



This week, restoration work began on the Es Pi des Català defence tower, located on a stretch of the eponymous neighbourhood just inland from Migjorn beach. The project has an estimated cost of €170,603, some of which will be covered by funds from the Pitiüsa Island Leader programme. The end of construction is expected for the month of June.

Design of the project is headed by architect Marià Castelló and archaeological oversight is being provided by archaeologist Maria José Escandell. Specialists in historical patrimony, Refoart Ltd. is at the helm of construction.

Two different facets set the project apart from others of its kind. First, in their restoration of the tower, workers will make use of some of the original structure, which dates back to the second half of the eighteenth century. Second, Castelló has turned heads with his decision to convert the tower's wide aperture – initially regarded as a problem by conservationists of La Torre – into an asset for the reformed defence tower.

The move involves an opening located at the ground level that allows passage into the tower. This cavity – which, due to its size, constituted a fairly aggressive incision into the tower – will serve as an entrance permitting visits by the public. This same solution was ruled out at the recently-restored Torre de la Gavina because the entryway there had been cut out nearly four metres above the ground.

The Torre des Pi des Català monument has been declared cultural heritage site (also referred to as a BIC, for '*bé d'interès cultural*') and is included in Formentera's catalogue of cultural patrimony with level-A protection. In accordance with the provisions of the law on patrimony and public administrations, the site was ceded by Madrid to the Formentera Council in May 2012.