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UNIVERSIDAD DE LA LAGUNA'S FACULTY OF FINE ARTS

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CLAY ROOF HOUSE (KL) DRTAN LM Architect
FRAME HOUSE Atelier M+A
S HOUSE (MEXICO CITY) Taller Hector Barroso

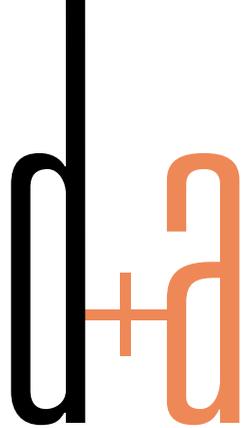
SKY residences/NYC
Odette/NGS

Gallery&Co/NGS
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IN THIS ISSUE

Universidad de La Laguna's new Faculty of Fine Arts in Tenerife (Canary Islands), Spain, is located in a heterogeneous area adjacent to the island highway and on the periphery of the university campus. GYP Architects' main challenge was to create a link between the new faculty building and its surroundings, by working with the open public spaces and to increase the synergies between the academic complex and its urban context. The new building presents itself as an extension of the campus's public space, while creating an autonomous interior landscape of its own; a skin of suspended concrete slats adopts a curved shape that develops on the different levels, protecting and wrapping the open space of the building [p18](#)

LAUD Architects' Frankel Avenue House, Singapore, is designed with a perfectly formed pitched roof, and is built from stark off-form concrete that is both aesthetical and functional. A '[concrete] sheath' runs through the whole house to form a very simple geometric form; this shell comes down and stops short on one side of the house where it exposes the living and dining spaces to the poolside; a clearly articulated rectangular box clothed in pinewood timber panelling cantilevers from the concrete shell on the second storey over the dining area. The house is a simple exploration of various materials that are kept as natural as possible – timber, concrete, or steel is always shown as it is rather than covered up [p28](#)

Archicentre's Clay Roof House in an old suburban neighbourhood in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia, standing three storeys high with a refreshingly simple and uncluttered plan, provides succinctly for the function of residence and is a polite re-introduction of an old house among its neighbours. Designed entirely based on a self-sufficient water harvesting system, the water storage tanks provide a network of filtered water throughout the house. Apart from its internal network of pipes and drainage that is invisible to the street, one highly visible marked difference for this box-house is the front vertical-screen facade of clay roof tiles that were salvaged and re-used from the old house [p36](#)

Mexican practice Taller Hector Barroso's S House in Mexico City for a young family with three children is located in a difficult site – being largely bordered by many houses close by and on terrain that is abrupt and hilly. The architect's solution was to create a cluster of three rectangular blocks, arranged in a seemingly random manner as if by the hands of children at play; the main focus of this design was on orientation and light, with the spaces divided into three different all-white volumes to obtain as much light as possible. The result is an exciting and adventurous architectural journey that is crafted through the melding of indoor and outdoor spaces, and the respective spatial, climatic and emotive nuances that follows [p44](#)

Gallery & Co at the National Gallery Singapore is designed as a 'fun and welcoming' space, where display pedestals are strewn about like island clusters; by glass windows, stepped drawer units, awash in sunlight, appear glacial white, not unlike ice shelves. On the other side of the long linear layout, in sharp contrast, towers the black partitions – steep, leaning cliffs forming a range of moving mountains. It is landform origami, as its lead designer Yah-Leng Yu of Foreign Policy Design Group points out, 'a return to elementary shapes, to the basics of dots and lines' [p68](#)



THE RAMP AS LEITMOTIF

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY **FILIPPO POLI** | PLANS AND DRAWINGS COURTESY **GPY ARCHITECTS**

The new Faculty of Fine Arts (Facultad de Bellas Artes) at the Universidad de La Laguna in Tenerife, Spain, is located in a heterogeneous area, adjacent to the island highway and on the periphery of the university campus. GPY Architects' main challenge was to create a link between the new faculty building and its surroundings, by working with the open public spaces and to increase the synergies between the academic complex and its urban context





It is not often that you walk through the entrance of a building to find yourself in an open space – a city's protected fragment, silent and apt for concentration and study. The faculty of Fine Arts in La Laguna, work of GPY architects, is based on a complex circulatory system created by the use of ramps, stairs and a large elevated platform, which permits access to all of its surrounding spaces. Externally it is presented as a building/infrastructure and internally it discloses itself as a landscape/prolongation of public space with an intimate dimension.

The plot is located on the edge of the university campus of Guajara, in one of the last remaining green areas in the constructed continuum that extends from Santa Cruz to La Laguna, a complicated location, found between infrastructures, roundabouts and bridges, all of which the building perfectly communicates with.

