

# Conclusion

El Raval is changing due to the local governments urban regeneration schemes that have succeeded in making social, environmental and economic changes in the area. Overall this has improved the reputation of El Raval. These changes and improvements have attracted higher socio-economic groups into the inner city area and have increased the overall income of the inhabitants living in the area, resulting in increased land values, meaning that the area has generally become wealthier. By attracting the higher socio-economic groups the less wealthy have been driven away or have diminished in number, reducing the atmosphere of intimidation, which could discourage tourism to the area. Each zone is evolving in a unique way, however all the changes are in line with the renewal scheme's main aim.

## Zone1

This area is changing rapidly due to the presence of influential buildings such as the cultural centre (including the CCCB and the CAM). It was the first area to be gentrified since it is located closer to the wealthier central business district of Barcelona, on the periphery of El Raval, meaning that the reverse Core-Periphery model can be applied. The improvements in the area have meant that more gentrified services are found in this zone than any other zone and the number of government investments and educational facilities are high and increasing. Since most of the most of the urban regeneration schemes in this zone have been set into motion, the area should be improving steadily in the future.

## Zone2

Zone 2 has improved more than zone 4, as seen in the total scores from the residential, environmental quality and the perceptions surveys, because of the benefits it receives from its proximity to the cultural centre. This is shown in the land use maps, where the gentrified services are concentrated in the streets that are closer to the cultural centre, suggesting its influence will eventually spread into the core of zone 2 meaning that in the future zone 2 will become more gentrified.

## Zone3

This area is improving very slowly, since it is located in the core of El Raval, and was left for a further ten years as it was considered as unapproachable and 'too far gone' to be addressed and invested in immediately. However, recently the area seems to be improving as poorer housing is being demolished to create new communal spaces and modern buildings such as the new hotel. The introduction of these new land uses has boosted the economy in zone 3, meaning that the percentage of local services has decreased and gentrification is becoming more and more apparent. The construction of the hotel is hoped to encourage this gentrification, which is already occurring, giving good future prospects to the area

#### Zone 4

The industrial atmosphere is still lingering in zone 4, meaning that the area has improved less rapidly than zone 2, as demonstrated in the total scores from the residential, environmental quality and the perceptions surveys. The land use maps support this, where we find that the percentage of workshops and training centres is the highest amongst the four zones. Therefore, zone 4 is least likely to improve in the future, due to the negative affects of the workshops and training centres in the area, although the training centres should eventually educate the inhabitants so that they are capable of doing better jobs. Zone 4 is the furthest away from the cultural centre in zone 1 out of the four zones and is therefore least likely to be influenced by the gentrification of the area. However the hotel, which is to be constructed in zone 3, might have a positive affect on zone 4, bringing in money to the area and attracting a higher socio-economic group into the area.

Although the urban renewal schemes have successfully transformed or altered areas within the Raval, some people are surprisingly against these changes. For example the owner of the expensive restaurant, 'Casa Leopold', found in the area of zone 3, claims that he has lost some of his wealthy and possibly famous customers due to the urban renewal, as they were attracted to restaurant due to its concealed aspect, decreasing his profits. On the other hand most of the inhabitants in the area are supportive of the changes, for example the local workers who economically benefit from the area being managed.

# Evaluation

There were many limitations in my study, including the fact that the land use study was restricted to the buildings on the ground floor and it is possible that if I had included the upper floors in my study my results would have been different. For example, in zone 1 some first floor properties have been converted to professional services, and in zone 3 the corners of many streets have been converted to illegal 'gambling' dens, which are hard to categorise using the key that I used, and are often ignored. Also the residential, environmental quality and the perceptions surveys were not based over a sufficiently long period of time, meaning that there was no historic data and comparisons to identify the differences over a stretch of time were impossible to make using available data. The historic data for the land use mapping survey were not completely accurate as they were completed by someone else and therefore the two sets of data cannot be fairly compared. Lastly, the data was collected over a period of time, during which some of the shops shut at certain hours, impacting the results.

To overcome these limitations and faults in my investigation I would need to use a greater range of census data collected over a longer period of time. Like this I would be able to make more accurate statements, based on more evidence, and changes over time could be identified. Also I would need to spend more time carrying out each of the surveys to avoid getting anomalous results and giving me more accurate data. I would especially need to devote more time to the land use mapping survey as this was the main aim of my data collection, and had the biggest impact on the conclusions which I drew.

