## 3. Historic Quarter of Patraix





The main roads of historic Patraix were the following five:

- Road of Torrent (current streets of Maestro Bellver, Enrique Olmos and Pintor Pascual Capuz);
- València street (now Turís street), access to Patraix from the north, which connected with the road of Torrent:
- Road of Jesús (current Jesús street), that once arrived to the Convent of Jesús, located in the square with the same name, it turned right to a smaller road (now Beato Nicolás Factor Street) until it reached Patraix from the east;
- **The road of Patraix** (current Cuenca street), secondary road that started from the city's former general hospital;
- **Azagador de las Monjas**, road which, with a route adjacent to that of the waterway of Favara, gave access to the crop growing area located south of the village and which name is still conserved as one of the streets of the current neighbourhood.

Although many historical constructions are no longer there, an important part of the medieval Patraix layout still survives.

The oldest surviving houses, from the XV and XVI century, are the ones on Alcúdia Street (former Carmen Street) and Marqués de Elche Street.

With mud walls, they are typical examples of valencian village houses, with ground floor, first floor and attic; some with a central corridor, with rooms on both sides, and some with a side corridor.

It is said that, el Palleter, valencian hero during the napoleonic invasion (1808-1814) lived on Marqués de Elche Street, according to tradition, he lived on the house that used to be next to the Town Hall's old builing, on Patraix Square; although other traditions indicate it was his girlfriend who lived in said house. This tradition is supported only by one work, El Palleter, by the writer from Benidorm, Gaspar Thous i Orts.

If Patraix Square was the main square of the town, the other streets had names that have disappeared:

- València Street (now Turís)
- San Roque Street (now Marqués de Elche)
- Gloria Street (now Pinet)
- Carmen Street (now Alcúdia)
- Paraíso or Jesús Street (now Convento de Jesús)

Patraix experimented a small expansion in the XX century, with the best preserved streets being Juan Bautista Corachán, popularly known as "calle del Gurugú", and Beata Inés Street, which connected the former with the old Torrent road. On those and the surrounding streets, examples of popular Valencian architecture with elements of modernist style can be seen.

In the case of "Calle del Gurugú", the town gave it that name by comparison of its sloping shape with that of the mountain of the same name in Morrocco, close to Melilla, which was shortly before scene of the disastrous war of Abd el-Krim against the spanish.

The people of Patraix that fought in that war at the beginning of the 21st century, were the ones to give it the name.

On number 22 of Juan Bautista Corachán Street, the FAI (Anarquist Iberian Federation) was founded.

In addition to the town centre of Patraix itself, there were numerous toponymic names in the surrounding huerta (crop growing areas); such as these, collected in a popular saying of Patraix, which mentions some of the most important farmhouses in the area:

"L'Alqueria de Dalt, l'Alqueria de Baix, l'Alqueria de Burguet, totes en un roglet."
"Dalt farmhouse,
Baix farmhouse,
Burguet farmhouse,
All in a circle."

From the opera "El Palleter", written by J. V. R. Royo de León and Gaspar Thous Caspe, we extract these other verses:

"Té mines d'or Califòrnia, perles i coral la mar, pero el tresor de la ditxa busquem-la com jo a Patraix."
"California has gold mines,

The sea has pearls and coral, But the real treasure, Look for it, like me, in Patraix."

## **General Information**

Address: Alcúdia Street and Marqués de Elche Street.

## **Accesibility**

Access: Accessible Street via lowered pavement.

**Parking:** Parking space reserved for persons with reduced mobility, located in the junction between Turis Street and Square of Patraix.