



Spain in the International Urban Networks around the First World War

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The neutrality of Spain during First World War brought with it a significant economic growth. Then, Spain timidly joined the town planning forums of meetings, debates and exchanges that took place in the post-war European era. Some Spanish public institutions as the Instituto de Reformas Sociales, responsible for the social housing policy, and the City Councils of Madrid, Barcelona and Bilbao, which tried to order their development; private institutions such as the Compañía Madrileña de Urbanización, promoter of the Madrid Linear City by Arturo Soria, and the Civic Society Ciudad Jardí in Barcelona, diffuser of the Garden City movement in Catalonia; and the first Town Planning Professor in the School of Architecture of Madrid, César Cort, attended different congresses looking for a solution to the housing problem along with the town planning extension issue. The aim of this paper is to show the Spanish town planners and technicians who participated in the international urban networks in order to consolidate the Spanish urbanism through the new technical, theoretical and legal tools that were being implemented in Europe. They also attended to proudly show some Spanish advances.

Keywords: International Federation of Housing and Town Planning (IFHTP), Inter-allied Housing and Town Planning Congresses, Union Internationale des Villes et Pouvoirs Locaux (IULA), Spain, First World War, Town Planning

Introduction

In 1920, the architect Leopoldo Torres Balbás — installed in Medina del Campo, where he had just reached the position of municipal architect — wrote a beautiful text about "the future city" where, with a sober and balanced prose, he expressed a profound "faith" in the progressive march of humanity "and focused on" the ideal of the redeemed crowds", in a world where the silhouette of the city of the future was still "distant and blurred".¹

The neutrality of Spain during the First World War brought with it a significant economic growth in the country. From then on, the Spanish cities Madrid, Barcelona and Bilbao faced the implementation of ambitious plans of town extension to provide housing in healthy conditions for a growing population. The problems of the municipal regime requested the attention of thinkers, legislators and governors. The multidisciplinary in connection to the international points of view converged around the management of the city and its complex problems.

In 1910, the Royal Institute of British Architects held an international conference dedicated to town planning. This was one of the consequences of the events that took place in 1909, the key year for the consolidation of urbanism as a new disciplinary area in the international context. That year, the first conference dedicated specifically to town planning in the United States took place in Washington. *The Plan of Chicago*, by Daniel H. Burnham and Edgard H. Bennet, was published. In the field of university teaching, a Town Planning course had been taught for the first time, within the Landscape Architecture College of Harvard University, and the Civic Department of the University of Liverpool had been founded. The English Town Planning Act had been approved that year, as a result of which, Raymond Unwin published his book *Town Planning in practice: an introduction to the art of designing cities and suburbs*. The list of participants in the London Conference of 1910 included the Spanish architects Joaquín Bassegoda and Emiliano Amann and of the Professor Manuel Rodríguez i Codolà, what evidenced the timid Spanish presence, together with Patrick Abercrombie, Stanley D. Adshead, Daniel H. Burnham, Reinhard Eberstadt, Patrick Geddes, Eugène Hénard, Ebenezer Howard, Thomas H. Mawson, Agustin Rey, C. H. Reilly, Josef Stübben and Raymond Unwin, among others.



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At the height of 1910 the way of solving the transformation of the Spanish cities had been inherited from the interior reform operations of the nineteenth century —see the opening of the Vía Layetana in Barcelona begun in 1908 and the Gran Vía in Madrid started in 1910— and the practices of regular bourgeois expansions— Nuñez Granés Plan (1909) for Madrid and Jaussely Plan (1903) for Barcelona—. But the inability to solve the growth of cities due to the pressure of working-class housing and the new issues of mobility, public facilities or open spaces, put it in a crisis that model.

Faced with this situation and the lack of technical and legal modern tools, the new generation of Spanish professionals tackled the new problems of the city through the study of the different alternatives disseminated in the international scene through the travel to Germany, England and, lesser extent, to the United States. Most of the time, thanks to the support role assumed by the Junta para Ampliación de Estudios e Investigaciones Científicas² (Board for the Extension of Studies and Scientific Research), a public institution under the Minister of Education and Public Arts. Since 1907, the Junta para Ampliación de Estudios led some Spanish technicians to look out the new ways to achieve urbanism through the attendance to some of the most relevant international study centres at the moment, such as the Charlottenburg Seminary of the Technical School of Berlin. The Junta was inspired by the Institución Libre de Enseñanza (ILE), a Krausist cultural and pedagogical renewal project that promoted a series of reforms in the legal, educational and social fields that Spain really needed. It was created in Madrid in 1876 by a group of professors from the Universidad Central de Madrid. They were liberal and humanistic thinkers under the leadership of the pedagogue and philosopher Francisco Giner de los Ríos

