

Citation:

Paez, Roger. *Critical Prison Design: Mas d'Enric Penitentiary by AiB arquitectes + Estudi PSP Arquitectura*. New York : Actar, 2014. Print. ISBN 978-0-9893317-7-7.

Title:

**Critical Prison Design: Mas d'Enric Penitentiary by AiB arquitectes + Estudi PSP Arquitectura**

Author/s:

**Roger Paez i Blanch**

Date:

**2014**

Language/s:

English

Format:

Book

Publisher/Organizer:

Actar Publishers

Copyright:

All rights reserved

9 780989 331777

The prison is an uncomfortable institution and its architecture is often subjugated to technocratic criteria. Mas d'Enric is a new penitentiary that overturns preconceptions and posits architecture as a medium to critically rethink contemporary prisons.

Contributions by Keller Easterling, Adrià Carbonell, Lluís Ortega, Juan Azulay, Juan Elvira, Ed Keller, Ramon Faura, Camí, Eòghann MacColl, Angela Kay Bunning, Gruff Rhys, Jordi Bernadó.

CRITICAL PRISON DESIGN



ROGER PAEZ

ROGER PAEZ

CRITICAL PRISON DESIGN

Mas d'Enric Penitentiary  
by AiB arquitectes + Estudi PSP Arquitectura

ROGER PAEZ

# CRITICAL PRISON DESIGN



Mas d'Enric Penitentiary

by AiB arquitectes + Estudi PSP Arquitectura

AiB  
ARQUITECTES

• ESTUDI P S P ARQUITECTURA •



 Generalitat de Catalunya  
Departament  
de Justícia

 COMSA  
EMTE



- 12— Mas d'Enric Penitentiary
- 20— Somewhere Lions Still Roam. Roger Paez

#### CONCEPT

- 38— **Visibilization**  
Confined. Keller Easterling
- 44— **Genealogy**  
Walls, Bars, Open Space. Adrià Carbonell
- 52— **Discipline and Freedom**  
Mas d'Enric, Landscape and Self-awareness. Lluís Ortega
- 64— **Totality**  
The Coat of the Jaguar. Juan Azulay
- 74— **Vibration**  
Architecture and the Potential for Effect. Juan Elvira
- 84— **The Outside**  
Doing Time. Ed Keller
- 94— **Topology-Typology**  
Stick Your Head Out. Ramon Faura

#### DESIGN

- 112— Project Overview
- 126— Façades
- 132— Roofs
- 144— Program
- 146— External Area
- 152— Intermediate Area
- 160— Residential Blocks
- 174— Cultural and Sports Facilities
- 184— Solitary Confinement, Infirmary, Kitchen-Laundry-Storage, Workshops
- 192— Interior Promenade

#### FICCTIONS

- 210— Escorça. Camí
- 214— Full Circle. Eoghann MacColl
- 220— Correspondence. Angela Kay Bunning
- 222— Breaking and Entry. Gruff Rhys
- 228— A Nomadic Prison. A i B arquitectes
- 234— Hic Sunt Leones. Jordi Bernadó and 15-L. Films
  
- 242— Biographies



Actually, this world isn't just one world—now. As this city is actually layers of cities. Behind the many thicknesses of pain, try to connect with the single will for pleasure that moves even in the violence of streets and beds, of jails and opera houses.

Susan Sontag

## Mas d'Enric Penitentiary

A i B arquitectes + Estudi PSP Arquitectura

### I.

The prison is an uncomfortable institution and its architecture is often subjugated to technocratic criteria. This servility forces the prison out of the sociocultural realm where it belongs, thus erasing it from public discourse. The invisibility of the penitentiary as an institution demonstrates an unresolved contradiction underlying contemporary society. We intend to explore this contradiction through architecture.

A prison must respond to the demand for confinement (discipline) and reinsertion (freedom) at the same time. Within this complex framework, architecture can make use of its ability to synthetically articulate problems that seem contradictory to become an active agent in resolving the paradox of the contemporary penitentiary.

