



Sta. Isabel Nursery School

De la Iglesia Street
50071 Zaragoza, Spain

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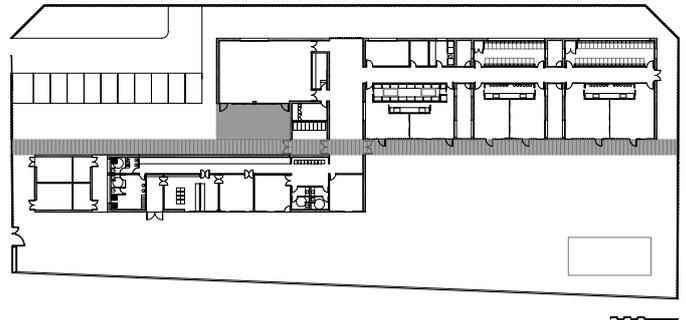
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Built within the constraints of the Zaragoza City Council's Neighbourhood Plan, Nursery School Santa Isabel forms together with nursery schools in the districts of Oliver, La Paz and Acur, the new educational core of the city's major public urbanistic project.

Located in La Iglesia del Zaragonazo Street in Santa Isabel, the building is conceived in plan and section as two boxes of concrete, glass and wood. One contains the educational program; classrooms, sleeping rooms, multipurpose room, while the other one accommodates service functions; staffroom, dining hall, kitchen and facilities.

The main entrance to the school is found on the intersection of the two boxes in the west façade. Pedestrian and traffic entrances are different from one another, as well as the interior circulation for children and teachers from the maintenance one.





The north facade closes, protecting itself from the street and harsh climate, just to open up to the playground and light from the south in a polycarbonate facade, installed in steel and woodwork.

The outer skin has been designed as a thermal lag consisting of a concrete wall in two layers (15 + 5 + 5) with interior isolation. The outer layer of the wall is realized through a timber formwork in different sizes, highlighting the verticality of the elements and leaving the materiality of wood on the wall. The finish product also interacts with the polycarbonate strips on the contiguous wall



The building bases on the versatility and multifunctional role of the classrooms which can be divided through adjustable partitions that, when retracted, transform the spaces into a single large volume, providing a flexible and varied educational program. Wardrobes, restrooms and sleeping rooms can also adapt to both dispositions.



Every module space is separated from the adjacent one through small patios, providing each with longitudinal views, subtle variations of light and isolation from noise.

The project is entirely set out on a 30cm grid, allowing an optimal distribution of the rooms and minimizing construction times, costs, and error. An interior datum at a height of 1.20m defines an edge between the realms of child and adult. The creation of a notional plinth, along with material choices, reflect hygiene and maintenance concerns.



The approach to the project and its realisation took into account the fact that the main users would be infants. Therefore, special attention was given to their needs, with the creation of bright, calm spaces, where they would feel comfortable.



The first impression of the exterior, in some way rough, contrasts with the clear interiors and the longitudinal visions through the rhythm of the patios hosting the protected yards for the children.

In summary, two boxes full of games and possibilities.





Data

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