



Special mention: Architecture

Sports hall and classrooms. Francisco de Vitoria University

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Photograph: Javier Callejas

The building, which houses a sports hall and classrooms, was designed for the Francisco de Vitoria University campus in Pozuelo, Madrid. The facilities include sports tracks and courts, multipurpose rooms, a gym, physiotherapy area and classrooms. The sports hall can also be used as a function and meeting room for the University community.

This minimalist, streamlined building complies with applicable regulations in force and the overall campus layout in terms of its volume and size. A clear distinction is drawn between the sports and teaching areas of the building through the use of both the volumes and choice of façade cladding materials. The main section of the project is essentially a large translucent cube measuring 60 x 50 x 12 m, creating a carefully controlled screened effect that produces a spatial connection with the campus' central square.

Two clearly-defined streamlined cubes connected by an underlying single storey volume where the roof serves a dual function as an exterior courtyard linking the two volumes.

One of the finest features of this sports hall designed for Francisco de Vitoria University is the clever use of ceramics for the construction of its major elements.

The interior of the large sports hall houses a white porcelain basin. The tiered seating has been covered with large format white ceramic tiles. The same material has been used for the skirting boards as well as the top of the seating, creating outstanding brightness thanks to the pure white colour, as well as guaranteeing optimum resistance to wear and tear. Additional advantages of this choice of material include easy cleaning and its performance in terms of ball impact resistance.

Ceramic tiles are also the natural choice for the swimming pools, located beneath the sports hall courts, as well as the changing rooms under the tiered seating. White and navy blue porcelain floor tiles with an anti-slip finish were chosen for the pool area.

The overall effect is a streamlined building featuring a dramatically restrained design.