The concern to lay the foundations of adequate legislation justifies the early presence of the president of the Minister Council, Segismundo Moret, one of the founders of the ILE, in the VII International Housing Congress of Liege (1905). He was one of the promoters of the Instituto de Reformas Sociales (IRS)—the public institution responsible for housing service created in 1903 under the Labour Ministry —, that was represented in the Congress by the lawyer Maluquer i Salvador. The architect Luis Cabello Lapiedra, Ángel Ramirez, representing the housing cooperative El Hogar and the civil engineers Rene Lafleur and Domingo Mendizábal also attended the Congress.³ They looked for both effective public and private initiatives to satisfy the strong demand for working-class housing in the Spanish cities. The Congress Sections focused on social housing: ways of intervention by public authorities in social housing, legislation, sanitary inspection, the garden city, housing statistics from social economic and health point of view, and aesthetics conditions in social housing and green spaces in social housing. The international public presentation of the movement of the Garden City in the aforementioned Congress was definitive for its evaluation as an alternative proposal to the problem of social housing in Europe, but its echoes would not reach Spain yet.

In these cross-relationships, the presence in Madrid and in Barcelona in 1913 of Alderman W. Thompson and Henry R. Aldridge,⁴ President and Secretary of the English National Housing and Town Planning Council respectively, was significant. They were introduced by Cebrià de Montoliu and invited by the IRS, chaired at that time by the lawyer and politic Gumersindo de Azcárate (Member of the ILE). They gave lectures on the innovative experience of the English Garden City at the Ateneo in Madrid, within a cycle about garden cities and lineal cities that also included the participation of Amós Salvador, Arturo Soria and Hilarión González del Castillo.⁵

The most active figure at the moment was, undoubtedly, the versatile Cebrià de Montoliu, with an active presence in Germany and England, where he travelled pensioned by the Junta de Ampliación de Estudios in 1910. His publications *L'activitat internacional en matèria d'habitatció y construcció cívica durant l'any 1913* is a good example of his hard work. The result was that, at the crossroads of 1914, one of the main focuses of urban reflection in Spain was linked to the creation of the Social Museum in Barcelona, where Montoliu occupied the position of librarian. The journal *Civitas*, published from 1914 to 1924, was the best exponent. However, his extraordinary work failed to respond to their many concerns, so that he left Spain to the United States in 1919. The architect Nicolau Maria Rubió i Tudurí would be the successor.

The Spanish architects Amadeo Llopart⁶ and Guillem Busquets i Vautravers, both pensioned by the Junta de Ampliación de Estudios in 1912 and 1913, also left to Berlin. The first one became responsible for the teaching of Town Planning in the School of Architecture of Barcelona. His German stay allowed him to get in touch with the great masters of the construction of cities, such as Camillo Sitte, Reinhard Baumeister, Josef Stübber and Rudolf Eberstadt. By the other hand, Guillem Busquets, architect and councillor in the Barcelona City Council, became responsible for the teaching of the urban discipline in the School of Public Employees in the Mancomunidad de Cataluña. In addition, the engineer of the City Council of Barcelona José María Lasarte, attended in 1915 the International Congress of Engineering of San Francisco, held on the occasion of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, and translated into Spanish the conference City Planning, by the American engineer Nelson P. Lewis, which was published under the title *Urbanización*⁷ in 1917.



