



The fortress of Isabel II or “la Mola” of the port of Maó, built between 1850 and 1875 and located in one of the most beautiful spots of the island, is one of the best examples of military architecture of the end of the 19th century.

The construction of La Mola began in the period in which France and England disputed supremacy over the Mediterranean. The Spanish government considered control of the port of Maó as strategic for defending the Balearic archipelago and the peninsular rearguard if faced with a French or British attack. Despite its purpose, the fortress was never attacked, therefore its state of conservation is relatively good. Its role was simply to act as a deterrent and up to the end of the last century it was used as a military barracks

The fortress has ten fronts that are divided into two parts: the land defence fronts and the maritime defence fronts. All the walls of the fortification are of irregular plan, with a profile almost level with the ground. The plan of the fortified line is polygonal in shape and divides the peninsula of La Mola from north to south.

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