



## Sitges city near barcelona

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### Abstract

The author's trip to Spain (to the city of Barcelona and its surroundings) was occasioned by his participation in the International Scientific Symposium: BIOCLIMATIC ARCHITECTURE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, Barcelona, 08-14. June 2006, where he presented his work entitled "Examples of the Bioclimatic Architecture in Bosnia and Herzegovina". The author participated in this symposium at the invitation of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Spain in Sarajevo. Presentations of works at the Symposium were held in the city of Vilanova, about 50 km from the center of Barcelona, while the rest of the program was held in the cities of Barcelona and Sitges and in the settlement of La Mura, about 50 km away by air, north of Barcelona. The three cities and the rural settlement of La Mura were chosen very thoughtfully in order to connect vernacular architecture, author's bioclimatic architecture and contemporary architecture with an insight into concrete examples of architectural realizations. Vilanova is a new city with examples of contemporary architecture built according to high standards of energy-efficient architecture. In Barcelona, the focus was on the architectural realizations of the architect Antoni Gaudi (Antoni Gaudi and Cornet, 1852-1926). In the City of Sitges, the focus was on its urbanism and several individual buildings of bioclimatic architecture, while in the rural settlement of La Mura, the focus was on exceptionally well-preserved architectural buildings and equipment for everyday life, in a concrete natural environment.

**Keywords:** Spain, barcelona, sitges, synergy of natural environment, social environment and man

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### 1. Introduction

The author's trip to Spain (to the city of Barcelona and its surroundings) was occasioned by his participation in the International Scientific Symposium: BIOCLIMATIC ARCHITECTURE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, Barcelona, 08-14. June 2006, where he presented his work entitled "Examples of the Bioclimatic Architecture in Bosnia and Herzegovina". The author participated in this symposium at the invitation of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Spain in Sarajevo (Figures 1, 2). Presentations of works at the Symposium were held in the city of Vilanova, about 50 km from the center of Barcelona, while the rest of the program was held in the cities of Barcelona and Sitges and in the settlement of La Mura, about 50 km away by air, north of Barcelona. The three cities and the rural settlement of La Mura were chosen very carefully in order to connect vernacular architecture, author's bioclimatic architecture and contemporary architecture with an insight into concrete examples of architectural realizations [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10]. Vilanova is a new city with examples of contemporary architecture built according to high standards of energy-efficient architecture. In Barcelona<sup>1</sup>, the focus was on the architectural realizations of the architect Antoni Gaudi (Antoni Gaudi and Cornet, 1852-1926). In the City of Sitges, the focus was on its urbanism and several individual buildings of bioclimatic architecture, while in the rural settlement of La Mura, the focus was on exceptionally well-preserved architectural buildings and equipment for everyday life, in a concrete natural environment.

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<sup>1</sup> In addition to the official tour of Barcelona, the author additionally, during two days, toured the city of Barcelona with the (then) architecture student, Haris Bradic, who attended the year studied at ESAB Escola Tecnica Superior d'Arquitectura – UPC in Barcelona (school year 2004/2005).



**Source:** Hadrovic, A. (2018). Architecture in the travelogues of an architect. Book 2: The Mediterranean, Faculty of Architecture, University of Sarajevo

**Fig 1:** Map of Catalonia (Spain). (The places the author visited are marked with red squares)



**Source:** Haris Bradic (June 8, 2006)

**Fig 2:** The author presents his work at the symposium BIOCLIMATIC ARCHITECTURE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, Barcelona, 08-14. June 2006

Sigets is a town (with about 30,257 inhabitants, 2021) <sup>[11]</sup> located between the Garraf mountain massif and the Mediterranean Sea, about 35 km southwest of Barcelona (Geographic coordinates: 41°14'13.78"N, 1°48'21.18"E, Elevation: 8 m), (Figure 3). The city is known for its film festival and carnival, sea beaches and rich artistic life, which

is why it received the popular names "Ibiza in miniature" and "Saint-Tropez of Spain". It is interesting that about 35% of the permanent population of Sitges is from the Netherlands, Great Britain, France and Scandinavian countries. Archaeological findings confirm the presence of ludi in this area since the Neolithic. The ancient Romans conquered this

area in the 1st century, and in the 4th century there was an Iberian settlement there. In the Middle Ages, a castle owned by the diocese of Barcelona was built in this settlement, which sold it (1041) to the nobleman Mir Geribert (?1060).

