



11. La *escalà*

La *escalà* is a pre-existing feature of the historical complex formed by the old barracas in El Cabanyal-El Canyamelar-Cap de França; each had to move back from the dividing property line by three Valencian palms. It represented an easement between two adjacent properties, six Valencian palms in length (136 cm), which in turn gave independent access to the corrals; according to Víctor Gosálvez:

“The barraca, as it has the overhanging eaves on its side walls and by legal prescription, every construction must pour the waters within its property, each barraca moves its side wall three Valencian palms from the dividing property line, leaving an alley between the two neighbouring barracas of six palms, or one metre thirty-six centimetres, which serves to give independent exit to the corral and for the reconstitution of the barraca, some separate the *escalà* with a dividing line of reeds, others do not, serving for common use and enjoyment of both owners” (Gosálvez, V. [1915] 1998).

When a barraca was demolished, the new construction could not be built on the easement space; the last barraca to be built could incorporate it into the plot and even buy three Valencian palms of property from the neighbour. This did not always happen and today's urban landscape still features those that were not built.

This process of replacing buildings, incorporating the *escalà* or not, autonomously regenerates the new plots on which the different types of homes that represent the traditional architecture of the area were built (Pastor Villa, R. 2012).