

# CIAB 8

## VIII CONGRESO INTERNACIONAL ARQUITECTURA BLANCA

ALDAYJOVER ARQUITECTURA Y PAISAJE | LUCIANO KRUK | STANTON WILLIAMS  
| GADAVAL & SOLA-MORALES | DOMINIQUE COULON & ASSOCIÉS | JOSÉ LUIS  
ALAPONT RAMÓN Y ANTONIO PEÑA CERDÁN | RAMÓN ESTEVE. ARQUITECTURA  
Y DISEÑO | ÁLVARO MORENO HERNÁNDEZ, ANA ESPINOSA GARCÍA-VALDECASAS  
Y MARÍA ESPINOSA GARCÍA-VALDECASAS | VITO QUADRATO | SANTIAGO BARGE  
FERREIROS Y MARÍA BELÉN BOUZA CORA | NOMARQ. ESTUDI D'ARQUITECTURA |  
ANTONIO GARCÍA BLAY Y JOSÉ ANTONIO RUIZ SUAÑA | JOSÉ MORAGUES PUGA.  
SINGULAR STUDIO | VICENTE RAMÍREZ COLLADO, JOSÉ LUIS PUCHADES VALENCIA,  
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FERNANDO D'ACASAMARTÍN E IGNACIO DELGADO CONDE | LEÓN BENJAMÍN ROMANO





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# ÍNDICE / INDEX

## ALDAYJOVER ARQUITECTURA Y PAISAJE

- 12 Un gesto, una operación, un material  
Edificios de infraestructuras del Parque del Agua. Exposición Internacional de Zaragoza de 2008  
Piscina y Centro Polideportivo Delicias, Zaragoza  
Paseo Vara de Rey, Ibiza  
One gesture, one operation, one material  
Buildings of the Water Park. 2008 International Exposition in Zaragoza  
Swimming pool and Sports Centre Delicias, Zaragoza  
Vara del Rey Promenade, Ibiza

## LUCIANO KRUK

- 31 Casa Golf  
Golf House  
36 Casa H3w  
H3 House  
41 Casa L4  
L4 House  
46 Casa SJ  
SJ House

## STANTON WILLIAMS

- 51 Intangible  
54 Musée d'arts de Nantes  
60 Simon Sainsbury Centre, Cambridge Judge Business School  
65 Museum of Concrete Art and Design, Ingolstadt

## CADAVAL & SOLÀ-MORALES

- 71 Cuando el material no es solo vehículo  
When Materiality is not only a medium  
72 Casa MA  
MA House  
78 Casa X  
X House  
84 Edificio Córdoba-ReUrbano  
Córdoba-ReUrbano Housing Building

## DOMINIQUE COULON & ASSOCIÉS

- 91 Music school and areas for culture, Maizieres-Les-Metz  
98 'Henri Dutilleux' Conservatoire of Music, Dance and Dramatic Arts, Belfort  
104 'Les Closiaux' gymnasium, pupil information and guidance centre, and staff accommodation in Clamart

## SESIÓN DE COMUNICACIONES 1 / PAPER SESSIONS 1

### JOSÉ LUIS ALAPONT RAMÓN y ANTONIO PEÑA CERDÁN

- 110 Intervención en la Fuente de la Serreta  
Intervention on the Serreta Fountain

### ANTONIO PEÑA CERDÁN y JOSÉ LUIS ALAPONT RAMÓN

- 118 Intervención en la Plaza de la Iglesia de Rugat  
Intervention in the Church Square in Rugat



### **RAMÓN ESTEVE**

126 Refugio en la Viña  
Cottage in the vineyard

134 Casa de la Cantera  
Quarry House

### **ÁLVARO MORENO HERNÁNDEZ, ANA ESPINOSA GARCÍA-VALDECASAS y MARÍA ESPINOSA GARCÍA-VALDECASAS**

142 Una iglesia entre hormigón: la puesta en obra de un proyecto docente  
A church in concrete: the placing of an undergraduate project

### **VITO QUADRATO**

150 Reinforced concrete prototypes for the factory in Italy (1950-1975). The architectural expressive machines

## **SESIÓN DE COMUNICACIONES 2 / PAPER SESSIONS 2**

### **SANTIAGO BARGE FERREIROS y M<sup>a</sup> BELÉN BOUZA CORA**

158 Centro Etnográfico Mandeo. Hormigón y Memoria  
Ethnographic Center Mandeo. Concrete and Memory

### **NOMARQ | ESTUDI D'ARQUITECTURA**

166 ISH03  
ISH03

### **ANTONIO GARCÍA BLAY y JOSÉ ANTONIO RUÍZ SUAÑA**

174 Acceso en el castillo de Portell  
Entrance in the Castle of Portell

### **JOSÉ MORAGUES PUGA**

182 Casa Concretus: hormigón brutalista en una vivienda unifamiliar  
Concretus House: brutalist concrete in a single dwelling

### **VICENTE RAMÍREZ COLLADO, JOSÉ LUIS PUCHADES VALENCIA, JOAQUÍN MARTÍN RODRÍGUEZ y JOSÉ GUILLERMO MUÑOZ MONTES**

190 Investigación sobre construcción 3D y sus aplicaciones  
Research into 3D construction and its applications

### **ALEJANDRO GÓMEZ VIVES**

198 Le Corbusier en Briey. Habitar la *Unité* del bosque  
Le Corbusier in Briey. Inhabiting the *Unité* of the forest

### **JAVIER MARTÍN FUENTES**

210 Turning Point at the UNESCO Headquarters. Crossed Influences Between Pier Luigi Nervi and Marcel Lajos Breuer

### **FRANCISCO SERRANO CACHO, SUSANA GARCÍA FUERTES y PABLO SERRANO OROZCO**

220 Condominio de Apartamentos, Torre de Amsterdam  
Apartment Condominium, Amsterdam Tower

## **SESIÓN DE COMUNICACIONES 3 / PAPER SESSIONS 3**

### **MANUEL CALLEJA MOLINA**

228 Espai Vert. Estructura como símbolo  
Espai Vert. Structure as Symbol

### **MAITE PALOMARES FIGUERES y ANA PORTALÉS MAÑANÓS**

240 Viviendas en hormigón prefabricado. La experiencia de GO.DB. en Campanar  
Dwellings in prefabricated concrete. The GO.DB. experience in Campanar

**ANTONINO MARGAGLIOTTA y PAOLO DE MARCO**

- 254 La construcción del lenguaje en el Teatro Popular de Sciacca de Giuseppe y Alberto Samonà  
The construction of language in the Sciacca Popular Theatre by Giuseppe and Alberto Samonà

**SESIÓN DE COMUNICACIONES 4 / PAPER SESSIONS 4**

**IRENE BENET MORERA**

- 266 Hormigón armado y estética de la modernidad en el Colegio Alemán de Valencia  
Reinforced concrete and modernity aesthetics at the German School of Valencia

