



20. Virgen del Castillo

The Virgen del Castillo site was built under the public housing development scheme during the early Franco period to compensate damage caused in Poblats Marítims by bombings that devastated the area during the civil war.

It stands by the sea, next to the historic area. It consists of several phases that took place over time: the Virgen del Castillo homes with three linear, limited-income housing blocks subject to the Devastated Regions Act, which were built between 1943 and 1946; a group of homes by Ramón Laporta, now called Las Sufragistas, which consists of three linear, limited-income housing blocks developed by the Obra Sindical del Hogar in the mid-1940s; and the Enrique Terrasa school complex, a Devastated Regions project, recognised as a school in 1943.

Virgen del Castillo homes are designed in three closed linear blocks with a spacious, communal garden courtyard, although the block nearest the sea is incomplete. The central block is set back on the façade facing the school to form a square. Homes have a net floor area of 93.70 m², larger than usual for protected housing. The academicist façade is typical of the Franco regime.

The Ramón Laporta group respects the alignment of the previous group and some of its compositional concepts, although they are lower in height and of lesser constructive quality.

The Enrique Terrasa school group consists of an L-shaped building with three floors on the main east façade, and two to the west. The east façade facing La Mare de Déu del Sufragi Street is symmetrical with regard to the central body in exposed brick, which protrudes from the wall and is framed with a split frontispiece. Both sides of the façade are designed with a series of rectangular openings on the ground and first floors, taking the form of a loggia (covered exterior corridor) on the third floor.