

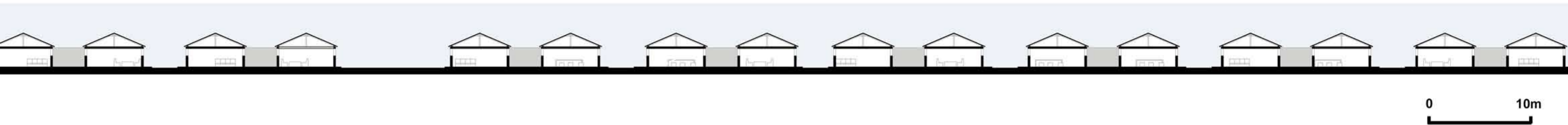
Bonpastor exists and wants to maintain its identity

Gain height: **yes**

Gain respect: **yes**

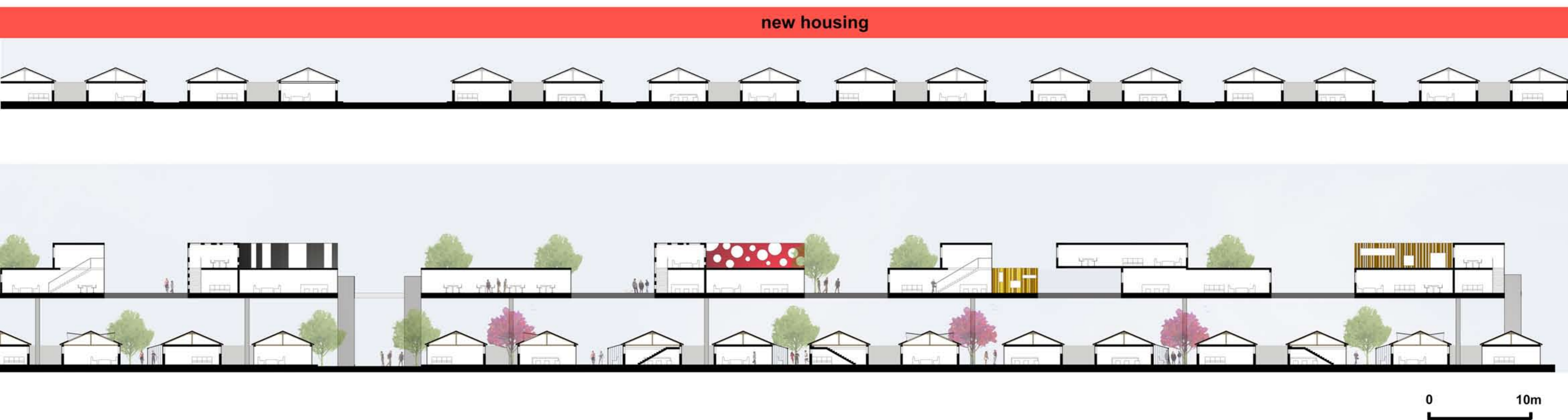
The people who live here being to the working classes. Those one calls "ces gens-là" (*Colette Pétonnet*). A long, working-class history and the pride of belonging to a local community cannot be ignored by the administrators of the city. These people have the right to speak up; the working classes also have the right to the City as stated by Henri Lefebvre. The distance from the center is the main difficulty of Bonpastor, but it will be completely wiped out if it loses its specific workingman's identity in being transformed into an ordinary suburb.

Present situation



The Bonpastor area and the layout of the "casas baratas" are unique to Barcelona and they allow for a particular type of sociability. The solidarity observed by anthropologists must be maintained for it is at the heart of local well-being. The interior space of the homes opens out directly to the street which then becomes an extension of this private space. The doorstep disappears giving way to a sharing up goods and practises. The community watches over the children like in a village; conflicts are handled out in the open. To do away with this semi-private/semi-public space by building high-rises, would be to condemn the population of Bonpastor to become like the others. The change in urbanistic rhetoric is a choice that the city must make. Barcelona wants to be an example: then show it!

Urban project



It is essential to understand that the binary discourse old/new is no longer acceptable. It was too often used to justify the unjustifiable: plainly, the penning up of populations. What's new doesn't mean tabula rasa and what's old doesn't mean an eyesore to be brought down. Managing poor populations too often consists of deciding upon second-rate solutions for them: without respecting the identity and the history which were developed over a long period of time. What we suggest is a coexistence between the old space and the new, to gain height, taking the wager that one learns from others, that change is necessary but not the destruction of what is so pleasant in Bonpastor. The street space, the sharing are what caught our attention; horizontality claimed as a specific local identity.



Project :

- The creation of a new "floor" 10 meters high, with a large number of openings to allow for sufficient luminosity.
- This "floor" creates a new typology inspired by the "casas baratas" which open up into the street.
- The streets "on high" encourage a new sociability and maintain the identity of the horizontal city.
- On the other hand, cars will not have access to the neighbourhood and will be parked in underground parking lots.
- The "casas baratas" are to be renovated

This project proposes to maintain coexistence between the different social groups in the neighbourhood and to create harmonious spatial and social levels, living in a neighbourhood which asserts its own identity and its own image in the city of Barcelona.