



**Republican
Castelló
Itinerary**
English
MUCC

Self-guided itinerary

Characteristics

- Free entrance.
- Walking tour.
- Accessible.
- Duration of the tour: 1 h 30'
- Explanatory elements: an initial introductory panel, 10 points of interest indicated with numbered plates on the ground.

Instructions

The itinerary can be done using an audioguide or a printed guide.

- The audioguide and the digital map can be downloaded on a mobile device from the web www.mucc.es/republica
- Access online to the audioguide and map of the route on: <https://audioviator.com/en/audioguia/the-republican-castello>
- The printed guide must be requested at the Tourist Info office.
- Arranged tours: consult www.mucc.castello.es

Tourist Info Castelló

Plaza de la Hierba, s/n 12001 - Castelló de la Plana
+34 964 35 86 88 - castellon@touristinfo.net

Opening hours

From Monday to Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. uninterrupted
Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Tourist Info Grau de Castelló

Paseo Buenavista, 28 12100 - Castelló de la Plana
+34 964 28 36 21 - graocastellon@touristinfo.net

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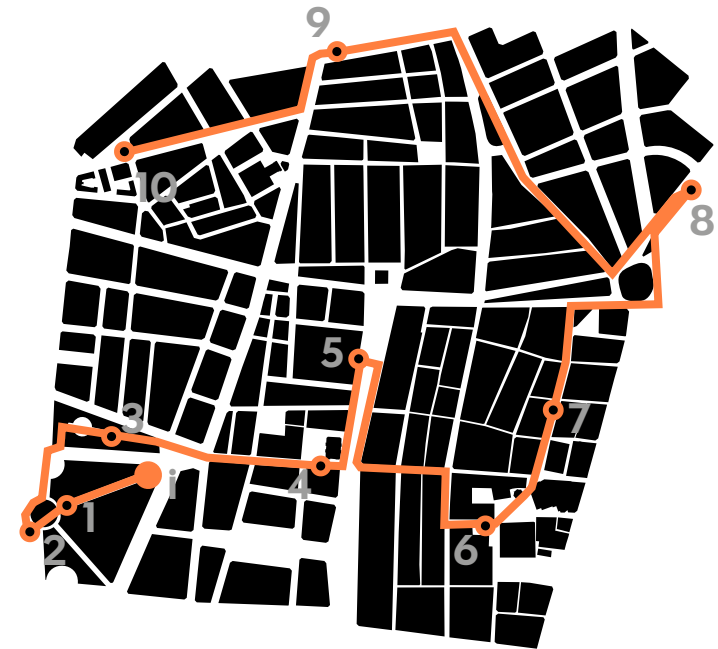
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Republican Castelló itinerary

Introduction

The Second Republic (1931-1939) was the first period of democratic government in the history of the Spanish State. It was a modernising effort, with important social and economic transformations, accompanied by a significant cultural drive across many sectors; a period not without social conflict and volatility.



- i** Initial panel (Ribalta Park)
- o** Ground plates: 1. Ribalta Park (Pavilion) / 2. Ribalta Park (Obelisk) / 3. Ribalta Park (Commemorative plaque to González Chermá) / 4. Air-raid shelter / Post Office building (Tetuán Square) / 5. Ribalta Secondary School (35, Rey don Jaime Avenue) / 6. City Hall (Vera Street / J. García Street) / 7. Normes de Castelló (25, Caballeros Street) / 8. Rural Police Union (16, Virgen del Lidón Avenue) / 9. Assault Guard barracks (92, La Magdalena Avenue) / 10. Casas Baratas (Vinatea Avenue and Padre Vela Street)

1 - Pavilion

Ribalta Park

The proclamation of the Second Republic after the municipal elections of 12th April 1931 brought about an important cultural drive by the new municipal government. This was a democratic regime that followed a political line of considerable social advances reflected in the Constitution of 1931, such as: the self-government of municipalities and regions, the laicism of the State and the renunciation to war as an instrument of national policy. Furthermore, equal rights were granted to both spouses, divorce could be obtained by mutual agreement without punishment by law and abortion was decriminalised. All this was opposed by the conservative right and the ecclesiastical discourse.