During the 12th century, Sitges was ruled by the Sitges family (from which the town got its name), until 1308, when it was bought by the Valencian poet and priest Mossèn Bernat de Fonollaru (1438-1515).



Source: Google Earth. Accessed: December 6, 2023.

Fig 3: Sitges near Barcelona. Location

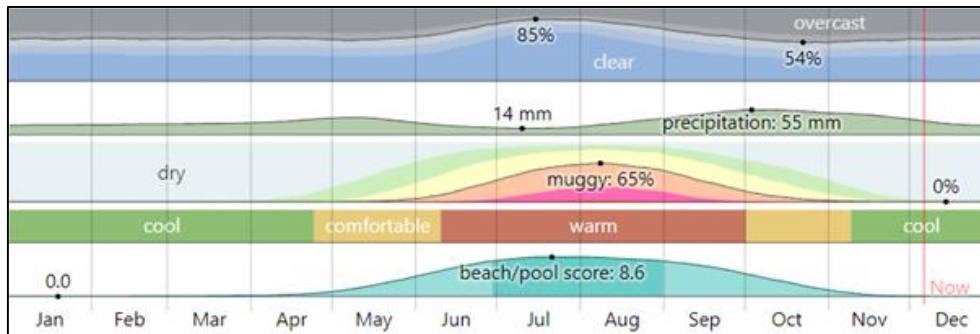
## 2. Natural resources and sights

The climatic conditions in Sitges are characterized by a warm and moderate atmosphere. The amount of rainfall in Sitges is significant, with rainfall even during the driest month. According to the Köppen-Geiger classification, the prevailing weather conditions in this region are categorized under Cfa. The temperature at this place is about 15.2 °C, as determined by statistical analysis. About 639 mm of precipitation falls annually. The place is located in the northern hemisphere<sup>[12]</sup>. Summers in Sitges are short, warm, sultry and mostly clear. Winters are long, cold and partly cloudy; and it is dry all year round. During the year, the temperature usually varies from 5 °C to 28 °C and is rarely below 1 °C or above 31 °C. The warm season lasts 2.9 months, from June 22 to September 18, with an average daily temperature above 25 °C. The warmest month of the year in Sitges is August, with an average high of 28 °C and a low of 20 °C. The cold season lasts 4.1 months, from November 20 to March 25, with an average daily temperature below 16 °C. The coldest month of the year in Sitges is January, with an average low of 5 °C and a high of 14 °C. The brighter part of the year in Sitges starts around June 15th and lasts for 2.7 months, ending around September 5th. The clearest month of the year in Sitges is July, during which the sky is on average clear, mostly clear, or partly cloudy 84% of the time. The cloudier part of the year begins around September 5 and lasts for 9.3 months, ending around June 15. The cloudiest month of the year in Sitges is October, during which the sky is cloudy or mostly cloudy 45% of the time. The wet season lasts 9.1 months, from August 24 to May 27, with a greater than 14% chance of a given day being a rainy day. The month with the most rainy days in Sitges is October, with an average of 5.9 days with at least 1.00 millimeters of precipitation. The drier season lasts 2.9 months, from May 27 to August 24. The month with the fewest rainy days in Sitges is July, with an average of 2.4 days with at least 1.00 millimeters of precipitation. Among rainy days, we distinguish those that have only rain, only snow or a mixture of the two. The month with the most rainy days in Sitges alone is October, with an

