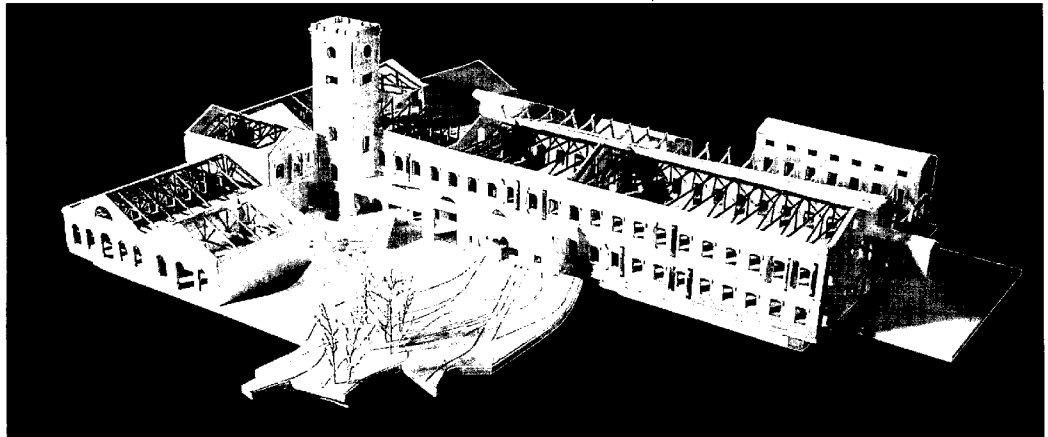


**Culture**  
**news**

# The language factory



Model for the planned renovation of the Can Ricart factory in Barcelona's 22@ district / EMBT

CAN RICART WILL BE REBUILT TO HOUSE THE CASA DE LES LLENGÜES ALONG WITH UNESCO DE CATALUNYA AND THE FUNDACIÓ FÒRUM DE LES CULTURES

## CATALONIA TODAY

● Benedetta Tagliabue has already produced one landmark building in Barcelona and now the celebrated architect will be responsible for another. After the success of the Santa Caterina marketplace with its multi-coloured roof, Tagliabue has been charged by the Barcelona City Council to oversee the rebuilding of the Can Ricart factory in the city's 22@ district, which is destined to become the new home of the *Casa de les Llengües*, or House of Languages, in 2010.

The Barcelona City Council gave the project the green light on May 14, which will bring to an end a political saga surrounding the use of the building. Originally earmarked for demolition, a number of the site's ware-

houses were knocked down before conflicts with local residents led to a rethink on behalf of local authorities about their policy towards the renovation of the area. As a consequence, the factory was saved.

The new plans for the 150-year old building will see the warehouse area restored and a new square is to be created at the point where the warehouses meet the clock tower, the main feature to be saved from the

wrecker's ball. The Casa de les Llengües will occupy the factory's main hall, while an auditorium will be built in the old workshop.

The Catalonia branch of Unesco and the Fundació Fòrum de les Cultures will share the use of the building along with the Casa de les Llengües. The latter organisation belongs to the Generalitat and was established with the objective of promoting and preserving the use and learning of the world's languages as well as providing models for the co-existence of languages in the same territory.

Can Ricart was declared to be a building of national interest after the demolition of its warehouses was called off some four years ago.

## Mediterranean in tongues

After Lleida and Girona, Barcelona has become the third stop in Catalonia for the exhibition, *La Mar de Llengües. Parlar a la Mediterrània*. Organised jointly by Linguamon and the Casa de les Llengües, the exhibition, which runs until June 1 in plaça Universitat, will move on to Tarragona in September and by the end of the year in Palma.

Open from 10am until 10pm, the exhibition aims to show the different communities of the Mediterranean area through their languages. Apart from the exhibition's display, which includes audio-visual elements, the organisers have programmed a series of presentations. The next is on May 26.