**Special mention in the architecture category**

**The New Parents’ Room & Courtyard of the Brave at Virgen del Rocío Hospital**

Seville

**Elisa Valero Ramos**

Photo by Fernando Alda

The Courtyard of the Brave and new parents’ room of Virgen del Rocío Hospital’s Paediatric Oncological Department were funded by Fundación Aladina to improve conditions for inpatient children and their families.

The new room is an extension to the school pavilion. The latter is an octagonal-shaped building with a saucer dome, clad in mosaics and blue and white tiles, with a characteristic appearance easily visible from the hospital’s top floors.

The extension is a continuation of this building through the construction of a new octagon, attached to the first. Identical blue and white tiles to the existing building were used as the sole means of expression, covering all the new extension’s vertical walls and roof. Designed with the collaboration of plastic artist Eduardo Barco, the new extension–which stands in the shade of a big lemon tree–is a new focus of attention thanks to its playful-looking bright-coloured abstract design in the midst of the garden.

Cobalt blue and white tiles are deeply rooted in Seville’s architecture and they are also a good choice given their lack of maintenance.

Special ceramic slats were manufactured for the windows to maintain the continuity of the building’s ceramic materials. Continuity between the exterior and interiors was achieved through the presence of a central wall decorated in the same geometrical patterns, round which the different areas were arranged, with the parents’ room on one side and a kitchenette on the other.

The project also included the Courtyard of the Brave, which links up with the other side of the school. To overcome drainage problems, continuous terracotta-coloured rubber flooring was laid and, using a system of wood structures and the concept of lines, areas with pergolas were created to provide shade, with tables, benches and play areas for young children.