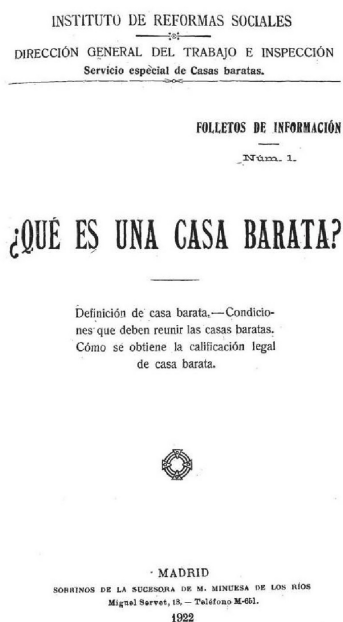
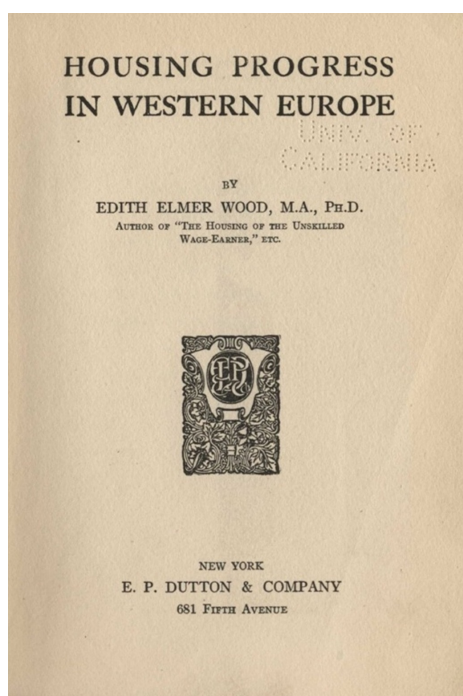
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Adolfo Posada, a follower of Francisco Giner de los Ríos, Professor of Municipal Law of the Universidad Central de Madrid, and President of the Law Section of the IRS from 1903 to 1924, correctly located the problems of urban planning in those years, clearly showing the multidisciplinary and international points of view that converged around the management of the city and its complex problems in the following terms: “Since 1916, interest in the municipal problems of the city has not only declined, as one might think given the deep and often tragic upheavals that constantly agitate and disturb the people, but that interest has intensified, constituting the condition of cities, and the municipal regime of his life, one of the most pressing concerns of politicians of action, and technicians of many branches and professions. In these last post-war years, and for various reasons, the problem of the municipal and local regime has been soliciting the attention of thinkers, legislators and governors, promoting surveys of high value in England, causing extensive reforms in the various German states, worrying in France and in Spain to politicians and governors, while in North America, it continues to be the municipal regime of the city, the field of the richest, most daring and fruitful experiences”.⁸

The International Garden Cities and Town Planning Association as a global proposal: from housing to regional planning

In the prologue of one of the pamphlets published by the IRS Ebenezer Howard wrote: “I hope that the author of this book [Federico López Valencia] and its collaborators will get, in the beautiful Iberian Peninsula, results of the greatest importance for humanity.” This ambitious conception of the scale of housing problem as a global problem, had led him to create the International Garden Cities Association in 1913 as a tool for exchanging the different experiences.⁹ And he was right. In fact the international congresses that the association organized became a key as forums for reflection and debate on modern urbanism until the 1930s.¹⁰ Since 1920, The IRS was the most significant Spanish presence in the International Garden City Association. One of its members, Salvador Crespo, Head of the Servicio Especial de Casas Baratas (Special Service of Cheap Houses), would be named one of the Vice-President of the IFHTP, and Federico López Valencia, Head of Advertising and Statistics Section of the Servicio Especial de Casas Baratas, would be named Board member by 1920. Because of the pamphlets about all the conferences Federico López Valencia attended, the IRS became one of the most active diffuser of the IFHTP in Spain.

The Congress of the International Garden Cities and Town Planning Association in London (14, 15 and 16 March 1922) reunited 160 delegates. Luis de Ponte and Federico López Valencia represented the IRS. There, López Valencia met Edith Elmer Wood, the first American *houser*. She had already written the article “The Spanish Linear City”, in the *Journal of the American Institute of Architects* (1921) and after this meeting, she published *Housing Progress in Western Europe* (1923), with the appendix “The Spanish Housing Laws of 1911 and 1921”. Both interesting articles represent one of the first international critic analyses of Spanish proposals about town planning.



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Figure 1: *Housing Progress in Western Europe* (1923), by Edith Elmer Wood included an appendix about the Spanish housing law: *Ley de Casas Baratas*. What is a cheap house?, pamphlet by the Instituto de Casas Baratas for explaining the concept of *casa barata*.

The congress held in the Swedish city of Gothenburg in 1923 was the one with the strongest Spanish presence. This Congress consolidated housing as a State responsibility. The Spaniards Salvador Crespo and Federico López Valencia, Juan García Cascales and José Cabestany from the Madrid Town Council, and Town Planning Professor César Cort¹¹, introduced the Spanish advances among a cast that included the names of Werner Hegemann, Clarence S. Stein, John Nolen, Eliel Saarinen and Charles Benjamin Purdom.

Besides the IRS, César Cort, first Professor of Town Planning at the Architecture School of Madrid since 1918 —In 1914 a subject about town planning was incorporated for the first time to the Architecture studies— would be the most assiduous presence in the congresses since 1923. In this Congress César Cort met John Nolen, and in 1928, in one of his letters, he told about two of the main values for him: the concern about the diffusion and the conception of the knowledge as a net:

“Dear Sir [John Nolen];

Perhaps you may recall myself when thinking in Town Planning Conference held at Gothenburg, where I have had the pleasure of knowing you, and I remember even the trip we had together in Sweden. I beg to remark these details as I want to address yourself begging for your cooperation for a Review I am just about to publish under the name URBANOLOGIA [Urbanology].