average of 5.9 days. According to this categorization, the most common form of precipitation throughout the year is rain itself, with a peak probability of 21% on October 5. Sitges experiences some seasonal variation in monthly rainfall. It rains in Sitges all year round. The rainiest month in Sitges is October, with an average rainfall of 54 millimeters. The month with the least rain in Sitges is July, with an average rainfall of 14 millimeters. We base the humidity comfort level on the dew point, as it determines whether sweat will evaporate from the skin, thus cooling the body. Lower dew points appear drier and higher dew points appear wetter. Unlike temperature, which usually varies significantly between night and day, dew point tends to change more slowly, so although the temperature may drop at night, a sultry day is usually followed by a sultry night. Sitges experiences extreme seasonal variation in perceived humidity. The worst period of the year lasts for 3.6 months, from June 14 to October 2, during which time the comfort level is sultry, oppressive, or miserable at least 16% of the time. The month with the most steamy days in Sitges is August, with 18.8 days that are steamy or worse. The least humid day of the year is February 28, when humid conditions are actually unheard of. The average hourly wind speed in Sitges experiences mild seasonal variation over the course of the year. The windiest part of the year lasts for 6.9 months, from October 4 to April 30, with an average wind speed of greater than 10 feet per second. The windiest month of the year in Sitges is December, with an average hourly wind speed of 4.1 meters per second. The calmer time of the year lasts for 5.2 months, from April 30 to October 4. The calmest month of the year in Sitges is August, with an average hourly wind speed of 3.2 meters per second. The wind is most often from the south for 6.2 months, from April 10 to October 15, with a peak percentage of 56% on August 9. The wind is most often from the west for 5.8 months, from October 15 to April 10, with a peak percentage of 48% on January 1. Sitges is located near a large body of water (eg an ocean, sea or large lake). The average water temperature experiences extreme seasonal variations throughout the year. The season with

warmer water lasts 2.8 months, from July 4 to September 28, with an average temperature above 23 °C. The month of the year with the warmest water in Sitges is August, with an average temperature of 25 °C. The colder water season lasts

4.8 months, from December 8 to May 1, with an average temperature below 15 °C. The month of the year with the coldest water in Sitges is February, with an average temperature of 13 °C<sup>[13]</sup> (Figure 4).



**Source:** Climate and Average Weather Year Round in Sitges, Spain  
<https://weatherspark.com/y/45963/Average-Weather-in-Sitges-Spain-Year-Round>  
 Accessed: December 6, 2023.

**Fig 4:** Sitges weather by month

The main and most important natural resource of the city of Sitges is its geographical position on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. This fact bound all other natural and social goods and resulted in the rich life of its people. Numerous sea beaches (17 of them, three of which are nudist), sunny and warm Mediterranean summers, proximity to Barcelona-El Prat airport have made Sitges an attractive tourist destination, while the presence of a large number of tourists has encouraged the construction of many hotels (the city has over 4,500 beds), most of which are high class (with four or more stars).

Les Botigues beach in Sitges (Catalan: Platja de les Botigues de Sitges)<sup>[14]</sup> is 1415 m long and 100 m wide. The beach has ISO 14001 and SICTED (specific tourist quality), (Figures 5,6).



