



One really interesting place I visited (and recommend everybody to do so!): the community and social centre Can Masdeu in Canyelles, Barcelona. Can Masdeu is a squatted old hospital building on a mountain in some kind of national park next to Barcelona, where people set up a nice "centro social". Can Masdeu exists since 7 years and about 25 people and 2 children live there in their own kind of (ecological) luxury: without a lot of money, but having everything they need to live, lots of free time to spend on the centro social and the nicest view down on Barcelona and the sea that you can probably have for paying no rent at all!

The centro social consists of a library with internet and a cafe, a free shop and a Yoga-room. There is concerts sometimes and other events, like workshops. For me the most interesting thing to point out about Canmasdeu is, that it is not only a political but also a very ecological project (even though being so close to the city!): The people are not only recycling a lot, but also planting own food in the garden, have compost toilets and a solar shower.... As Brian explained to me, they are "trying to pull the people out of the city", for which reason they also have an info point with the adresses of lots of communities in Catalunya (and also some in whole Spain/Europe). Young people from the ciy come for the bar, and for cultural events, and are brought into touch with a more natural and ecological lifestyle and community life. Old people from the neighborhoud come to use the community garden.



RurBar

The people of can Masdeu were very nice and open towards me... invited me to stay for food and workshops... (really nice!)... That place kind of saved my life, really.... after all this stress in Barcelona, city hectics, it was like a tranquilo island to calm down... When I came there I first felt a little bit lost, but not for long, as I was integrated very quickly. I helped them a little bit with the woods (only for half an hour or so, would have liked to work on more stuff actually, but it was time for siesta then...), then I attended a contact improvisation dance workshop and some massages... and had the best shower ever in the solar shower! Also I got some fresh clothes in the free shop and nice food from the garden...and I had some very interesting talks about the society in general, about linguistics and why there are less women than men in the alternative scene (in Can Masdeu for example)....

So, to put an end to this text:

Can Masdeu is probably the most interesting place I saw in Barcelona, in Spain, maybe in the whole trip so far. The people are really interesting and -what I really find very important- the place is really well accepted by the local community around, even though it is a squat. Seems to be paradise to me..

Of course paradise doesn't just happen, you have to organise it: and the people here seem to be really well organised! They have "asamblea" (meetings) and a kitchen plan, working days and people who are responsible of special jobs, like for example making bread (- or beer, yummie;-)!) or -like Brian-showing visitors around and explaining them the social centre

The social centre also takes guests (/couchsurfers), who can live there and work there for a while. They are usually supposed to stay for minimum 2 to maximum 4 weeks. I think it is a really good place to learn about lots of stuff!

VALUE CAN MASDEU