The Ribalta Park began to be built in 1868. It was a place of leisure and recreation, especially in the summertime. Despite the passing of time, the Civil War and the Dictatorship, we can still find remnants of those former years. Among them we should highlight the survival of two relevant architectural monuments, the Pavilion and the Obelisk. The Pavilion, whose architect was Francisco Maristany Casajuana, is a place where concerts were played. It was finished in 1934 and has a modernist style with 16 colonnades with Corinthian capital. The ceiling displays four allegorical bas reliefs dedicated to musical composers: Chapí, Falla, Bretón and Giné. In the lower part, there is still a coat of arms crowned by a ground wall. The year of construction that was carved in the top part has disappeared, but it can be seen in photographs from that time.

In this park there are other emblematic remains, such as the benches, the statue of the painter Ribalta, the Dovecote, the Fountain of Pelicet... In the southern part of the park, in front of the bullring, there was a library which got replaced in 1936 for some public schools that disappeared after the war.





2 - Obelisk

Ribalta Park

During the Second Republic, the main holidays were on the 7th, 8th and 9th July and commemorated the liberal triumph over Carlism. They were the most prominent festivities of the civil power in the city. They were held in the Ribalta Park around the Obelisk. The myth of the liberal Castelló, as opposed to the Catholic conservatism represented by the Cruz del Bartolo, was built from this symbol.

Parades, bullfights, dances, sport competitions, car shows, air shows, auditions, literary contests and a civic procession or demonstration that ran from the Obelisk to the City Hall were all scheduled.

The Radical Party controlled the July festivities until 1937, the conservatives criticised its politicisation and the left expressed its disagreement.



3 - Commemorative plaque to González Chermá

Ribalta Park

The emergence of republicanism in the city was linked to the figure of Francisco González Chermá (1832-1896) and his political persona. Born in Castelló, a cobbler by profession, he was the first Republican mayor of Castelló from 1869 to 1871. He was the president of the Independent Canton of Castelló in 1873 during the federal uprising and deputy to the Cortes in 1891 and 1893. "His republicanism represented the working class of Castelló, made up of agricultural workers and workers in the secondary sector organised on the basis of small property."

At the proposal of the Republican Association González Chermá, on 14th April 2005, the City Council put up a commemorative plaque to represent this mayor on the Ribalta promenade, giving name to the avenue that leads to the Pergola building.



4 - Air-raid shelter / Post Office building

Tetuán Square

During the Second Republic, Tetuán Square was known as Fermín Galán Square. On 23rd March 1937, the city of Castelló was bombed for the first time by the *Baleares* cruiser. This bombing was popularly known by witnesses as "the bombing of the ship". Consequently, there were more than 30 injured and 19 fatalities, according to latest research.

It affected different areas of the city, among which was this square, where a bombshell exploded a metre away from the Post Office building. Indications suggest that seven people were injured and two were killed. It also caused serious damage to the drink kiosk located in the centre and to several houses (dwellings and warehouses) around the square and Zaragoza Street.

During the years 1937 and 1938, the city was bombed a total of 44 times indiscriminately, targeting the civilian population. According to the latest studies, 154 fatalities were accounted for and more than 20 victims were left unaccounted. The material damage was considerable, taking into account the houses that were destroyed and damaged -over a thousand in total- and all types of public and private buildings were affected.

Shelters were built throughout the city by the Passive Defense Board, an organisation made up of civil and military officials created by the City Council at the request of the central government to defend the civilian population. Some 43 public shelters of the 200 initially planned and a network of more than 200 private shelters were built. The City Council had to resort to different public and private institutions to finance the construction of shelters, as well as popular subscriptions.

When the siren, which was installed in the bell tower -the Fadrí- sounded, people left everything behind and ran out to protect themselves in the shelters. Sometimes, boys and girls hung a little wooden stick around their necks and bit it to prevent their eardrums from bursting because of the noise. The Assault Guard directed the entry into the shelters to avoid overcrowding. Notices and public announcements were also issued for the correct use of the shelters.

One of the few public shelters still preserved is in this square. It had two accesses: one through Tetuán Square and the second through Zaragoza Street, as well as connections with private shelters.

On 3rd July 1951, the rupture of a water pipe caused a collapse that threatened the adjacent buildings in the square. The repair made at that time improved its conservation.

The Tetuán shelter, part of our history, has been recovered by the City Council of Castelló to show the cruelty of the civil war in the city and its consequences, with the aim of contributing to the consolidation of a culture of peace. As of the year 2018 it is open for visits and is part of the Museum of the City (Mucc).