**MARILDA AZULAY TAPIERO**

- 278 Arquitectura, dispositivo de experiencia memorial  
Architecture: A Drive of Memorial Experience

**ANTONIO CAMPOREALE**

- 292 Spanish 'Plastic' Architecture. A critical reading and design approach

**RUBÉN GARCÍA RUBIO y SONSOLES VELA NAVARRO**

- 302 Centro de Día para Enfermos de Alzheimer en Benavente  
Day Care Centre for People with Alzheimer's Disease in Benavente

**JOSÉ SANTATECLA FAYOS, JÉSICA MORENO PUCHALT,  
LAURA LIZONDO SEVILLA e IÑAKI BELDA BIURRUN**

- 310 Planos horizontales de hormigón. La Escuela Oficial de Idiomas en Gandía  
Horizontal planes of concrete. The Official Language School of Gandía

**FLAVIO CELIS D'AMICO, ERNESTO ECHEVERRIA VALIENTE,  
FERNANDO DA CASA MARTÍN e IGNACIO DELGADO CONDE**

- 318 Rehabilitando en hormigón. Alternativa "low cost" en un entorno de crisis  
Rehabilitating with concrete. Low cost alternative in a crisis environment

**LEÓN BENJAMÍN ROMANO**

- 326 Entendiendo el Partido Arquitectónico de un Rascacielos, basado en sus Flujos, su Forma,  
Contexto Urbano e Integración Estructural  
Understanding a Skyscraper Flow



## Dominique Coulon & Associés

Dominique Coulon was born in 1961. In 1989 he graduated with the professor and architect Henri Ciriani and created his own studio. In 1990, received a special prize for the international competition of The Japan Culture House in Paris. In 1991, He won *la Villa Medicis hors les murs* and travels in USA, South America and Europe. In 1996, he received the *1ère œuvre* prize for the Collège Pasteur in Strasbourg. He had been nominated several times for 'Equerre d'Argent' in 1999, 2002 and 2006 and received in 2006 the prize of the *Florilège d'Etablissements d'Enseignement Exemplaires du PEB* organized by OCDE for the Martin Peller school in Reims. In 2008 the agency was nominated to the Swiss Architectural Award. At the same time it was nominated at the European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture – for the Mies van der Rohe Award in regards to its *Centre Dramatique National de Montreuil*. Concepts for sustainable development, respect for historical context and responsibility towards the environment and its ecologies are amongst the main concerns for the agency. In parallel to his architectural production, Dominique Coulon teaches at the *Ecole d'Architecture* de Strasbourg where he founded the Masters program: Architecture and Complexity. To find a new dynamic approach to each architectural project, the agency's methodology draws upon the rich exchange of information stemming from interdisciplinary work. Complexity becomes the catalyst for the architectural project.

Since 2008 the agency became *Dominique Coulon & associés* with Olivier Nicollas and Steve Letho Duclos as partners architects. Benjamin Rocchi became partner architect in 2014.

The studio has been received numerous awards:

- 2010\_Laureate, The International Architecture Award, for its Conservatory of Music in Maizières-les-Metz.
- 2011\_Laureate, The International Architecture Award for the Library in Anzin, it also received the Prize for the "most beautiful interior space" awarded by the French magazine *Livres Hebdo*.
- 2012\_Laureate of the *24 heures d'Architecture*, for the *Joséphine Baker* group of schools at La Courneuve and the library in Anzin.
- 2012\_Nominated ECOA Award 2012, for the *Joséphine Baker* group of schools at La Courneuve.
- 2013\_Special Mention, Architizer A+ Awards, for the *Joséphine Baker* group of schools at La Courneuve.
- 2014\_Laureate and special mention of the jury, of the Sustainable Building Award given by the CAUE 95 (Council for Architecture, Town planning and the Environment of the Val d'Oise Region) for the Regional court and Industrial Tribunal in Montmorency.
- 2014\_Laureate of the Pool Vision 2014 Award – Public Pools Global for Restructuring and extension of swimming pool in Bagneux.
- 2015\_Finalist, Architizer A+ Awards - Libraries and Government categories for the Regional court and Industrial Tribunal in Montmorency and the Multicultural centre in Isbergues.
- 2015\_Special Mention, Architizer A+ Awards, Typology Recreation Centres for Restructuring and extension of swimming pool in Bagneux.
- 2015\_Laureate, The International Architecture Award for the Multicultural centre in Isbergues and the Restructuring and extension of swimming pool in Bagneux.
- 2015\_Nominated, BigMat'15 Awards - for the Tribunal in Montmorency, Swimming Pool in Bagneux and the Multicultural centre in Isbergues.



## MUSIC SCHOOL AND AREAS FOR CULTURE, MAIZIERES-LES-METZ

**Type of project:** Music school and areas for culture · **Client:** City of Maizieres-Les-Metz · **Architect:** Dominique Coulon · **Project Director:** Steve Letho Duclos et Sarah Brebbia · **Project Architects:** Arnaud Eloudyi, Olivier Nicollas, Eun chu Park · **Structural Engineer:** Batiserf Ingénierie · **Mechanical Engineer:** G. Jost · **Cost calculation:** E3 Economie · **Acoustic:** Euro Sound Project · **Program:** Music school, auditorium 130 seats, festive room, youth spaces · **Surface Area:** 3400 m<sup>2</sup> SHON · **Cost:** 6 200 000 € H.T · **Schedule:** Competition: september 2005. Studies: January 2006 to september 2006. Construction: January 2007 to june 2009 · **Photographers:** ©Eugeni Pons, ©Guillaume Wittmann.

### Architect's Statement

The music school is a monolithic block 100 metres long and 40 metres wide. It is sited perpendicular to the main road, projecting into the public area by 16 metres. The building is set against a forest of giant sequoias, also aligned perpendicular to the main road. The group forms a doorway marking the entrance to the town.

There is a broad forecourt area that disappears underneath the building. The public uses the monumental staircase leading to the inside courtyard and the main foyer. This is a wide area, open to the sky, treated with phosphorescent paint. In the evening it continues to glow with a strange light.

The building houses a mixed programme. It comprises premises for local teenagers, an extra-curricular centre for schoolchildren, a community hall, an auditorium, and a music school.

These functions are brought together in a monolithic building. The programming complexity is managed on the inside in a single building. The juxtaposition of the combined programmes greatly enriches the building, with each entity standing out in contrast to the others.

The outside of the building reveals little of the programme on the inside – only the large bay windows allow a glimpse of the community hall. It is possible to catch sight of the ephemeral movements of the dancers.

There is abundant natural light, with the highly coloured patios providing their own special light. This configuration of patios also protects the areas from disturbance from the nearby motorway.

