

OFFICES AND LABORATORIES FOR A CHEMICAL INDUSTRY.

This project proposes the design of a building to set up the headquarters and two small laboratories for a chemical company engaged in the manufacture of shoe finishes products located in an industrial plot with two huge existing warehouses of precast concrete panels.

The building is placed in a purely industrial environment, without any urban reference but next to the limit of the Industrial Park with the natural environment.

Therefore, the main starting points are the creation of an interior working space with controlled views towards the natural exterior and the minimal visual impact of the adjoining warehouses.

We propose a compact volume which is surfaced with a perforated dark metal skin that contrasts with the neutral existing background. This box is perforated with some "space-voids" that generate four courtyards which organize the interior space and serve as a visual and lighting filter. The external skin of corrugated powder coated steel sheet completely wraps the volume as a "veil" and extends laterally to create the main access. This skin has the function of creating a safety image from the exterior while the 50% of perforation of it allows a perfect view from the interior space.

The sheet disappears in the courtyards and reveals the green corporate color of the base volume allowing the partial view of the interior space which is showed as a white and luminous image that contrasts with its skin.

The courtyard are paved with synthetic grass that reinforce the green corporate color and, at the same time, tries to contrast with the hardness and coldness of the industrial surrounding, reinforcing the inner world full of spatial variations we try to create in the working areas.

The natural gradient of the land allows the continuous lighting of the basement floor through the southeast corner where the kitchen and dinner area for workers is.

On the main façade, the building opens out through a continuous horizontal window on the ground floor, extending a wall that acts as a support for the entrance steps, which emerge in a natural way from the existent asphalt pavement and create an access ramp from the houseware areas. The hole of the access corner frames a controlled view towards the nearby mountain and it also generates a rotation of the façade that allows the control of the building access from the reception desk.

On the ground floor, the two laboratories take leadership in the interior space with a transparent image of its functioning. Some lower boxes contain the different offices. The main stairs occupy the central space of the ground floor adjoining a white wall that vertically traverses the space from the ground floor generating a container-box on the first floor which acts as a parapet.

The back façade becomes an equipped wall that contains the electrical, air-conditioning and sanitary installations from the ground floor laboratories and becomes a storeroom and archive zone on the first floor. This element avoids the direct view to the wall of the adjoining warehouse.

The courtyards try to multiply the diffuse natural light on the working areas, and at the same time the perforated façade acts as a filter for the direct daylight. All the artificial lighting is designed to have an indirect view from the common spaces, while the working spaces are lightened by linear fluorescent industrial tubes as a unitary design element.

The use of the color white as corporate image of the interior spaces reinforces the brightness levels. A continuous bright white resin surface extends from the laboratories towards the rest of the building, creating a mirror floor that unifies all the different working areas.

The building acts as a lighthouse during the night thanks to the courtyards which are lightened with a green light that reinforces the corporate color.