

CAMPUS

OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF ALICANTE



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CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALICANTE

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Manuel Palomar
President of the University of Alicante

PRESENTATION

This book is an invitation - an invitation to visit, discover and spend your time on our University of Alicante campus, created in 1979. It has already been thirty-five years, and with this book we wish to mark our anniversary. This campus was originally an aerodrome (first civil and then military) with all the necessary facilities for high-risk departures and landings. Nowadays, other types of wings spread and fly high in our campus: the wings of knowledge, production and dissemination, as this is the place where people can discover their true calling and start to aim to reach for the sun, and it is also the ultimate beacon for those who want their professional careers to take off. Now, the former airfield has become a field of knowledge. This book is an invitation for you to experience and enjoy spreading your wings with us.

Both you and I know that a book like this, printed on paper with a delicate and tailor-made binding, can even be regarded as a rather anachronical rarity. However, that is precisely what makes it special; it is something

you can touch and feel, which makes it the perfect gift. For this is indeed what these pages are: a gift, a true present that has been carefully designed to be beautiful yet simple, informative yet not cumbersome. It contains delicate descriptions, graphs and photographs of our campus that we hope will arouse your curiosity and stimulate your interest. This book is, nevertheless, just an advance, a prelude meant to share with you this whole world of work and hope for the future.

Here you will discover a beautiful landscape full of perfect places to stimulate reflection, walk around and sit in the sun, together with remarkable buildings and splendid constructions. We firmly believe that wise architectural planning, together with the use of intelligent and well organised structures, is the key to our campus' remarkable spirit and unique personality. That is precisely what this book is about; it is a trip down memory lane to tell this story that, even if it might still seem short to some, looks quite long already for those who have been a part of it, like myself. The airfield of Rabassa is now a part of the past, and yet we had the privilege to keep and restore its former control tower, which is still here on campus.

This is another example of the University of Alicante's strong interest in renovating the original buildings that were here before our Campus was established; it has always been at the core of our development plans, right from the beginning. In the early days, this activity was undertaken mainly out of pure devotion, or even vocation, whereas nowadays our driving force is our will to make the most out of the already existing structures (a basic law in economy), to be sustainable and to upkeep the University's heritage. There are no obsolete spaces or disused buildings on our Campus; each and every single space has its own function, which might be the original purpose it was built for or a new use designed to meet new needs of our University.

Finding a balance between our valuable heritage and the new generations has always been and still is the cornerstone of our philosophy as a university. In fact, our Campus honours the name it bears: it is a place meant to foster theoretical and practical knowledge that will always aim at thriving

and expanding. Proof of this is the network of University Venues that has been established both in Alacant (Alicante) and in several towns in the province, which is meant and planned to keep growing in the near future. Therefore, it is easy to see the importance that our University gives to upkeep and using our heritage (since our venues are located in historical buildings), while at the same time maintaining our innovative spirit.

At the same time, this Campus that is also our home, your home, was designed and built as a classic-style university city and therefore combines the best features of this concept: it is well-balanced when it comes to size, and also well structured and organised. Our University was built as if it was going to stay like this forever, while at the same time keeping in mind that nothing is permanent, that tomorrow our campus will be different and yet keeping its original spirit; knowing that there will be other campuses, either close to this one or in other locations, that the University will keep spreading rather than growing. We are well aware of the fact that it is not advisable to exceed a certain campus size, for we want it to always stay a nice, pleasant and comfortable place. Reasonable limits must be set for growth.

The University of Alicante campus that we describe in this book with all our love is at the same time modern, in constant change (it is a station among other stations) and ancestral, and that is what makes it complete. We believe this is the way it should be, for universities must be utopic to a certain degree, whether we like it or not. After all, the idea of a university is already a utopy itself. This, and nothing else, is the basis for its future. On the one hand, our Campus invites us to just camp here, for after all we are just passing by. On the other hand, its city-like appearance makes us feel at home. This institution, as the god Janus, has two faces.

Old year, new year: this is our sun clock, which accounts for the hours we spend on campus and is a tribute to the Mediterranean civilisation. This emblematic clock is one of the key elements in our campus planning. Nothing is completely finished, but everything is channelled towards the final objective; this is the way we do things in our culture, we apply Ancient



Greek's Socratic and peripatetic method to always keep evolving and thinking. It is not a coincidence that we use the adjective "academic" to describe the work we do at the University or that we still use the word "lyceum". Our debt with Plato and Aristotle is yet to be settled, and even if our University is not a promoter of their doctrines, it does indeed put them into practice.

