



shaping the void

P P
A A

Pablo Pérez Palacios

Founder and Creative Director of PPAA

CV

Education

2000 – 2005 Graduated in **Architecture** from Universidad Iberoamericana (Mexico) and from the Polythemic University of Catalonia (Barcelona)

Postgraduate degree at Columbia University (New York) in **Master of Science in Advanced Architecture Design**

Experience

2018 – Ongoing Founder and Creative Director of **PPAA** (Pérez Palacios Arquitectos Asociados)

2007 – 2017 Partner & Founder of **DCPP Arquitectos**

Talks & Lectures

2022 **Distinguished Visiting Professorship** for Spring 2022 Fay Jones School Public Lecture Series, Arkansas, Texas, USA

2022 **Conference “PPAA Recent Works”** at Casa de Arquitectura, Querétaro, Mexico

2018 **Speaker at the “6th Meeting of Architecture 2018”** of the Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores de Valle de Bravo

2017 **Speaker in the cycle of conferences “Architecture and Design”** of the schools of Architecture and Design of the University Anáhuac Sur

2017 **Lecturer at the “2nd Edition of MEXARQ”**, at the Universidad de Guadalajara, at the INTERLOBOS National Congress.

Speaker at the “XXII International Congress of Architecture and Interior Architecture 2017” by ARCHITECH and the University of the Americas.

Awarded Works, Mentions & Recognitions

2022 Quito Pan-American Biennial | Finalist with project Aculco

Invitation to participate with a housing prototype for the **exhibition “Architecture at Home”** organized by Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Arkansas, and opened in August 2022

Recognized as one of the **Top 50 Architects and Designers 2022** by AN Interior, a publication of The Architect’s Newspaper

2021 Shortlisted in Alula’s Architects in Residence — **100 Architects for 100 Houses** invited design competition in AlUla, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)

PPAA in **AN Interior Top 50 Architects 2021**, Best in Class Best Interior Designers in the world by AN Interior Magazine

2020 **LIV Hospitality Design Awards, USA | 1st place** with project Octavia

2019 **Architizer A+ Awards, USA | Jury’s Winner** in Private Residence category with the project Casa La Quinta

Interiorismo y Arquitectura, MX | Winner of 1st place in the category Residential Architecture with the project Casa Aculco

Premio Noldi Schreck, MX | Winner of 1st place in the category Residential Multifamily Architecture with the project Monterrey 55

Premio Noldi Schreck, MX | Winner of 2nd place in the category Residential Multifamily Architecture with the project Casa La Quinta

Acknowledgment of his participation as **speaker in Festival Provincial – Arquitectura y Ciudad** in Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas, Mexico

2018 **7th National Prize of Architecture and Interior Design** at the Association of Architects and Interior Designers of México | 2nd place in Housing

Acknowledgment for his **participation at Conference Cycle of Architecture and Design** at the School of Architecture and Design of Universidad Anáhuac, South Campus, Mexico City

Acknowledgment for his participation as **speaker in the 6th Architecture Meeting 2018**

2017 **Premio Firenze Entremuros, MX | Winner** in the category Best Single-Family Residence with the project Casa Campestre

Acknowledgment for his **participation in the XXI International Congress of Architecture and Interior Architecture 2017**. ARCHITECH and Universidad de las Americas de Puebla, Puebla, Mexico

Acknowledgement in the 11th Conference of Architecture at Tecnológico Nacional de México, Instituto Tecnológico José Mario Molina Pasquel y Henríquez, Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico

Acknowledgment for his **participation as speaker during the academic activities in the National INTERLOBOS Congress**

Acknowledgement for his **participation as speaker in the 2nd MEXARQ Edition** by the Student Society of MEXARQ “Design and Projects” at Universidad de Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico

2015 **Mention in the 2nd México City’s Architecture Biennale** at College of Architects of México City and the Mexican Architects Society, Mexico City

2014 **Design Award in Architecture** in the category Building and Structure Design at A’ Design Award & Competition, Milan, Italy

2013 **Silver Medal in the category of Single-Family Housing** from the International A’ Design Award with the project Reforma 108

Shaping the void

Emptiness takes value when there are intentions and its lefts to charge it of architectural tensions that could be lived with itself, and with its surroundings. We see voids as a new, open possibility for unexplored and unexpected architectural programs.