**Source:** Haris Bradic (June 13, 2006)

**Fig 5:** Author at Les Botigues beach in Sitges



**Source:** Author (June 13, 2006)

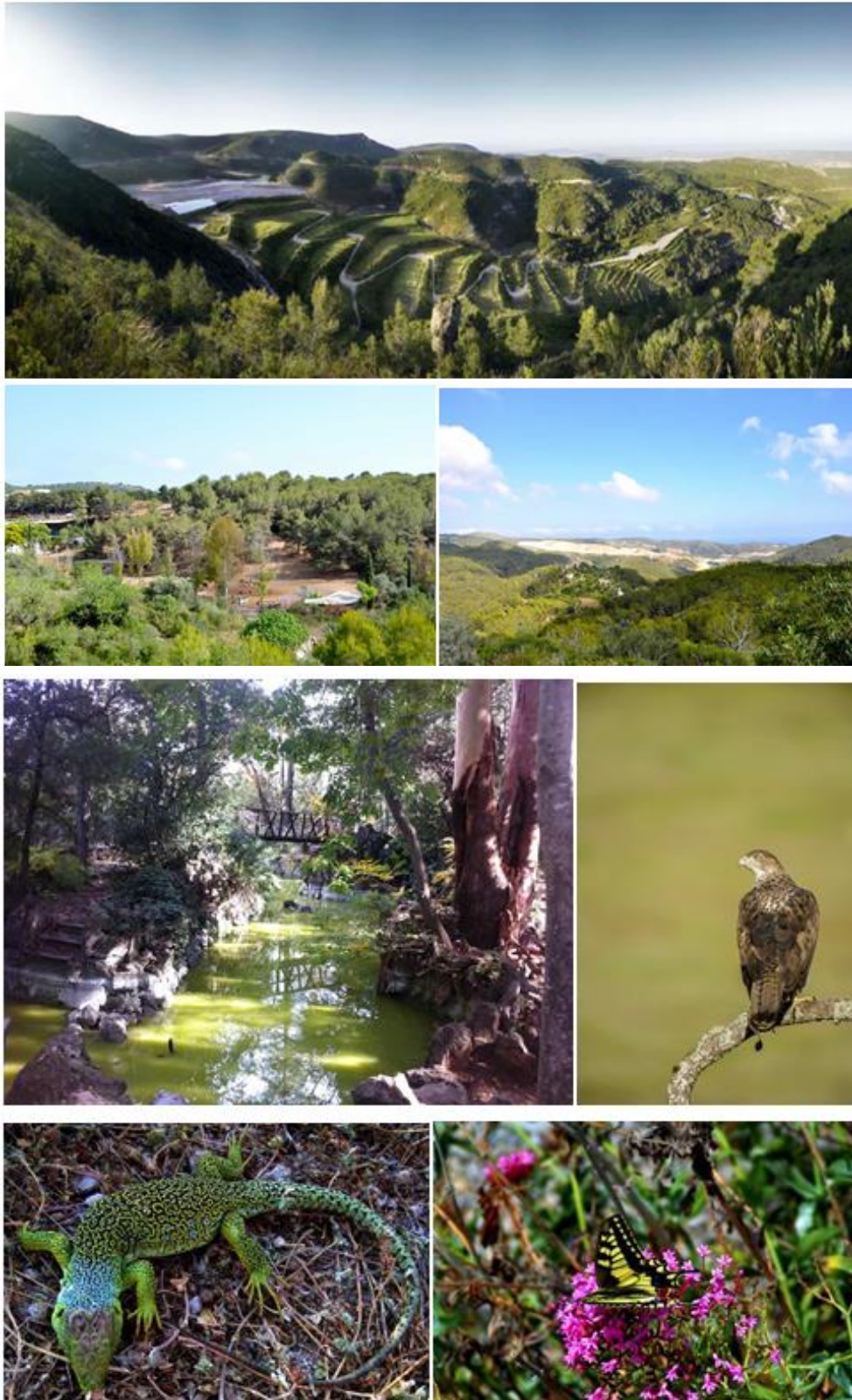
**Fig 6:** Les Botigues beach in Sitges

A large natural resource (supplemented by human creations) is the Parc Natural del Garraf (Catalan: Parc Natural del Garraf). Garraf Park covers an area of 12,820 hectares of limestone hills, which, in contact with water and air, have eroded over time and formed caves, pits, sinkholes and limestone pavements. The landscape is mostly Mediterranean scrubland, with vegetation typical for this area: thick thickets of low bushes and herbs such as rosemary and thyme. There are some wooded areas with Aleppo pine and holm oak trees,

most of which were affected by forest fires and are in the process of regeneration. Other trees include wild olive, fig and arbutus. Margaló deserves a special mention. It is a Mediterranean fan palm, which is the most characteristic plant of this area and a protected species. In the valley floor, the vegetation is more typical of evergreen oak forests and includes evergreen oaks, lime, boxwood, lentiscus honeysuckle and viburnum. Game is limited and adapted to the hot climate, lack of water, scarce vegetation and steep

terrain, and includes wild boars, rabbits, Mediterranean turtles, quails, Bonelli's eagles, falcons and other birds of prey <sup>[16]</sup> (Figure 7). There are not many buildings in the park, the most representative are the masías (farmhouses) that were associated with agricultural activities such as Can Marcer, Mas Quadrell and Can Grau (wine) and Mas Maiol, el Carxol and Vallgrassa (goat farming). These farmhouses are often grouped into small communities of three or four units, such as those in Campdàsens and Els Masetes, and in the case of