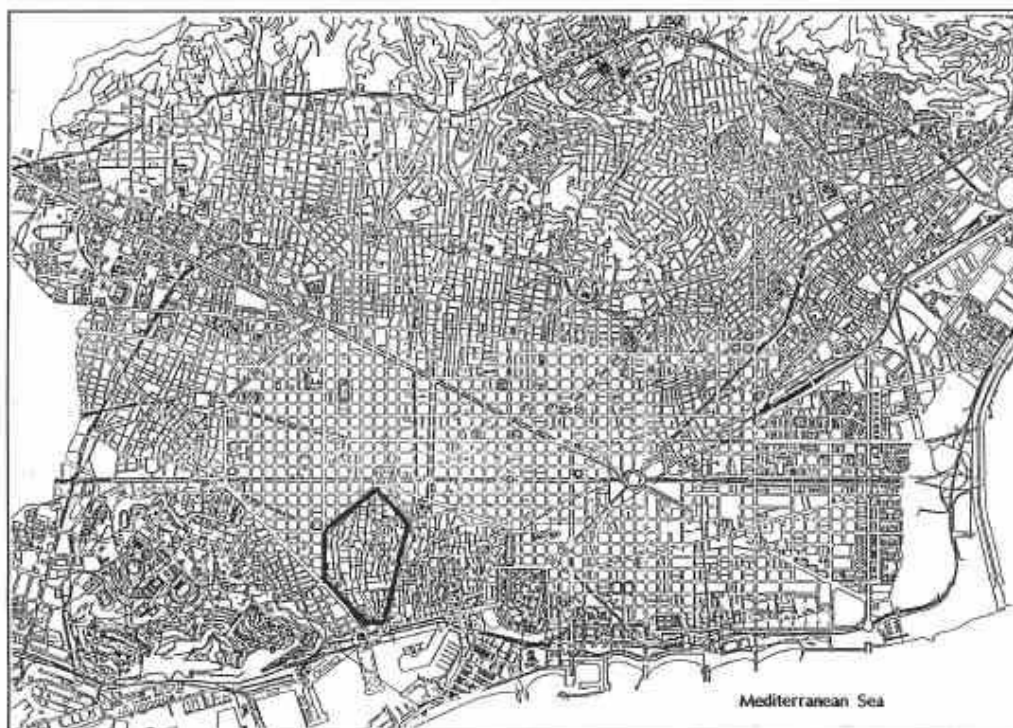
# The Birth of Barcelona

Barcelona was founded as 'Barcino' under the protection of Julius Caesar at the end of the first century B.C. It was chosen for its excellent location. The site of Barcelona was very good, due to:

- the arrangement of: the flat land for building
- forest land for timber for fuel and building
- easily accessible fertile land for crops
- natural harbour for protection of the boats
- accessibility to the sea which is good for fishing
- mountains making defence easier
- and the Montjuic mountain situated close to the sea which could be used for defence from attacks from the sea and was also quarried for stone to build with.

Barcelona was also well situated with its routes to the large trading cities and countries surrounding it, such as Girona (90km to the north of Barcelona), Tarragona (90km to the south) Madrid, France and countries across the Mediterranean. Barcelona is a staging post. This made it into a route centre and a market town, as it was a mid-way between the contrasting regions. Barcelona also had a good water supply with the Besos River running to the north, and the Llobregat River to the south. The city was built around the small mountain of 'Mons Tabor' (12m high) where Plaça St Jaume stands today. Walls were built around the city for defence, as traditionally done in that time, and aqueducts were linked to the surrounding hills to ensure a constant water supply. By 415AC the city was not owned by the Romans any more but by the Visigoths, however many of the population (about 5000 inhabitants) were descendants of Roman soldiers who had earned the land. After the sacking of the city by the Moslems in 985 there was a long period of political and military instability and urban growth was slow. But by the end of the third century, Barcelona was the leading city of an area to become known as Catalunya, and the Mediterranean Sea's leading port during this era. As the city grew the price of land increased as more people sought after it. The city centre became more crowded and built up, so the east side of the wall was opened up. A number of suburbs began to grow to the east of the city, being inhabited by peasants and merchants, whose craftsmanship created fumes too dangerous or intoxication too high to be situated in the city centre. They may include workshops making swords, saddles, horseshoes or hats. A second wall was built to enclose these parts of the city. To the west of the wall was a dry Riverbed, later to become 'Las Ramblas' running right next to the future 'El Raval'. A dockyard was built to the south of the city on the other side of the River. During the Gothic Period (13<sup>th</sup>- 17<sup>th</sup> century) the population of Barcelona suffered greatly from wars, famines and disease. The average life expectancy was 19. But, partly due to French immigration, the population was around 30 million. The area to the east of the Roman nucleus continued to be a workshop and merchants' area. A third wall was built in 1395 to enclose the suburbs to the west of 'El Raval'. This area consisted mainly of farmland, monasteries or convents, or trades too polluting to be allowed into the inside of the old city. The dry riverbed of 'La Rambla' became the main artery of the city dividing the old city (Ciutat Vella) from El Raval. In the 14<sup>th</sup> century a new harbour was built with a protective sea wall, as the natural harbour was lost due to sedimentation. This was very densely populated in 1700 with 40 million people. Most of the Roman buildings had been demolished and replaced with three storey high

buildings. Many of the houses were lived in by more than one family. A military zone was created around the city, where all construction was the range of a cannon from the city walls. The east of the city was constructed in 1702 after the war of succession, and was designed around a French military plan; this was later to become the zoo. Government planning of the city was already active, when they destroyed 1000 homes in the Old town and built replacement homes. They were built by French engineers, using an army barrack model, to allow for easy control of the population. Trade with America saw a rapid growth in the textile industry. In the Industrial Revolution, coal was brought into the city, and factories were built. Much of the farmland in El Raval was built on for factories. Barcelona's growth was also helped by the demolition of the city walls in 1859 and the open space around Barcelona known as a military exclusion zone being able to be built up on. To the north of the city nucleus a new garden city known as the Eixample was built. It was carefully designed by Ildefons Cerdà who addressed all issues.



# Bibliography

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