Of course the architectural landscape that is brilliantly described in this book is just the container of all this knowledge, a container so good that tempts us to (legitimately, I must say) proudly boast about what these buildings contain. And what they contain, what we are extremely proud of, are lecturers, students, administration and services staff, managers and representatives of all levels, myself included. A content that may sometimes be invisible, but whose tangible impact can be seen in these pages. It is our hope to make this excellence visible and obvious to you when you respond to this invitation by paying us a visit and staying with us. For here, container and content are intertwined and make each other meaningful.

In fact, the history of the University of Alicante can be explored just by walking around campus. History can be seen everywhere, from the control tower (which is nowadays what our grandparents would have called a "picturesque" building) to the newest facilities, all bearing the polished seal of state-of-the-art design. All development stages of the University, which have been analysed here decade by decade, are a testimony to its evolution: from the post-modern style of the faculties of Law, Sciences, Economics and Business Sciences and Health Sciences, to the renewed modernity of the Polytechnic University College, the Social Sciences and Optics and Optometry buildings, and Germà Bernàcer building.

Moreover, our University's General Lecture Buildings stand out on campus and are themselves a small piece in the recent history of architecture. The architecture of our campus is simply and undeniably spectacular: from the University Council and Administration Services building, simple instead of the majestic and prominent nature one might think it would have, to the most impressive, high-quality, state-of-the-art and

ever-modern buildings. Buildings that are not assigned to one specific centre and are used as a complement to teaching become multi-purpose spaces that contribute to the University's prudent policy of making the most of the already-existing premises. This is another way of shaping the universal spirit that defines universities, for students from many different specialties come together in these areas and can therefore open up their minds to new possibilities.

It is easy to see that in this, as in many other decisions that were made at the University of Alicante from its early days, our institution went ahead of its time. Some of the decisions that showed this innovative approach were the restoration of old buildings at a time when the trend was exactly the opposite, the creation of a large yet well-demarcated campus that was designed to grow inwards (when the trend at the time was to go for centrifugal models where no limits were set), the prioritisation of pedestrian areas and the choice of a peripheral ring-road, as well as the creation of common spaces (classrooms, social clubs, shopping areas, administrative and management premises) where wise money-saving techniques were applied.

The aim of this policy was for the members of our University community to share as many things as possible, and to make equipment and premises available to everyone equally, while at the same time allowing them to make the most of their time, since the planners were well aware that time is the only thing that you can never get back. An excellent example of this spirit is our General Library, where our 30,000 students, together with our teachers and researchers, can enjoy a 24-hour work space that truly proves there is no such thing as being too wise. An essential and extremely popular counterpart to this intense intellectual activity is our University's wide range of sports and fitness activities programme, complemented by the fact that the whole campus is a perfect place to practice sports in general.

We are truly convinced that all our buildings are worthy of the purpose they were built for, but some of them are, even for the most exigent critics, remarkably above the average type of architecture one would



expect to find in a prestigious institution. This book, with its short descriptions and explanations of the buildings, is a testimony to that outstanding architecture. Some of the most remarkable buildings on our campus, beacons of a new age of modern architecture, are analysed here: Germà Bernàncer Building, General Lecture Building 3, the Optics and Optometry building, the Faculty of Social Sciences and building 4 of the Polytechnic University College.

Nonetheless, when it comes to architecture I must truly say (not just to boast, but rather because it is obvious) that probably the most attention-drawing element in our campus is the almost antagonistic contrast between two of its most emblematic buildings. One of them is truly impossible to miss, while the other is discrete and almost goes unnoticed. The first building is obviously the University of Alicante Museum, which is located on the most visible side of campus, and the second is our University Council and Administration Services building, a uniquely discrete construction that in spite of that holds the seat of the academic authorities governing the University.

At the beginning of this presentation I said this book was an invitation to visit, discover and spend your time on our campus, and now it is time for me to complete this invitation with a brief description of its spirit. From the outside, our University Council and Administration Services building, a masterpiece by Portuguese architect Álvaro Siza, may look quite plain, far away from the campus' axis and not very representative of its official nature. However, the true nature of this building can be seen on the inside, where the use of space is really characteristic of a University seat while at the same time simple and polished. For all these reasons, dear readers, I would like to invite you to visit our campus.

