas of central and northern Europe, which ended up invading Mediterranean areas.

The same material possesses a 'plastic' potential that, if architecturally well-used, makes coherent, necessary and congruent, interventions, for the continuity of the life of such historical centers. Spanish 'plastic' contemporary architecture could represent, in my opinion, an interesting example to study.

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