

INTERVIEWS IN SAN JOAN DESPÌ – 21/11/2023

1. Interview of two ladies at Can Negre

These two Catalan ladies indicated *Can Negre* as their favorite place in Sant Joan Despì (SJD), and they generally really enjoy the area of the city center. They showed an in-depth knowledge of the history and architecture of SJD city and were able to collocate all the neighborhoods on the map, even though they had a little of struggle remembering and recognizing *Torreblanca*, an area they described as *full of precious houses*.

They briefly commented the economical dynamics and history of *Les Planes*, making a comparison between the *Centre* and *Les Planes*. The prior is probably richer but apparently it is not as productive and full of life and developing ideas as the latter: *Les Planes* – these two ladies said – *has build through the years a strong sense of community, where people constantly help each other and create businesses with a circular dynamic, meanwhile people of the city center always go to Barcelona to buy everything that is not food (e.g., ropas)*.



Figure 1: Can Negre-Centre Jujol

Described as *beautiful building everyone in SJD should know and visit*. The king comes here to visit too, occasionally.



Figure 2: A picture in Passeig del Canal

This picture we took from SJD streets represents – the ladies confirmed – the historical origins of Sant Joan Despì as an agricultural community (one lady's father was a farmer himself). Apparently, it also tells a lot about the future of the city center, still able to produce and sell groceries but no more attractive – even for his own citizens – as a commercial hub (*no future, economically speaking* – the ladies said).

2. Interview with the couple from Sant Just Desvern

This couple does not live in SJD but is often there because they bring their 2 years old kid at the *St. Patrick International School*. They had a variety of insights and opinions to share on SJD urbanistic development, as they sense that this city is intrinsically divided, from its origins to its administrative delimitation on official maps. They gave us some proofs of that.

Firstly, they pointed at *Torreblanca*, on the map and described this neighborhood as *completely separated from the rest of the city*, due to the presence of infrastructures: *it is hard to get there*, they said.

Not only the city itself is *divided* from within, but also its facilities suffer from this problem. *Ciutat esportiva* can be an example of that, as – we have been told – you will certainly find more people from Sant Feliu de Llobregat than SJD there.

Divisions affect the history of entire neighborhoods, like *Les Planes*. Its working-class community stands watching while brand new expensive buildings are being constructed all over the place, potentially creating further separation.

Another division they pointed out was in the very center of the city, and it is represented – in this couple narrative – by the two streets just below the railroad, full of beautiful houses.



Figure 4: Carrer de les Torres

This street is one of those that have been described by the couple as *full of the fanciest houses*, and pointed out as a cause of division within the *ajuntament*. From what we were able to witness, those streets seem very calm, welcoming, and perfect to take a stroll, with the family or with a group of friends.

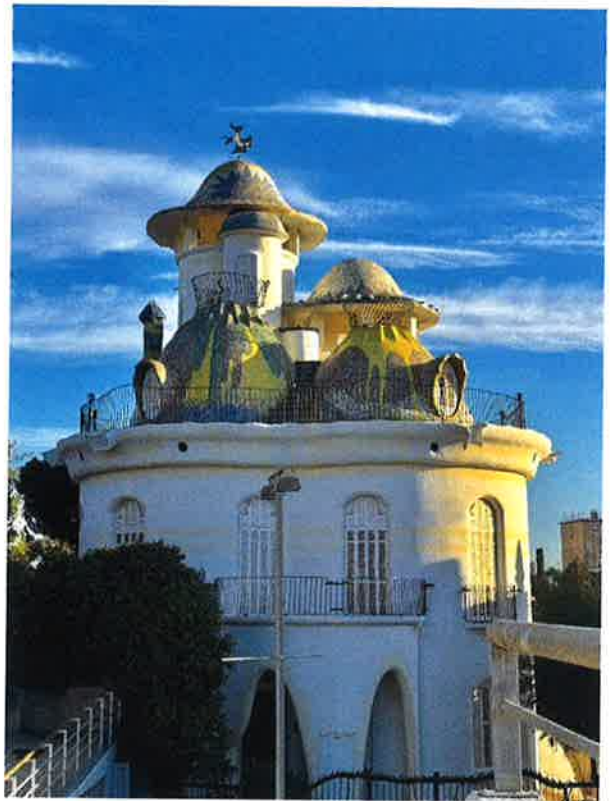


Figure 3: Torre de la Creu

This spectacular building attracted our attention right after our arrive in Sant Joan Despì, we had to include it here! Most importantly, we discovered that this place is used by University of Barcelona for lectures, conferences, and traineeship activities.

3. Interview with a young man in his 20's

This young man we met in Placa de Jose Agustin Goytsolo informed us about where to go to stay in shape if you are a resident of Sant Joan Despí, as he is often at the *Poliesportiu Municipal*. Nevertheless, *Can Negre* is undoubtedly his favorite place in Sant Joan Despí.

We found out that he is quite informed on the history of Sant Joan Despí, and that he is also interested in economical dynamics and development of the town: he would love to open the access of the city center to cars, to boost shops business and the amount of people getting near to the stores in Sant Joan Despí.

We think this guy lives Sant Joan Despí almost *fully*, knowing history of the town, being interested in its economic development, and moving from one neighborhood to another, mostly to see friends.



Figure 6: Poliesportiu Municipal

Places we associate with our physical and mental health will always be important for us. This was somehow very tangible in our guy's wording.



Figure 5: Façade of a store in Carrer de Baltasar D'Espanya

The young guy we had a conversation with was very interested in Sant Joan Despí economy and history. The city center – even if you are not allowed to access it by car – tells his own story about his economic history.

4. *Interview with a mother from Barcelona*



She brings her kid to the *St. Patrick's International School*. After that she shops in SJD, mainly in *Ametller Origen*. She did not know about the neighborhoods in SJD and in general did not have any idea about SJD. She was there just to shop.

Figure 7: *St. Patrick's International School*

5. *Interview with a young woman*

She lives in *Sant Feliu*. She comes to SJD to work. She has friends from other neighborhoods and she sometimes visits them.

INTERVIEWS IN LES PLANES – 23/11/2023

1. Interview with a mother, over 30 years old

She knew about all the buildings but did not say anything specific. She knew about *Can Negre* but she did not know about pottery classes, yet she was not surprised about their existence. She mentioned that she worked at Nissan before. We got the feeling that she is looking for a job but fears to be left behind because of the fast-moving industry.

2. Interview with a couple, both teenagers



The guy is from Badalona but the girl is a local in SJD. She lives in the center. They both knew about all the buildings. She goes to the *Poliesportiu* for the gym. She mentioned that she moves through the neighborhoods quite often. She has friends in *Les Planes*. And she goes to *Televisió de Catalunya* to play basketball on her free time, as a hobby.

About the street in *Figure 8*, she said that the street was restyled and now it is a nice and pretty place to walk in.

Figure 8: Carrer de les Torres

3. Interview with a mother, over 30 years old, works from home

She mentioned that she works for a company in Barcelona, remotely. She lived in SJD pretty much for all her life. She knew a lot about the history and purposes of *Can Negre* and *Torre de la Creu*. She mentioned that *St. Patrick* is a very new school and she went to *Poliesportiu* not for sports but to have some *tapas*.

The highlight of the conversation was that *Les Planes* lacks some playgrounds for the kids. And for this reason, she moves between the neighbors to find a better place for her kid to play at. She complains about this quite often to other mothers of *Les Planes*.

When we asked about if she shops for her daily needs in *Les Planes*, she said that she can find pretty much everything there and even there are several options. But she still goes to Barcelona for clothing or simply orders them online.