Our architecture emerges through understanding that our creative process is an open one, a medium, and a message. It is a **process that is constantly put to the test**, by the multiple relations that are in its surroundings. In our practice, we like to follow an *inclination for nature*, where the gradients of the weather, soil, textures, and other factors, create sensorial atmospheres.

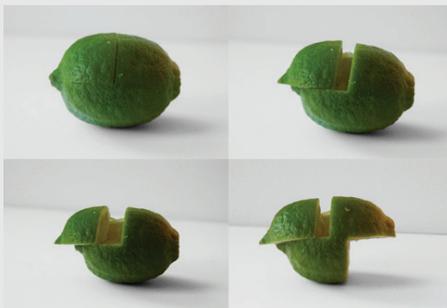
The context, and all its factors; geography, timing, program, influence, weighs in our architecture in a strong but not direct way. This creates a dialogue between contradictory ideas that lead us to create an **autonomous architecture that adapts individually to each project.**

We like to come up with a response that is *strong but simple*, with a geometrical approach where **the exterior space is defined and bounded but not built.** An architectural approach that works with light, suggesting

precisely the kind of openness intended for each project – *an openness between the visitors and the architecture, and between the architecture and its surroundings.*

The idea of infinite openness transforms in the willingness to immerse oneself in an environment that leads to **the openness we seek to address by linking the architecture to nature** and perceiving them as a single open space and experience. *The gesture is simple, the effect disconcerting.* The entire reality of the surrounding space is altered and with it the user's perception of the surroundings and their movements.

We like to think that the way we have of understanding architecture implies that work cannot be done without considering both communal and personal intentions. Therefore, our conception of architecture is based on an *understanding of the body and the relationship everyone establishes with their surroundings, creating an architecture of ideas and not forms.*



Apan

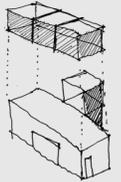
Hidalgo, Mexico | Built

2017



Apan is part of the 32 rural housing prototypes for the INFONAVIT Housing Research and Practical Experimentation Laboratory of the Research Center for Sustainable Development (CIDS). This social housing is made of block, tie beams and arches, and the walls have a colored cladding of concrete that withstands humidity conditions.

The existing roof is able to be used as an extension of the existing program by replicating the bedroom module; each owner will be able to grow their home and, in this way, appropriate it.



The materials and the construction system do not need specialized labor, which makes its execution very practical, in addition, these materials are found throughout the entire Mexican Republic.

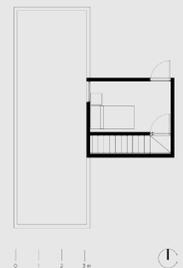
In Mexico, 7 of 10 houses are self-made, therefore, the prototype was designed in such a way that it allows a progression scheme from the intentional void on the first level.

The prototype consists of two volumes that divide the private from the public; the main entrance is oriented to the south and the services are to the north. The interior height is 3.26m to provide wider spaces. The exterior is defined by a slab that functions as an extension of the interior space.



Self-produced home

Floor plans



Ocuilan

State of Mexico, Mexico | Built

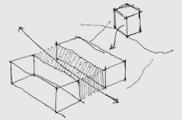


Earthquake aftermath, 2017

2018

On September 19, 2017, an earthquake of magnitude 7.1 caused damage to some areas in Mexico, specifically in the State of Mexico, the municipality of Ocuilan was one of the most affected with 1,341 homes with total or partial losses. Our proposal is part of a series of houses that were built for the victims; this initiative was supported by Reconstruir México and PienZa Sostenible.

On July 11, 2019, the house was delivered to Mrs. Martina González, a project that took part of an emergency architecture, which objective, was to rebuild the social tissue after the earthquake.