We truly believe that not even this beautiful book can really show the lively and vital university environment that you can enjoy here. Nor can the projects, statistics, graphs and numbers that we proudly offer here (even if they are indeed helpful) about our University Venues in the city and the province of Alacant (Alicante), about our Faculty of Education (the first one to expand into the new facilities after

the expansion of our campus in order to avoid massification), about the 90,000-square-metre new expansion to be carried out on the other side of the motorway, etc.

Where others see barriers, entrepreneurs see challenges. It is our belief that a university city (a term I am using here without any retrospective connotations) should not grow indefinitely by permanently enlarging its boundaries or densifying its already-existing space. Our university has grown all it could and had to grow. Now it is time for it to multiply, this is, to create its own satellite-cities. These new University of Alicante campuses will be designed to meet the new generations' needs, and they will be carefully designed to always keep in mind the human side of construction that is characteristic of this University.

Creating new campuses in other territories means taking the University to new townships, and therefore establishing new political and social structures. This characteristic defines one of our main objectives and driving forces: continuous technology transfer by means of scientific and technological parks, which are designed as meeting points between theory and practice, between the theoretical and philosophical concepts, and social and political life. Utopies are to be fulfilled so that new utopies can be created. The concept of a university city is fully reflected in the diversity of its campuses, and that is our final objective.

Proof and symbol of all this is the extreme care and love that we put into nurturing (literally speaking) all the plant species on campus, which define its healthy, welcoming, Levantine and Mediterranean spirit. In a simple, non-scientific way, one could say that our campus may be understood as a metaphor of a botanical garden of what, according to the myths, might have been Eden. We may not be East of Eden, but we are surely in the Eden of the East.





THE CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALICANTE: A HUMAN APPROACH

The Campus of the University of Alicante is a daily destination for thousands of people (lecturers, students, workers and visitors) whose profile has changed significantly since its origins. Increasing and diversified are definitely the adjectives that best describe the evolution of the population passing through this University.

After 35 years since its creation, in October 1979, the University of Alicante has faced a very strong growth in the number of graduates - main indicator available- which has grown from a few dozen a year to nearly 4,000 in 2010. The evolution of this variable can be seen throughout three unequal stages.

The first stage (1979-2000) was the longest, with a strong and steady growth. In its first years, the University assumed the University Study Centre's students and hosted those who transferred their transcripts from other universities; but since 1982, the University obtained its first own graduates and started to thoroughly fulfil its role of

service to society. The increase was strong during the first decade, but in the early 90s, growth suddenly hit and reached its peak between 1993 and 1997, keeping a smoother growth up to 2000. A period of expansion of university studies followed in this larger stage (with strong social acceptance, increased public funding, campus expansion, more university courses, crisis in the construction and production sectors...) and the access to university for the generation born in the 70s, the largest in history.

In 2000, the upward trend suddenly broke and entered a period of stability in the number of graduates which was best seen in the number of students enrolled. Despite the economic consolidation of the decade, the consequences of the collapse in the birth rate in the 80s and 90s were obvious, as well as the ease of the young male population in finding work, as it was well evidenced by the sharp decline of male graduates and students. The University was then increasingly feminised and the gender ratio (the number of male students enrolled per every hundred female students) which had dropped below hundred (gender balance) in the mid-80s, then fell below eighty.

From 2010 to 2011, the last stage heavily influenced by the socioeconomic crisis started. There was an extraordinary recovery in the number of graduates and students enrolled which matched the peak years of job losses in the province and the offer of new university study programmes integrated in the European Higher Education Area. As in previous crises, the number of students increased as well as the number of males. But as evidenced by the figures, this was a temporary phenomenon. Since 2012, there has been a downward trend in both the case of graduates as well as in those enrolled in undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral programmes.

