Can Batlló is a former industrial site in a strategic place in Barcelona. The opportunity to transform this enclosure into a residential area and a new center of activity and tertiary facilities - at neighborhood and city level - has raised many expectations among neighbors and has generated some controversy between successive projects submitted by the City Council and neighborhood demands for facilities, public space and housing. In fact, the neighbors have already achieved to transform one of the industrial pieces – Block 11 - into a library. High-rise buildings and a large void; that is to say, a residential and tertiary area with a large park? Or reweave the city switched to a new higher-density mixed and lower height fabric? A challenge: new uses and activities coexisting with architectural industrial heritage to preserve the memory of the place and the city.

Located on the Gran Via, one of the reference streets in the city that cuts across a whole, has a façade 640 meters long to this main axis in the Cerdà Plan and one of the main entrances to the city from El Prat airport.

At the boundaries of Can Batlló different urban patterns converge. The construction of the first belt of the city on the 60’s already caused a high-rise building concentration in one of its limits at that time, which has been increasing as far as the Gran Via has become a renewed city gateway.

The spinning and weaving factory of Can Batlló after a long textile industrial activity (1878-1943) has been occupied for decades by various temporary industrial activities. For its size and location, along with the nowadays obsolete Magòria station, has always meant a barrier between
neighborhoods. Recently there have been two crucial facts to the district's future: the disappearance of Magòria Station -now converted into a sports area- and the burying of the railway line.

The proposal, as urban project, must respond to both urban typologies, that of the traditional neighborhood and that of the recent operations, and become a transition between different tissues. The project will have to prioritize, as well as facilities related to the recovery of the buildings of heritage interest, tertiary uses and open space for the neighborhood, without giving up the creation of a residential fabric and improved connectivity. Special interest will have the new facade of Gran Via with mixed use buildings, both commercial and residential.

Given the size of the sector and the program to be developed, after an analysis of the site and the proposal of a Master Plan in teams of two, further development of a sector of the Plan as an urban project, defining the typology of the buildings and designing the open space, will be done individually.

**Course goals**
- Promote sensitiveness to the urban dimension of architecture.
- Deepen in the specific mechanisms of an urban renewal project with industrial heritage.
- Acquire a coherent structure of theoretical concepts, a critical capacity of diagnostic of the problems and proposal of alternative solutions, as well as a professional culture in the managing of techniques, tools and designing methods.

**Course content**
- The place: material and morphological features. Atmosphere and pre-existing elements.
- The plan of the settlement. Hypothesis of the developing. Time as process.
- The structure of the plan. The generating elements.
- The project of the ground. Hardware, urbanization elements and open spaces. Spaces in-between
- The configuration of the building. Public facilities, Housing typology and aggregation system. The repetitive elements.