




Plaza del Ángel

Angel Square

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“Plaza del Ángel” - Angel Square

It was the main square of the “Benigafull” agricultural farm. In the mid-14th century, the manor house where the representative of the Duke of Segorbe resided, was built here. This building, whose chapel was the parish seat of the entire valley until 1602, underwent modifications and changes in its use until it was acquired, in the 20th century, by Silvestre Segarra Aragó, who turned it into a family home and an espadrille and footwear factory. Here, in 1926, the company “*Silvestre Segarra e Hijos*” was founded, which in time would become the largest footwear producer in Spain. Its current appearance dates back to the second half of the 20th century, but we can still see the large entrance door that used to belong to the manor house.

Another interesting element are the arches that allow access to what is known as the “*Baixadeta del Retor*”: the vestiges of the market where we could find the inspector of weights and measures, the municipal officer in charge of managing the market, during the lease period.

This arcaded space was larger, as it can be appreciated in the neighbouring building, and served as a covered meeting place for the commercial activity that took place in the square, especially in the “*Mercat del Divendres*” (Divendres Market), which has been held since 1310, a privilege granted by King James II of Aragon.

In the centre of the square, we can find a fountain, built in 1897 by the modernist architect Francisco Tomás y Traver. In this fountain we can see the oldest existing representation of the municipal heraldic coat of arms: the tower and the sun. The water from this fountain was transported from the “*Coves de Sant Josep*” (Saint Joseph’s cave), through the aqueduct and through a branch of the ditch that ran in the “*Carrer dels Dolors*” (Pains street). The surplus was returned to the ditch, which crossed the square, through an underground water pipeline.

In the basement of the square, a kitchen was excavated, dating from the 14th century, which was part of the manor house and which had been demolished in the 18th century, to increase the area of the square. (Images: Municipal Museum)

Images from the book “*El Pasado*” (The Past)