Based on our experience with the Mas d'Enric penitentiary, we claim the prison as an object of critical design and we reclaim architecture's role in multiplying possibilities as opposed to limiting them.

### II.

Given very strict programmatic requirements, a series of decisions forges a link between the utilitarian and the conceptual: the construction of an appropriable, non-oppressive environment; the introduction of a maximum number of vectors of exteriority; and the generation of open space that is central both formally and conceptually.

Three keys aspects permeate the entire design process and serve as the conceptual horizons that articulate the project:

- Totality: Tackling the problem of designing a total environment.
- Vibration: Introducing spatial and perceptual diversity
- Openness: Celebrating openness in the heart of detention.

### III.

Both typological and topological design strategies are central to the Mas d'Enric Penitentiary project.

Typologically, we aimed to move beyond conventional prison architecture by creating a revised mat-building: the prison is extensive in plan and low to the ground. Contiguity eliminates residual spaces between buildings. It also allows for organizational flexibility while generating exterior spaces in the form of courtyards on different scales.

Topologically, we propose a topographical adaptation that allows for a gentle integration with the terrain. It creates spatial variety while allowing for the absence of any kind of interior fencing. Distant views of the mountains are made possible by an articulation of the ground level. Views of the adjacent woodlands improve conditions in both the cells and the courtyards.

The continuity of the roof works on both a typological and topological level, creating morphological unity for the building and establishing relationships with the large scale of the landscape. The confinement required by the program is not monumentalized; on the contrary, the prison's architecture faces up to the, perhaps impossible, challenge of creating a genuine home and hearth.









## Biographies

### Paula Arroyo

Architect (ETSAM). She has been taking pictures for 25 years, since her initial training with Ángel Baltanás. As of 2006, she combines architectural practice with her work as a photographer. In 2009 she founded OjOvivoFoto, a professional platform for the development and publication of spatial photographic features. That same year, she was awarded the Fundamentos Architectural Photography prize from the Madrid College of Architects (COAM). Her work, both features and personal research, has appeared in a number of publications.  
<http://ojovivofoto.blogspot.com.es>

### Juan Azulay

Film director, media artist, author, and designer. As a director and media artist, he is known for his collaboration work with No Wave legend Lydia Lunch and for his directing work alongside the Oscar-winning cinematographer, Guillermo Navarro. His design work and films have received over a dozen well-known awards in competition and his work has been included in prestigious exhibitions like the 2011 *Ville Fertile* at Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine in Paris and as part of the permanent collection at the MAK in Vienna. Azulay's work is produced through a creative practice called MTTR MGMT, where he is the creative director. He teaches graduate, post-graduate and undergraduate design studios at SCI-Arc, as well as Visual Studies. He has also taught at Columbia University's GSAPP, the University of Miami and Barcelona's ETSAV. He received a Bachelor of Architecture from Sci-Arc and an M.S. in Advanced Architectural Design from Columbia University.  
[www.ma77er.com](http://www.ma77er.com)

### Jordi Bernadó

Photographer. His photographs have been acquired for major public and private collections, such as those of Fundació La Caixa, Fundación Telefónica, Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Deutsche Bank Collection, Artium, MUSAC, Fundació Vila Casas, and Banc Sabadell among others. They have also been shown in many solo and collective exhibitions, at venues such as Artist Space in New York, la galerie VU\* in Paris, Galería Senda in Barcelona, Filter Space in Hamburg, Fotografie Forum International in Frankfurt and MAXXI in Rome. He has published more than 20 books focusing on contemporary architecture and landscape, such as *Good News\* Always Read the Fine Print, Very Very Bad News* (winner of the best photography book in Photoespaña 02 and best art book prize from the Spanish Ministry of Culture in 2003), *True Loving and other Tales, Welcome to Spain*, and *Europa*, all published by Actar.  
[www.jordibernado.com](http://www.jordibernado.com)

