

**SPECIAL MENTION 1 ARCHITECTURE**

# Extension and renovation work on the Gon-Gar repair shop (Benissanet)

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The project to extend and renovate the Tallers Gon-Gar repair shop is based on the reorganisation of an industrial cluster that has experienced organic growth. This farm machinery repair business comprises two industrial units as well as the owner's home. For almost 50 years now it has formed part of the compact urban landscape of Benissanet, a small country town of a mere 1,200 inhabitants whose principal economic activity is farming, located on the right bank of the lower Ebro River.

The project consisted of transforming an existing disused industrial unit into an office building and constructing a new attached open-plan industrial unit for use as a repair shop and showroom. Relocating the offices in the centre of the complex and the construction of the new repair shop has vastly enhanced the internal connectivity of the entire site, improving the employees' working environment and quality of work life.

Externally, the new units create a sense of connection between the existing constructions and the surroundings, made up of single family terraced houses. The project has created a new urban façade for the complex thanks to the creation of a new south and east facing perimeter corner front that satisfies the requirements and nature of the interior space, as well as adapting and blending into the town's urban landscape.

A new take on the classic urban residential layouts has allowed for a degree of continuity between the new industrial unit and its surroundings thanks to the use of bays, voids, façade cladding and roof slopes.

The new longitudinal front of the complex features the concatenated façades of the existing renovated industrial unit, including the recovery of all the original openings, as well as the new repair shop, forming a dialogue reflected in the use of materials and gaps.

The intervention on the existing industrial unit consisted of opening up a double space that creates a sense of connection between the new repair shop reception area on the ground floor with the new offices and boardroom on the first floor. Work inside included the replacement of the roof, restoration of the existing handmade ceramic brickwork and the addition of new wooden elements. 31 x 62 cm and 60 x 60 cm stoneware floor tiles have

been used throughout the interior of the installations area, changing rooms and toilets, whilst the walls feature a staggered vertical layout of pistachio green tiles, mirroring the company's graphic image and creating a sense of connection with its new central office building.