The entrance, beneath a porch of minimum height, is the evidence of a dazzling change of perspective: undulating lines delineate a large patio/plaza that branches off into five directions, four of which are on the same level and one that leads downwards to the gardens by means of a ramp/walkway, ending at the lower level of the plot.

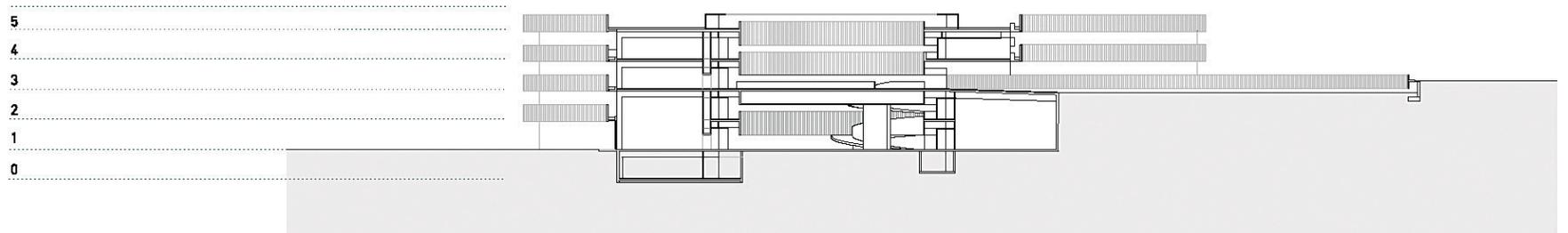
The ramp is the *leitmotif* of the project and accompanies the visitor on a slow descent. With its curved shape, the ramp forces a conscious awareness of the passage towards a new spatial experience; consisting of sinuous curves, materiality and aesthetic which in the tradition of buildings/pathways



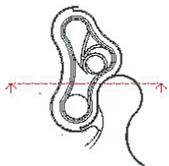


CAMPUS OF GUAJARA,
UNIVERSITY OF LA LAGUNA

- 1. FACULTY OF FINE ARTS
- 2. FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION
- 3. FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
- 4. FACULTY OF PHILOLOGY
- 5. LIBRARY
- 6. FACULTY OF LAW AND POLITICAL SCIENCES
- 7. FACULTY OF ECONOMICS
- 8. TF-5 MOTORWAY
- 9. CESAR MANRIQUE AVENUE
- 10. CAMPUS DE GUAJARA AVENUE



CROSS SECTION 01



reminds one, through its gestures and capacity of inserting and integrating itself into the site, of Sverre Fehn's project for the Hamar Museum.

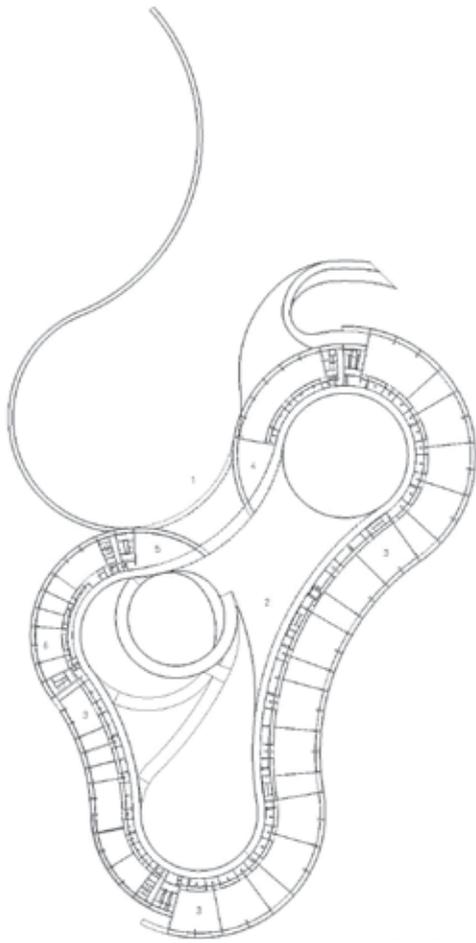
The gardens located at the -1 level, where the ramp ends, have suffered most in the budget cuts that have affected many public works in Spain in recent years. Conceived as a natural space controlled by the designers, the gardens have remained with little more than a few green bushes, which will grow in the following years, and some palm trees. The geometry of the gardens and the contrast of the black volcanic stone with the grey cement, have managed to salvage the quality of this space of peace and rest.

The pathway of the concrete platform that surrounds the gardens is at a slightly higher elevation, inviting its use

by students not only as a passage way to the classrooms, but also as a bench to sit on and enjoy Tenerife's climate, whilst above the cantilevered overhang serves to protect the space from weathering and direct light.