### Angela Kay Bunning

Translator and researcher in Comparative Literature. She holds degrees in Comparative Literature from Columbia University and the University of Barcelona. She earned her Master's degree in Comparative Literature and Literary Translation from Pompeu Fabra University and is currently developing a doctoral disser-

tation on Literature and Architecture. She has worked for over ten years as a translator based in Barcelona, touching on a wide variety of texts, including specialized and academic material, in fields ranging from architecture to literary criticism.  
[www.angelakaybunning.com](http://www.angelakaybunning.com)

### Camí

Sculptor. He is part of a group of sculptors promoted from Paris by Gérard Xuriguera, historian, art critic and international curator of public sculpture. He has shown his work in more than thirty individual exhibitions and over a hundred collective exhibitions. He has public sculptures on display in Catalonia, Portugal, Ecuador, South Korea, Lebanon, Taiwan and Puerto Rico. He has collaborated with interior designers, architects and poets. He has been a professor of Sculpture at the Escola Massana for 33 years. He is co-author of two books on sculpture, *La Talla Escultura en Madera and Escultura en Piedra* (Ed. Parramón). He is co-founder of TallerBDN in Badalona, a center for creation, production and diffusion of sculpture, which is supported by the Generalitat de Catalunya.  
<http://camiesculor.com/>

### Adrià Carbonell

Architect (UPC), Masters degree in Architecture and Urban Culture from the UPC. Since 2008, he has combined a professional practice in architecture and urban design with research and teaching. He has been awarded the AJAC prize for young architects in the category of theory and criticism three times. Between 2011 and 2013 he lived in the Persian Gulf, where he was a visiting professor at the American University of Sharjah. He currently lives in Sweden, where he is a professor at the Umeå School of Architecture (UMA).  
[www.collectivaa.com](http://www.collectivaa.com)

### Keller Easterling

Architect, writer, and professor. She earned both her B.A. and M.Arch from Princeton University and has taught architectural design and history at Parsons, The New School for Design, Pratt Institute, and Columbia University. She is currently Associate Professor of Architecture at Yale University. She is working on the issues of urbanism, architecture, and organization in relation to the phenomena commonly defined as globalization. Her books include *Enduring Innocence: Global Architecture and its Political Masquerades* (MIT, 2005), *Organization Space: Landscapes, Highways and Houses in America* (MIT, 1999), and a forthcoming book, *Extrastatecraft: the Powers of Infrastructure Space* (Verso, 2014).  
[www.panix.com/~keller/](http://www.panix.com/~keller/)

### Juan Elvira

Architect, M.S. from Columbia University. Associated professor of design at the ETSAM and visiting professor at national and international schools. His designs have been exhibited at Freshmadrid and as part of the 11th Mostra Internazionale di Architettura during the Venice Biennale, among others. He was a finalist for the

Norwegian national architecture prize, Staten Byggeskikkpris, in 2012. In addition to his academic and professional career, he also engages in critical and editorial work, which he began as the editor of *Oeste* architecture magazine and has continued with the publication of numerous essays in specialized books and journals.  
[www.muradoelvira.com](http://www.muradoelvira.com)

### Ramon Faura

Musician and PhD in Architecture with the dissertation *Arquitectura palimpsest (Versalles l'any 1701)*. Assistant professor at the Rovira i Virgili School of Architecture, where he teaches History of Art and Architecture. He also teaches courses in architectural theory at ELISAVA and has taught at ETSAB. From 2003 to 2006 he was head writer for *Quaderns d'Arquitectura i urbanisme* under the direction of Lluís Ortega. He was co-curator, with Santi Ibarra and Antonio Pizza of the exhibition "Arquitectures sense lloc" (2009) at the Centre d'Arts Santa Mònica (Krtu, FAD and CoAC). He regularly gives lectures and writes articles. He also performs live in concert and records music. In 2010, he published the book *L'escapçament del cos místic (Lluís XIV vestit de rei)*.

