

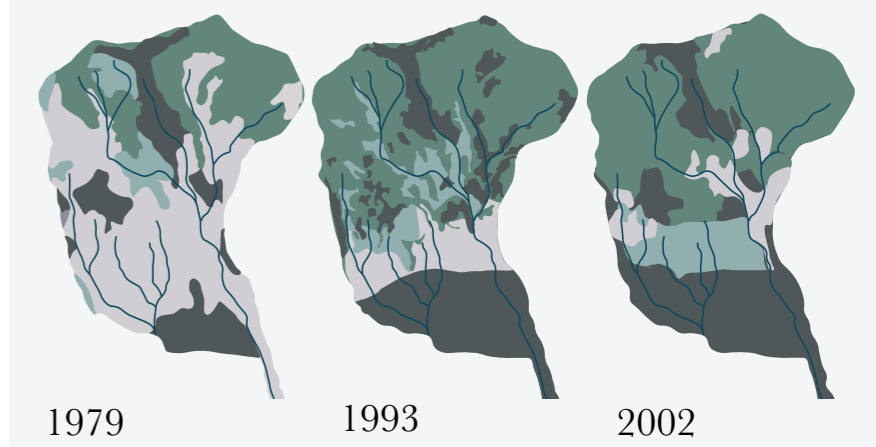


THE URBAN GROWTH IN THE MARESME

The lost balance between urban settlements and landscape

According to an anthropological point of view, the hydrographic network has determined the network of the main communication routes.

Traditionally the roads developed along the "rieras" were used (and are still largely used as of today) as a means to access the territory. Some waterways, in fact, still coincide with the main urban axes and have determined the structure of the coastal settlements (de "Mar") as well as of the ones of the hinterland (called "Dalt" and "Munt") by connecting them together, and defining their position.



Urban growth of Mataró (Iluro)

- Urbanized areas
- Agricultural areas
- Rural areas
- Wooded areas

A seamless urbanization

To date, there are two large barriers within the Maresme county and which extend for the entire length of the region: the highway constitutes a strong element of separation between the mountain landscape and the agricultural-coastal part; the railway, located close to and parallel to the coastal front of the whole region, reduces the latter to a line without spatial quality, severely limiting its accessibility for the municipalities that overlook it.

Along these infrastructures, the cities welded together and expanded, causing a continuous urbanization that eroded the historic agricultural and productive landscape of the county, caused by a strong soil waterproofing and a canalization of the waterways that once characterized the rural and the natural landscape.

Reconstruction of the main phases of expansion of Maresme settlements

1. First urban settlements: prehistoric deposits
 - Iluro (Mataró, main urban settlement)
 - First settlements
 - Archaeological sites
2. Roman deposits and reconstruction of the route of the Roman road: approximation of the passage of the Via Augusta that used to connect the populations of the Maresme
3. Medieval sites: reconnection of the medieval path, main urban areas and location of the main archaeological sites of the time
4. Types of medieval settlements and defense towers
 - Recently founded cities
 - Sanctuaries
 - ▲ Villages
 - Defense towers
 - ◆ Main castles / monasteries

Comparison between phases of expansion

5. Settlements until 1850: Division between mountain and coastal settlements
 - Via Augusta path
 - Main road route
 - - Secondary ancient path

6. Current situation: seamless urbanization

- Highways
- Railway line
- State road "Nacional"

