





Una manera de hacer Europa



WORKS FOR THE REHABILITATION OF THE SECOND ALJIBE, IN THE PLACE OF THE TEACHING INSIDE THE FIRST FORTIFIED ENVELOPE OF MELILLA Autonomous City of Melilla

Programa Operativo de la Ciudad de Melilla

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Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional

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SHORT DESCRIPTION

The reservoirs are perhaps one of the most important infrastructures and best preserved Spanish civil architecture buildings of its time. They are located in the "Villa Nueva" that Carlos I built. Carlos I retracted the population and left the wells of the Plaza de Armas or "Villa Vieja" (2nd and 3rd enclosure) whose complex is known today as "Melilla la Vieja" They are located on the north side of the Plaza de la Maestranza, showing it its main facade in stone masonry extracted from the quarry that today occupies the warehouses of the Peñuelas.

The Cisterns were completed in 1571. The two central doors correspond to the entrances of the deposits that are covered by a barrel vault with a central discharge arch and walls as buttresses.

The dimensions of the two reservoirs are 13 meters deep by 8 meters deep and 4 meters wide each. Its capacity is 572 cubic meters each (20,000 arrobas in the Spanish measures).

The two side doors correspond to the filters, which are smaller barrel vaults that collected rainwater from the houses. The filters are 8 meters Deep, by 3 meters wide and 2 meters high, with a slope to facilitate the passage of water to the reservoirs.

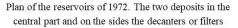
The water passed from the roofs to the cistern of the houses and from this to the spillway connected to a network of tie-downs. Those end in a casket with a trapdoor that could divert the water to the filters or to the drain, according to the cleaning or dirtiness of this, giving clear, thin and fresh water.

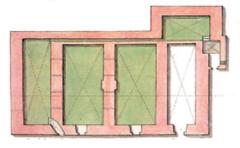
In 1680 they were for the first time cleaned by order of the Tuscan governor of Brito and bomb-filled in 1699, covering their vaults with dirt.

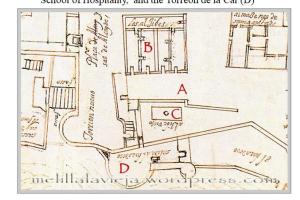
This cistern remained closed and unused, probably since the end of the 16th century or the beginning of the 17th century. During that time it was no longer used for the purpose with which it was built and never. Apparently, it was also not opened to the public given that It is currently partially filled with rubble. The original balcony that serves as a viewpoint for having a bad structural condition has also been restored. Also, it has acted on the walls and bottom of the cistern, which gives façade to the Plaza de la Maestranza. Almost five centuries later, currently it is the subject of numerous visits by both residents of the city and tourists.

The recovery works of the Historic Artistic Heritage, such as the rehabilitation of the 2nd Cistern, have involved an investment of about 38,000 euros, with an ERDF contribution of 80% (about 30,000 euros). The most immediate impact has been the rehabilitation of 522.79 m2, an increase in tourist intensity in Melilla, with an increase in the number of travellers of 9%.

Plan of 1604 that the governor Pedro de Heredia sent to Felipe III, with the location of the Cisterns (B), the Plaza de la Maestranza (A), the old cistern (C) that is inside what is now the School of Hospitality, and the Torreón de la Cal (D)







The action has been conveniently disseminated among the beneficiaries, potential beneficiaries and the general public. In order to do so, different communication channels have been used, such as the written press, insertion of news on local television during maximum audience hours, information on web pages, digital press, radio, press conferences, social networks etc. It is noteworthy the realization of an act of inauguration of the finished works, with media coverage, in order to make known to the citizens the use of the ERDF in the Autonomous City of Melilla. Likewise, information and publicity has been given about the 2nd cistern.

Opening act of the rehabilitated cistern

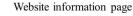


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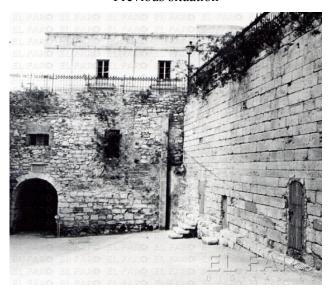
News in especializad magazines



The action incorporates innovative elements. Due to the rehabilitation of the cistern and its opening to citizens and tourists who visit Melilla, it is easier to know the Renaissance hydraulic architecture.

