

Josep Puigula - Lida

1 June 2007

Driving out to Argelaguer - the roads here completely been rerouted - N-260 has basically been supplanted by a new major freeway. It's still unfinished with lots of roundabouts to avoid the construction of overpasses. We overshoot the Exit for Argelaguer, & had to continue on to S. Jaume de Mercader before coming back around.

From the side of the autovia we saw a tower just south of the road, with Josep up in the heights adding vertical components. Unbelievable that he's building again so close to the road, but obviously he wants to let people know that he's still there, & wants people to come visit what he is doing.

I had thought that we'd be driving below the site as we had last year, so had worn shorts & flip-flops - but now that we'd seen the tower by the roadside we decided to follow a dirt road that ran parallel to it. We parked the car at the top, near a huge culvert, underpass & saw his car. It was somewhat difficult figuring how to get down the cement-covered spillway; it was clear that this was where he was working, since we could see not only the cement additions on the side of the spillway but also several layers of labyrinthine structure to our left as we foled away from the road.

We finally found a path that led thru the labyrinth after a false start or two that ended in dead ends. The interior is very steep, and slippery, although it hadn't rained for a couple of days.

He has created water-wheel-type moving components among the fountain's vertical adornments. Later he told us it would be good to take video so you could hear the sound of the water running & the periodic clinking as certain components filled with water and changed position.

He was happy to see us - immediately climbed down from the tower & wanted to show us all the improvements he'd made to the site. He is very proud of the new work. He was able to get the man working on the road to give him free

concrete, & also to help him by using their large tractors or other earth-moving equipment to enlarge the pool & dam up the little river - or better really here.

Down below and further west of the former there are three tunnel forks leading from the lower road toward the cliffs ~~west~~ just to the west of the freeway. The latter enters the lands to a short series of caves that are completely chiseled out of the rock. The road was ~~being~~ ^{being} to cover it up completely even going below because the road had been placed too close to the cliff, & therefore was unstable. If it had been placed 50 feet further to the north, the road would have been made stable and - most importantly - it would have been away from the original site of the labyrinth & towers, so he wouldn't have had to do the last that construction at all.

There are tons & tons of granite boulders that have been placed along the lower road as reinforcement - to the intercession of the (new?) alcove they left a space open for the three tunnels, rather than creating them up and prohibiting access to the cave.

We picked our way into the cave - he went first, then Sam, then me - it is very close in there, & no adjustments have been put in yet. He rounded a corner & as I passed by, yelled & made me jump out of my skin. He thought it was hysterically funny. We all laughed. He said he was going to put a museum to scare people, but also chuckled that it didn't need a museum if he were there to scare people himself.

Further still down the road was the site where he'd built the little museum/cemetery. One boulder from the road creel had come crashing down onto the side, & still lay in the middle of

concrete, & also to help him by using their large tractors or other earth-moving equipment to enlarge the pool & dam up the little river - or better really here.

Down below and further west of the former there are three tunnel forks leading from the lower road toward the cliffs ~~west~~ just to the west of the freeway. The latter enters the lands to a short series of caves that are completely chiseled out of the rock. The road was ~~being~~ ^{being} to cover it up completely even going below because the road had been placed too close to the cliff, & therefore was unstable. If it had been placed 50 feet further to the north, the road would have been made stable and - most importantly - it would have been away from the original site of the labyrinth & towers, so he wouldn't have had to do the last that construction at all.

There are tons & tons of granite boulders that have been placed along the lower road as reinforcement - to the intercession of the (new?) alcove they left a space open for the three tunnels, rather than creating them up and prohibiting access to the cave.

We picked our way into the cave - he went first, then Sam, then me - it is very close in there, & no adjustments have been put in yet. He rounded a corner & as I passed by, yelled & made me jump out of my skin. He thought it was hysterically funny. We all laughed. He said he was going to put a museum to scare people, but also chuckled that it didn't need a museum if he were there to scare people himself.

