

## **The Award Winner in the End-of-Degree Project Category**

### **Proposal for a Centre for Unaccompanied Under-Age Immigrants (in the San Blas district of Madrid)**

By Andrea Puebla Yubero

Architectural School: CEU San Pablo University, Madrid

Tutor: Izaskun Chinchilla Moreno

With the migratory crisis, there has been an exponential rise in the number of unaccompanied under-age immigrants arriving in Europe. Given the said situation, this project aspired to come up with strategies to foster harmonious social relations.

An analysis was made of the scenario in Madrid, where the centres that first take in these immigrants have trebled their permitted capacity, and a summary was made of the main problems: over-capacity conditions, street vandalism, deliberate fostered dislike, and the risk of exclusion due to inadequate professional training.

In the light of this situation, three goals were posed:

I\_ To achieve the young immigrants' integration into the local neighbourhood.

II\_ To create a safe haven for them, which is thus easy to control.

III\_ To design a training programme based on participation in construction processes and the use of flexible systems.

This is where ceramic materials play a prime role by helping to achieve these three goals, thus contributing to the group's personal and professional development and to the architecture's integration into the existing urban fabric.

#### **I\_ Integration into the local neighbourhood. The language of San Blas.**

The area in question is San Blas, a working class neighbourhood in the east of Madrid. The surroundings inspire the composition and materials used for the building envelope, thus reinforcing the neighbourhood's image. Around us, an apparent ongoing disorderly selection of colours and features can be seen; a collage of ceramic materials and renders.

The neighbouring housing also has aerial views of roofs clad in green ceramic roof tiles.

#### **II\_ A safe haven. The healing properties of ceramic materials.**

Through a setting of warm, natural textures, a small oasis in the big city can be created, offering the assurance of a safe haven. We believe in the power of tuning in to memories of the materials used in the young immigrants' places of origin.

The project's architecture also reflects this protective intention. The housing units simulate a small village, protected by areas with public functions, directly linked to the city.

### **III\_ Participation in the construction process. The flexibility of working with ceramic materials.**

The aim is to achieve a more personal atmosphere, helping the youths to develop a set of skills while also encouraging them to care for what they make.

The chosen building systems are always based on small-format materials that can be worked on in the workshop under controlled conditions.

The façades can be varied in multiple different ways during both the construction phase and their useful life. Because a ventilated façade is a non-load bearing system, custom-designed panels can be created in the workshop; for example, a louver system to filter views of city; easily reproducible extruded ceramic tiles; or 3D interplay through steel bars inserted between bricks.

The roofs and paved areas are made of porcelain tile materials, customizable through their composition or the pre-construction process in the workshop. The tiles can be mounted in groups by using steel baskets to allow water to drain away or by using flexible adhesives so that they are easier to move.

In summary, the project aims to seek a solution to a hostile reality, coming up with an alternative approach through a symbiosis between architecture and the unaccompanied under-age immigrants.