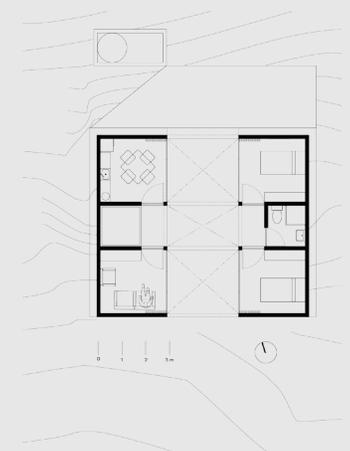


The idea behind this house is emptiness and how the inhabitants will be able to appropriate it over time.

A void that takes shape into a patio allows both volumes to be ventilated, and on the other side, generates visual interactions with the hill, functioning as a multipurpose space: could be a service area, a terrace, an outdoor dining room, etc.; it could even be covered with a light roof and extend the surface of the house.

The first volume of common areas has a kitchen, a living room, and a water tank; the second, with two bedrooms and a full bathroom. The project was built with Ecoblock and wood finishes. Additionally, a small volume was proposed in the elevated part of the land that contains the water tank and, in this way, distributes water to the house thanks to gravity.

Main floor



Toronjos

State of Mexico, Mexico | Under construction

2022



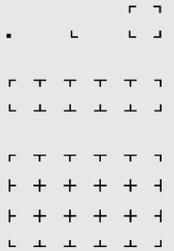
This project was guided by the qualities of the environment; the footprint is minimal since the objective is to enjoy and preserve the natural landscape. We are committed to simplicity and to reducing the carbon footprint by producing materials locally and capturing water from constant rainfall.

The modulation of the project responds to the maximum gap allowed for construction with mud bricks without having the necessity of including steel reinforcements, which is three meters.

The natural environment, the local hand labor and materials, make this a sustainable system for capturing water and energy that give a deeper meaning to the house, leaving architectural to a side and making the surroundings the main interest in the project; the construction is just an extension of the landscape.

The adobe used for construction is produced on in site, therefore, the transportation of the material is rally non-existent. Making a microeconomy that was generated by working with local resources, from materials to labor.

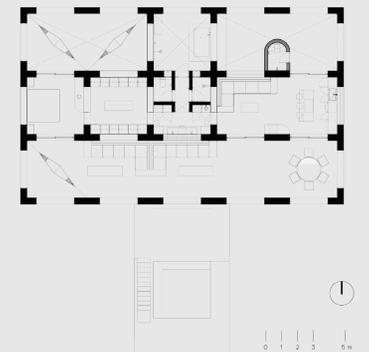
Toronjos is a project that responds to the site and its conditions.



Emiliano

Adobe

Main floor



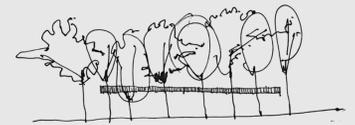
Copas

State of Mexico, Mexico | Under construction

2022



The name of Copas arises from the intention of generating a defined void that rises three meters above the ground to create a direct connection with the tree canopies. Through a series of platforms, the construction disappears and what counts are the trees that surround it. A stone that came out of the site works as a sculpture at the entrance.



The house gives prominence to the trees and at the same time responds to the topography of the site

The concept of the house is like climbing a mountain, when you reach the top, you can really appreciate the view. Leaving the public space a top to enjoy the direct connection to the canopies and leaving the floor downstairs to the more private program like rooms, tv room, etc.



Surrounding trees

Ground floor



Infinite Openness 2022

Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Arkansas, USA | Built



As we thought of a home for the future, we had to return to what we have lost as human beings. The homes of tomorrow must respond to an urgent need for sustainability and values enhanced by available technology. Architecture needs to recover the idea of presence, of being part of a place and time. All construction must use the local resources and construction methods to give a sense of belonging.



At a time when the human presence in nature has never been so extreme, architecture should be the key to creating this connection.