Further still down the road was the site where he'd built the little museum/cemetery. One boulder from the road creel had come crashing down onto the side, & still lay in the middle of

one of the junks. He had earlier had a friend one of the ~~highland~~ ^{highland} areas, but all the same he had a friend there. In this section he still has many some of the articles, etc. that had been with him - including - as well as the little eyes were up describing his labors. The arrival is also the one in yet inside & then jumps up to scare

We walked back along the low road when he is much better condition than before - he wanted see the shape of the tower from that distance. He'd used part of a tower from before - the only that remained for the construction earlier had

He said that in some ways the recovery of road is the need to take the structures down ~~but that that could have happened~~, because able to take advantage of the new material concrete. If it had remained as he can continued adding on to it, & you could've completely lost in it, because you would had any orientation - forward, the sky - that's often the best, but some good things did in of his mind to make the changes.

Near the lower part of the (mountain) he has also a few "suspense" (by word) - vertical pr made out of rusted steel form implements & a drive that rotate around a single axle. They several (6?) faces. A bird has made a nest in the top - Sam looked that it would get stuck & spin it around.

By working on the tower by the road it is that he wants to announce to potential visitors is still working. Some people thought he was said.

I gave him copies of the form for magazine. He was pleased, & also said that his tower is more now that I could have another '14 of a 9' it - I told him I was ready to do that. He suddenly turned 70 - we mentioned Dismal world till he was just 50 - Joseph phoned with they'd have to do a book just in him, but with

one of the junks. He had earlier had a friend one of the ~~highland~~ ^{highland} areas, but all the same he had a friend there. In this section he still has many some of the articles, etc. that had been with him - including - as well as the little eyes were up describing his labors. The arrival is also the one in yet inside & then jumps up to scare

We walked back along the low road when he is much better condition than before - he wanted see the shape of the tower from that distance. He'd used part of a tower from before - the only that remained for the construction earlier had

He said that in some ways the recovery of road is the need to take the structures down ~~but that that could have happened~~, because able to take advantage of the new material concrete. If it had remained as he can continued adding on to it, & you could've completely lost in it, because you would had any orientation - forward, the sky - that's often the best, but some good things did in of his mind to make the changes.

Near the lower part of the (mountain) he has also a few "suspense" (by word) - vertical pr made out of rusted steel form implements & a drive that rotate around a single axle. They several (6?) faces. A bird has made a nest in the top - Sam looked that it would get stuck & spin it around.

By working on the tower by the road it is that he wants to announce to potential visitors is still working. Some people thought he was said.

I gave him copies of the form for magazine. He was pleased, & also said that his tower is more now that I could have another '14 of a 9' it - I told him I was ready to do that. He suddenly turned 70 - we mentioned Dismal world till he was just 50 - Joseph phoned with they'd have to do a book just in him, but with

8/11/07.

Interesting that he referred to the vertical components with faces as "sculptures" but not any of the rest of the construction.

Said he's now often coming back to work for me in the afternoons as well, whereas before he'd mostly only worked in the mornings (altho he had worked afternoons/evenings during certain times of the year before as well).

Josep 6/22/07

We went in mid-afternoon - he wasn't there, but had obviously been continuing to work on the tower near the freeway. It seemed to be at least one level higher; he had then started to create the curved "roof" that he had said last week he was going to install - one loop of willow had been installed, as well as a blue/white flag rising from the top, flying high over the tower alerting the passersby on the autovia that he was still alive & working.

We'd gone out to San Salas on Monday up to Beget / Camporodon yesterday, both of whom the tall tower by the side of the road Josep had been working on - tried to take while speeding by the freeway.

So, went over this morning and found hard at work on the base of another tower a few meters away from the first. He stopped when he saw me, told me he had left because he hadn't seen us. I told we'd stopped by and he wasn't there - he must've been in Girona or ...