### José Hevia

Graduate in Fine Arts (UB). He holds a degree in General Photography from the Catalan Institute for the Study of Photography (IEFC). In 2003, he began work as a photographer specialized in architecture and landscape, collaborating with architecture firms, the press and specialized publications. He was part of the editorial board of *Quaderns d'Arquitectura i Urbanisme* from 2003 to 2006. He has published the following monographs: 2G n°33 J.A.Coderch 10+1 casas (GG, 2005), 2G n° 56 Ábalos+Sentkiewicz (GG, 2010), Guia d'arquitectura Moderna de Catalunya (COAC, 2007), ARQUIA TEMAS-28 Alejandro de la Sota (2009), Edificio Collage/Rahola Vidal arquitectos (Actar, 2011).  
[www.josehevia.es](http://www.josehevia.es)

### Ed Keller

Director of the Center for Transformative Media at The New School, and Associate Professor at Parsons The New School for Design. Designer, professor, writer, musician and multimedia artist. Prior to joining Parsons, he taught at Columbia University GSAPP(1998-2010) and SCIArc (2004-09). With Carla Leitão he co-founded AUM Studio, an architecture and new media firm that has produced residential projects, competitions, and new media installations in Europe and the US. His work and writing has appeared widely, in venues including *Punctum, Praxis, ANY, AD, Arquine, Leonardo Electronic Almanac, Architecture, Precip, Wired, Metropolis, Assemblage, Ottagono, and Progressive Architecture*. He has spoken on architecture, film, technology and ecology internationally. Current research seminars at Parsons include Post-Planetary Design, and The Radical Future of Guitar, a SP14 collab with Ola Strandberg. Ed has been an avid rockclimber for over 30 years.  
[www.aumstudio.org](http://www.aumstudio.org)

### Eoghann MacColl

Visual artist. He has exhibited widely in Scotland and beyond. He has won notable awards such as the Alastair Salvesen Travel

Scholarship and received support from Creative Scotland through opportunities like the Neach-Ealain Léirsinneach Residency program at Sabhal mór Ostaig on the Isle of Skye. He also has significant experience in delivering innovative arts projects in the education sector, both in English and Gaelic using the collaborative benefits of the Curriculum for excellence reaching young people in schools and colleges. Currently he is an offender art lecturer at Her Majesty's Prison Low Moss with the New College Lanarkshire.  
[www.dealbhadair.com](http://www.dealbhadair.com)

### Lluís Ortega

Architect (UPC), Licenciante in Philosophy (UB), M.S. in Advanced Architectural Design (Columbia University), and PhD in Architecture with the dissertation *Digitalization Takes Command*. He is currently an assistant professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago and a visiting professor at the Universidad Torcuato de Tello in Buenos Aires. In the past, he has taught at the UPC, the University of Alacant, Harvard University and the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna. He cofounded F451arquitectura in 2000. He has served as editor for a number of specialized publications, including as the director of *Quaderns d'arquitectura i urbanisme* (2003-2005) and editor of *Platform GSD* (Actar, 2008). He published the compilation *La digitalización toma el mando* (Gustavo Gili, 2011). He is currently working on the *Atlas of Suprarural Architecture* with Ciro Najle, on a grant from the Graham Foundation.  
[www.f451arquitectura.com](http://www.f451arquitectura.com)

### Roger Paez i Blanch

Architect (ETSAB), M.S. in Advanced Architectural Design from Columbia University, where he received the GSAPP Honor Award for Excellence in Design (2000). He is currently a PhD candidate at the UPC in Barcelona. Following professional experience in the studios of Alison and Peter Smithson and Enric Miralles, he co-founded AiB, an architectural studio based in Barcelona. He conjugates his professional career with an intense commitment to cultural and academic pursuits. He served as a member of the editorial board of *Quaderns d'arquitectura i urbanisme*, awarded the Jean Tschumi Prize (2005). He has been an architectural design professor at Ramon Llull University (ETSALS) since 2000 and has taught in the postgraduate program at ELISAVA since 2006. In the past ten years he has been a visiting professor, guest lecturer or jury member at international universities including Columbia University, Cornell University, Harvard University, University of Southern California and Sci-ARC in the United States and at the ETSAB, ETSAV, BAC and IaaC in Barcelona.  
[www.aib.cat](http://www.aib.cat)