The building is not designed merely as an elongated monolith, however. The outside curls round progressively, finally absorbing the two levels devoted to the music school. This curling adds dynamic impetus to the general outline, and the vanishing lines of the vol-





umes seem strangely disturbed. The outer casing has the rustic appearance of everyday concrete – concrete that assumes its defects.

The building is in reinforced concrete, cast *in situ*, resting on piles.

In contrast, the materials used for the interior are precious. The main hall is in light-coloured wood, while the ceiling allows glimpses of wonderful gilded surfaces through the large cavities, which gives the light a warm tinge.



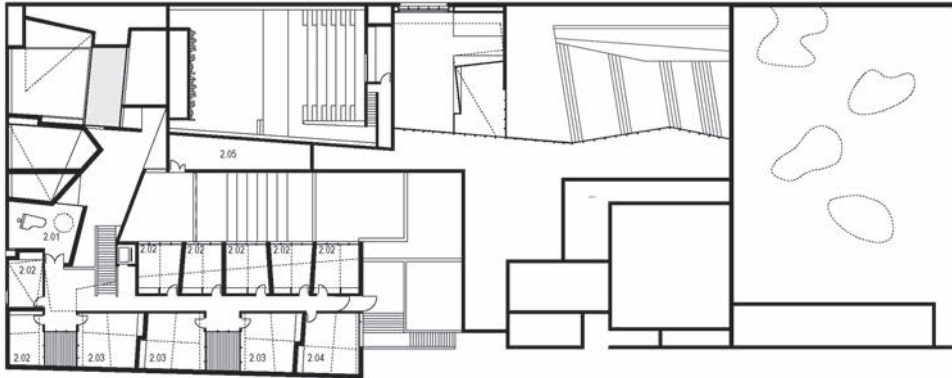
The auditorium is hung with tensed wires on its three sides. The walls move with the slightest breath of air, revealing their thickness. The adjustable acoustic (controlled shutters) disappears behind this elegant filter. The precious wood used for the flooring (wenge) reinforces the effect of a presentation box.

The extracurricular centre for schoolchildren is monochrome; the orange colour saturates the space, and the shiny resin flooring reinforces its highly artificial aspect.

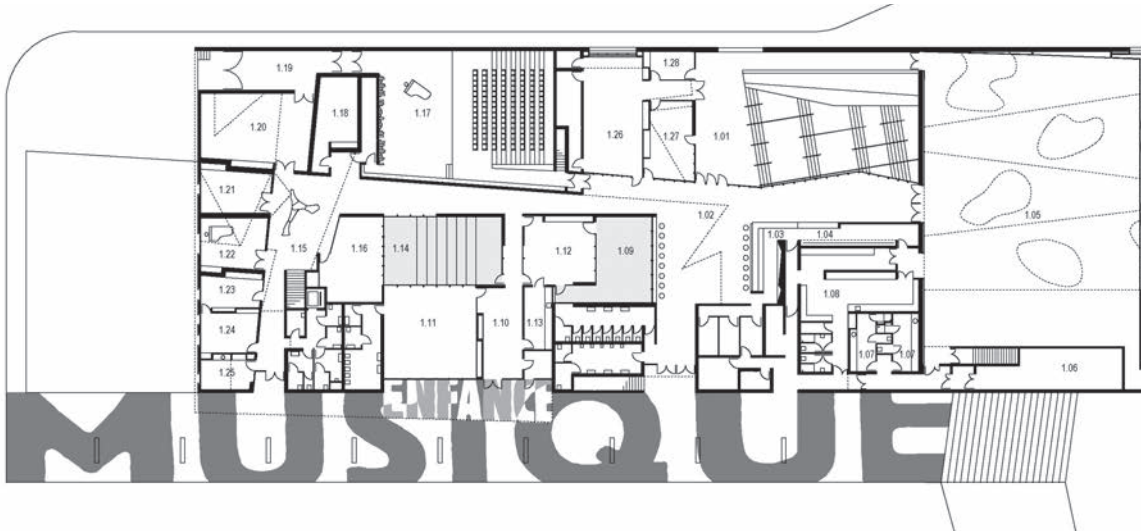
The primary logic consists of implementing very marked contrasts among the different areas: contrasting materials, contrasting colours, contrasting light.

The interior and the exterior are completely dissociated, with the rustic look of the outside being the diametrical opposite of the precious interior.

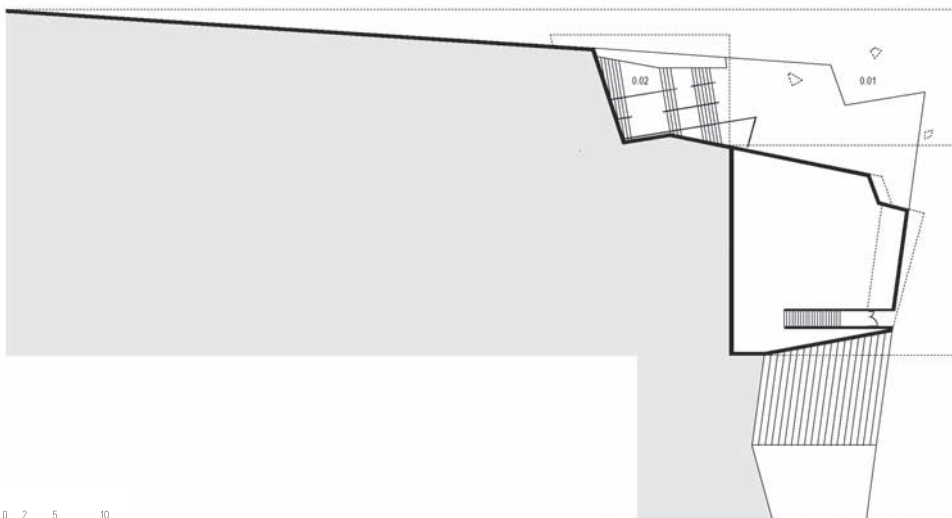




- 2.01 PIANO ROOM
- 2.02 INSTRUMENTAL FORMATION
- 2.03 MUSIC THEORY ROOM
- 2.04 AWAKENING ROOM
- 2.05 VENTILATION

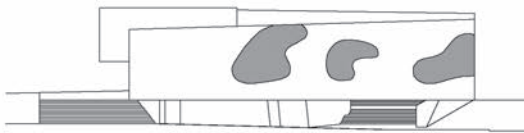
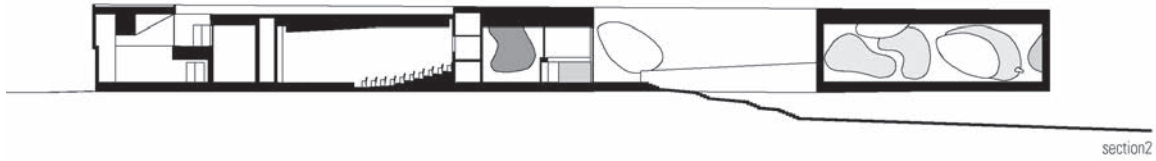
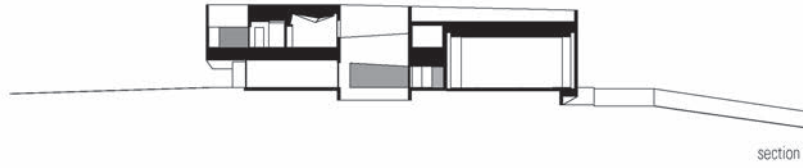
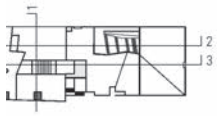


