

PORCH SCHOOL

Sant Feliu de Guíxols, Girona
2008-2009

A new public competition system including project and construction on a single request proposes the challenge to investigate dry construction processes in order to reduce costs and shorten the execution periods for new schools in Catalonia.

A single prefabricated and structural concrete element arranged in various ways allows us to create several relationships with the place and interior spaces of a different nature. The constructed membrane graduates the light, the temperature, the tact and the sound according to the activities that it will host, trying to endow each area with the desired comfort conditions.

TYPOLOGY

Public Building, Educational

AREA

3596 m²

PROMOTER

GISA, ICF-Equipaments

BUILDER

Capdeferro Constructor, s.a.

COLLABORATORS

Blázquez Guanter s.l.p., structural consultants.

Enco, Aplicacions d'Enginyeria i Control, facilities consultants.

Brufau Cusó Estudi d'Arquitectura s.l.p., budget consultants.

Geocam s.l., geotechnical consultants.

Dinamis, Promocions dels Valors Ambientals s.l., quality and environment consultants.

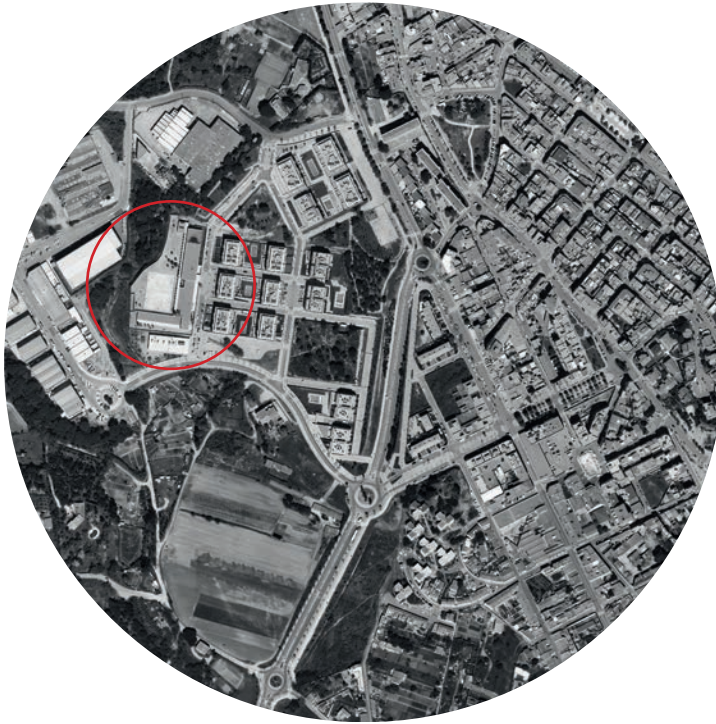
PHOTOGRAPHY

José Hevia

Selected to the XI Spanish Biennial of Architecture and Urbanism 2011.

Finalist to the VI Architecture Elevators Enor Award 2011.





The new urban tissues, old fields, are interrupted on their sidewalks by the surface runoff from the Serra de Cadiretes.

F1
Porch School site plan. Institut Cartogràfic i Geològic de Catalunya (ICGC), 2016.

F2
The valley of Sant Amanç in the 1950s. In the left, Cal Pitxo and, in the background, the hermitage. Unknown Author. Municipal Historical Archive of Sant Feliu de Guixols.

F3
Landscape of the Comes stream's valley with Casa Nova in the foreground, one of the few country houses in the Ardenya which resisted -until recently- the quick depopulation of the mountain range during the past fifty years. Melcior Pijuan, 1960-1970.



From the street to the playground the building accompanies successive and overlapping transitions: from the city to the river, from the traffic to the shelter, from the exterior void to the domesticated one. Flat and closed to the road, the building gets porous and permeable as it gets in touch with its own courtyards, sports grounds, forest and the river.

The street façade focuses pedestrian attention on the access openings that compose the perimeter of the site. The perforated metal plate forms a limit with various degrees of visual permeability depending on the direction of the light. In the background, it covers the gaps between the pieces of concrete when it is necessary to nuance the arrival of the sun in the classrooms without diminishing the transparency of the openings.

Inside the building, the circulation areas are conceived as passages for collective use; variable spatial sequences that are structured based on the changing but always close relationship with the outside and all its positive connotations. Classrooms and other premises occupy the outer strips of the floor to enjoy direct contact with the environment.

