

Fábrica de Hielo

La Fábrica del Hielo is part of the assets of the *Sociedad Marina Auxiliante de los patronos de El Cabanyal*, which carried out its activity in the southern area of the beach, as opposed to the *Sociedad El Progreso Pescador*, which was set up in the northern area. They are located on a horizontal strip of land reclaimed from the sea on both sides of Eugenia Viñes Street.

The building, built in 1925, was dedicated to the manufacture of ice used for the preservation of fish, both for the boats that fished at sea for days and kept it in their holds, and to keep the fish fresh, once on land, until it was sold.

The original complex consisted of two levels with a gabled roof that embraced an uncovered central space. The side plants were covered with metal trusses in the traditional manner and covered with flat roof tiles. The construction system is based on load-bearing walls and brick pillars embedded in the wall.

The façades are simple, made of exposed solid brick, the main one being the south façade, where the elevation is repeated for the side levels, consisting of a central doorway, an oculus enclosed by a brick thread and a quadrangular tympanum topped by a moulding of four courses of brick; the central body retains only the original doorway. The side façades have several small openings with a uniform composition, the only decoration being the cornice made up of several courses of brick, one of which is arranged in a serrated pattern.

The building underwent a serious alteration in the 1950s when the east-facing nave and the courtyard were joined to develop a new activity, the dividing wall was removed and a vertical structure of metal profiles was incorporated, and the traditional roof was also replaced by a fiber cement one, the same material was used to cover the central courtyard.

It is currently used as a leisure area.



An ice seller's cart. Source: <https://valenciablancoynegro.blogspot.com/2023/07/el-vendedor-de-hielo.html>



Image of the factory before rehabilitation. Source: <https://valenciaplaza.com/valencia-descongelada-la-leyenda-de-la-fabrica-de-hielo-entra-en-calor>