Post Office building

In 1932, the Modernist-style Post Office building was finished, and Tetuán Square was landscaped. The front of the building displays the old coat of arms of the city of Castelló de la Plana, dated 15th February 1843. The inscription of the motto and the scene of a dog chasing a wolf represent the civil wars that continued in the 19th century. The same liberal coat of arms from the 19th century was kept during the Second Republic, using its symbolic meaning, which represents the defence of liberties against tyrannies. The dog represents the republicans and the wolf represents the reactionaries.

In heraldry terms, it is defined as: first, on a blue background, a silver castle, light gules and, in front of its door, a white spotted greyhound with a sword, watching a fleeing wolf. Then, in gold, four gules clubs. The ducal crown appears at the crest, together with a spreading eagle that holds in its beak a triumphal crown and a gules ribbon with the motto in gold: "Triumph of the enemies of freedom, July 1837".

In August 1939, after the Civil War finished and the Dictatorship started, the Permanent Municipal Commission of the Castelló City Council changed it and replaced the ribbon, the eagle, the greyhound and the wolf, adopting a new design by Francisco Maristany Casajuana.

CASTELLÓN.—Instituto General y Técnico



5 - Ribalta Secondary School

35, Rey don Jaime Avenue

Teaching and learning

High illiteracy was seen during the Second Republic, more than 30 % of the population, with a higher percentage among women, as well as a lack of schooling.

Education was a priority in the politics of the Republican governments and one of the most debated social issues. The republican educational programme represented one of the most iconic reforms of the Second Republic. Education underwent a pedagogical renovation with a single school, coeducation, bilingualism and secularism. It was considered that society could not be transformed without a public, free, secular, universal and free education based on the most modern methods and principles of the Free Institution of Education. Likewise, they wanted to implement a permanent training plan. Groups, social movements and organisations linked to political parties, such as the associations of republican women, were involved in specific aspects of the educational field. Thus, proletarian education, women's education, also in the occupational field, and adult education all stood out.

The State guaranteed the right to education, increasing the budget by 50 %. Teachers' dignity was sought to be substantially achieved by increasing salaries and trying, among others, to shift the highest intellectual authority from priests to teachers in towns and villages. The approval of a very ambitious school construction plan (10,000 schools and 7,000 teacher positions) represented a challenge for society.

In Castelló, we will find the following state-run schools: Ejército (Jorge Juan Street), Grupo Escultor Adsuara, Maestro Castelló, Gaetà Huguet (Pi i Margall Street-La Magdalena Avenue) later Cervantes, Sixto Cámara in the same square, Aulas de Latinidad and the school attached to the Escuela Normal de Maestros. In addition, there was also a rural school in Benadressa, a boys and girls' school to serve the spread-out population. In 1936, the library of the Ribalta Park was set up for public schools, located at the roundabout in front of the bullring, using a project by Francisco Maristany Casajuana. The previous building had two more blocks added to its sides and three classrooms and other school services were created.

In El Grau, in the 1920s, there were two schools: one financed by the Firshermen's Council and another one in Sebastián Elcano Street from 1898, which became a hospital in 1938. The two schools integrated the Grupo Guerra del Río in 1934, with two schools for boys, two for girls and two for nursery children.

Francisco Ribalta Secondary School was the educational centre par excellence of Castelló and the province during the Second Republic, and a total of 991 students studied there in the 1935-1936 academic year. A major part of the teaching body had been trained by the Board of Extension of Studies of the Free Institution of Education (ILE). The educational tasks with the classes and cultural acts of different character helped to create the basis for the future society. During the Civil War, the secondary school took the official name of Juan Marco in May of 1937. It offered secondary education and it had a Valencian language school in 1938, directed by Bernat Artola, but it did not get underway due to the proximity of the pro-Franco army.

In secondary schools, from 1931 to 1936, the number of male pupils doubled; while that of female pupils tripled and they were given a prominence which, until that moment, had not happened. In Francisco Ribalta Secondary School, there went from about 550 male students to 991, while women went from having a 10 % to 30 % representation, becoming the basis for future university professions in a civil society.