I want to get the collaboration of the most important town planners in the world, and of course yours is a very precious one for my Review”.¹²

The Gothenburg exhibition showed the works of the Compañía Madrileña de Urbanización, promoter of Madrid Linear City, together with historical views and maps of Spanish cities. Hilarión González el Castillo, diffuser of Arturo Soria’s Madrid Linear City, were the most representative Spanish presence in the urban networks in the first 20s. César Cort introduced the Town Planning teaching of the School of Architecture of Madrid with the exhibition of the drawings and maps for the extension and interior reform of Elche elaborated by the students.¹³ The civic survey, including aerial photographs, showed the importance of the identity of the site as a new principle.

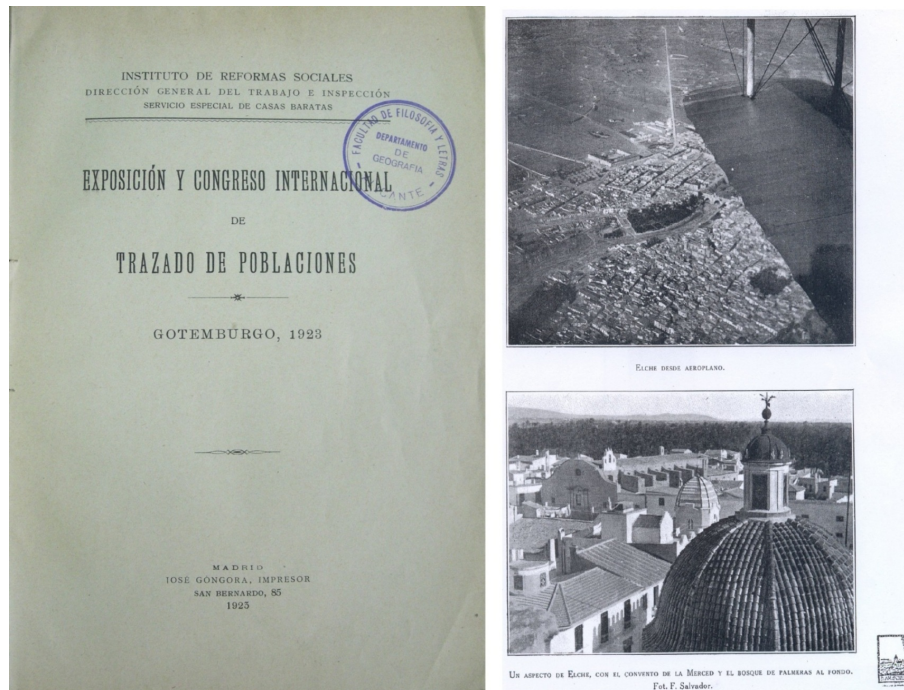


Figure 2: Translation and resume into Spanish of the proceedings of the IFHTP Congress (1923) and images of the students’ work about Elche exposed in the Gothenburg Exhibition.

I'Union Internationale des Villes et Pouvoirs Locaux (IULA) and the first exchanges: The triumph of the Spanish Linear City

Another focus of interest was l’Union Internationale des Villes,¹⁴ founded in Ghent in 1913. The original idea was to create an international association for the development of the cities covering the two-fold aspect of what



they called Civic Construction, with the Belgian architect Paul Saintenoy as responsible, and the organisation of City Life, dealing by Emile Vinck. Paul Otlet, General Secretary of the Union of the International Association was responsible of Cities Exhibition.¹⁵

The origin of the IULA was in the Premier Congrès International et Exposition Comparée des Villes, that took place in July during the Ghent Universal and Industrial Exhibition (26 April-3 November); it was considered by Patrick Abercrombie as “the first professedly international one on municipal activities”. The Congress reflects how global the town planning was in 1913 and how was critically linked to the reformist movements of the time and product of the peace movement in that pre-war time. The event was the first step to the international and comparative study of cities and local authorities. Patrick Abercrombie, Patrick Geddes, Augustin Rey, Josef Stübben, and Raymond Unwin attended the first meeting.¹⁶ The Spanish presence was: Bilbao City Council, represented by Tomás Bilbao and Ricardo Bastida, Sociedad Central de Arquitectos (Central Society of Architects), represented by its President Amos Salvador, IRS, Cità Jardí, represented by Cebrià de Montoliu, Compañía Madrileña de Urbanización, represented by Hilarión González del Castillo, and Professor José Gascó Marín, of the Universidad de Saragossa.