Of this last work, there were only very scattered news in the documentation of the 16th century and it was also reflected in several maps between the 17th and 18th centuries. Additionally, the bibliography on the fortress and fortified enclosures of Melilla has been extremely grim about this work, and its existence is only collected in very close dates. Furthermore, until their public discovery in January 2001 almost no one could see them when they were inside military facilities and their entry was blinded. This unique finding occurred as a result of the rehabilitation of the vaults. The rehabilitation of the Santa Ana barracks, next to the Marina Gate, involved demolishment and, consequently, behind the entrance the cistern appeared.

Previous situation



The results obtained with it are adapted to the established objectives, which are: to promote the protection, promotion and development of Cultural Heritage, to contribute to the conservation and recovery of the Historic Artistic Heritage, conservation of the cultural heritage of Melilla, thus contributing to growth of the regional tourism sector, listed as a structural activity in the Autonomous City of Melilla; improvement and provision of cultural equipment; Improvement of Places of Cultural Interest.

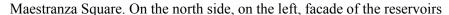




It contributes to the resolution of a problem or regional weakness.

Melilla presents various peculiarities as a result of its geographical position and its history, both in the composition of its population, as in its economic activity and in its culture. The richness of the cultural, historical and artistic heritage of the Autonomous City of Melilla constitutes one of its most relevant development potentials, promoting the development of the tourism sector that can contribute to increasing the wealth of the City.

Among its heritage is its walled enclosure and fortifications with origin in the Phoenician factory of Rusaddir. Its importance remained in the first centuries of the Christian era, becoming a Roman colony and reaching our times. Regarding the singular assets, it is worth highlighting: the forts outside the 19th century and the Church of the military hospital. Since 1881, the construction of a series of strong exteriors began with the intention of defending the new limits of the City. At present, the city counts with several forts: the forts of Camels (1883-1885), Rostrogordo (1888-1890), Cabrerizas Altas (1890-1893), Purísima Concepción (1893-1894), María Cristina (1893-1895), Alfonso are preserved XIII (1893-1894), Queen Regent (1893-1894), and the Redoubts of San Francisco (1890).





In the Church of the Military Hospital it has the Chapel of Christ the King of the Pagés Military Hospital, declared of cultural interest with a monument category in January 2004. Melilla also has other points of interest such as the Melilla Museum of Archeology and History (located in the old Torre de la Vela), and the Interpretation Center of Melilla la Vieja (located in the Torreón de las Cabras, in the First Walled Enclosure of the old part of Melilla).

It has a high degree of coverage on the population to which it is addressed.

The maintenance and recovery of the historical-artistic heritage of Melilla "La Vieja" is a top priority. Similartly, it is one of the main concerns the improvement of the state of conservation of its monuments and the enhancement of the most emblematic historical places of the City. Maintenance and recovery are essential in order to increase the economic valuation of the historical and cultural heritage of Melilla, as a key factor for the strengthening of tourism activity.

Consequently, the target population are the tourists that visit Melilla. Despite the constant city hall actions and the positive impact of those, the rehabilitation of the 2nd cistern has allowed giving an extra value to the city and the possibility of attracting further tourists. This infrastructure is now open to the public, so that any citizen, whether visiting or from the city, can enjoy this work of hydraulic architecture of the Renaissance in the north of the African continent.

The horizontal criteria of equal opportunities and environmental sustainability have been taken into account. Both horizontal criteria have been incorporated into the action based on their casuistry.

With regard to Equal Opportunities, the action is aimed at any visitor who wants to appreciate and enjoy it, in an integrative and non-discriminatory way, facilitating access to a cultural, historical and artistic heritage of the Autonomous City of Melilla. Furthermore, in all the documentation carried out and in all the communication actions undertaken, an inclusive and non-sexist language has been used.

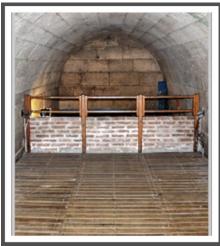
As regards Environmental Sustainability, the action has not caused negative effects on the environment. On the contrary, it has been carried out on the rehabilitation, on urban land, of a jewel of the Renaissance.



Visit to the school cistern

Synergies with other policies or instruments of public intervention, with this project the conservation of Cultural, Historical and Artistic Heritage is sought, which is, in a way, the engine of Melilla's economy through the tourism sector and, under the protection of actions undertaken, employment, wealth and culture promotion are being generated.

Interior of the cistern











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