Throughout the day, the sun radically changes the contrast of light and shade underneath the upper plaza and the three large emptied cylinders around which the building is constructed. The texture of the bush-hammered concrete, which hides the traces of its construction, highlights the shadows and increases the materiality of the entire complex. Meanwhile, the U-Glass walls allow for uniform illumination of the teacher's offices.

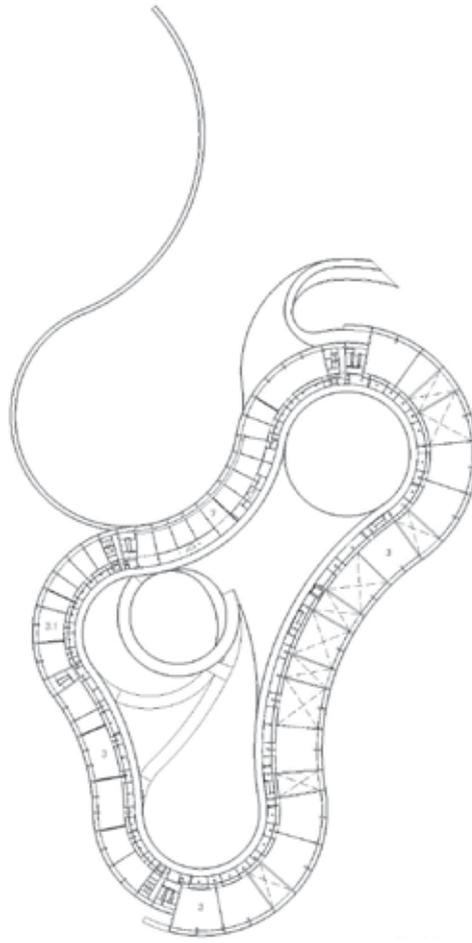
The classrooms, accessed along the passage of the interior distribution, receive direct light from the exterior and the majority of them are modular, with the possibility of increasing their space due to the presence of foldable screens.



0 1 5 10 50m

LEVEL 3
MAIN ENTRANCE

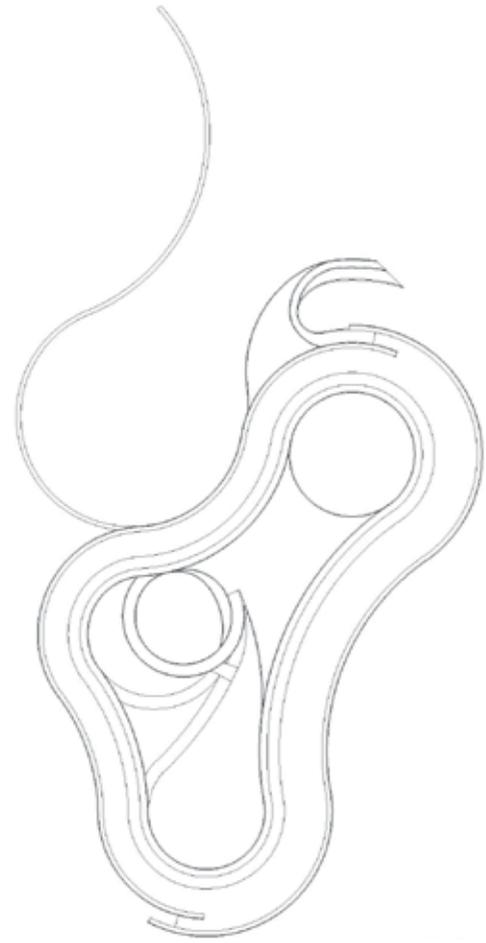
- 1 main entrance
- 2 terrace
- 3 classrooms
- 4 library
- 5 reception
- 6 administration