6 - City Hall

Vera Street / J. García Street

Proclamation of the Second Republic (1931). Political parties

The arrival of the Republic was motivated by political, economic, social and cultural causes that led to the collapse of the Restoration regime, the victory of the Republican parties in the municipal elections of 12th April 1931 and the exile of King Alfonso XIII. The Second Republic in Castelló was, on the one hand, due to the rejection of the monarchy and, on the other, by the hegemonic strength of republicanism in the city, where the workers' movement showed its support for the Republic proposals. It was a conquest from the people of Castelló that propelled the Autonomous Republican Party into municipal power.

The Republican-Socialist Conjunction won the municipal elections in Castelló in a council that had 24 republicans, two socialists, two conservatives, one regionalist and one liberal.

The 14th April 1931 was a day of celebration and expectation in the cities of the Spanish State. In Castelló, 14,000 people took to the streets to celebrate the proclamation of the Second Republic through the centre of the city, with a tour through Castelar Square (Puerta del Sol), González Chermá Street (Enmedio Street), Colón Street and Constitución Square (Mayor Square). Fernando Gasset, as president of the Autonomous Republican Party of Castelló, showed up at the City Council and, there, Miguel Peña, a Valencian politician, gave a speech. Next, the republican leaders went to the Republican Centre and met with the civil governor, with the director of the newspaper *Heraldo de Castellón* and with the president of the Provincial Council.

La Unión Worker's Centre, which grouped the workers' organisations, took the Republican flags to the street and released the political prisoners from the Civil Government Offices in Mayor Street.

The new municipal government changed the name index and dedicated streets and squares to artists and writers (Maestro Arrieta, Amadeo Vives, Tirso de Molina...), heroes against absolutism (Torrijos, Mariana Pineda, Riego...) and republican leaders (Manuel Azaña, Niceto Alcalá-Zamora, Alejandro Lerroux...). Among these changes were Fermín Galán Square (today Tetuán Square), Hermanos Bou Avenue (one of the brothers was the

protector of the Provincial Museum of Castelló and the other one was a painter), República Square (now La Paz Square), Alcalde Forcada Square (member of the Radical Party, now María Agustina Square) and Alcalde Carbó Square (member of the Radical Party, today Las Aulas Square), and many more.

The Autonomous Republican Party, under the leadership of Fernando Gasset, was initially an interclassist party defending the liberal and democratic order. This party dominated the City Council of Castelló until 1936, when the Popular Front triumphed in the Civil War. The other parties present in Castelló's politics were Republican Action of Castelló (reformists and valencianists), Socialist Party, Republican Union, Republican Left, Republican Left of the Valencian Country, Regional Agrarian Right (CEDA), Traditionalist Party, Spanish Renovation, Communist Party, Workers and Farmers Party, Workers Party of Marxist Unification and Unified Socialist Youth. Most of the parties included a female section.

Next to the City Hall, we find a sculpture that pays homage to the local costumbrist artists, made in 1935 by Juan B. Adsuara. The main figures represent two half-naked nymphs holding a large basin on top of their heads.



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de 10:30 a 13:00 h
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En aquesta casa el 20 de desembre del 1912
se celebrà per la Societat Catalana de Cultura,
escritors, intel·lectuals i artistes catalans del
País Valencià la primera "Nocturns Literaris del
Valencià", anomenada "Nocturns de Castell" des
de la veïtat de la Plaça Catalunya.

7 - Normes de Castelló

25, Caballeros Street

The “**Normes de Castelló**” were signed on 21st December 1932 at casa Matutano, which currently hosts the Municipal Ethnological Museum.

The “Normes de Castelló” were created as a result of the efforts made by intellectuals belonging to Sociedad Castellonense de Cultura (Castelló Culture Association). They were the orthographic standards applicable in the Valencian Country from December 1932 onwards and included a total of 34 orthographic rules based on the orthographic standards by the Institut d’Estudis Catalans (Catalan Studies Institute) from 1913, promoted by Pompeu Fabra and adapted to the particularities of our territory. The “Normes de Castelló”, written by Lluís Revest and Carles Salvador, were very well received by the society as a result of the consensus very diplomatically built by Gaetà Huguet –who managed to get the signature of the priest Lluís Fullana–, Adolf Pizcueta and Manuel Sanchis Guarner. The “Normes de Castelló” have been declared an Asset of Cultural Interest.