### Gruff Rhys

Since 1986, as a songwriter and musician, he has released over 20 albums in both the Welsh and English languages, as a solo artist and as a member of *Super Furry Animals, Neon Neon* and *Ffa Coffi Pawb*. He has performed real and imagined concerts on all known inhabited continents of Earth and possibly elsewhere. These adventures have led to further experiments in film, theatre and visual art.  
[www.gruffrhys.com](http://www.gruffrhys.com)

## Mas d'Enric Penitentiary

Paratge Mas d'Enric,  
43764 El Catllar, Tarragonès, Catalunya

### Developer

Generalitat de Catalunya (Catalan Government)  
Justice Department



### **Office of Heritage, Construction and Services**

Lluís Dalmau, Rafa Lopez, Sònia Ayala, Albert Zamora, David Pagerols, Núria Perelló, Raul Gomez

### **Facilities Area and Information and Security Area under the Directorate General of Penitentiary Services**

Pedro Domínguez, Faustino Agudo, Luis Moreno, Fran Navarro, Manel Roca, Manel Santander

Infraestructures de la Generalitat de Catalunya

**infraestructures.cat**



**Design:** Francesc Montaner, Anna Valls

**Construction:** David Piera, Maria Carme González

### Concessionaire

Superficial CP Mas d'Enric: Santiago Arderiu

### Construction Company



UTE C.P El Catllar COMSA-EMTE

**Management Committee:** Rosa Maria Pérez,

Eduard Murillo, Daniel Davicino, Manuel Barcina

**UTE Management:** Manuel Barcina

**Head Site Manager:** Luis Miras

**Area Site Managers:** Germán Gomà,

Justo Conejo, Julio Fernández

**Technical Office Managers:** Isaac Muley,

Victòria Martí, Pere Soler

**M&E services Manager:** Manuel Heredia

**Health and Safety Manager:** Francisco Ruiz

**Heads of Administration:** Juan Sariol, Jesús Anglès

### Surface Area

74.130 m<sup>2</sup> construction + 130.163 m<sup>2</sup> public space, pedestrian areas and landscaping

### Budget

113.830.553 €

### Design

December 2005-June 2008

### Construction

December 2009-April 2012

### Lead Architects

#### (Design and Construction Supervision)

Roger Paez i Blanch

(A i B estudi d'arquitectes SLP)

Joan Maria Pascual i Cañellas

(Estudi PSP Arquitectura SCP)

### Collaborating Architects

**A i B:** Iñigo Solano, David Baró, Nicolás Aparicio, Marta Mulà, Luís Arredondo, Jordi Brunés, Gerard Cuartero-Betriu, Eduard Dalmau, Gerard Garcia, Estíbaliz Guitérrez, Jordi Pascual, Arne Schultz-Gambard, Enric Verdú, Sandra Vergara, Cristian Vivas.

**PSP:** Ferran de los Santos, Josep Pérez, Ramon Torrents, Jordi Morató, Enric Palou, Rafel Montsonís, Fernando Morales, Coral Pallarés, Gemma Mercader