0 1 5 10 50m

LEVEL 4

- 3 classrooms
- 3.1 seminar rooms
- 7 departments



0 1 5 10 50m

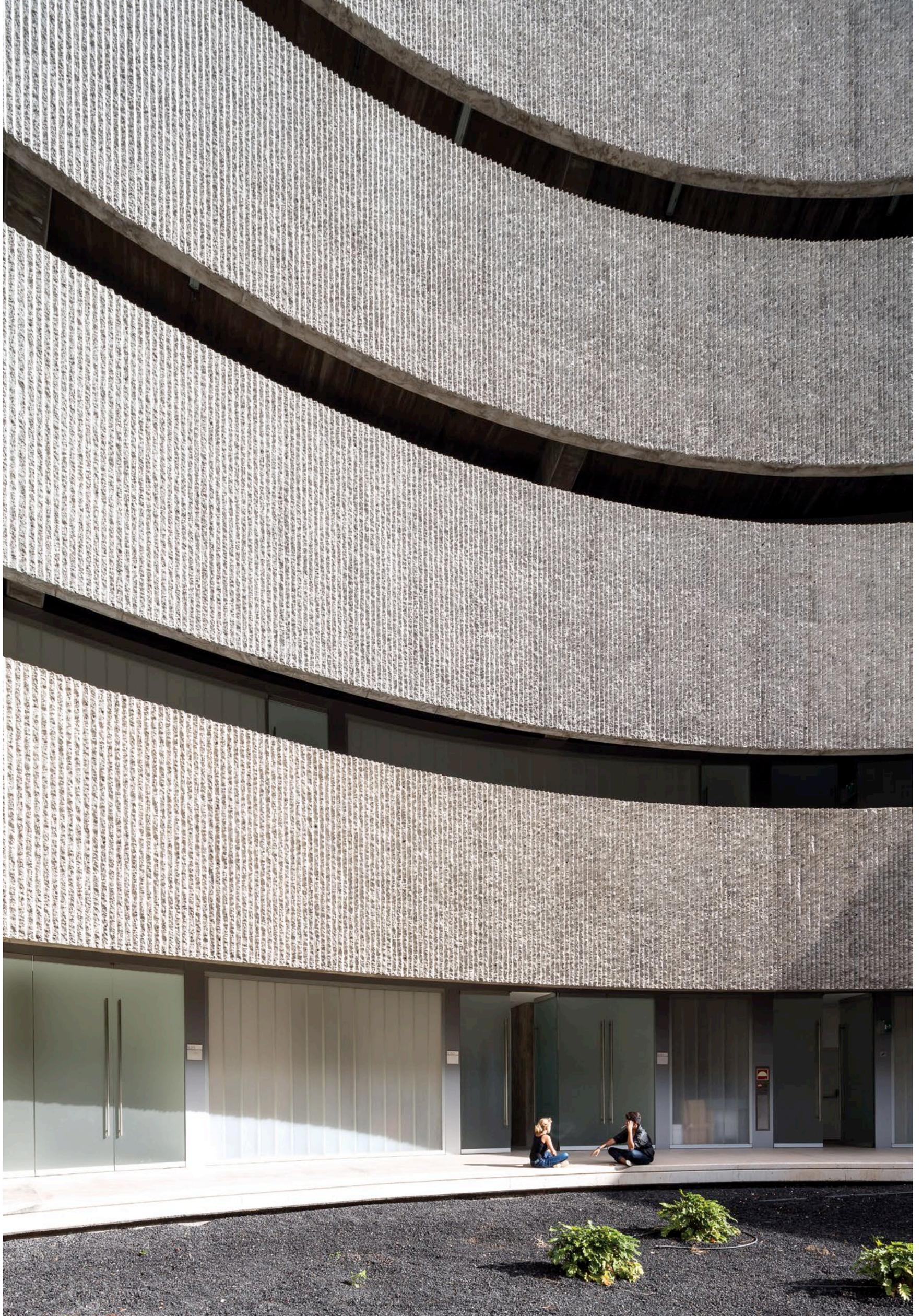
ROOF LEVEL

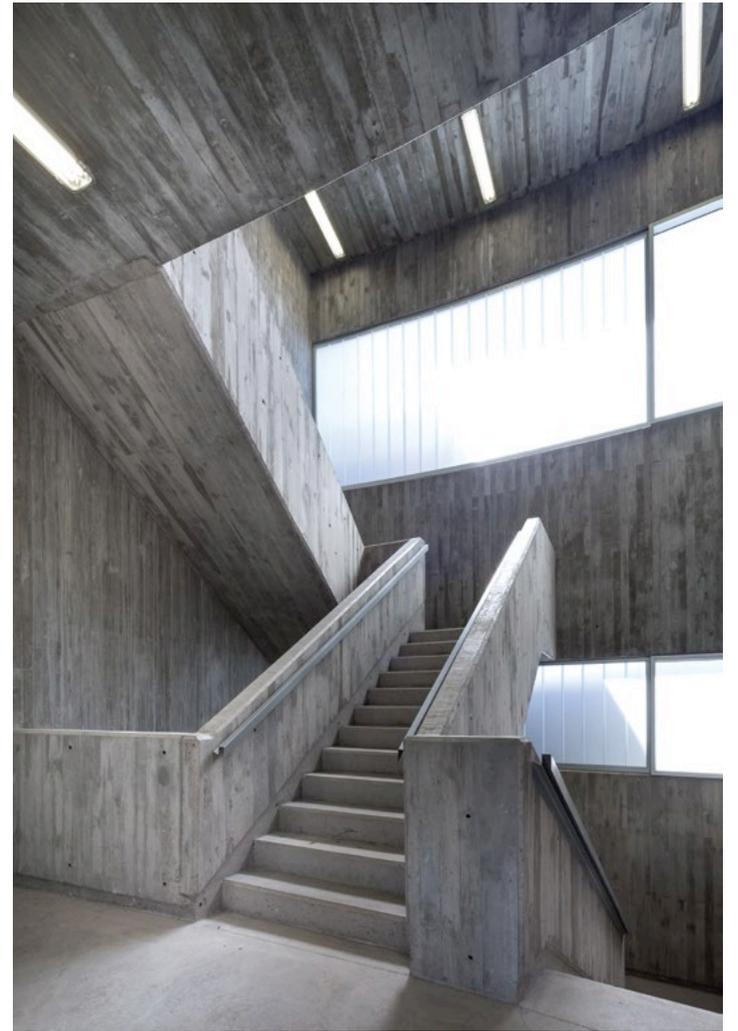


FACULTY OF FINE ARTS, UNIVERSITY OF LA LAGUNA

- LOCATION** CAMPUS DE GUAJARA, LA LAGUNA, TENERIFE, CANARY ISLANDS, SPAIN
- BUILT AREA** 32,260M²
- SITE AREA** 54,503M²
- ARCHITECT** GPY ARQUITECTOS
- PROJECT TEAM** JUAN ANTONIO GONZÁLEZ PÉREZ, URBANO YANES TUÑA, CONSTANZE SIXT
- COLLABORATORS** JOSÉ JUAN AGUILAR RAMOS, ATTENYA CAMPOS DE ARMAS, CARHEL CHAVES, MICHEL CORREA DOS RAMOS, RAQUEL GUANCHE GARCÍA, MARÍA ELENA LACRUZ ALVIRA, JUAN LUIS MARICHAL HERNÁNDEZ, VANESSA MAYATO ANTÓN, JOSÉ LUIS NOVO GÓMEZ, LAURA PÉREZ RODRÍGUEZ, MICHELA PESTONI, ALESSANDRO PREDA, RUBÉN SERVANDO CARRILLO, GABRIEL WALT
- TECHNICAL TEAM** LUIS DARIAS MARTÍN (ASAT), HÉCTOR GONZÁLEZ NIEBLA (ASAT), JUAN LUIS MARICHAL HERNÁNDEZ, JOSÉ ÁNGEL YANES TUÑA, MIRIAM HERNÁNDEZ PÉREZ
- MODEL** KATARZYNA BILLIK, JOSÉ LUIS GONZÁLEZ DOÑA, ANDRZEJ GWIZDALA
- CONSULTANTS** FHECOR INGENIEROS CONSULTORES, GPI INGENIEROS, SERVICIO DE INGENIERÍA DEL TERRENO (ULPGC), POA JARDINERÍA
- AWARDS** GERMAN DESIGN COUNCIL ICONIC AWARDS, 2015; BEST OF BEST
CHICAGO ATHENAEUM INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE AWARDS, 2015; WINNER
WAF WORLD ARCHITECTURE FESTIVAL, 2010; FINALIST (FUTURE PROJECTS, EDUCATION)