Culture and leisure. With industrialisation came more leisure time. The population could develop their personal growth and sociability in going to the cinema, theatre and playing sports.

The two most established cultural entities in the city were the Sociedad Castellonense de Cultura, which started out in 1919, and the Ateneo, in 1924. Other centres were: the Ateneo Radical, the Centro Republicano, the Ateneo Racionalista, the Sociedad Filarmónica and the Unión Musical Castellonense.

The bourgeoisie would gather around the Casino Antiguo and the Mercantil. Among the popular classes it was not unheard-of to go on outings to the pine forest El Pinar and go dancing, for example, to the Casino de Izquierda Republicana in Enmedio Street.

The sociability network for the popular classes were the workers’ social centres, such as those of San Vicente Street, San Blas Street and La Unión, in La Magdalena Avenue, which brought together some 62 worker associations, including some which turned into collectives. Among the city’s industrial collectivisations during the Civil War there were several factories, a printing or collective workshop, craft workshops and garages with experiments such as the bodywork industry.

Media. During the republican time, the media consisted of the newspapers *Heraldo de Castellón*, *Diario de la Mañana*, *Diario de Castellón*, *Provincia Nueva*, *República* and *Libertad*, and the radio station Radio Castellón EAJ-14.

Cinema. As it was happening all over the world, going to the cinema in Castelló also became an important way of transmitting culture, as well as a very popular activity among all social classes. A good example of this is found in the large number of big screens that were in the city during the 30s, six in total: Capitol, Royal, Doré, Victoria, Actualidades and Goya. In 1931, in El Grau of Castelló, the Marina Cinema operated on Magallanes Street. The same year, the Capitol Cinema was reopened in the Espacio Novedades, between Asensi Street and Luis Vives Street.

Theatre. Performances were shown in the theatres Principal and Fantasio, but also in the premises of the political parties, working men’s clubs and associations such as the Unión Musical Castellonense (1935) in Arenós Street and the Círculo Socialista (1925) in La Magdalena Avenue (Ateneo del PSOE), where the Agrupación Artística Teatral performed, scheduling variety shows and comic sketches in Valencian language, as well as at the Teatro Fantasio. Amongst the most well-known companies it is worth mentioning the Peña Teatral and the one of Linares Rivas, where actors Diego Perona and Carmencita Sàbat used to perform, taking on comedy and drama mainly. We must also mention the companies of Badenes and Vicent Viciach, with amateur plays in Valencian language.

Dance halls and cabarets. In Castelló there were several dance halls such as As Cabaret (1926), Salón-Café Teatro (1926) in El Grau, Cabaret Rosales (1928), Cabaret Mundial (1929), Music Hall Royalty (1929) and Cabaret Versailles Music Hall (1930). In the summer, comedies, comic sketches and zarzuelas were offered in the bullring.

Sport. The Cervantes team became the Castelló Sports Club in 1922 and, in 1933, it was known as Sport Club de la Plana. In 1930, Gaetà Huguet created the association Peña Excursionista Peñagolosa, which was later integrated into Republican Action of Castelló, becoming a symbol of Valencian identity. A year later, the Cultural Deportiva de Castelló was born, dedicated to athletics, basketball, swimming and fishing and, in 1933, the Centro Excursionista Castellonense and the Real Club Náutico de Castellón were founded.



8 - The Rural Police Union

16, Virgen del Lidón Avenue

The Rural Police Union was established in 1898. Its aim was to fight against robberies and break-ins and to defend the farming lands from cattle invasions. In 1931 the building for the Rural Police was built at 16, Virgen del Lidón Avenue. In the part of the building located in Catalino Alegre Street, there is a coat of arms showing the Republican State. It is currently the headquarters of the Municipal Farming Service.

Urban planning. During the course of the 19th century, with the boom of the bourgeoisie, major urban changes were made. From 1880, the old city centre was reformed, and it was decided to demolish the city walls (1884) to pave the way for the city's growth and economic development.

In 1925, the Urbanisation Plan of Castelló was approved by the architect Vicent Traver Tomás, who divided up the city into an inner zone, or old centre, an area for expansion and another area for an anticipated growth to the west. However, despite the potential for urban development, this plan was not enacted.