- 1.01 MAIN ENTRANCE
- 1.02 INTERIOR STREET-ENTRANCE HALL
- 1.03 BAR
- 1.04 CLOTHES
- 1.05 FESTIVE ROOM
- 1.06 STORAGE
- 1.07 ARTIST ROOM
- 1.08 KITCHEN
- 1.09 PATIO
- 1.10 PERISCOLAIRE + ASSOCIATIONS HALL
- 1.11 ASSOCIATIONS ROOMS
- 1.12 PERISCOLAIRE SPACE
- 1.13 KITCHEN
- 1.14 GARDEN
- 1.15 MUSIC SCHOOL HALL
- 1.16 WAITING SPACE
- 1.17 AUDITORIUM
- 1.18 DRUM ROOM
- 1.19 DELIVERY SPACE
- 1.20 PERCUSSION ROOM
- 1.21 PERCUSSION STUDIO
- 1.22 PIANO ROOM
- 1.23 SECRETARIAT
- 1.24 DIRECTOR
- 1.25 REST ROOM PROFESSEURS
- 1.26 YOUTH SPACE
- 1.27 ACTIVITIES ROOM
- 1.28 ANIMATOR



- 0.01 STREET-SQUARE
- 0.02 BIG STAIRS

0 2 5 10



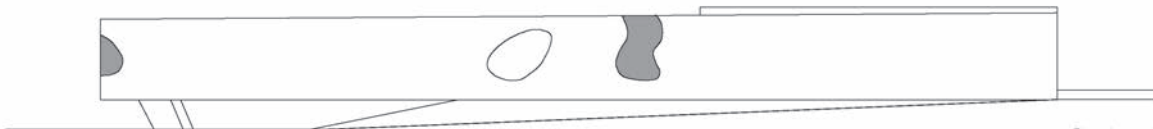
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Elevation west

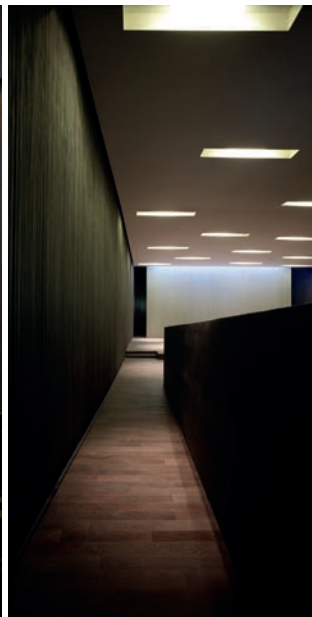
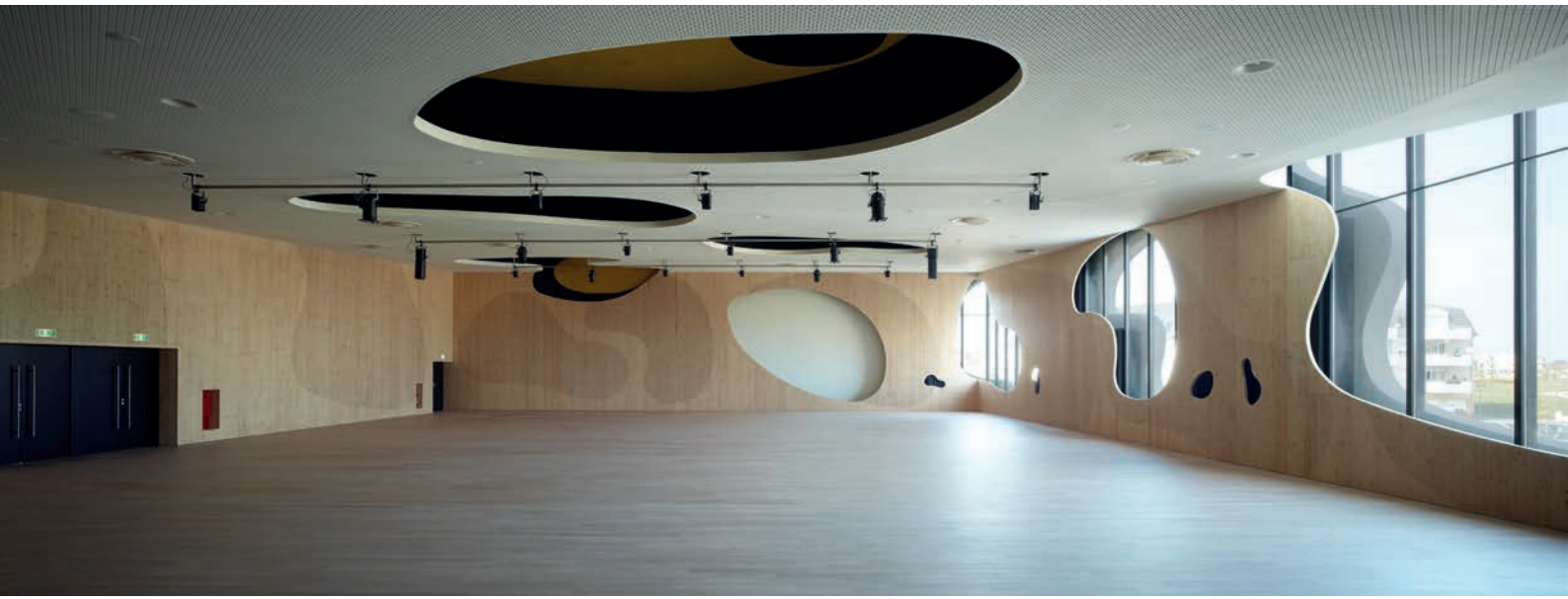


