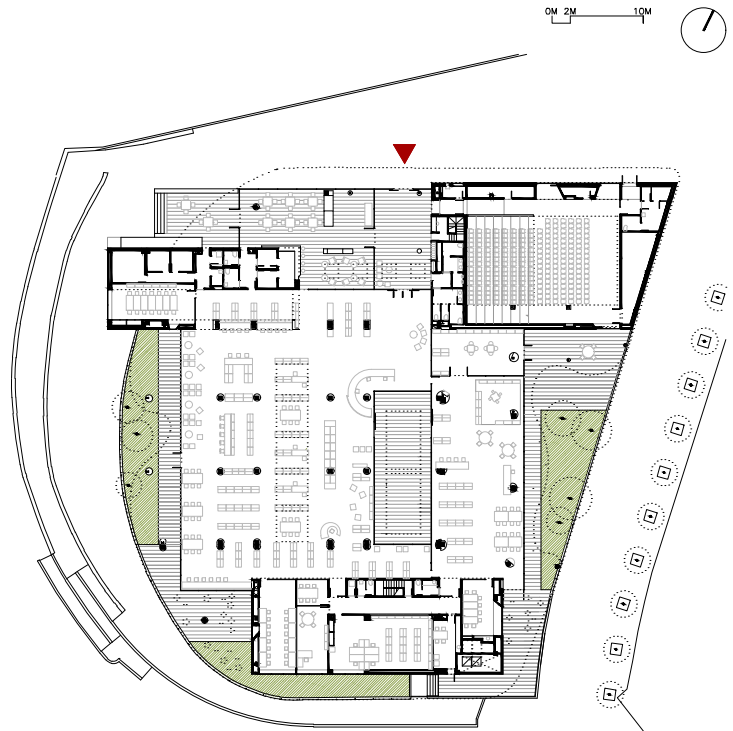# public library in an old market
2005 - 2010

- authors: oriol cusidó & irene marzo
- developer: diputació barcelona, santa coloma de gramenet city council
- commission: 1st prize open competition
- built area: 2.351 m²
- cost: 3.877.931 €
- location: sagrada família square santa coloma de gramenet, barcelona
- awards: selection 1st barcelona architecture exhibition

Integral intervention in an ancient market's upper floor, converting it into a new cultural pole (library, bar and cinema). A closed volume,, with a blurry geometry and doubtful architectonical value is transformed into an opened space with the degree of representation that today's facilities must have. Starting from the necessary answer to site's conditions (preexisting structure, space required by services, limited height...) it is conceived a light building without façades, an interior with no walls. It is just a stretch of public space suitably protected.

In order to optimize the budget and reduce waste production, the proposal takes advantage of pre-existences. Through precise surgery on the existing mass, the new space is been qualified with light, air and visual relationships... As a result, the new diaphanous space is defined by the continuous ceiling's plane (trimmed to allow ligth entrance), by three metallic volumes lively coloured (where the server spaces are placed) and a perimeter skin made of stainless steel mesh that boundaries and qualifies the space, enriches the interior-exterior dialogue and regulates the flows of energy and the light.

A new metallic structure is superimposed to the existing concrete roof to achieve a more regular shape. The perimeter of the lower slab is completed in order to define exterior courtyards that include green areas with trees. The process of construction it is alternated with the deconstruction one to adapt to the pre-existing conditions. In the first phase the scattered existing services on the roof are repositioned in a new space with the new ones.

As it was not possible to create a dropped ceiling to hide the services, a new attic for services is defined taking profit of the space between the superior beams and the existing market stands. This central space is covered with a light aluminium roof with an slope lower than 1% in order to maintain the flat roof image. The rest of the roof combines a floating solution and gravels in order to adapt to the irregular perimeter.

Light and industrialized solutions are applied all over the building: metallic panel façades, stainless steel meshes, drywall, interior cladding with resins panels, rubber flooring, etc. in order ro minimize the material wasting and reduce energy consumption. Thus a future de-construction would be easier to manage if the structure should be adapted to a new use.