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By the way, what urbanism really is?

## Experiences on the landscape catalogues for Catalonia

Jordi Bellmunt, Maria Goula

Massive interest on landscape in the Mediterranean emerged with the renewal of the discourse on public space; with time it has been oriented towards less explored design fields and resulted more exposed to natural processes. The present text deals with the work developed by the Centre of research and landscape design, Barcelona, related with the elaboration of the first landscape catalogues in Catalonia.

The elaboration of the landscape catalogues begun on 2005 on a political initiative from *Generalitat de Catalunya* and coordinated by *Observatori de paisatge de Catalunya*, the latter was founded with the main objective of registering experiences and spreading knowledge on landscape, putting into practice the concepts proposed by the European landscape convention.

It is important to underline that the experience has a double purpose: on one hand, to register in an exhaustive and non eclectic way Catalonia's contemporary landscapes, exposing the results to the citizenship in direct contact with local administrations; on the other hand, to generate new cartographies which will define the instruments for description and evaluation of those landscapes at the scale of regional planning. Moreover, they set the legal frame for the establishment of quality objectives as a guarantee of preservation and improvement.

Focusing the identity of those landscapes meant identifying complexity, fragility and opportunity situations. However, the most innovative aim was to interpret and recognize

project opportunities within ordinary landscapes which are far away from being singular, sublime or sublimated.

The fundamental directives of this work have been the exploration of locations' abstract form through the definition of permanent horizons and minimum visual units, and the careful study of visual image based on ecological active structures as well as natural and vigorous agricultural patterns. The descriptive base for those landscapes has finally been the unit as perceptive and physiographic basis; however the final structure of this work introduces a new element that of the ecological frontier, the latter are considered areas which have highly valued as dynamic landscapes.

Finally, the cartography on quality objectives for each landscape unit offers an instrumental value since it is not just focusing on the valuable landscapes but it is inclusive mixing project opportunities of deteriorated landscapes with structural and quality landscape situations.