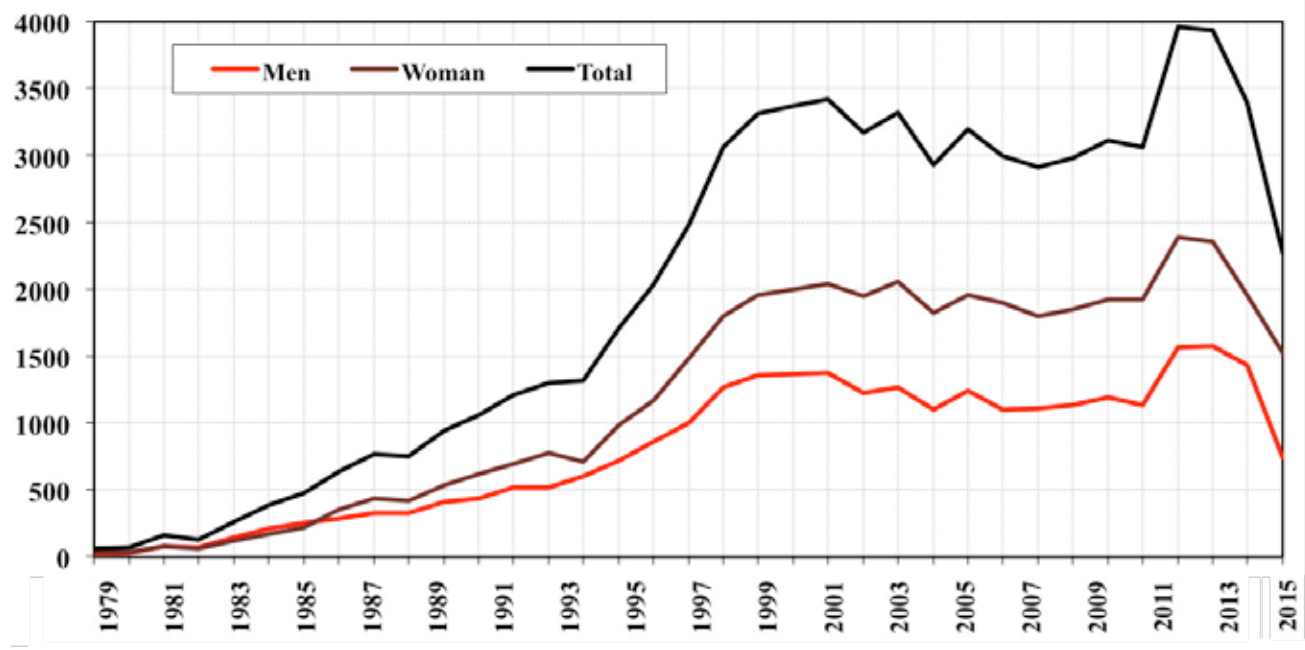
Given the wide range of undergraduate programmes and the lack of data in the early years, the number of graduates by centres has also been the best indicator for the relative significance of the

various fields of knowledge at the University. In the beginning, the few students who graduated did so in Law degrees and especially in the Arts. It is worth mentioning the increasing importance during those years of UA's own unofficial degrees, in particular criminology.

As new faculties were created and strengthened, the academic production became diversified. The Faculty of Sciences and the Faculty of Economic and Business Sciences became stronger in the 80s while the University Polytechnic College (EPS) experienced a great development in the 90s as does the Faculty of Education few years later. In the period between 2006 and 2013, graduates were more equally distributed among the seven existing centres at the University. The Faculty of Economic and Business Sciences had the most graduates in these years with more than 23%, followed by the University Polytechnic College and the Faculty of Education (with about 18% each). Then the Faculty of Law and Faculty of Arts followed with 15% and 14% respectively, and the Faculty of Science and the Faculty of Health Sciences with 6% of graduates in that period. This evolution reflects the efforts of academic diversification generated by the University of Alicante as essential consolidation strategy.

The province of Alacant (Alicante), located between two major historical and university centres such as the cities of Murcia and Valencia, does not have an undisputed preeminent centre as many other territories. This is why Alacant is one of the most balanced provinces in Spain, both demographically and economically. Only a few institutions such as the airport, the local newspaper or the former savings bank have been or are still felt as their own. Strategically located in the vicinity of what would become the main hub of regional communications, the University has managed to establish itself as one of the few provincial references as evidenced by the evolution of the structure of their graduates by origin.

Although graduates coming from



Evolution of graduates / number in the first and second cycle (1979 - 2015) Source: Information system of the University of Alicante (SIUA)

Note: Only Undergraduate Programmes and Official Master's Programmes.

L'Alacantí county accounted for two thirds of the total followed far behind by those from the El Baix Vinalopó county in its first decade of existence, a significant evolution has been produced in the figures today. L'Alacantí county dropped in their number of graduates to 40% between 2003 and 2012 while they increased in all other counties: El Baix Vinalopó represents 16%, El Vinalopó Mitjà 11% and 10% La Vega Baja del Segura reflecting, despite the preponderance of Alacant city and its metropolitan area, a strong territorial diversification.