Jafra (now abandoned) even reached the size of a hamlet. Other characteristic features are the large number of dry walls, cattle fences and barracks (small circular dry wall huts or shelters for shepherds or farmers). The park's architectural heritage includes: Plana Novella, an eclectic pre-modernist country estate (home of Pere Domènech i Grau, 1890), which, after being restored by monks, became a Tibetan Buddhist monastery in 1996.





**Source:** <https://www.hotelcalipolis.com/blog/parc-natural-del-garrafdesde-sitges/>, Accessed: December 6, 2023.

**Source:** <http://www.visitsitges.com/ca/29-ruta-parc-del-garraf/65-parcdel-garraf>, Accessed: December 6, 2023.

**Source:** <https://viajar-a-barcelona.blogspot.com/2014/03/monasteriobudista-del-garraf.html?m=1>, Accessed: December 6, 2023.

**Source:** <http://www.garraftour.com/index.php/fitxes/el-parc-del-garraf-2>, Accessed: December 6, 2023.

**Source:** <https://www.sitgesanytime.com/en/pl7/what-to-do/places-of-interest/id58/parc-del-garraf.htm>, Accessed: December 6, 2023.

**Fig 7:** Parc Natural del Garraf

### 3. Architectural cultural and historical heritage

Church of St. Baromeu i Santa Tecla (Catalan: Església de Saint Barome i Santa Tecla) was built in the 17th century, and has been rebuilt and renovated several times to date. Its asymmetrical silhouette, on a hill overlooking the beach, is one of the most characteristic images of the city of Sitges (Figure 8). It is a baroque three-nave temple with a central pointed vault reinforced with ribs. The construction of the church began in 1665, and the church was blessed on July 18, 1672. One of the two bell towers, the "municipal tower", two years later, in 1868, the bells and the city clock were installed, the once old "torre de las horas" on Calle Mayor was demolished. In the 19th century, important works were again carried out: between 1854 and 1856, the Santísimo chapel was built, and in 1868, the second octagonal bell tower was restored. The church keeps several altarpieces. First, the central part of the Renaissance altarpiece (1499) of San Bartolomé and Santa Tecla, the work of the Neapolitan painter Nicolás de Credença. This fragment is what remains

of the central table and represents the patron saints of the city; after the construction of the Gothic church, it was moved to the sanctuary of Nuestra Señora del Vinyet, from where it returned in 1939 to be placed behind the altar (a study by the art historian Isabel Coll i Mirabent, see the Bibliography section). The Roser altarpiece is Renaissance, while the other altarpieces are Baroque. Under the choir are two Gothic tombs from 1317 and 1322 with the remains of Bernardo de Fonollar, Galceran de Ribes and Galcerán de Pacs. The baptistery and side chapel — dedicated to the Virgen de Montserrat — display paintings by Pere Pruna. Between 1950 and 1951, the architect Francesc Folguera carried out works on the nave and the main altar. In addition to the nave and transept of the temple, we must mention two annexed chapels from the 19th century: Ecce Homo and Santísimo (it has modern paintings by Darius Vilàs, who also painted the presbytery, all commissioned by the American philanthropist Charles Deering). You can access the Virgen de los Dolores chapel through the sacristy.



*Source:* Haris Bradic (June 13, 2006)

*Source:* <http://barcelona-home.com/blog/churches-in-sitges-2/>, Accessed: December 6, 2023

*Source:* [https://www.cataloniasacra.cat/llocs/esglesia-de-sant-bartomeu-i-santa-tecla-de-sitges/22/1\\_ca](https://www.cataloniasacra.cat/llocs/esglesia-de-sant-bartomeu-i-santa-tecla-de-sitges/22/1_ca), Accessed: December 6, 2023

**Fig 8:** Church of St. Baromeu and Santa Tecla

The Cau Ferrat Museum (Catalan: Museu Cau Ferrat) was the studio and home of the writer Santiago Rusiñol y Prats (1861-1931), one of the most significant figures of modernity in Catalonia who came from a rich family of cotton producers

<sup>[16]</sup> (Figure 9). Santiago Rusiñol i Prats promoted his theory of "Total Art", i.e. the theory of art as a new religion, with which society should be transformed through culture.