Elevation south

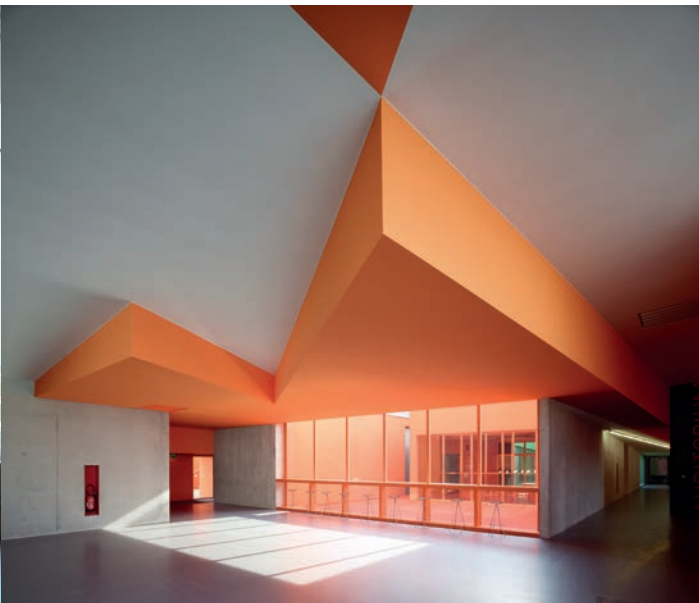


Elevation north











## 'HENRI DUTILLEUX' CONSERVATOIRE OF MUSIC, DANCE AND DRAMATIC ARTS, BELFORT

**Client:** Communauté d'Agglomération Belfortaine · **Architect:** Dominique Coulon & associés, Dominique Coulon, Steve Letho Duclos · **Architects assistants:** Guillaume Wittmann, Lukas Unbekandt · **Construction site supervision:** Steve Letho Duclos, Lukas Unbekandt · **Structural Engineer:** Batiserf Ingénierie · **Electrical Engineer:** BEE.FL · **Mechanical Plumbing Engineer:** Solares Bauen · **Cost Estimator:** E3 économie · **Acoustics:** Euro Sound Project · **Program:** 32 classrooms, 6 collective classrooms, 4 rehearsal collective rooms, 4 Studios · **Auditorium:** 140 seats, Amphitheater : 70 seats, Dance Hall, Media library, Drama room, Percussion room · **Location:** 1 Rue Paul Koepfler, 90000 Belfort / Localisation GPS : 47.638133, 6.849939 · **Surface:** 3895 m<sup>2</sup> · **Budget:** 6 326 000 € H.T · **Schedule:** Competition: février 2011. Plans and technical phases: from april 2011 to june 2012. Construction: from june 2012 to september 2015 · **Construction companies:** Earthworks, sewerage networks and road works (Eurovia), concrete structure (ALBIZZATI Père & Fils), water proofing roofing (Soprema), metalworks (Antonietti), exterior joinery (Hunsinger), plastering (Curti), interior wood work (Negro Pere et Fils), wooden floors (STTS Tennis et sols), glued floors (Mirolo Pere et Fils), resine floors (Floorcolor), tiled floors (Petracca), concrete screed (De Stefano), painting (Curti), heating and ventilation (EIMI), plumbing and drainage (Beyler), electricity (Zanelec), exterior isolation (Pole bâtiment), elevator (Schindler) · **Photographer :** ©Eugeni Pons.

The building is located in the upper part of the town. It backs onto the woods, forming the final outlying limit of the built-up area. Echoing the open landscape, it faces Belfort Lion on the hilltop opposite. In this strong context, the building offers its solidity, an almost opaque mass of grey concrete. The surface of the mass has an unusual texture, hinting at plants or the veins in marble. It has been achieved by drip painting in two shades of blue. The drips of paint lend depth and thickness to the skin of the building. The surfaces vibrate in the light, apparently in motion – matter ceases to be static.

The concrete monolith exudes an enigmatic presence. Only the volume of the dance room seems to be looking at the Lion, constructed in 1879 as a symbol of resistance to the enemy. The building condenses a programme with varied volumes. The building contains two auditoriums, a theatre, a large dance room, a library, classrooms, administrative offices, and a host of studios with varied volumes and areas. The acoustic of each studio is designed to suit one specific instrument. The areas appear to fit into each other. Empty areas are hollowed out of this compact mass, creating relationships between the different levels. The entrance hall is on an unexpected scale. The library seems to be suspended, marking out the cross-section and serving as a giant deflector. The central patio is the darkest area. Its colour and its negative drip design reverse the codes of the outer envelope. It is the ultimate expression of density.













**Basement floor**

- S.01 ventilation room
- S.02 heating room
- S.03 amphitheatre
- S.04 technical room

**Ground floor**

- 0.01 amphitheatre
- 0.02 atrium
- 0.03 auditorium
- 0.04 air handling unit
- 0.05 reception desk
- 0.06 classroom
- 0.07 study room
- 0.08 storage room
- 0.09 resting room
- 0.10 technical room
- 0.11 office room
- 0.12 meeting room
- 0.13 drums classroom
- 0.14 forecourt

**First floor**

- 1.01 courtyard
- 1.02 void over atrium

- 1.03 auditorium
- 1.04 collective practices room
- 1.05 classroom
- 1.06 terrace
- 1.07 void over classroom
- 1.08 maintenance room

**2nd floor plan**

- 2.01 void over courtyard
- 2.02 void over bleachers
- 2.03 void over reception desk
- 2.04 dance studio
- 2.05 changing room
- 2.06 storage
- 2.07 drama classroom
- 2.08 classroom
- 2.09 collective practice room
- 2.10 studio
- 2.11 void over terrace
- 2.12 courtyard
- 2.13 void over classroom
- 2.14 teacher's room
- 2.15 library
- 2.16 maintenance room