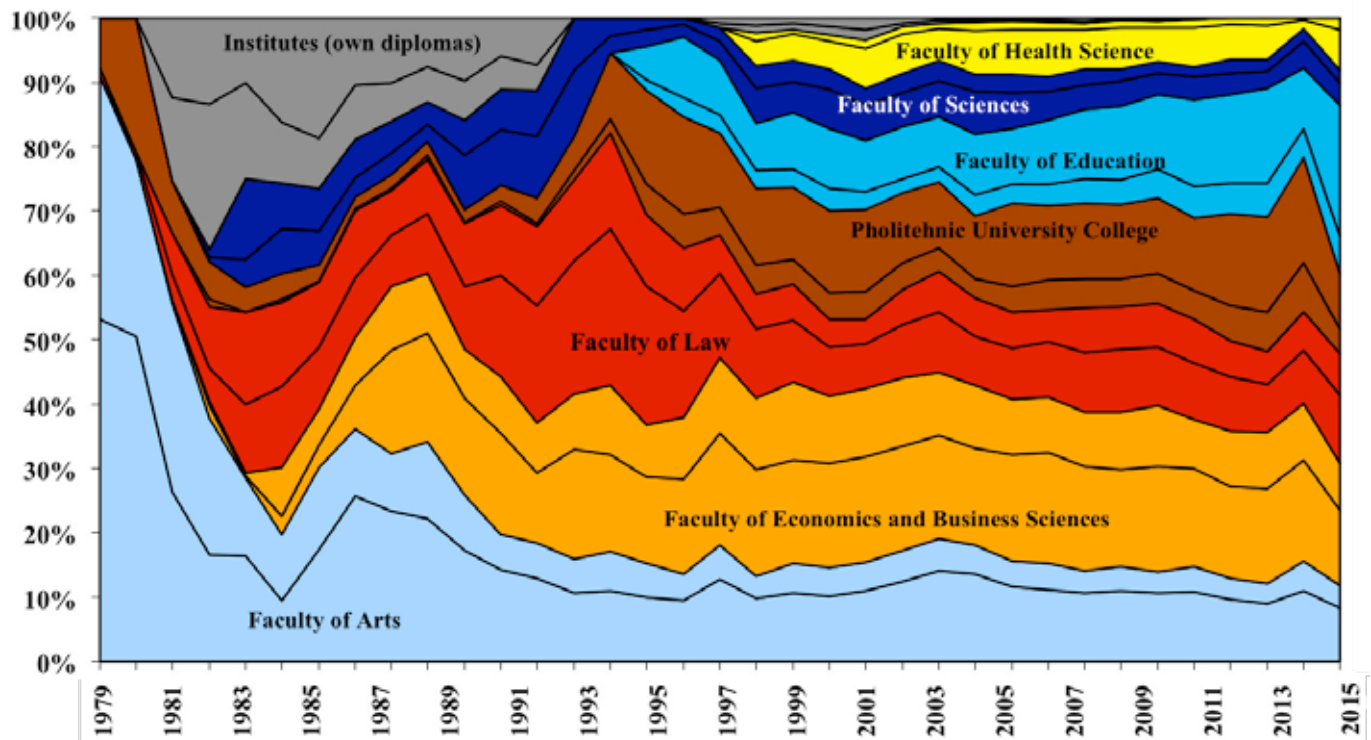
This trend to balance in both the number and proportion of graduates by counties is due both to the economic growth and to the remarkable improvement of the road infrastructure in past decades. Both factors have contributed to the increasing access to university for a growing number of social classes in all towns in the province. The extension of the Mediterranean motorway, the widening of the road to Madrid through El Vinalopó valley and the construction of the central motorway to L'Alcoià and El Comtat counties have greatly made the daily commute easier between the University and the majority of municipalities in the province taking now less than an hour. As a result, many students have managed to avoid paying a rental fee for an apartment nearby and thus reducing the cost of their studies.

One of the most striking aspects of the evolution of the University of Alicante and its campus is its extraordinary internationalisation process. In a period of great geopolitical changes, with the emergence of new economic powers, a structural increase in mobility and a rise in competition, the internationalisation of the academic and research activity is essential for the future of the University. The impact of this process can be seen in the hundreds of international agreements signed with entities from all over the world since the 90s, especially with America, with which the signing of agreements stands out from the rest, followed by Europe, Asia and Africa.

The result is a significant increase in faculty and researcher exchanges, and a more visible presence of foreign students on campus during most of the year, who come with the purpose of learning languages and enrol in any of the various courses taught. The presence of Latin American students in Master's degrees and the impact of the Erasmus programme deserve a special mention, under which there have been an almost steady rise of European students since the 90s; around a thousand students every year since 2006.

