COMMUNITY CENTER

3arquitectos

La Serena, Chile
2010 - 2011

Under the program *Quiero Mi Barrio* [I love my neighborhood] –developed by the Chilean government for the physical and social recovery of 200 districts throughout the country– this project creates a place to gather a divided community. Taking advantage of a slope in the site’s topography, the building multiplies the public land and thus increases the possibilities for community use.

**Keywords** · conflict, neighborhood, social architecture, public space, Chile

This publicly funded project was developed as part of the recovery of one of the 200 most deteriorated and vulnerable neighborhoods in Chile.

In a complex context, one must ask what should be done when the commission is unwanted or rather when its construction becomes the subject of conflicts and disputes between different sectors of the neighborhood.

The possibility of recovering the street, one of the few public spaces in the neighborhood, gave us an opportunity to rethink the community meeting space. Instead of locating in a leftover site (as is usually done), this time it was proposed as an articulating space.

Situated between the last terrace of the city and a park in one of the ravines towards the Elqui valley, the new building is located on a hillside. We were able to take advantage of the slope to organize the program under a lookout terrace and create a space of at least three neighborhood
Architects / Architects
3Arquitectos. Nelson Sepúlveda, Freddy Sepúlveda
Arquitecto asociado / Associated architect
Mabel Peña
Colaboradores / Collaborators
Ronald Neuburg, Luis Rojas
Ubicación / Location
Población 17 de Septiembre, La Antena, La Serena, Chile
Cliente / Client
Municipalidad de La Serena, Ministerio de Vivienda y Urbanismo, Cuarta Región, Chile
Ingeniería estructural / Structural engineering
Ronald Segovia
Construcción / Building contractor
Constructora Erices & Toro Ltda.
Instalación eléctrica / Electrical system
Eduardo Ávalos
Instalación sanitaria / Plumbing
Eduardo Ávalos
Materiales / Materials
Estructura de hormigón armado a la vista; terminaciones en policarbonato, ladricretos de hormigón prefabricado, perfiles metálicos / Reinforced concrete structure; finishings in policarbonate, precast concrete and steel profiles
Presupuesto / Cost
US$750 / m²
Superficie construida / Built area
700 m²
Año de Proyecto / Project year
2008
Año de construcción / Construction year
2010 - 2011

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Planta emplazamiento / Site Plan
E. / S. 1:5.000

Planta nivel +44,5 m / Floor plan level +44,5 m
E. / S. 1:500

LEYENDA / LEGEND
1. Espacio multiuso / Multipurpose space
2. Cocina / Kitchen
3. Bodega / Cellar

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associations with multi-functional spaces that house municipal offices for family counseling, a dining room, kitchen, services, event rooms, and meeting rooms.

In turn, the exercise of bringing the neighborhood community together implies grouping residents together according to common interests and activities, which many times is resolved by confining them to an interior space converting the neighborhood centers in fairly hermetic spaces lacking natural light.

To reconcile both conditions—closing to protect and lighting to bring together—we opted to work with a continuous perimeter of perforated concrete blocks (*ladricretos*) because they provide protection, resistance, and create a solar control membrane around the entire north perimeter that filters the light and allows for adequate cross ventilation in each one of the rooms. ARQ
LEYENDA / LEGEND
1. Espacio multiuso / Multipurpose space
2. Cocina / Kitchen
3. Bodega / Cellar
4. Sendero / Trail
5. Acceso / Access
6. Sala sede cultural infantil + Sala de reunión / Children’s cultural center + Meeting room
7. Oficina + sala de reunión / Office + meeting room
8. Baño minusválidos / Disabled persons bathroom
9. Sala de trabajo administración / Administration work room
10. Balcón / Balcony
11. Sala multiuso / Multipurpose room
12. Baños / Bathrooms
13. Terraza / Roof terrace
14. Plaza / Square