The porches that establish the final transition from the interior space to the courtyards give the building a high degree of porosity to the south and west, and spaces for meeting, rest or play, with light in winter and shade in summer, sheltered, but outdoors.

Vegetation gives continuity to existing natural systems. In the high areas of the site, pines, oaks and holm oaks provide perennial shade. At low levels and interstitial spaces in the building, poplars reinforce the predominant vertical rhythm and visually connect the school's outdoor spaces with the stream.

F1

Porches, outdoor covered spaces, transition elements and spaces to stay in between indoor and outdoor.

F2

Interior of the porticoed Telc Square, Czech Republic. Picture of Professor Plicka, courtesy of Professor Oldrich Dostál. Originally published in the book *Architecture Without Architects*, Bernard Rudofsky, 1964.

F3

Industrialized concrete panels are the basic element of the additive system designed.





The building reinforces the urban façade of the street, while fading through the porches towards the playground and the stream.

F1

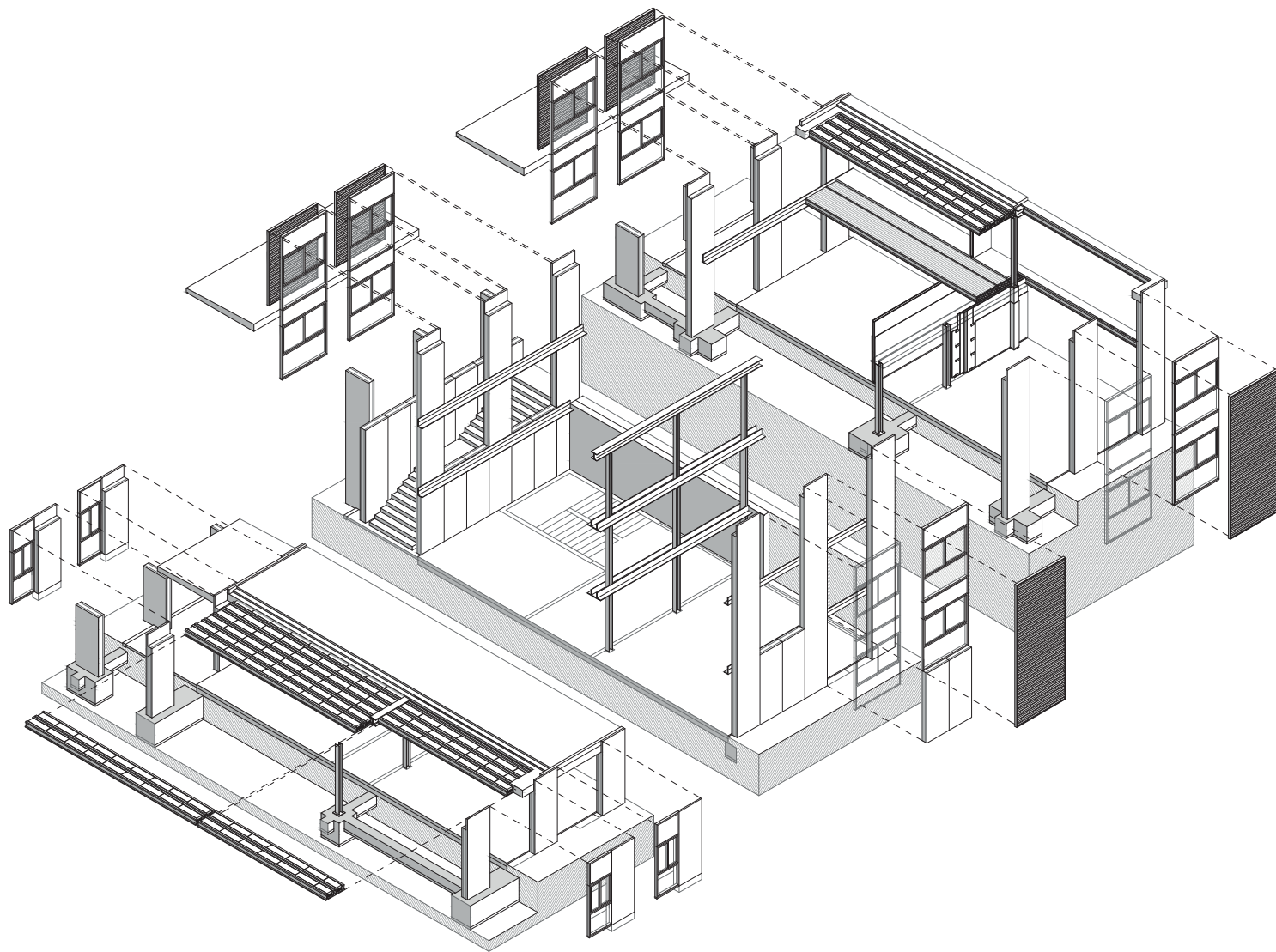
The porches frame Serra de l'Ardenya.

