

PROJECT MEMO

The judges considered the rigour of the proposal and the degree of the development to be the key strengths of this project.

DESCRIPTION

The project addresses the remodelling of the Arnau Theatre, standing on Barcelona's Avenida del Paral·lel, in order to create a new ground floor space for dramatic arts as well as a drama and dance school, thereby adding a sense of density to the building with a programme that allows the two uses to merge.

The building has been closed to the public for over ten years and is in a severe state of disrepair.

In addition, its internal geometry made up of a labyrinth of small spaces means that it fails to comply with current legislation in terms of accessibility.

The intention is therefore to demolish the entire building, leaving only the main façade standing due to the fact that it is an instantly-recognisable landmark. This façade would therefore act as an articulating element for the entire project, from which a prism-shaped volume would emerge, setting it apart from the site perimeter. The idea is to create a more slender construction, whereby the entire programme would be oriented outwards and therefore receive natural light.

The large windows establish a stronger link between the interior and exterior, setting the building apart from the more domestic-style architecture that surrounds it. In addition, the section work allows for added height in those spaces that require it, thereby drawing attention to visual aspects.

CONSTRUCTING WITH CERAMIC TILES

Due to the specific features of this site, characterised by its three street-facing façades, and the

need to separate it from the boundary wall, the upper prism boasts a feature that is uncommon in the surrounding area, namely that of the free-standing building. The solution created for the four façades therefore forms a key element in this project.

The use of ceramic tiles as cladding is a bold decision. Its highly versatile nature allows for a range of solutions that can adapt to the requirements of the interior programme, yet it is also possible to use a single finish for all the pieces, thereby creating a single sense and image of continuity

Three different pieces have been used

_1. Extruded glazed pieces with a 26.9 x 10 cm diamond-shaped base and a height of between 100 and 115 cm arranged to form a latticework design. They are laid in such a way as to provide a shield from direct sunlight, although they do allow diffuse and uniform light to filter through, preventing any major contrasts and creating the ideal conditions for a dance studio.

_2. 50 x 30 x 3.6 cm extruded glazed pieces featuring 10 undulating grooves on the upper side. The grooved finish creates a texture that contrasts with the smooth finish of the original façade. The fact that they are used on the façades that receive the most sunlight also prevents excessive reflection.

_3. 50 x 35 x 2.5 cm glazed pieces with a smooth finish, used to trace the lines of the floor slabs, thereby conferring a sense of scale on the building. They are used on the rear façade, which does not receive direct sunlight.

The latter two pieces form the finish for a ventilated façade.

The appearance created by the ceramic tiles allows the building to blend into its setting within the city's historic quarter. Other factors that contributed to the decision to opt for this solution include their resistance and durability, as well as

their low maintenance requirements and sustainable nature.