Roof



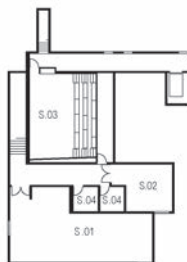
2nd floor



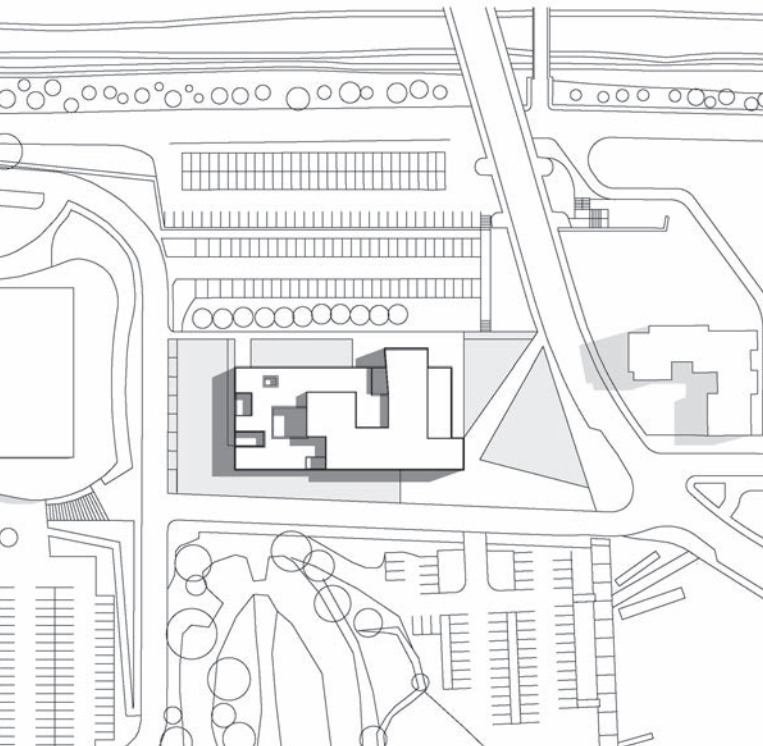
First floor



Ground floor

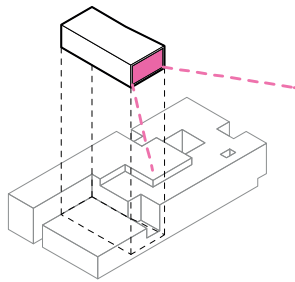
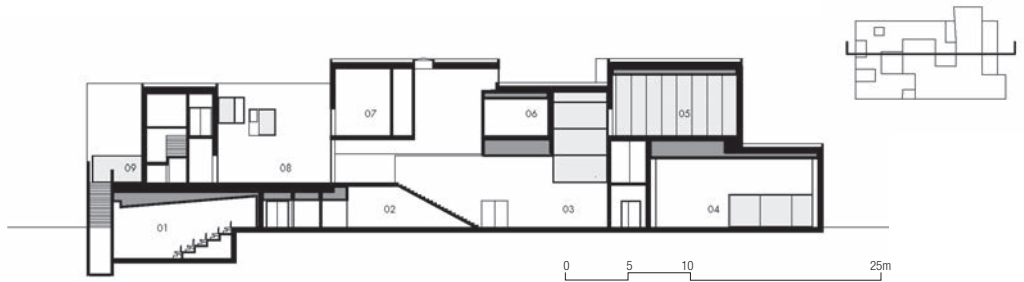


Basement floor

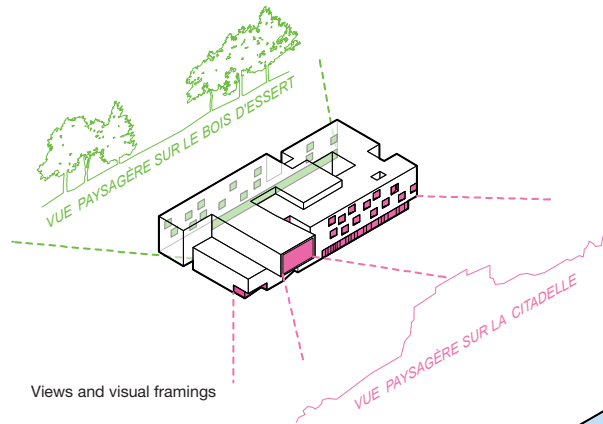




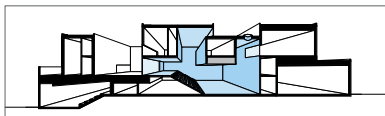
- Section  
 01 amphitheatre  
 02 storage room  
 03 atrium  
 04 auditorium  
 05 dance studio  
 06 library  
 07 classroom  
 08 courtyard  
 09 terrace



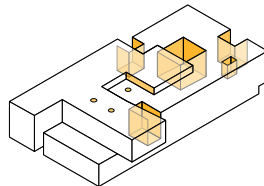
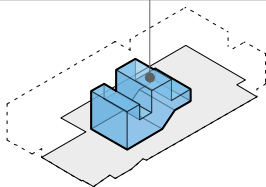
The dance studio lays onto the building program offering a view over the citadelle



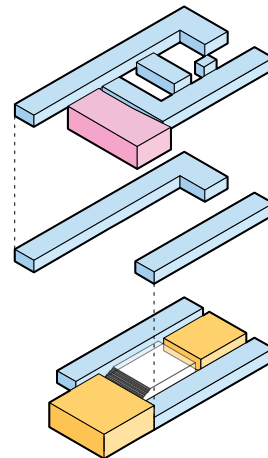
Views and visual framings



The hall as fluid space



Courtyards, gaps and skylights bring the light into the building



- dance studio
- classrooms
- auditoriums

Program



## 'LES CLOSAUX' GYMNASIUM, PUPIL INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE CENTRE, AND STAFF ACCOMMODATION IN CLAMART

**Client:** Conseil départemental des Hauts-de-Seine / Pôle Bâtiments et Transports / Services des Travaux Neufs et réhabilitations / Nanterre · **Architect:** Dominique Coulon & associés · **Architects:** Dominique Coulon · **Architectes assistants:** David Romero-Uzeda, Olivier Poulat, Chang Zhang, Steve Letho Duclos · **Competition:** Olivier Nicollas · **Construction site supervision:** Olivier Poulat · **Structural Engineer:** Batiserf Ingénierie · **Mechanical Plumbing Engineer:** BET G.Jost · **Electrical Engineer:** BET G.Jost · **Cost Estimator:** E3 économie · **Acoustics:** Euro sound project · **Landscaping:** Bruno Kubler · **Program:** Gymnasium / Outdoor sports area / Staff accommodation / School yard · **Address:** Gymnase : 28 Rue des Closiaux 92140

CLAMART / Location : 48,804406 N, 2,270708 E · **Surface:** 2596 m<sup>2</sup> · **Budget:** 7 400 000 € · **Schedule:** Competition: September 2010. Construction documents: from September 2010 to October 2013. Construction works: from October 2013 to December 2015 · **Construction companies:** COLAS (Asbestos disposal, Demolition). SNRB (Concrete structure, Metal structure, Roofing, UGlass facade, Water proofing, Exterior works). SEC FRANCE ASCENSEURS (Elevator). RS2I BATIMENT (Metalworks, fence, gates). NBA (Plastering, ceiling, interior wood joinery, signage, furniture). DE COCK (tiled floors). ARTMANIAC (Painting, glued floors). SERT (Plombing, Heating, Ventilation). SPORT France (Sport equipments) · **Photographer:** ©Eugeni Pons.



The building is located in a 1950s residential area in the Paris suburbs. The large sports hall is positioned at the far end of the site, giving the street a degree of amplitude and generating a public space which reinforces the building's status as a community facility. The volume of the accommodation is in keeping with the houses in the neighbourhood. The fragmentation of the programmes produces a displacement between the two volumes, offering glimpses of the central part of the site and opening up to views towards the gardens.

This dispersion of volumes is contradicted by a continuous canopy which breaks up the perspective by obliquely distorting and twisting the vanishing lines. As it unfolds, it creates an invisible balance between the various points of tension the length of the canopy.

