



Recetas Urbanas  
Santiago Cirugeda

## EL NIU

### Temporary Extension

Promoter: Girona Council + El Bòlit  
Building Company: Self-Building  
Location: Girona  
Area: 60 m<sup>2</sup>

Cost: 18.500 €  
Start Design Date: June 2008  
Construction Start: September 2008  
Inauguration: November 2008

El Niu ("nest" in Catalan) is a temporary architectural intervention that was designed for the Bòlit. It is located on the rooftop of one of its spaces at La Rambla, in a building that was a former police station, and it is now considered a heritage building. Its main purpose is to provide the Art Center with the necessary temporary infrastructure to do its artistic research and interventions. With the budget of a "visiting artist", we took on all the intervention; design, implementation, building management, building safety and civil responsibility.

For its construction, we recycled four containers coming from Saragossa and reused given materials and elements, such as the access staircase that was given to us by Straddle3, whom also helped us with the building process. Moreover, the containers were coated with leaf litter, branches and Czechoslovak camouflage fabrics to simulate a nest. This nest has a parodic attitude, as the one that we had with "the hedgehog" made for the Espai d'Art Contemporani of Castellón. What distinguishes the Niu from all the other spaces belonging to the Bòlit is that it works not just as an exhibition and production space, but also as a temporary artistic residence. The immediate consequence of this action is that the operating hours does not restrict the Niu, an aspect that results unusual for an institutional space.



At the end, the project for the residences was not done as it was planned, because of the fear of the public institutions (that repeats in several projects) to the fact of mixing creativity and production with the housing component. It was not possible for the project to reach the 2 years of function that were planned, due to the repeated fights and tensions between the different political parties and the public. Nowadays, these 4 containers can be found on a new self-manage space created by the Aoscuras collective in Pradejón, La Rioja.