Growth continued by Hermanos Bou Avenue, where, in 1934, the Museum of Fine Arts was inaugurated with new eclectic, rationalist, purist and art deco buildings, especially in the south and south-east area between La Trinidad Street and Casalduch Avenue, and from Asensi Street to Jover Street.

The same year Fadrell Square was opened, between the Main Canal and the washing sites.

In 1936, the housing estates around Gran Vía Tárrega Montebancho were approved and *masetes* (small houses typical of Castelló, located usually on the outskirts, with covered terraces and small gardens) were built next to the train station. They were a popular summer destination choice for well-to-do families.

Buildings with different uses were constructed in line with the style of family dwellings. Most were predominantly narrow houses with two floors. The ground floor was divided into a dining room, kitchen and outdoor patio, while the bedrooms were distributed on the upper floor.

In 1933, an airfield was opened in El Grau.



9 - Assault Guard barracks

92, La Magdalena Avenue

The Assault Guard (Security and Assault Force) was created by the Republic in 1932. It was the armed body responsible for maintaining the public order, more typical of urban areas, to protect the population in a democratic regime. Its headquarters were at 92, La Magdalena Avenue, in a building created with funding from the Provincial Council and the City Council of Castelló. The works were finished in 1936.

Before this, public order had been overseen by the army and the Civil Guard, created by the moderates and originally assigned to the rural environment, to defend the interests of large landowners against day laborers. They also acted to repress workers in the cities.

The creation of the Assault Guard sought to modernise the police in actions, method and training, as opposed to the Civil Guard, more typical of the 19th century.

When the war ended, the building assigned to the Assault Guard was used as the headquarters of the Armed Police and, later on, of the National Police.

Social conflicts

During the Second Republic, social conflicts were rife because of the crisis and unemployment. The lack of work hit the weak economic structure of the country and caused protests and strikes in demand for higher salaries and more work. That said, in the Valencian region such protests were scarce in relation to the rest of the State. There were strikes by farmers, carpenters, orange growers, fishing and textile sectors, and a general strike that took place from 31st January to 2nd February 1934. From La Unión Workers' Centre, republicans, socialists, anarchists and communists protested the passivity of the Government when it came to solving labour unemployment. Most industries and businesses closed. In a demonstration, confrontation with the Civil Guard and the Assault Guard resulted in one death, several injuries and the arrest of eleven people. Violence increased when barricades were erected in La Magdalena Avenue and Mestrets. La Unión Workers' Centre was closed down. On the third day, an agreement was reached to initiate a public works policy with the City Council.

In April 1934, the Faculties of Medicine and Fine Arts of Valencia suffered fascist attacks. In protest, the University College Federation (FUE) called a 24-hour strike. In Castelló, out of solidarity with the students of Valencia, the FUE called a strike on 17th April at the Escuela Normal and at the Secondary School (now Francisco Ribalta Secondary School).

The next part of the itinerary is the route from the Assault Guard barracks, where the prison was, to the next stop along Vinatea Avenue. During the latter months of the Civil War and the first months of the Franco regime, this was the route of those condemned to death, when they left in trucks from the prison to the cemetery, where they were shot.



10 - Casas Baratas

Vinatea Avenue and Padre Vela Street

Cooperativa Casas Baratas

The creation of a worker cooperative to build homes was a response to the lack of housing. In Republican times, there were two cooperatives: Cooperativa Casas Baratas Pablo Iglesias, of the UGT union and Cooperativa Obrera de Casas Baratas, managed by La Unión Workers' Centre.

Cooperativa Casas Baratas Pablo Iglesias, called Bovalar, under the direction of the architect Luis Ros de Ursinos, built twelve affordable homes between 1922 and 1930 next to Oeste Avenue for workers belonging to the UGT union.

In 1936, Cooperativa Obrera de Casas Baratas de La Unión built thirty houses for the trade workers. The cooperative bought land and then auctioned the houses among the paying cooperative members. Between 1920 and 1926, they reached 490 members and their headquarters were at 12, Mijares Avenue.

In the area of Mestrets the houses were designed by the architect Francisco Maristany and the following can be seen to these days: in Vinatea Street (38 to 44 and 39 to 57 of the current numbering), in Padre Tosca Street (8 to 18); in San Mateo Street (55 to 59) and in Lepanto Street (11 and 13). We can find houses with similar style to those of Cooperativa Bovalar in other parts of the city, like in Jorge Juan Street (number 12).