The displacement of the volumes expands the space and sets up contradictory vanishing lines. This open, dynamic shape alters the perception of limits and loosens the usual relationships between street and site. Architecture ceases to be a border between public and private spaces – the building allows glimpses of what is usually concealed.

A completely transparent gallery offers views from the street of the outline of the changing rooms. The contrasts produced by the matte, shiny and transparent surfaces accentuate the impression of an abstraction of space.

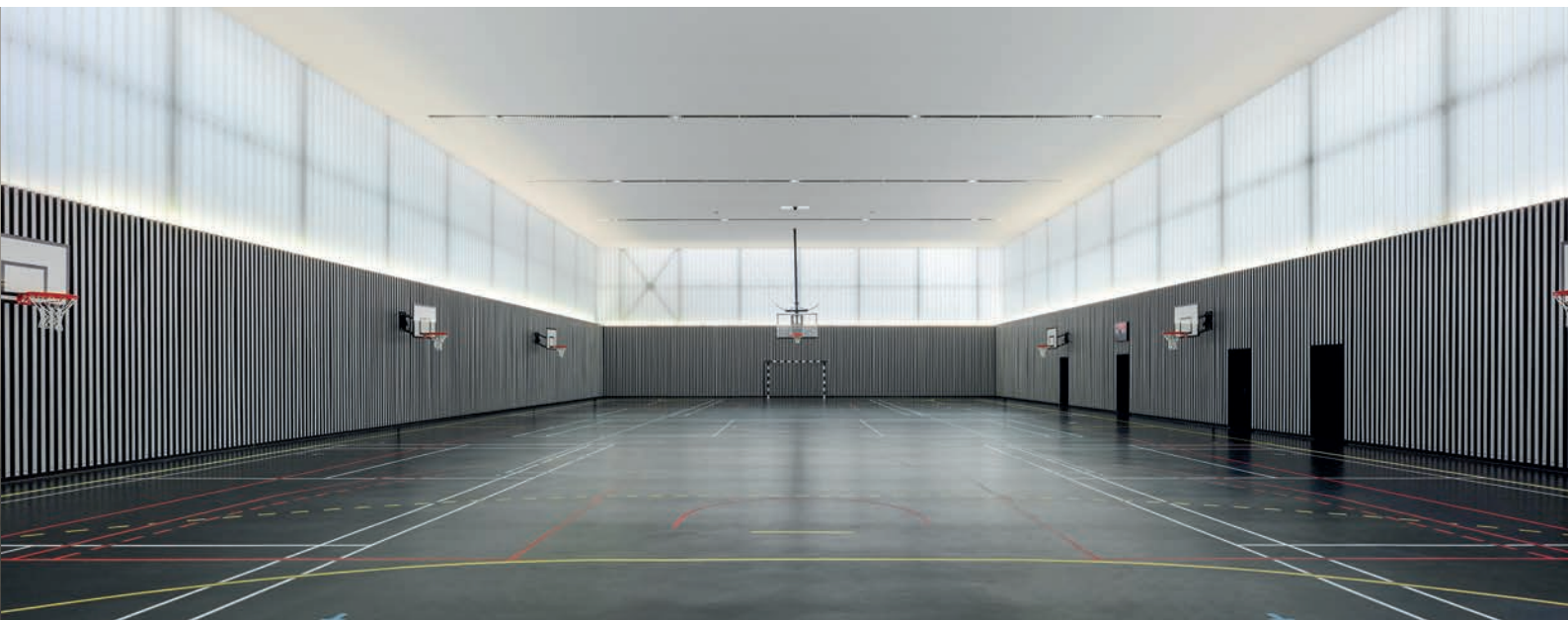
The large hall has natural lighting on the upper part of all four sides, with opalescent glass diffusing a uniformly soft light. The ceiling appears to be in a state of levitation, and the structure is absorbed to the point of disappearance by the double thickness of the glass. The lower part of the hall comprises spaced vertical slats; one side of the slats is grey. The hollows house the technical services and the black-coloured acoustic treatment. These gaps reinforce the impression of depth and lend thickness to the whole.

The grey concrete, the glass, and the shiny and matte surfaces are varied over the different spaces, creating a timeless atmosphere.