F2

The porch as a regular filter and rhythmic pattern of temperature and light.

F3

The disposition of the prefabricated panels determines the degree of porosity of the façade.



F1
Western elevation.

0 10 20m

F2
Isometric. Catalog of structural prefabricated concrete panel arrangements.

0 5 10m

F1
Materiality: prefabricated concrete and
microperforated metal plate

F2
Street façade.

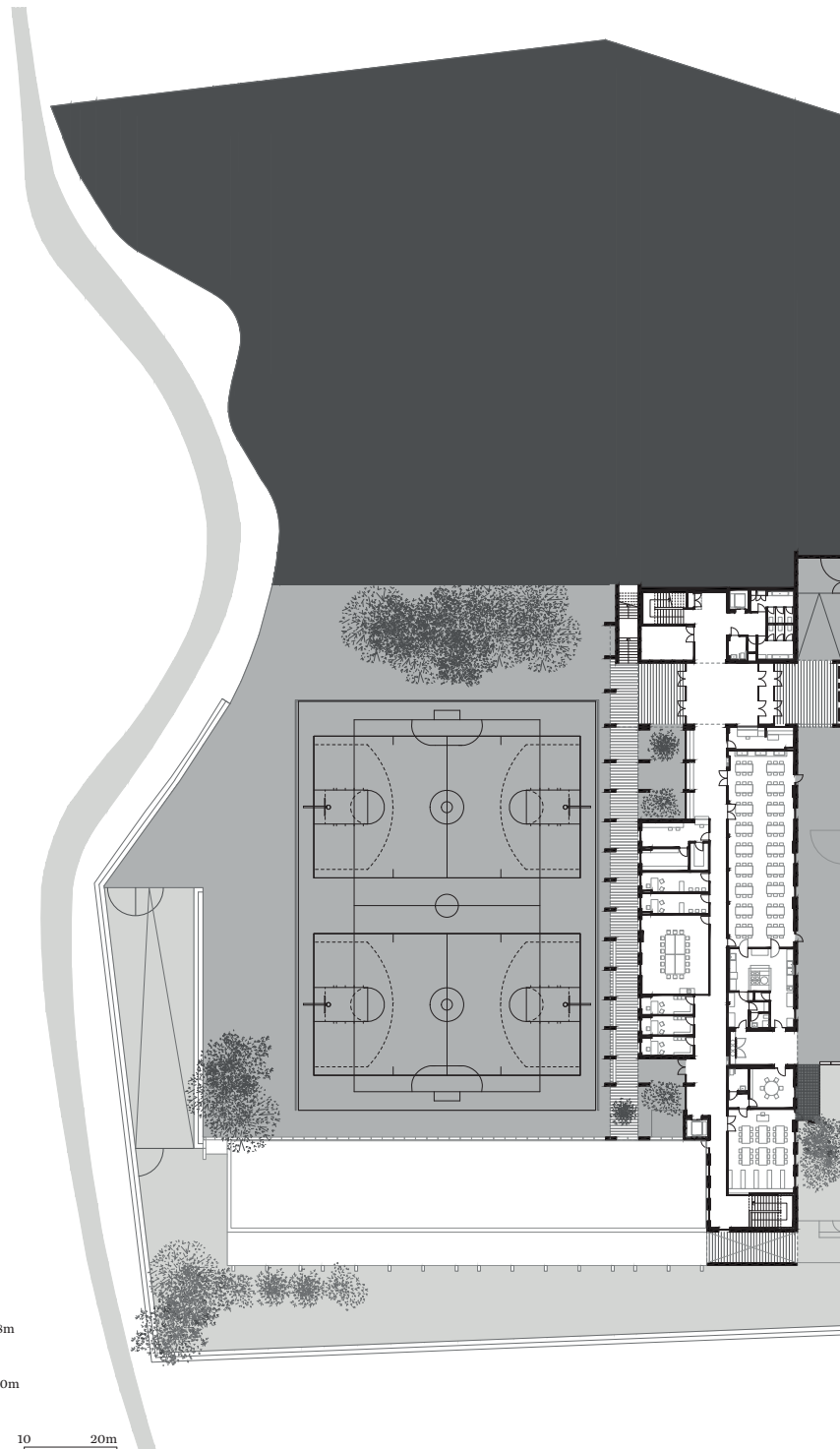
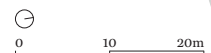
F3
Playground façade.

