



El Centre Central Square – “The Centre”

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“El Centre” - Central Square – “The Centre”

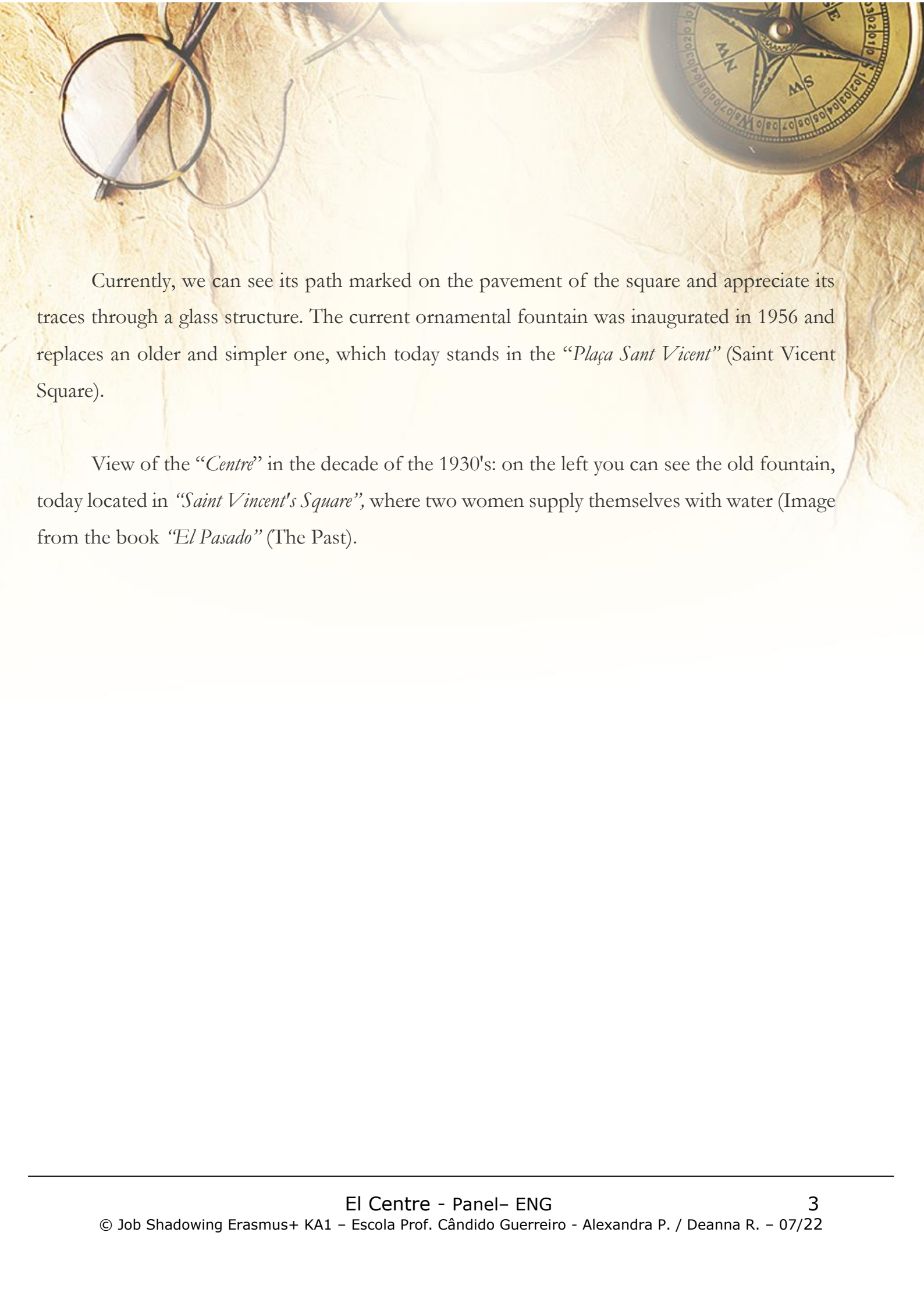
In the centre: a square worthy of a postcard. In the 1950s and 1960s, the Central Square of la Vall d'Uixó went around the world as a picture postcard. Here you can see three examples (collection of Manuel Francesc Navarro del Alar)

On the left: inauguration of the “*Guardia Civil*” (Spanish Civil Guard) barracks, in the year 1927. On the left of the image, near the place where years later the “*Casa de la Vila*” (Town Hall) would be built, we see the canal and a group of women washing their clothes. (Image from the book “*El Pasado*” (The Past).

In the image below, you see the scale model of the building, project of the “*Casa de la Vila*” (Town Hall) made by the architect Mariano Peset.

It is one of the most representative urban spaces of the city. We must go back to the 17th century when, in an empty space between the “*Poble de Dalt*” (Upper settlement) and the “*Poble de Baix*” (Lower settlement), a bread oven and an agricultural warehouse known as “*La Garrofera*” (the Carob tree) were installed on the initiative of the Duke of Segorbe. The urban growth encouraged the occupation of the ravine that crossed the square, in a north-south direction and served as the boundary of the two parishes. It was in the early 20th century that this space gained its representative character, with the construction of the new entrance to the city (the current *Jaime I Avenue*) from Valencia, designed by the engineer Vicente Sanchís Tarazona, with the “*Guardia Civil*” (Spanish Civil Guard) barracks and, finally, with the new City Hall, designed in 1926 and inaugurated in 1931. Added to all this was the transfer to this square of the “*Mercat del Divendres*” (Friday Market), which until then had been held in “*Angel Square*”. Although it has had several official names, due to its geographical location, it has always been popularly known as “*The Centre*”.

The main ditch, which comes from the “*Font de Sant Josep*” (Saint Joseph's Spring), ran along the southern part of the square, following the axis of “*Sanchís Tarazona*” and “*Regimiento Tetuán*” streets.

A pair of round-rimmed glasses with dark frames and a brass compass are positioned at the top of the page. The background is a textured, aged, light-brown paper. The compass shows cardinal directions: N, S, E, and W. The glasses are on the left, and the compass is on the right.

Currently, we can see its path marked on the pavement of the square and appreciate its traces through a glass structure. The current ornamental fountain was inaugurated in 1956 and replaces an older and simpler one, which today stands in the “*Plaça Sant Vicent*” (Saint Vicent Square).

View of the “*Centre*” in the decade of the 1930's: on the left you can see the old fountain, today located in “*Saint Vincent's Square*”, where two women supply themselves with water (Image from the book “*El Pasado*” (The Past).