The spaces created for the art workshops, located at the -1 floor, are double in height and have semi-private patios that are shared with the adjoining classroom. Large sliding iron gates can visually unite the two spaces; from the patios the exterior space can be accessed, conceptually leading you into a garden, the plans for which unfortunately have remained solely on paper.

The large spaces created for common use between the faculty and the city, such as the exhibition hall and auditorium, are located beside the tramline that connects Santa Cruz to La Laguna; a groove in the exterior wall permits access to the curved pathway that accompanies the visitor into a landscape created with strips of cantilevered concrete, smooth and rough textures, and





the view of a small courtyard which serves as a lung to the surrounding spaces.

In 2015 the project won the International Architecture Awards by The Chicago Athenaeum that recognizes the extensive experience began in 1997 by GPY Architects (Juan Antonio González Pérez, Urbano Yanes and Constanze Sixt), who never fail to merge both practice and teaching, generating projects with high spatial complexity that adapt well to the cultural and educational facilities which are the main focus of the three partners.

The faculty is not the first major project realised by GYP, who have always strived to create spaces with a powerful relationship with both the landscape and the abrupt force of Tenerife's climate. The undulating lines of the campus building give the impression of being drawn by the strong winds here, relentlessly changing the skies and the light that bathes this new jewel of the island. +

