

Campanar: genesis and evolution of an urban settlement on the Historical *Huerta* (fertile region) of Valencia.

No one questions the historical debt that the city of Valencia has with its *Huerta* and its villages: Campanar, Benicalap, Benimaclet, Patraix.... These small populations, which were born sheltered by the *Huerta* of Valencia, have seen their identity reduced at the same pace as their rural environment disappeared. Therefore, they deserve that we spend our time in their knowledge and ultimately, in their recognition, both past and present. These rural settlements with their concentrated or scattered houses, farmhouses, the Historical *Huerta* and its hydraulic irrigation system, millers artifacts, etc. are an example of the so-called Minor Heritage that must be safeguarded by the historical and cultural content that underlies them.

Therefore, our main objective will be researching about the origin and evolution of one of these urban settlements of the city, whose characteristic seed is directly linked to this Historical *Huerta*. That is, knowing the causes that generated this settlement and how its urban transformation was performed through the centuries, giving it its present appearance. Another fundamental objective of the work will be identifying its distinguishing marks, by considering the subject of our research not as an isolated element, but as part of the traditional landscape with which it has coexisted for years.

The place chosen for this thorough study will be the village, today district, of Campanar. This village, just as the rest of peripheral population centers, is a traditional historical settlement of the *Huerta* of Valencia and, therefore, an essential chapter in the legacy of the city itself. The study of one of these enclaves represents the discernment of the different identity values that characterize the metropolis of Valencia.

The study about Campanar is based on the morphological analysis, one of the procedures used by the method of Landscape Archeology that is essential to study this kind of traditional structures, which are in continuous process of change. So, this study can be extrapolated to any other contemporary urban center.

This research tries to demonstrate that the thorough knowledge of an area structures is a fundamental work methodology as a contribution to:

- the History, by the contribution that the manifest knowledge of a population means to the city.
- the Archeology, while it is an approach to the origins of the traditional landscape.
- the Architecture, by the contribution to the Historical Heritage that the detailed account of its characteristics buildings and the deference accorded to them, carries.
- and of course, the Town Planning, as it is an instrument of basic discernment when considering new city growth strategies.