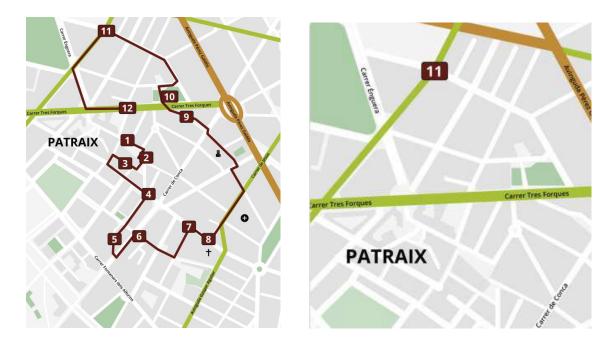
11. Shop assistants' buildings



The Shop Assistants' Cooperative of Cheap Houses, made up of employees that worked in the trade sector, was built in 1921. The cooperative acquired land in Patraix, next to Archiduque Carlos Street, to build a neighbourhood of detached houses with two floors and a garden. The first houses built in the 20s and 30s started disappearing with the urban development of the second half of the XX century, and today we can only find a few houses in Mariano Ribera Street, Chelva Street and Albaida Street.

When the civil war ended, in the 40s, the cooperative promoted the construction of blocks in Archiduque Carlos Street, number 8 to 20, on the corner of Enguera and Chiva Street.

The architect, Vicente Monfort Romero, incorporated valencian-style towers, bay windows, arches, balustrades, vases and panels with illustrations of Valencian scenes in the doorways. Particularly noteworthy is a replica of the Mercury of Giambologna (symbol of trade) in the corner of Archiduque Carlos Street and Chiva Street.

Later, a second building was developed in the intersection of Avenida del Cid and the corner of Archiduque Carlos Street and Chiva Street. The works were under the direction of José E. Zanón Galán after the passing of Monfort. The compositional scheme was similar, with cantilevered bodies and towers in the Valencian style, although the result was inferior. The second building was finished in 1958. Archiduque Carlos Street, one of the biggest streets in the city nowadays, which connects with the Picanya and Torrent motorway, functionally replaced in the XX century the old Torrent road, which followed the route of today's streets Maestro Bellver, Enrique Olmos, Pintor Pascual Capuz and Alquería de Benlloch.

That old road was one of the most used communication routes around the city since the Middle Ages and for centuries, always busy with farmers' carts and carriages, which inspired this saying:

"Al camí vell de Torrent

tot són clots i 'carrilaes'; les pessetes i l'or

'pa' les xiquetes més 'templaes'"

"In the old road of Torrent,

it's all potholes and ruts; pesetas and gold

for the prettiest girls"

General information

Address: Intersection of Archiduque Carlos Street and Chiva Street.

Accesibility

Access: Accesible Street with lowered pavement.

Parking: Parking space reserved for persons with reduced mobility in Archiduque

Carlos Street 25, Chelva Street 14, Chelva Street 9, Chiva Street 31 and Chiva Street 58.