The lawyer and Professor José Gasco Marín was the only Spanish member of the General Provisional Council of the Association.¹⁷ In the question of the unifications and associations of municipalities “a place of honour belonged to Spain”. Gascó Marín made a concise and clear explanation of the municipal law of 1877, which regulates not only the annexes but also the aggregations and municipal associations, adding some remarks about the state of affairs of this issue in Spain and the reform projects, as the local Government.¹⁸

The two problems that were posed in the Congress: the depopulation of the countryside due to the harsh living conditions and the agglomerations in the city had a solution in the Spanish Linear City. Hilarión González del Castillo, advisor of the Compañía Madrileña de Urbanización (Madrid Urbanization Company), promoter of the Madrid Linear City, that was conceived in 1882 by Arturo Soria, and delegate of the Sociedad Ciudad Jardín (Garden City Society), presented in the Civic Construction Section “La Ciudad Lineal, como arquitectura nueva de ciudades: Memoria presentada por la Compañía Madrileña de Urbanización en el primer congreso internacional del Arte de Construir Ciudades y Organización de la Vida Municipal de Gante.” Because of Saintenoy and specially Emile Vinck interest, the report was translated into French by Georges Benoit-Levy, who was thus introduced to the movement which he was later to promote with such enthusiasm. Certain revisions were made in the course of preparing the French edition, which was entitled “La Cite Lineaire, nouvelle architecture de villes”. In the Reconstruction Exhibitions in Brussels in 1919, Hilarión González del Castillo presented the Brussels Linear City Project. The organization was very active in its scientific meetings and city exhibitions and soon joined the International Garden Cities and Town Planning Association.



Figure 3: Issue of the journal *La Ciudad Lineal* dedicated to the Gante Congress by Hilarión González del Castillo.



Inter-allied Housing and Town Planning Congresses: from La Renaissance des Cités to “Homes fit for heroes”

In 1919 (11, 12 and 13 June) took place the Paris the Inter-allied Housing and Town Planning Congress. This was a significant milestone. The Sociedad Central de Arquitectos sent the Town Planning Professor César Cort¹⁹, probably due to his command of French and English, as well as for the teaching activity that he was carrying out at the School of Architecture of Madrid. The extensive program of the Congress, attended by representatives of France, England, the United States, Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, Norway, Poland and Spain, was held at the Musée Social in Paris and at the École Supérieure d'Art Public, an entity created at the behest of the Belgian refugees. The chronicles of the Congress and the Exhibitions, as the reconstruction of Chauny by La Renaissance des Cités, were published by the bulletin of the Sociedad Central de Arquitectos and the journal *Architecture*, created a year before and nowadays celebrating its centennial.

La Renaissance des Cités, subtitled as “Oeuvre d'entre aide sociale” (Work of welfare), had been founded in 1916. The American Red Cross with the experts of the Rockefeller Foundation, contributed directly to the reconstruction of the devastated regions in France and Belgium through La Renaissance des Cités. The association established an office of cooperation, information and documentation in the works of the economic, social and architectural reconstruction of the post-war period.²⁰ The fundamental principle on which the efficient and practical organization has been built up is that of co-operation with local authorities in the ultimate solution of the problems with which they have to deal. Since 1919, George B. Ford, was City Planning Adviser,²¹ and became one of the most active diffuser. A curious testimony of the town planning reconstruction was shown in an exhibition that took place in United States: “These plans show how local engineers, in order to improve traffic conditions, had planned to straighten the street lines on the familiar American gridiron plan. La Renaissance des Cites has been able to substitute another method of widening the streets for new traffic requirements by cutting back as a general rule only on one side and on the other retaining the picturesque irregular house fronts.”²² After the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939), Professor César Cort, proposed to the new dictatorship the instauration of a Spanish Renaissance des Cités for the reconstruction, but he failed. Without dismay, he created the Federación Nacional de Urbanismo y Vivienda de la Hispanidad inspired in the IFHTP under the Spanish Dictatorship.