### Quantity Surveyor (Bill of Quantities+Estimates, Quality Control and Site Management)

**TRAM-J. Hierro Associats:** Josep Hierro, Jordi Noguera, Xavier Solà, Toni González, Carlos Zornoza, Natàlia Sanjosé

**PSP:** Josep Lluís Pascual, Margarita Daví

### Health and Safety

**Valeri Consultors Associats**

**Martí-Avilés:** Jordi Avilés

### Structural Engineering

**BOMA:** Robert Brufau, Nacho Costales

### Building Services (Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing)

**JG Ingenieros:** Lluís de la Torre, Jesús Valle

### Security Installations

**Helios Grup:** Salvador Tarragó

### Urban Planning and Public Works (Landscaping, Infrastructure and Urban Engineering)

**BCN:** Joan Antoni Paez, Joan Rovira

**EGI:** Carles Noguera, Vicent Ballester

**Auding-Intraesa:** Josep Secanell

## Acknowledgements

Thanks to Joan Maria Pascual, to everyone at AiB+ PSP and to all those who participated in the design and construction process for their dedication, excitement and commitment.

Thanks to all of the collaborators for their contributions, texts, artwork and photographs, without which this book could not have been brought to light.

For their specific comments and general encouragement with respect to this book, thanks to Carles Muro, Enrique Walker, Iñaki Ábalos and Bernard Tschumi.

Thanks to everyone who helped make this publication possible: Ricardo Devesa, Núria Saban, Angela Kay Bunning, Albert Ferré, and especially Ramon Prat at Actar Publishers.

Special thanks to the Justice Department at the Generalitat de Catalunya, Infraestructures de la Generalitat de Catalunya, Superficial CP Mas d'Enric, UTE C.P. El Catllar Comsa Emte, and Manuel Barcina.

Published by  
**Actar Publishers**  
New York, 2014

Author  
**Roger Paez i Blanch**

Editor  
**Ricardo Devesa**

Contributions  
**Keller Easterling**  
**Adrià Carbonell**  
**Lluís Ortega**  
**Juan Azulay**  
**Juan Elvira**  
**Ed Keller**  
**Ramon Faura**  
**Camí**  
**Eòghann MacColl**  
**Angela Kay Bunning**  
**Gruff Rhys**  
**Jordi Bernadó**

Graphic Design  
**Núria Saban**

Printing  
**Grafos S.A.**

Translation and proofreading  
**Angela Kay Bunning**

Images  
Jordi Bernadó and 15-L. Films: 234-241  
Institut Cartogràfic de Catalunya: 113, 116  
David Baró + Marta Mulà: 167  
OjOvivoFoto: 8, 18-19, 39, 45, 53, 65, 75, 85, 95  
Roger Paez i Blanch: 226-227  
Sònia Pardo i Polo: 210-213  
UTE Comsa Emte: 4-5, 10-11, 13, 116  
All other photographs by José Hevia

Drawings  
AiB: 228-231  
Roger Paez i Blanch: 35, 58, 60, 91-93  
Caterina Paez-Bunning: 23  
Lluç Paez-Bunning: 27, 29  
Gruff Rhys+Roger Paez i Blanch: 224-225  
Benjamin Rice+Juan Azulay: 72-73  
Eòghann MacColl: 109, 206-207  
All other drawings by AiB+PSP

Sources  
p 42: Brennan/Linsley/AP, 2006  
p 89: <http://www.museumofcinema.com/museum-of-cinema-the-passenger-1975-exhibit/>

## Distribution

ActarD  
New York  
[www.actar-d.com](http://www.actar-d.com)

151 Grand Street, 5th floor  
New York, NY 10013, USA  
T +1 212 966 2207  
F +1 212 966 2214  
[salesnewyork@actar.com](mailto:salesnewyork@actar.com)

© of the edition, Actar Publishers  
and Roger Paez i Blanch, 2014  
© of the design for Mas d'Enric, AiB + PSP  
© of the texts, their authors  
© of the images, their authors  
© of the artwork, their authors

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, recording or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the author.

ISBN  
978-0-9893317-7-7

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the Library of Congress, Washington D.C., USA.

Actar Publishers made every attempt to contact the copyright owners for the images published in this book. In some cases they could not be reached; we invite the authors to contact the publisher.

**AiB**  
ARQUITECTES

• ESTUDI P S P ARQUITECTURA •



Generalitat de Catalunya  
Departament  
de Justícia

