



APROP - Temporary Proximity Housing

Audio by Irene Subils, architect - Social rights, Global justice, Feminism and LGTBI City Council Department

Locations: Sant Martí and Ciutat Vella districts

“The APROP project is an initiative of the Municipal Institute of Social Services of the Barcelona City Council as one of the solutions proposed to fight against the housing crisis that the city is suffering.

It is based on temporary accommodation for families who are waiting for a social home, through modular constructions that can be assembled and disassembled, using municipal lots that don't yet have a final usage. Maritime containers are the chosen construction method, reused and converted into 1 or 2-bedroom accommodation. This system allows, on the one hand, the use of universal elements (therefore a construction and competition open to any company), and on the other hand, greater ease of transport and assembly.

Another important point of the APROP project is the PROJECT+WORK competition system, in which the architects work together from the beginning with the construction company, thus reducing both time and contingencies on site. We currently have an APROP building in the district of Ciutat Vella near the Rambles, that has been in operation for 2 years, and we are finishing building the second APROP, in the district of Sant Martí, in Plaça de las Glories. These two projects have been carried out through a housing module defined by the municipal technical services and a basic project contracted to architects with experience in this type of construction. This allows us to go out to the PROJECT + WORK competition, with the building license already approved and with a very advanced definition of the building, thus reducing drafting and execution times. For example, the Glòries APROP has had 12 weeks to draft the project and 26 to execute the work, which allows us to have 42 accommodations for vulnerable families in a very very short time.

Accommodations that are located in the centre of the city, with all the services comparable to standard home and therefore allowing these families to have an independence that other temporary solutions couldn't offer”.