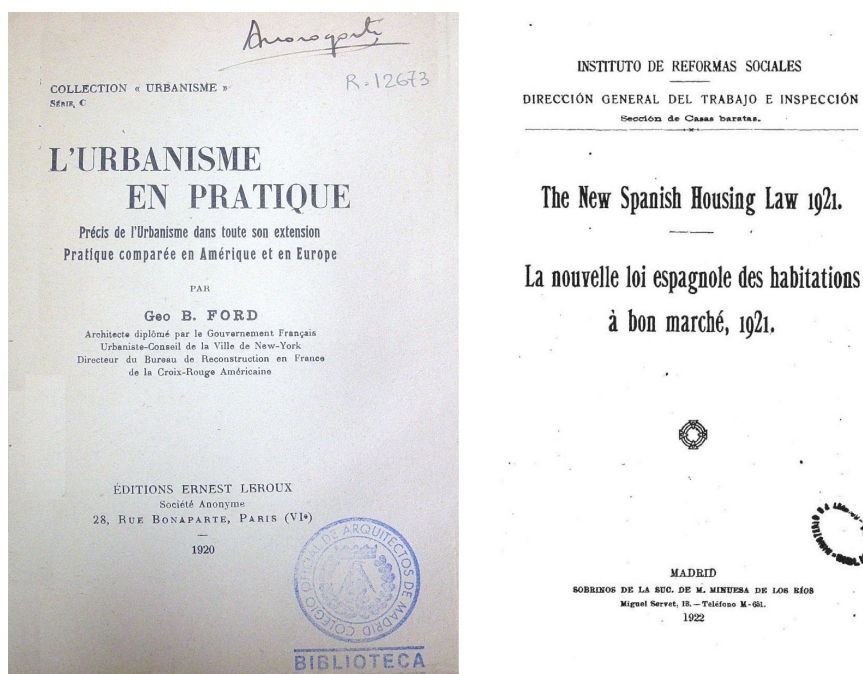


Figure 4: Book (1920) by George B. Ford belonging to the Spanish architect Teodoro Anasagasti and pamphlet in English and French explaining the Law of Casas Baratas (1923)

The Inter-Allied Congress adopted a resolution demanding a minimum standard of comfort in homes. With reference to town planning, a resolution was adopted advocating to definite limitation of dwellings per acre, not to exceed ten, so defending the single housing, and defended the decentralisation of industries, considered one of the most dangerous aspects.



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In this Congress, César Cort contacted George B. Ford, the sociology Henry R. Aldridge and Alfred Agache, secretary of the Musée Social and the Société Française des Urbanistes, organiser of the Congress. Because of Agache, Cort attended the Congrès International d'Urbanisme et d'Hygiène Municipale in Strasbourg (1923) and a meeting in the Soviet Union organised by *L'Architecture d'Aujourd'hui* (1932). Ford influenced in Cort ideas considering the aspect of the *scientific city*; Aldridge's book *The Case for Town Planning. A Practical Manual for the Use of Councillors, Officers and Others Engaged in the Preparation of Town Planning Schemes*, inspired Cort to write his book *Murcia. Un ejemplo sencillo de trazado urbano* (1932), as a manual for Spanish town planners and a syllabus of his teaching. Cort was very anglophile, and so, he was named Honorary Member of the Royal Institute of British Architects in 1925.

The National Housing and Town Planning Council was the promoter of the London Inter-allied Housing and Town Planning Congress. From June 3 to 11 1920, the Congress brought together eight hundred congressmen of which seventeen were Spaniards.²³ The Congress was “destined to summary of the policy of the room and of the urban and rural plan that the current situation of the world demands”²⁴. César Cort had been appointed delegate in Spain of the National Housing and Town Planning Council and he disseminated the Congress in Spain. The Spanish delegation consisted of Federico López Valencia and Salvador Crespo, and Rafael Vélaz de Medrano, regional inspector of Labour, as delegates of the Ministry of Labour; Ricardo Bastida and Ramón de Belausteguigoitia representing the City Council of Bilbao; Nicolau M^a Rubió i Tudurí, representing the Civic Society Ciutat Jardí of Barcelona; and the architect José Salaberry and the engineer José Casuso representing the Madrid City Council, among others.

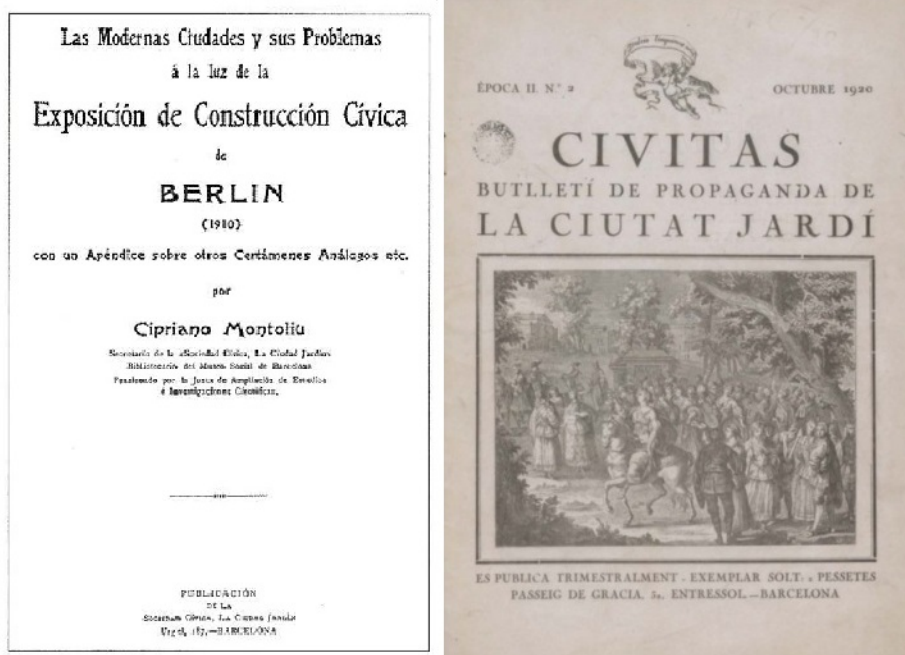


Figure 5. Pamphlet about Berlin Exhibition (1910) and journal *Civitas* edited by Societat Jardí. First, under the direction of Cebriá de Montoliu (Cipriano Montoliu) and later on, under Nicolau M. Tudurí. This is the first issue edited by Tudurí, with an article about the London Inter-allied Congress (1920).

