

SPAIN

Madrid: ecological architecture for collaborative housing

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Madrid (Spain). The Las Carolinas building in Usera, a working-class neighborhood in Madrid's southern suburbs. The building is home to 17 families from the Entrepatrios housing cooperative.



Madrid (Spain). Iñaki Alonso, one of the architects who designed the Las Carolinas building, where he lives with 16 other families from the Entrepatrios housing cooperative. Here he is seen in his home while working on a project.

Madrid: the first collectively owned and zero-emission building in the Spanish capital

It has taken almost two decades of dreams, ideals, plans, but also a lot of bureaucracy and determination, to finally create what has become Madrid's first non-speculative model of collective ownership. It's an energy-efficient building with 100% renewable sources, zero carbon emissions, not to mention great ecological, social and community significance. This is the Las Carolinas Entrepatrios project, in the Usera barrio, or district, in Madrid's southern suburbs. It's an experience in cohousing and sustainable architecture which has also received recognition with the Low Carbon Prize, as part of the 2020-2021 Green Solutions Awards, and the 2019 European Collaborative Housing Awards. The initiative involves 17 family units in the Entrepatrios cooperative, which owns the building. Nearly all of them shared the

entire process of conception, identification and purchase of the land, implementation of the project, up to the cohousing which began in November 2020. Now, some three years later, the inhabitants can fully savor the value of this ecological and supportive "cohabitation," which makes living more welcoming, affordable and inclusive. Today, in its own small way, this project is becoming "contagious" and is a model for others like the one in the district of Vallecas where ten families that are also linked to the Entrepatrios cooperative began living together in July 2022.

This work is part of a project on the eco-efficiency of housing carried out in collaboration with the European Climate Foundation.



Madrid (Spain). Luis Rico, one of the residents at the Las Carolinas building in Usera, a working-class neighborhood in Madrid's southern suburbs. The building is home to 17 families from the Entrepatrios housing cooperative.



Madrid (Spain). Nati Garcia, one of the inhabitants at the Las Carolinas building in Usera, a working-class neighborhood in Madrid's southern suburbs. The building is home to 17 families from the Entrepatrios housing cooperative. Here Nati is seen getting her hair cut in the building's common room.



Madrid (Spain). The Entrepacios housing cooperative building in the working-class Las Vallecas neighborhood on the southern outskirts of Madrid.

Madrid (Spain). Pizza and movie night at the home of Sergio, one of the residents at the Las Carolinas building in Usera, a working-class neighborhood in Madrid's southern suburbs. The building is home to 17 families from the Entrepatrios housing cooperative. Once a week, kids from the building gather at a tenant's house for a pizza and movie night.





Madrid (Spain). A group photo of many inhabitants of the Las Carolinas building in Usera, a working-class neighborhood in Madrid's southern suburbs. The building is home to 17 families from the Entrepatrios housing cooperative. They are on their way to a wedding party.



Madrid (Spain). Nacho García Pedraza with his daughter Olivia. They are both residents at the Las Carolinas building in Usera, a working-class neighborhood in Madrid's southern suburbs. The building is home to 17 families from the Entrepatrios housing cooperative. Nacho is one of the cooperative's pioneers and has been a key player in the evolution of the project.



Madrid (Spain). Iñaki Alonso, one of the architects who designed the Las Carolinas building, where he lives with 16 other families from the Entrepacios housing cooperative. Here he is seen removing the filter from the cistern where sewage and rainwater are collected prior to being purified and reused for toilet drains and watering plants.

Madrid (Spain). Sergio, an inhabitant at the Las Carolinas building in Usera, a working-class neighborhood in Madrid's southern suburbs. The building is home to 17 families from the Entrepatrios housing cooperative.





Madrid (Spain). Playing in the courtyard at the Las Carolinas building in Usera, a working-class neighborhood in Madrid's southern suburbs. The building is home to 17 families from the Entrepatrios housing cooperative.



Madrid (Spain). The plaque at the Las Carolinas building certifying that it is zero-carbon.



Madrid (Spain). The Las Carolinas building in Usera, a working-class neighborhood in Madrid's southern suburbs. The building is home to 17 families from the Entrepacios housing cooperative.



Madrid (Spain). A birthday party in the common spaces at the Las Carolinas building in Usera, a working-class neighborhood in Madrid's southern suburbs. The building is home to 17 families from the Entrepatrios housing cooperative.



Madrid (Spain). The entrance to the Entrepacios cooperative building in the working-class Las Vallecas neighborhood on the southern outskirts of Madrid.



Madrid (Spain). Photovoltaic panels on the roof of the Entrepacios co-op building in the working-class Las Vallecas neighborhood on the southern outskirts of Madrid.



Madrid (Spain). Maykel Moya, a Cuban inhabitant at the Las Carolinas building in Usera, a working-class neighborhood in Madrid's southern suburbs. The building is home to 17 families from the Entrepatrios housing cooperative. Here he is seen playing the drums in the building's common room. Together with other tenants, he has formed a musical group and they rehearse every weekend.



Madrid (Spain). Photovoltaic panels on the roof of the Las Carolinas building in Usera, a working-class neighborhood in Madrid's southern suburbs. The building is home to 17 families from the Entrepatrios housing cooperative.



Madrid (Spain). Nacho García Pedraza an inhabitant at the Las Carolinas building in Usera, a working-class neighborhood in Madrid's southern suburbs. The building is home to 17 families from the Entrepatrios housing cooperative. He is showing a photo of the kids painting a wall that was there before the building's inception. Nacho is one of the cooperative's pioneers and has been a key player in the evolution of the project.

Madrid (Spain). Photographs of the meetings that were held for the construction of the Las Carolinas building in Usera, a working-class neighborhood in Madrid's southern suburbs. The building is home to 17 families from the Entrepatrios housing cooperative.



Madrid (Spain). Almodena, a resident at the Entrepatis cooperative building in the working-class Las Vallecas neighborhood on the southern outskirts of Madrid. Here she is seen doing the laundry. The residents at Las Carolinas have no washing machines of their own, but have access to a room with communal machines, the use of which is programmed.



Madrid (Spain). Maykel Moya, a Cuban inhabitant at the Las Carolinas building in Usera, a working-class neighborhood in Madrid's southern suburbs. The building is home to 17 families from the Entrepatrios housing cooperative. Here he is seen checking an air quality filter inside his home.



Madrid (Spain). The garage at the Las Carolinas building in Usera, a working-class neighborhood in Madrid's southern suburbs. The building is home to 17 families from the Entrepacios housing cooperative.

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