The University of Alicante has had a dramatic evolution in many ways since its inception in 1979. After the first decades of growth, the University has become established reaching a prominent number of both students enrolled and graduates, a significant diversification in the fields of knowledge involved a clear international projection and a strong presence in all areas of its surrounding territory. In a dynamic and balanced province, but little concerning the undisputed, the University of Alicante has become one of the relevant institutions in the province.

Despite the economic crisis, the increased competition and the opening of new universities, its consolidation, diversification and territorial rootedness are generating assets and synergies allowing it to meet the challenges of the future with optimism.



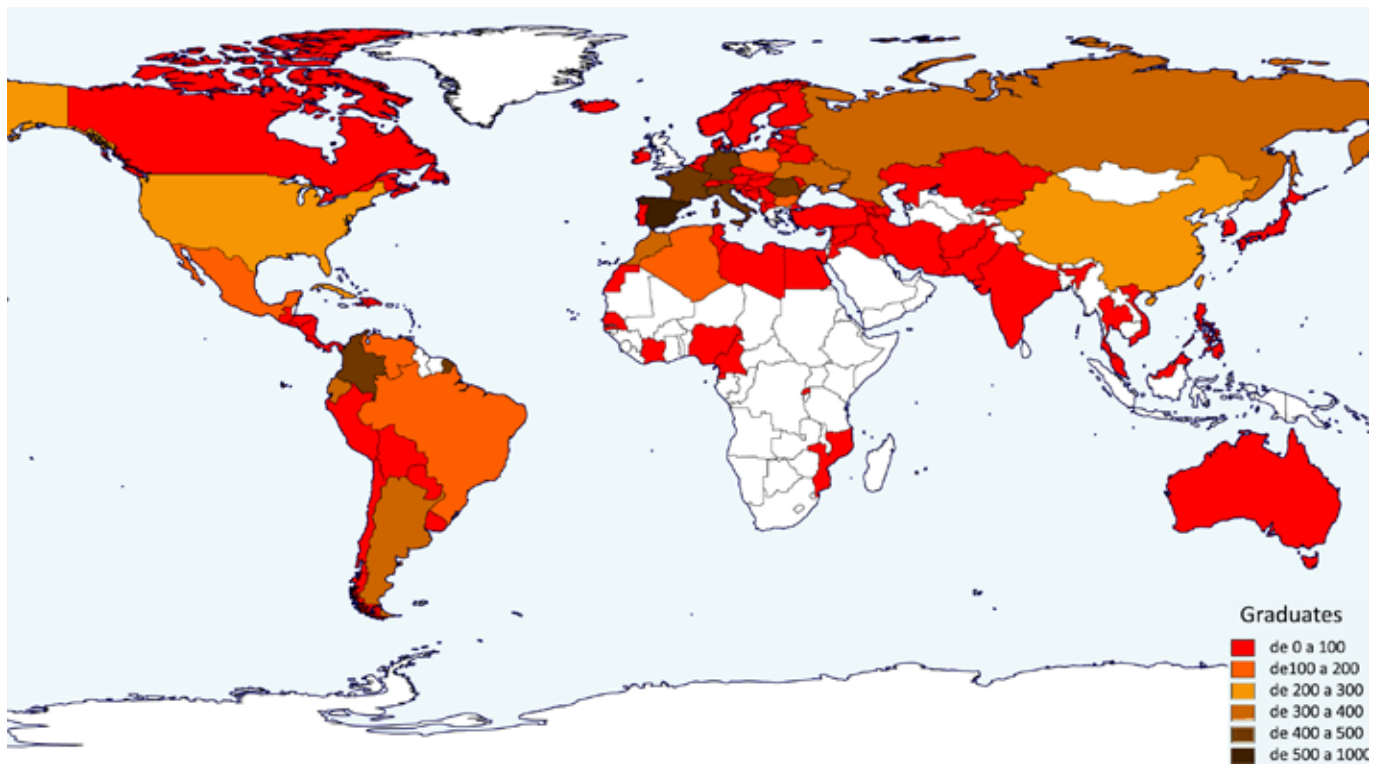
Evolution of graduates per Centre (1979 - 2015)

Source: Information System of the University of Alicante (SIUA)