The real objective for most of the Spanish delegates was to analyze and evaluate the solutions for the problems derived from the very strong demand for new homes that, in Great Britain, meant the construction of 500,000 houses in a very short period of time.²⁵ In fact, in August, Salvador Crespo, gathering the ideas expressed in the Congress, elaborated a renewal of the Casas Baratas Law (1911) —named cheap housing instead of social housing—. In the proposal, the modern housing doctrine is contained, based on the limitation of the number of buildings per hectare, the scientific layout of populations and the creation of city gardens, and represents the biggest advance made to date in the solution of the housing problem in Spain, although the complexity and contradictions in the regulations limited a lot the success of Casas Baratas Law (1921).

The Casas Baratas Law (1921), administrated by the IRS, established which houses may be legally termed cheap houses —houses for the working classes and middle–low income classes—, putting some limitations on the proportion of global investment including land purchase plus construction, and the income of the tenant or owner.



The law also set hygienic and building standards to which they must submit, as long as they were part of a housing scheme, gardens, parks, gymnasia, bath, schools, co operative stores, will be legally assimilated to the houses. The law had different features as exemption from taxes, direct grants and rent guaranty for the poorer classes. Provincial and local authorities were empowered to lease, rent or sell land and preference was given to building cooperative societies and trade-unions had preference.²⁶ Continuing with the effort of diffusion, the IRS issued a number of useful pamphlets, which included translation into English and French, explaining the law and its workings.

About the singular German exchanges

This situation of openness also caused the presence of some Germans town planners and architects, mainly, to study our cities and their urban morphologies or to participate directly in the debates, if not in the numerous public competitions for town extension plans from the second half of the 1920s, as Josef Stübben, Hermann Jansen and Otto Bunz. The Estatuto Municipal in 1924 forced the Spanish towns of more than 10,000 inhabitants and a growth rate of 20% in the decade of the 1910s, to have a proper urban extension plan. Josef Stübben would coincide with César Cort in the international contest of Bilbao of 1926, in which both participated separately, later to do it together in the one of Madrid of 1929, where also participated Hermann Jansen, associated with Secundino Zuazo.

Thus, reciprocally, we could assess the presence in Spain of foreign technicians and their benefit in favour of professionalizing town planning. A singular case was represented by the German Oskar Jürgens, doctor engineer and architect, collaborator of Felix Geuzmer—director of the Charlottenburg Seminary of the Technical School of Berlin—and Josef Stübben, as author of the book *Spanische Städte. Ihre bauliche Entwicklung und Ausgestaltung*, published in Hamburg in 1926.²⁷ Paradoxically, it was the remarkable diffusion reached by the book among the German technicians that led to its dissemination in Spain.

If we take as reference the treatise *Der Städtebau* by Josef Stübben, the presence of Spanish urban references in its first edition of 1890 is null. On the contrary, in the 1924 edition there is recognition of the contribution of the engineer Ildefonso Cerdá, the Barcelona plan of the French town planner Leon Jausseley of 1904 is reproduced and César Cort, Guillem Busquets and Cebrià de Montoliu are mentioned. Curiously, the Linear City of Arturo Soria was not listed.

Conclusion

The figures that tried to involve Spain in the International Urban Networks during the complicated times around the First World War, returned the knowledge they received in different ways. Cebrià de Montoliu applied the knowledge to the diffusion of Garden Cities experiences in Catalonia, but also introduced the new town planning concepts through the Social Museum and the journal *Civitas*; Federico López Valencia and Salvador Crepo applied their knowledge to housing policies through the IRS, with the result of the Casas Baratas Law (1921). Three years after, the Estatuto Municipal (1924) was passed: the first Municipal Law that involved the expansion responsibilities and can be considered the first Spanish town planning law. The Town Councils applied their technicians' knowledge in their proper urban development as the contest of Bilbao (1926), Madrid (1929) and the proposal for Barcelona (1934), with Le Corbusier and the architect Fernando García Mercadal one of the leaders of the CIAM in Spain. Hilarión González del Castillo diffused proposals for Linear and Garden Cities in many publications, and Professor César Cort introduced the Garden City theories in his teaching at the School of Architecture in Madrid with concepts as zoning, civic survey, park systems, satellite-towns, parkways, super-blocks and regional planning.

