

WINNER. INTERIOR DESIGN.

Three metro stations on Barcelona's L9 line

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The aim of this project is to refit the interior and exterior of the Mercabarna, Parc Logístic and Europa Fira stations, all situated on the L9 metro line. The intervention on the architecture, finishes and facilities all address non-railway elements.

The essence underpinning this proposal is to obtain maximum advantage of the unique features of an underground construction employing the minimum amount of means. The intention was to create a space that is defined by its geological rather than its built nature, in line with the classic line of thought whereby the notion of 'place', in the most profound sense of the term, plays an essential part in the architectural programme.

The solution put forward was therefore based on the use of the smallest number of materials possible, even resorting to those already present in the structural and civil engineering work, such as the foundation walls, the building supports, prefabricated structures, etc.

The materials used for the building work are as follows:

- the exposed foundation walls
- GRC panels
- stone and ceramic tile flooring
- The industrial-artistic lighting in various formats: lineal, domestic spotlighting, ornamental spotlighting, etc.
- glass lifts and handrails
- benches made of a stone that is similar to the flooring and steel litter bins
- TMB's own furniture and fittings: ticket machines, barriers, signs, instruction panels, etc.

Another of the project's key features hinges on the requirement to close off the platform when trains are in the station. This is included as a positive element that contributes added value to the overall proposal: the solid enclosure converts the project into an exercise in the creation of aesthetic façades. Entire façades that seek to exert a sense of complete domination in each section. In other words, a strategy devised to ensure control over the various spaces: entrances, halls, platforms and enclosures.

The overall aspiration is to create spaces that are:

- timeless, free from the dictates of trends in figures and materials
- easy to maintain and that age well
- capable of preserving a certain sense of an empty space, even though the number of users is high

The continuity of the flooring from the staircase, together with the staggered layout along the platform, adds to the lineal proportions in the area providing access to the trains.

19.2 x 120 x 1.3 cm porcelain tiles were used for the flooring, arranged in a transversal staggered layout. The floor indicator panels are in the same material, but feature relief designs created with two 30 cm wide pieces. The inspection covers feature the same porcelain tile material as the flooring, which complies with UNE-ENV12633: 2003 slip resistance requirements.