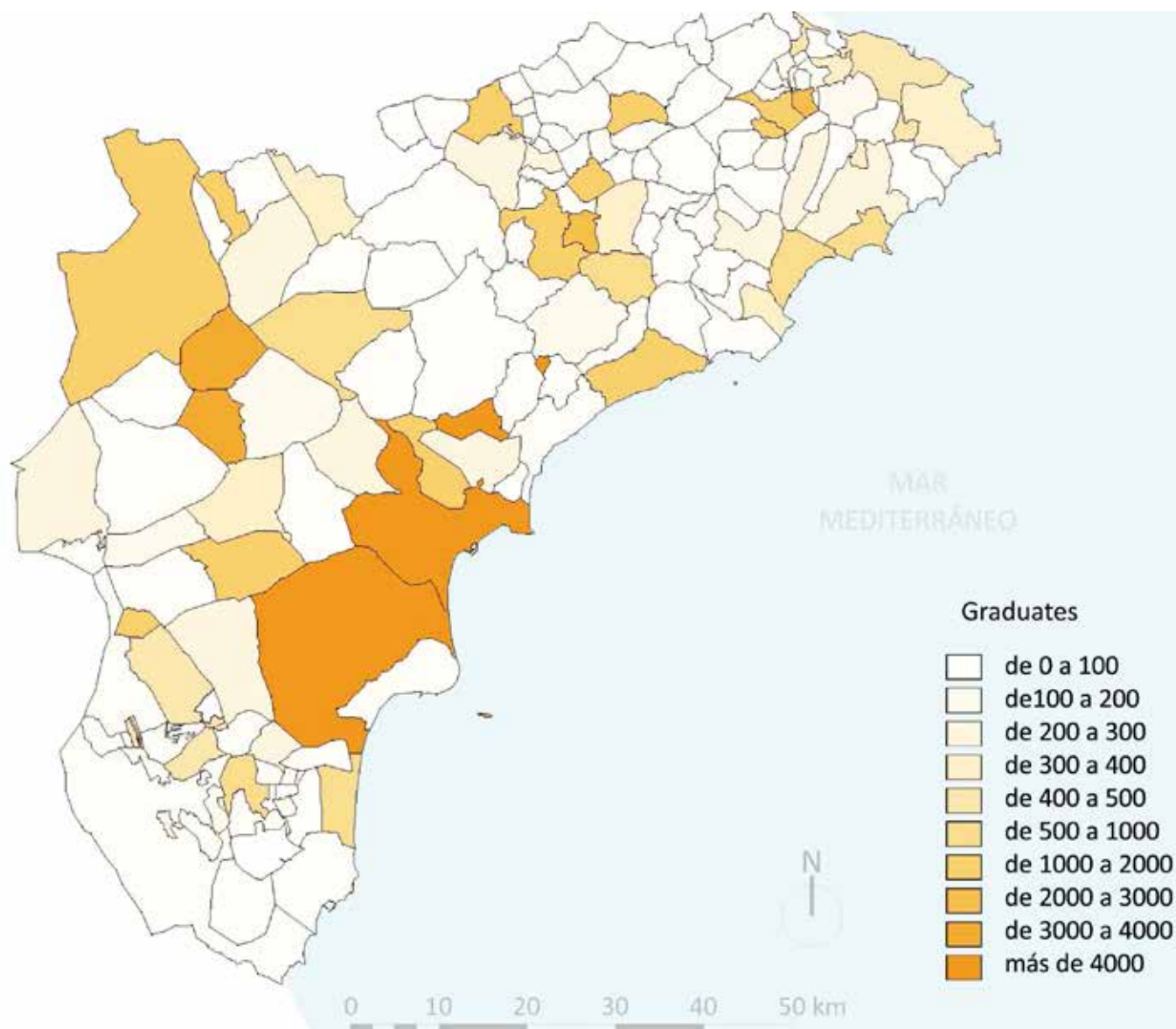
Note: The line inside each color corresponds to the proportion of women graduates in each centre