He took me up to the tall tower - it was he said - altho later he also said that I should cap it off better with something. He had a blue/white Catalan flag on the south side 2 meters from the top - he said he'd had the top but his daughter Montse made him take it down because she thought it called attention to it & he'd get into trouble if she saw so take it down. His well aware you can see it from the road - & happy because then people will see it & know he's still working.

He took me into the tower & made me go all the way to the very top level - he missed some good shots on the other structures I hadn't gone all the way up - I would've. The penultimate level - the little passageway levels were so small that I had to get

Shoulders through on a diagonal, especially carrying one big camera over each shoulder. As I was on the penultimate level he had stayed on the level below, since 2 people couldn't fit side by side on the upper two levels he shook the structure violently to show me how strong it was (!!) I figured while I was climbing to the top that I suppose dying in an environment would be an appropriate death, if now was when I had to go!

This tower is very tall - the tallest he'd built from bottom to top, although he said that the ones in the old structure might have risen taller since they were built on top of the keel.

He has received a bunch of planked lumber on the guys who'd been working on the autovias so he is using these both as flooring - in the case of the first tall tower - and as supports. For his next large tower he is just now starting to build.

We walked on back to the cement fountain area - he's waiting for rain, he says, so that the various pools will fill up and spill over into each other nicely.

He remarked again how he is building to take advantage of the materials that he has. If they hadn't built the freeway and the guys hadn't given him the concrete, he wouldn't have done the main piece that he'd done on that site, & ditto with the wood planking that he'd just received -

(He'd mentioned last time - I don't remember if I'd noted it down at the time) that finding the supple branches that he'd used before on the abutments were becoming harder to find, because

with all of the changes the autovias had in big new concrete near the spring, etc - it changed the course of the river, & now he found it harder to get them, and in the places he goes they didn't exist anymore. Note that they may have been exacerbated by the fact that he harvested all of the poplar trees in the area directly below the site.

As we walked through & around the fountain he said that he was basically done here. He had a smaller site, so he had to work tighter with greater precision. He did say, tho, that he has a couple of other things that he'd like to do up like some of the other sculptures he had here at the top & bottom of the area.

For the moment he is concentrating on the second tower, and then will come back to the fountain area and ~~look at~~ add more & more labyrinthine tunnels, connecting some of the separate pieces. He didn't mention anything about the "Museum/mausoleum" down here or the other small "mirador" tower he'd built between the two sites.

A bit on him had been aired about a month ago" on TV3 - we'd been by Hector's dad & I'll have to try to track down. This is another way that people find out he's still working.

He said again that this is the thing he started building construction at the

11 AGOSTO 07

he is working on a second tower (altho it probably won't be as tall as the first) - taking advantage of the wood he scavenged from the austria construction: the floors & some stairs are now of the planks of wood. He will go up a bit more, & then perhaps put a little "casita" tree house up in the tallest branches.

He said when I come back in the spring there will certainly be changes - perhaps they'll make him take the large tower down, or perhaps it'll still all ^{be} there. He says his daughter & son-in-law have turned against him now - he's "solo" - they are strongly against the building the towers that you can see from the road, because they're afraid that someone will come out & get hurt.

I asked if he'd spoken to the alcalde about it, & he said no.

He wants people to see his work - it's harder for people to stop now, because of the austria - before people could just jump off the road, but now they can't figure out how to get here. But one will see it, he will tell another & another -

at one point he said that he once if people came - he was doing for himself, he never got tired, & enjoyed it. But then he bought a football team ~~he~~ of people don't go to watch the game, it's zero. Some mm; zero.

He thanked me for taking the, the years - thank, ~~some~~ he has good his work, & building. Carlos used to take pics, too, but he won't come because he is "contra" the big one the freeway, I wonder if they mean don't really talk at all or see each other (earlier he'd taken me below the rd so I could see the "detailing" of what he was doing. He assumed some fines - as he always did - that strong.

He was working today w/ bow saw, nails, & wire. (I took video too)