

2023-01-22 | Visit to the La Borda Cooperative in Barcelona

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The architect Pol Massoni showed around this nice building of which the residents themselves controlled the construction process. The building contains 28 homes and is owned by a cooperative from which you rent your home. The house costed relatively little to build because they chose the cheapest materials possible and only realized what the cooperative thought was most important. There is no garage under the house, they had to fight hard to avoid building this. The house is for people with a normal or small wallet. You pay a fee that you get back if you move and they have a fund that helps those who can't afford that fee. The fee is index-regulated following inflation but does not follow the market price and the cooperative in this way avoids speculation. In addition to the residences, the house contains common areas such as a large kitchen, laundry room, ample space for bicycles, a large room for doing whatever you want, a roof terrace with a nice view of the city, a common vegetable shop, and a garden in front of the house that is to be built now. On each floor there is a small corner with things you want to share with your neighbors, there is everything from paint to furniture. The whole process from idea to moving in took six years and La Borda now serves as a role model for others who want to do the same thing – they therefore welcome visitors who want to learn and be inspired. And you really get inspired!