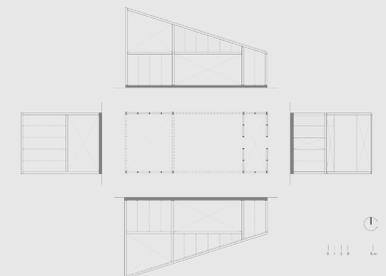
Each space must have the possibility to be flexible. A highly valued exterior and a defined and private space are vital. Outdoor space is a driving force in our approach. This experimentation exercise allowed us to reach three key conclusions for what the housing of the future should be: we must not deny the natural environment, the city must not eat nature; in housing, what's left unbuilt is equally as important as the built space, we must provide balconies, patios, outdoor spaces. The construction system must be flexible and adapt to its location, although our proposal is \ a metallic structure and Danpal system, by being a system of frames and a skin, basically it can adapt to any climate and system: bamboo columns, wooden skin, etc.



Layout possibilities



Delimited area



Mali in Situ

Lima, Peru | Built

2016



Mali in Situ is a piece that arises from the collaboration between three disciplines: architecture, dance, and plastic arts, each having a common relationship with space and its appreciation with the senses. Under this premise, in collaboration with the artist Rita Ponce de León and the dancer Joelle Gruernberg, the intervention in the lobby of the Museum of Art of Lima (Mali) transforms the void into a space for interaction between users, inviting them to dialogue and to interact collectively.

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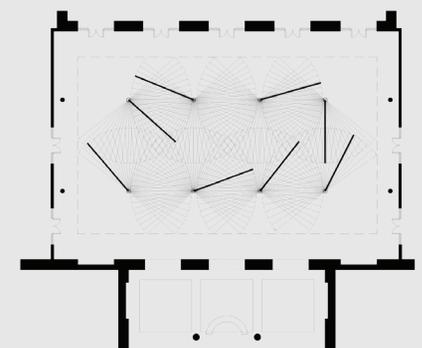
The project consists of rotating structures attached to the columns of the room, whose engineering allows them to rotate and be fixed to the columns of the cataloged museum without causing a physical impact on them. The great challenge was to design these artifacts without changing the shape of the museum.



The installation only forces interactions: the copper tubes are only activated by the users and being connected to each other, create a chain of reactions between each component and movement.

Intervention area

Main floor



Plazuela del Moral 2018

Zacatecas, Mexico | Built

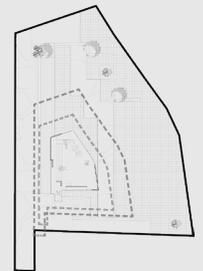


Within the celebration of the XIII FEMSA Biennial in the city of Zacatecas, a public space was granted for the construction of an art pavilion that represented the idea and values of the edition's statement: "We were never contemporary", a concept based on the book "We were never modern" by Bruno Latour, where a search for hybrid formations between the historical and the contemporary is undertaken.

...the idea is to invite users to interact with it and test their intuitive knowledge of the square and its components...

The Plaza del Moral is in the city center block being reached through an alley from the main street in the city of Zacatecas. Based on the urban analysis, the idea is to invite users to interact with it and test their intuitive knowledge of the square and its components; the piece is a conceptual replication of the plaza on a smaller scale. Through the interaction of the user with the plaza, new moments are generated related to basic human actions such as sitting, laying down, and talking.

Scaling down the plaza



Plaza del Moral

Main floor



EBC Aguascalientes 2016

Aguascalientes, Mexico | Unbuilt



The EBC (Escuela Bancaria Comercial) is a university specialized in the economic-administrative studies. The project proposes a flexible plan that works as an independent campus but keeps the possibility to be linked in the future with the mixed context of residential and commercial areas.