In July 1936, twelve houses of the first group were completed. However, on 12th January 1937, during the Civil War, works were halted due to confiscations, which provoked a rise in prices. On 19th August 1937, the second group of twelve houses built by contractor Joan Bausá was completed. With the approach of military rebellion, the project remained unfinished until the arrival of the Franco regime.

Credits

Text

Grup per la Recerca de la Memòria Històrica de Castelló

Photography

Colección Sucine

Francesc Durà

Grup per la Recerca de la Memòria Històrica de Castelló

Legado Nicolau

Style correction

Núria Balaguer Palomo

Translation

Areté Idiomes

Proofreading

Negociat de Normalització Lingüística de l'Ajuntament de Castelló

Design

Alberto Arza

Audioguide

AudioViator

Management - Coordination

Ana Meseguer Branchat

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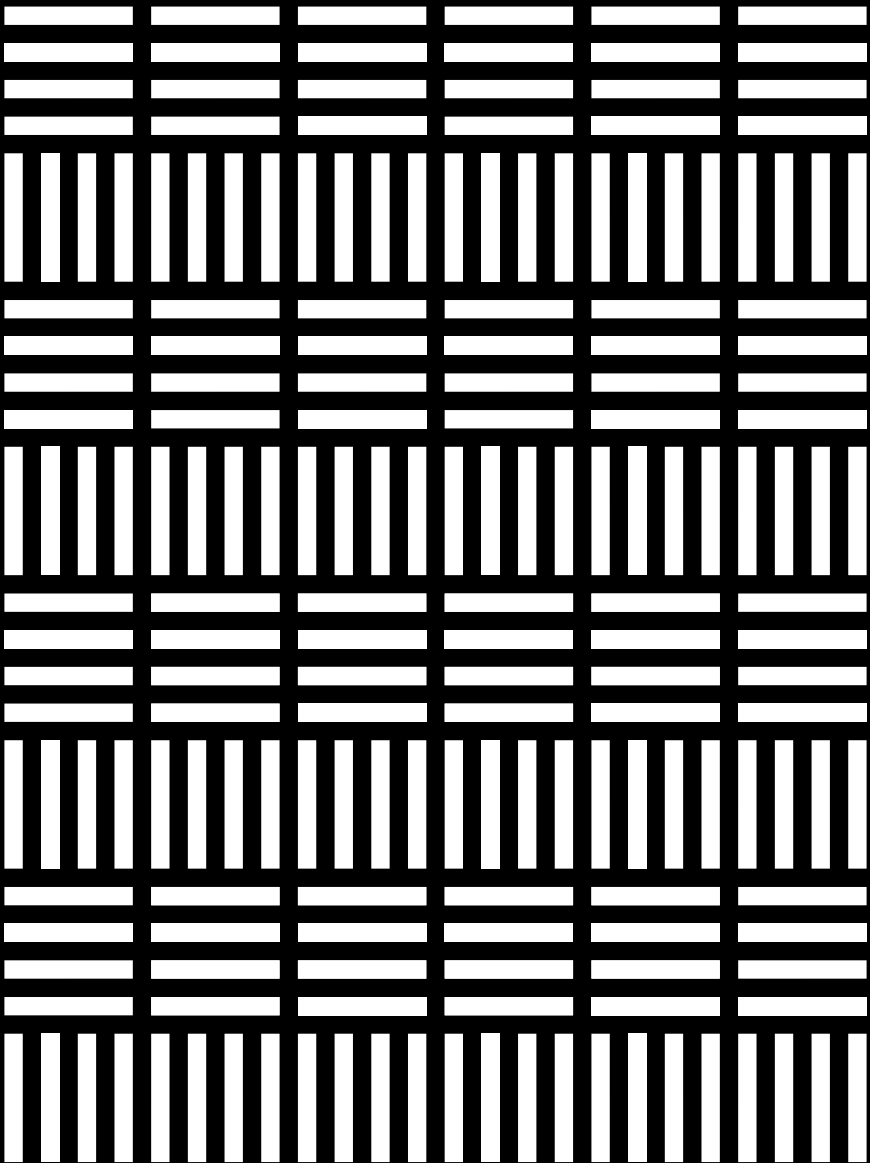
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Heraldo de Castellón



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