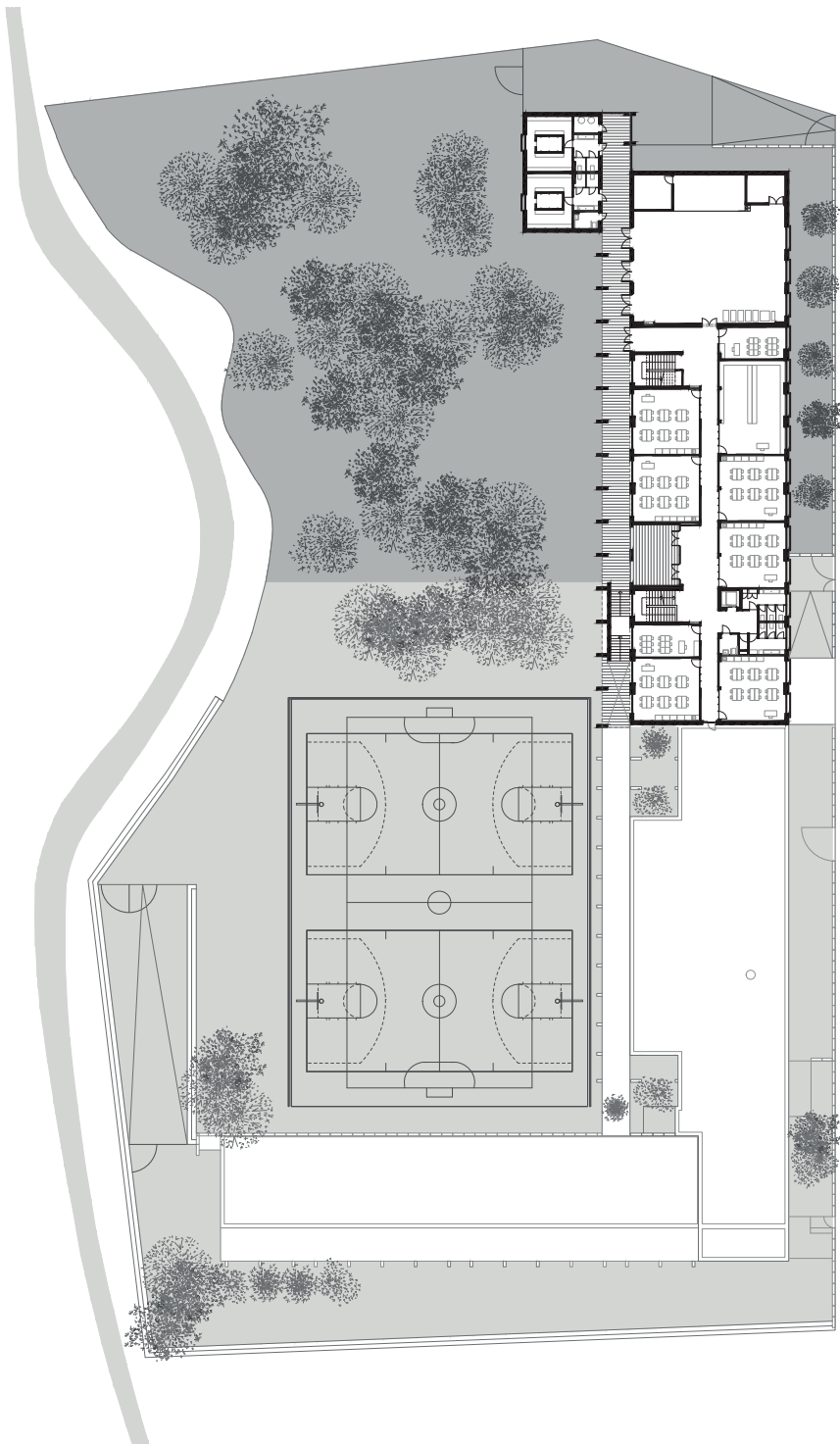




F1
Plan at -3,18m

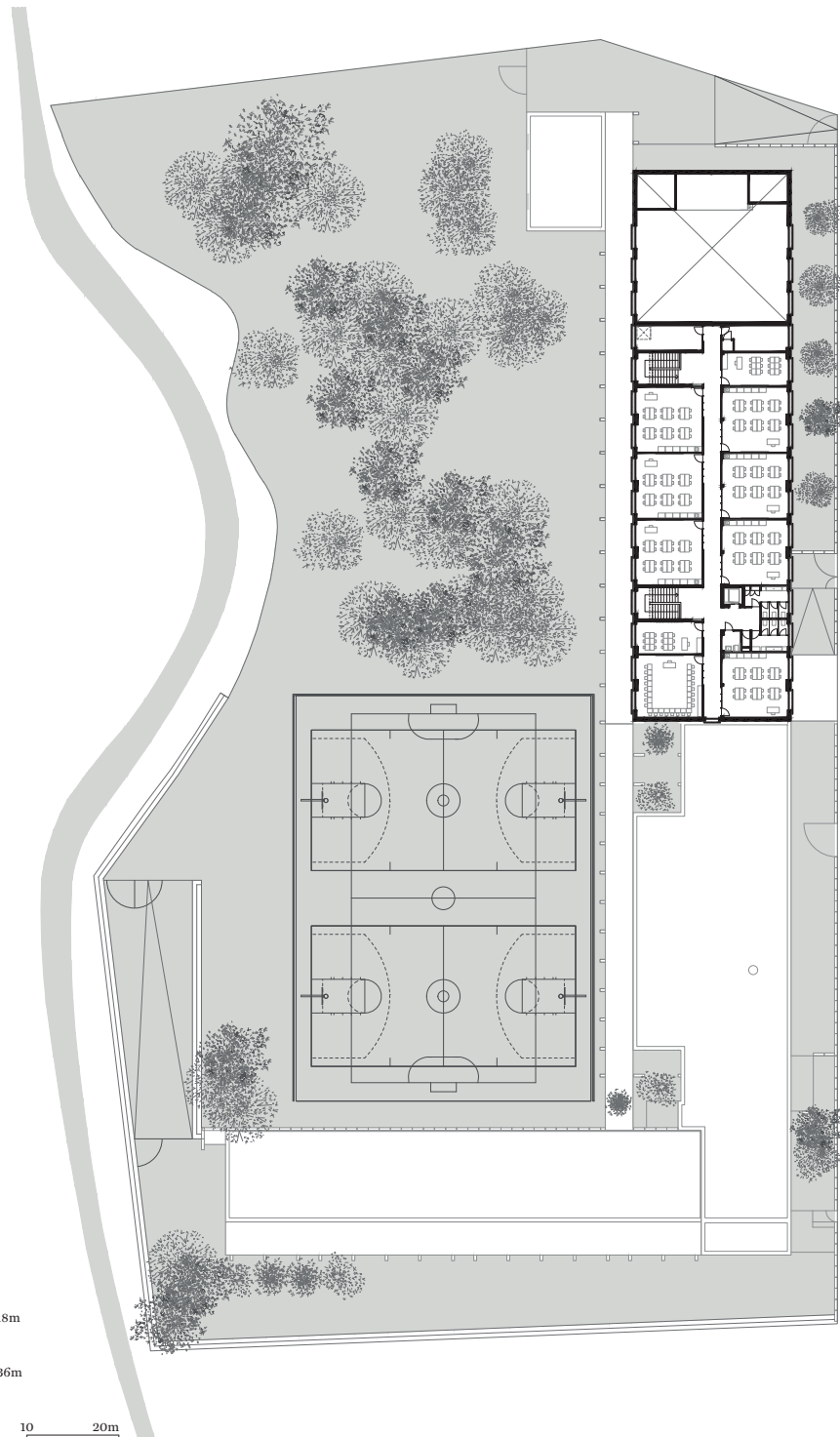
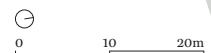
F2
Plan at ±0,00m





F1
Plan at +3,18m

F2
Plan at +6,36m





F2

Areas of circulation are conceived as passages for collective use.

F3

Multipurpose pavilion.

