

NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS AWARDS

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PRESERVED AND TRANSFORMED CULTURAL HERITAGE



Xifré rooftop garden “floats” over the terrace of the ten-block, 19th century building Els Porxos d’en Xifré, a landmark historical site protected by Barcelona’s city heritage program. In 2017, MataAlta Studio won the City Council’s “Green Roofs Open Competition” with a project giving equal importance to architectural heritage and local ecology. Its rooftop design preserves the Xifré building’s original structure and materials, while transforming an abandoned and deteriorated space into a Mediterranean garden. First the roof was fully restored then the garden was installed using the weight of earth dunes, built-in benches and gravel paths as ballast. This means the garden isn’t directly attached and therefore has no permanent impact on the building. With ponds, insect hotels, nesting structures for birds and over 50 species of plants the garden helps restore local ecosystems. It is self-sufficient, thanks to solar panels, harvested rainwater and composting, and an accessible space for residents to meet up, relax and learn from nature.



Xifré’s Rooftop: “Floating” Wild Garden

SPAIN BARCELONA

SUSTAINABLE

Urban biodiversity
Improved air quality
Energy efficiency

AESTHETICS

Mediterranean garden
Relaxing
Fragrant

INCLUSION

Community hub
Local employment
Educational