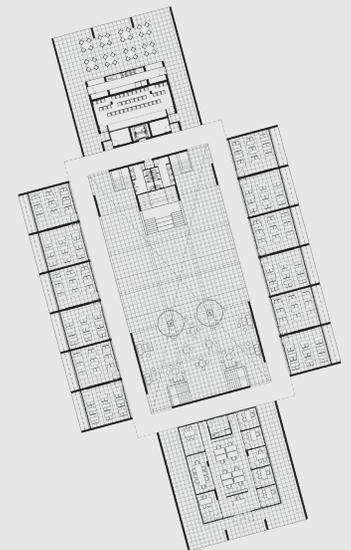
...the building consists of 4 blocks arranged around the plaza, a place of action and exchange of ideas that connects all areas of the building.

The core of the project is a semi-open public area that can be accessed from all four corners; the building consists of 4 blocks arranged around the plaza, a place of action and exchange of ideas that connects all areas of the building. The sides of the building are used for academic purposes under a scheme of greater privacy and are surrounded by green areas that function as physical and visual barriers. The cafeteria is located at the back of the building with an opening to the gardens to give a pause to the active life of the student.

On the north side of the project, is the two-story library that seeks to inspire students. The reticulated concrete cover fulfills two main functions: to protect the sun coming from the south and the extreme weather of Aguascalientes and to allow the entry of light through its orientation towards the north, and at the same time generating this covered space where interaction between students really occur.



Ground floor



Paradero

Baja California, Mexico | Unbuilt

2022

Inspired by the greatness of the natural environment of the region, surrounded by the beauty of the dessert and the brutality of the mountains and sea itself. We find parallelism between the resilience of nature and human activity since both have grown despite the lack of resources and toughness of the surroundings.



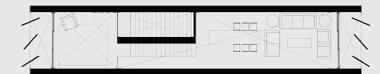
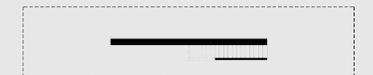
We believe in a project where nature and human activity coexist in balance. Fostering local culture through agriculture and all the virtues linked to it, such as food, trade, and even art.

The activities and interactions are generated through the importance of the earth. On the other hand, the architectural project, by being elevated above the ground, it allows crops to grow and prevail, generating a self-sustaining system.



Context

Floor plans



Orient

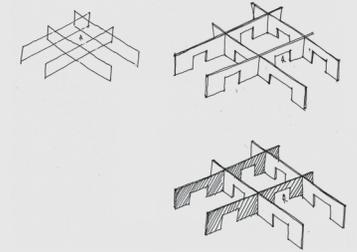
China | Built

2021



Context

Orient Hongda is the largest threads producer in China. From this, for its new offices and showroom, we decided to transfer its raw material to the principal design element of the space. In a country with more digital than physical interactions, the project proposes to eliminate solid divisions and create connections between workers. Utilizing the threads they produced, to design translucent curtains that allowed blurry views between spaces in the interior.

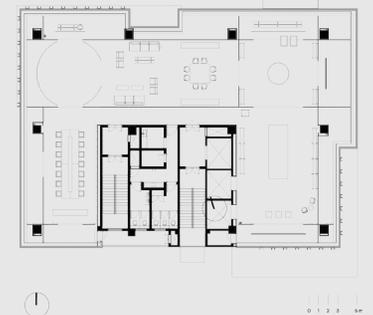


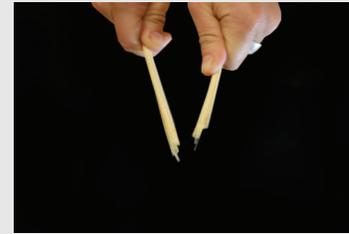
In a country with more digital than physical interactions, the project proposes to eliminate solid divisions and create connections between workers: the threads they produce were used to design translucent curtains that allow living the space towards the interior, own views, and warm space.

When necessary, three-layer divisions were designed for the meeting rooms and private spaces, made out fabric then a layer of glass and again fabric, in this way the acoustics, important for these spaces, were resolved without neglecting the concept of translucency. A reflective metal sheet was used on the circulation area of the offices to try and disappear elevator and doors.

This building being in the industrial zone in China, is what really guided us to implementing this design concept, with the idea to disconnect users from the common experience of being in gray urban area.

Floor plan





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