These new ways had to be adapted to the Spanish tradition. And it was really tried, until the interruption of the Spanish Civil War in 1936. That the future city find some images in the numerous urban transformation plans formulated during those years, was not an obstacle for "the people of old spirit, educated in an ancient aesthetic, attracted perhaps by the new spirit, but feeling the love of the past distance", they would find their refuge in "the separated corners that were then to contemplate a rudimentary and primitive architecture, ignorant of itself, like that of our current poor villages", as Torres Balbás finished his meditation on the future city, in a reflection that did not eliminate the inheritance left in its physical trace by the civilizations of the past.²⁸

Disclosure Statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the author.



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Figure 4: George B. Ford. *L'Urbanisme en pratique*. París: Ernest Leroux, 1920. and The New Spanish Housing Law 1921. La nouvelle loi espagnole des habitations á bon marché, 1921. Madrid: Instituto de Reformas Sociales, 1923.

Figure 5: Cebrià de Montoliu, *Las modernas Ciudades y sus Problemas a la luz de la Exposición de Construcción Cívica de Berlín (1910)*. Barcelona: Sociedad Cívica La Ciudad Jardín; and Nicolau M. Tudurí, *Civitas*, n. 2, October 1920.

¹ Torres Balbás, "Utopías y divagaciones," 107.

² Salvador Guerrero, "La Junta para Ampliación de Estudios y la arquitectura de su tiempo (1907-1936)", *Boletín de la Institución Libre de Enseñanza*, n. 63-64, 2006.

³ VII^{ME} Congrès Internationale des Habitations a Bon Marché, tenu a Liège, du 7 au 10 Août 1905, XXXVIII.

⁴ Aldridge, "La habitación popular y la construcción cívica" and "Las condiciones del albergue de los más pobres," 36-39 and 39-44.

⁵ González del Castillo, "La ciudad jardín y la ciudad lineal en el Ateneo," 1-4.

⁶ Llopart, "El Urbanismo en la Escuela de Barcelona." 45-46.

⁷ Lewis, Nelson P.. *Urbanización* (trad. de José María Lasarte). Barcelona: Imprenta de Henrich y C.ª, 1917-1918.

⁸ Posada, *El régimen municipal de la ciudad moderna*, IV-V.

⁹ The Association changed the name to International Garden Cities and Town Planning Association in 1922 and to International Federation for Housing and Town Planning in 1926.

¹⁰ Saunier, "Sketches from the Urban Internationale. Voluntary Societies, International Organizations and US Foundations at the City's Bedside 1900-1960," 380-403.

¹¹ García González, "César Cort y la cultura urbanística de su tiempo: redes internacionales y canales de difusión del urbanismo en la europa de entreguerras," n. 87.

¹² Letter from César Cort to John Nolen, 10th February 1928. Cornell University Library.

¹³ V. Z., "Los trabajos realizados en Elche por los alumnos de urbanización."

¹⁴ Later on, l'Union Internationale des Villes et Pouvoirs Locaux (IULA).

¹⁵ As documented by Geddes, "Two Steps in Civics: Cities and Town Planning Exhibition and the International Congress of Cities: Ghent International Exhibition, 1913."



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¹⁶ Meller (ed.), *Ghent Planning Congress 1913. Premier Congrès International et Exposition Comparée des Villes* (London: Routledge, 2014). Introduction by William Whyte.

¹⁷ "Chronicle of Passing Events," *The Town Planning Review*, 245-256.

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¹⁹ Cort, "La reconstrucció de Chauny," 177-180 and "La Conferencia Interaliada de Urbanismo," 3, 3-6, 3-7 and 4-6.

²⁰ Cohen, *La temptació d'Amèrica*, 49-50.

²¹ Ford, "Town Planning in the Devastated Regions of France." 217-221.

²² "Open reconstruction exhibition in Robinson. French Society, La Renaissance des Cites, Illustrates War Zone Work by Exhibition." *Harvard Crismon*.

²³ Do not confuse with the 4th International Garden Cities and Town Planning Association Conference that took place in London, February 1920.

²⁴ "Congrès d'edificació i urbanisme a Londres." 15.

²⁵ Lebas, Magri and Topalov, "Reconstruction and popular housing after the First World War: A comparative study of France, Great Britain, Italy and the United States." 249-267.

²⁶ Instituto de Reformas Sociales, *The new Spanish Housing Law 1921- La nouvelle loi espagnole des habitations à bon marché, 1921*.

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²⁸ Torres Balbás, "Utopías y divagaciones," 107.