*Source:* Haris Bradic (June 13, 2006)

**Fig 9:** Cau Ferrat Museum

The Romàntic Can Llopis Museum (Catalan: Museu Romàntic Can Llopis) is arranged in a neoclassical building that was built in 1793, and was named after the owner of the building, Manuel Llopis i Falso, who came from one of the richest landowning families in Sitgest, known for wine production. Descendants of Manuel Llopis and Fals became passionate followers of the Renaxença (Catalan Revival)

movement, pursuing a wide range of professions, from law to art. The last of the heirs, Manuel Llopis de Casades (1885-1935), donated the house to the Provincial Council of Barcelona to arrange a museum in it. The adaptation of the house into a museum began in 1946, and the museum was opened in 1949. The museum exhibits works of art from the fields of painting, sculpture and ceramics (Figure 10).



**Source:** <https://www.laventanadelarte.es/centro/museu-romantic-can-llopis/catalunya/sitges>, Accessed: December 6, 2023

**Fig 10:** Roman Museum Can Llopis

Stämpfli Foundation Fundació Stämpfli (Catalan: Fundació Stämpfli) is a modern art museum located in the old fish market in Sitges, founded in 2011. It is the private foundation of the Swiss Peter Stämpfli (1937-), who moved to Sitges in

1961, and in 2011 opened a museum where he exhibited eighty works of art donated by contemporary artists from all over the world (Figure 11).



**Source:** <https://espanarusa.com/en/hedonist/ad/hedonist/categories/Soul/Museums/517894/@Espana-Barcelona-Sitges#prettyPhoto>  
Accessed: December 6, 2023.

**Source:** <http://www.fundacio-stampfli.org/?lang=en>, Accessed: December 6, 2023.

**Fig 11:** Fundació Stämpfli

The Sitges Carnival (Catalan: El Carnaval de Sitges), known as El Rei Carnestoltes, is a tradition of the city of Sitges for

more than a century, and takes place between February and March (Figures 12,13,14).



**Source:** <https://www.hotelcalipolis.com/blog/carnaval-de-sitges-2016-informacion-programa/>, Accessed: December 6, 2023.

**Source:** [https://www.elnacional.cat/ca/cultura-idees-arts/carnavalsitges\\_238836\\_102.html](https://www.elnacional.cat/ca/cultura-idees-arts/carnavalsitges_238836_102.html), Accessed: December 6, 2023.