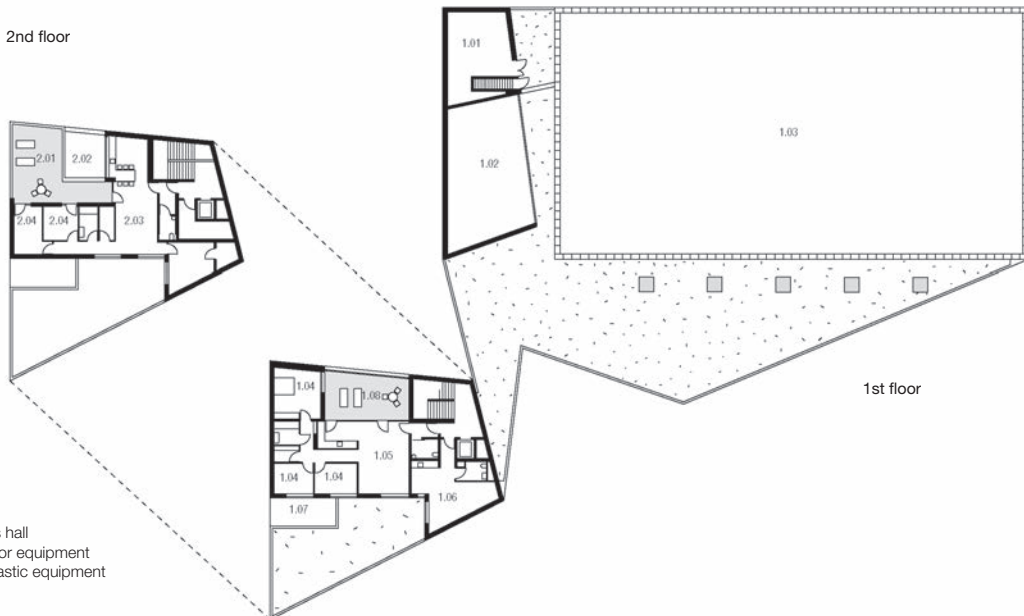








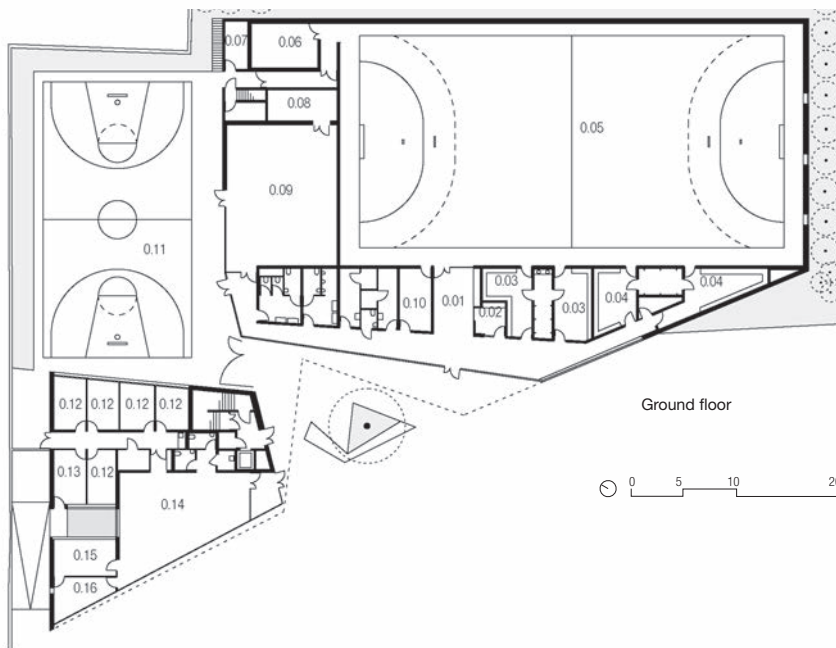
2nd floor



- Ground floor**
- 0.01 entrance area
  - 0.02 caretaker
  - 0.03 boys' changing room
  - 0.04 girls' changing room
  - 0.05 multi-sports hall
  - 0.06 storage area for sports hall
  - 0.07 storage area for outdoor equipment
  - 0.08 storage area for gymnastic equipment
  - 0.09 activity hall
  - 0.10 teacher's office
  - 0.11 outdoor sports area
  - 0.12 guidance counsellors' office
  - 0.13 meeting room
  - 0.14 documentation area
  - 0.15 secretariat's office
  - 0.16 director's office

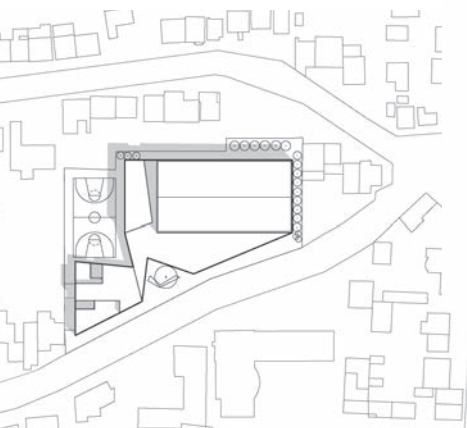
- 1st floor**
- 1.01 air treatment room
  - 1.02 void over activity hall
  - 1.03 void over gymnasium
  - 1.04 studio
  - 1.05 bedroom
  - 1.06 living room
  - 1.07 void over courtyard
  - 1.08 terrace

- 2nd floor**
- 2.01 terrace
  - 2.02 void over terrace
  - 2.03 living room
  - 2.04 bedroom

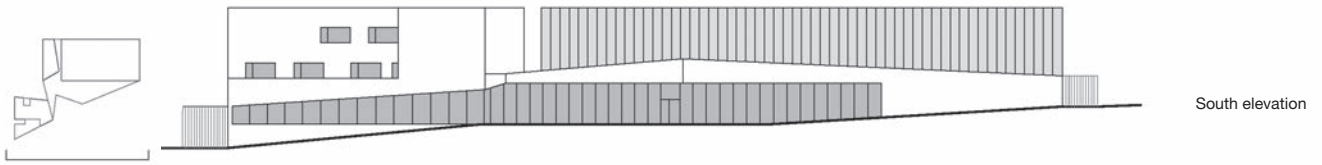


Ground floor

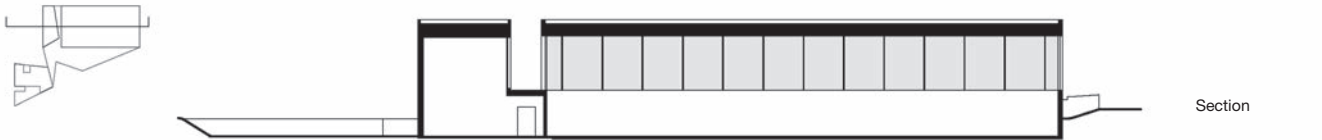
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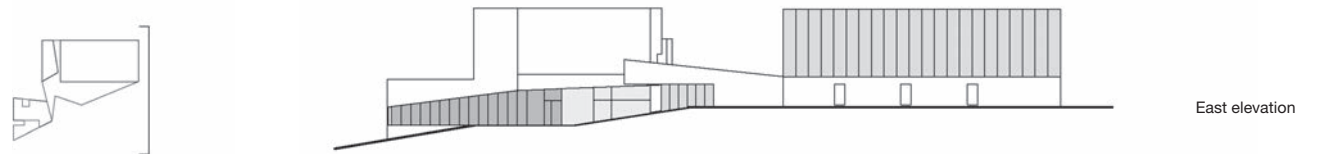
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South elevation



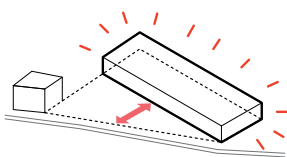
Section



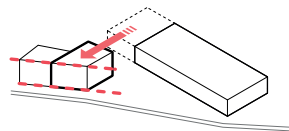
East elevation



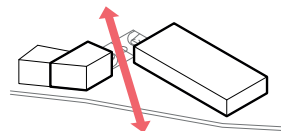
Section



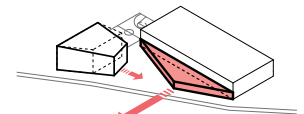
1. The sports hall positioned at the far end of the site generates a public space



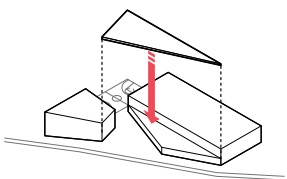
2. The accommodation units slide into line with the houses in the neighbourhood



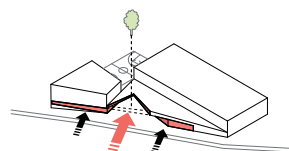
3. The displacement of the two volumes connects the street with the central part of the site and the garden landscape



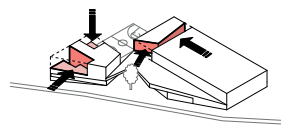
4. Distortion of the volume to adapt to the line of the programme



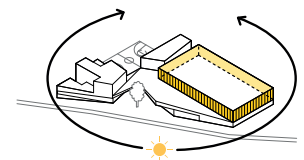
5. A canopy brings the whole together



6. The vanishing lines distort the perspective and create a space for planting



7. Geometric distortion releases elements that capture light and generate terracing



8. The large hall has natural lighting on the upper part of all four sides





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