**Source:** <https://www.hotelcalipolis.com/blog/carnaval-de-sitges-2017/>, Accessed: December 6, 2023.

**Source:** <https://www.naciodigital.cat/naciefotos/galeria/12346/foto/45225>, Accessed: December 6, 2023.

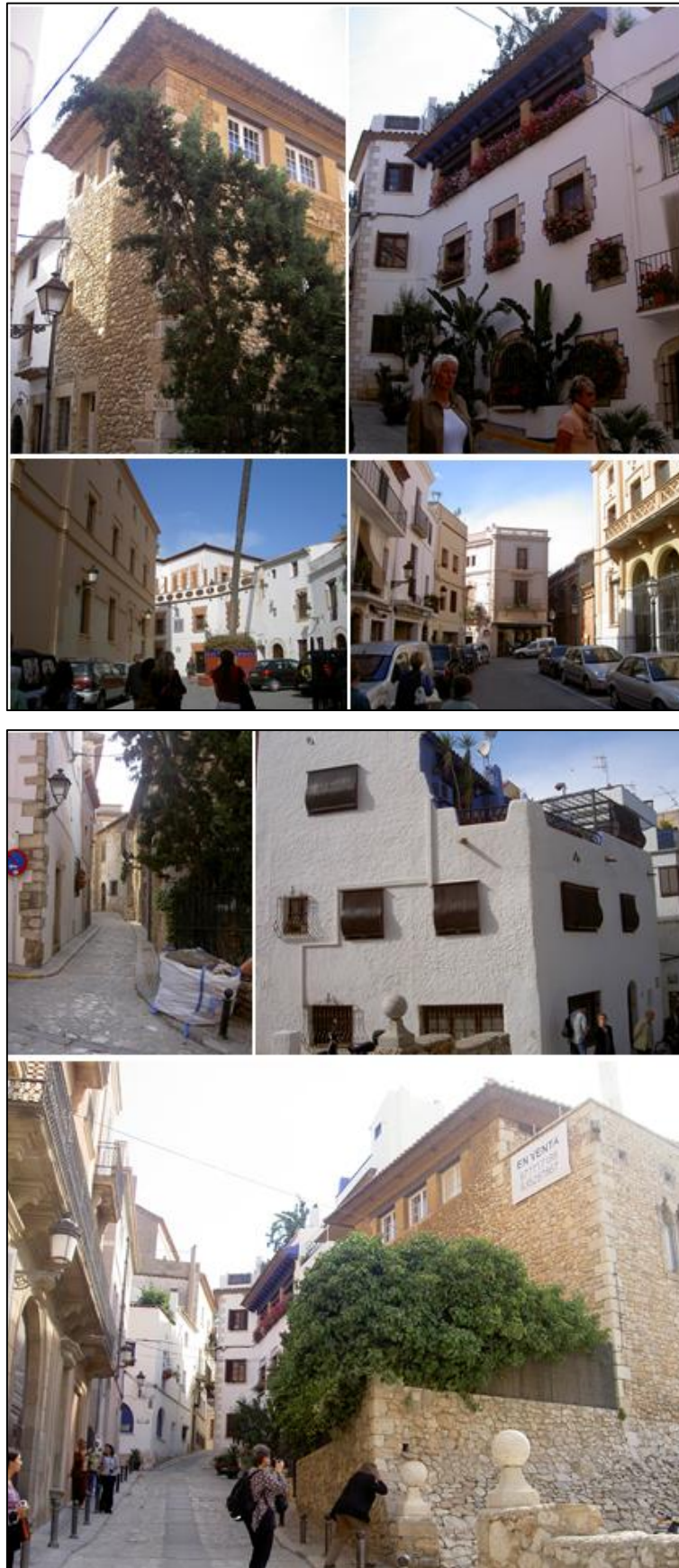
**Fig 12:** Carnival in Sitges



Source: Haris Bradic (June 13, 2006)

Fig 13: The author walks the streets of Sitges





Source: Author (June 13, 2006)

Fig 14: Urban planning and architecture of the city of Sitges

**Conclusion**

The city of Sitges is an outstanding example for the study of the author's theory "Defining architectural space (ADS)"<sup>1,2,3,</sup>

<sup>4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10</sup>; the rich natural environment of this city, the rich ruins environment and its inhabitants (through the rich history of this city) in their synergy clearly show the

generation of architectural space. The most important natural resource of the city of Sitges is its geographical position on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. This fact bound all other natural and social goods and resulted in the rich life of its people. Numerous sea beaches (17 of them, three of which are nudist), sunny and warm Mediterranean summers, proximity to Barcelona-El Prat airport have made Sitges an attractive tourist destination, while the presence of a large number of tourists has encouraged the construction of many hotels (the city has over 4,500 beds), most of which are high class (with four or more stars). Les Botigues beach in Sitges (Catalan: Platja de les Botigues de Sitges) is 1415 m long and 100 m wide. The beach has ISO 14001 and SICTED (specific tourist quality). The proximity of the historic city of Barcelona (with a wide range of exceptional architectural monuments), the proximity of the Benedictine Santa Maria de Montserrat, the landscape of La Mura (with preserved structures of exceptional vernacular architecture and various other structures that follow the symbiosis of man and nature), the population of different nationalities and cultures, contributed for Sitges to be a city that generates the wealth of human life.

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