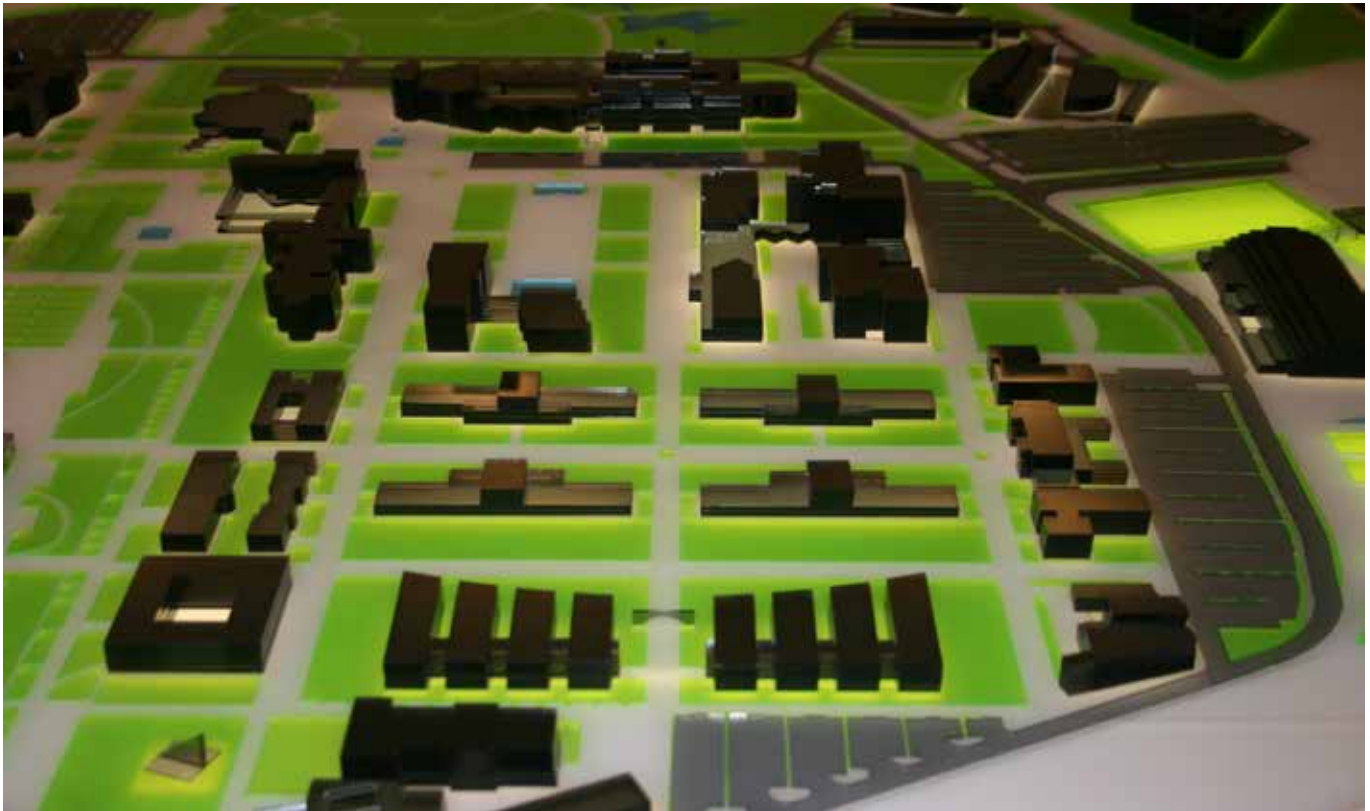
Note: Only Undergraduate Programmes and Official Master's Programmes.

Graduates of the University of Alicante worldwide



Graduates from 1979 until 2015, in the province





URBAN PLANNING OF THE CAMPUS

This chapter is focused on the urban planning definition of the campus of Sant Vicent del Raspeig of the University of Alicante, as well as on the difficulties faced until reaching its current layout.

The urban development of this university area was initially determined by its origin as a military facility of the Rabassa airfield. It had a well-defined structure around an axis, approximately north-south, that ended at the control tower, as we can very clearly see on the aerial photograph from 1978.

Afterwards, from the late 1970s, the University of Alicante underwent a large transformation that consolidated a new urban structure. This new urban planning resulted in the first enlargement of the former Alicante University Study Centre (CEU), around an axis, parallel to the one previously mentioned, that included the Faculty of Law and the Auditorium. The new university facilities were very well perceived on the aerial photography

of 1985.

As for the rules governing the enlargement of university areas, we should note that the first Special Plan of the University of Alicante was drawn up in 1991 and was negotiated before the Town Council of Sant Vicent del Raspeig. It was initially approved at the plenary session of 9 March 1994, and provisionally on 16 May 1995. The Urban Planning Territorial Committee passed the final approval in the session of 29 September 1995, and almost one year later, on 21 June 1996, the decision of the Chairman of the Committee was given. It was finally published in the *Official Gazette of the Province* (BOP) on 19 July 1996.

The purpose of the Special Plan was to establish the land uses of the campus, according to the new limitations approved on 7 April 1995 by the Urban Planning Territorial Committee as part of the extraordinary amendments of the General Plan on Urban Planning of Sant Vicent del Raspeig. Furthermore, the Special Plan intended to establish the campus layout and include the new building sites, so the University of Alicante could reach a maximum of 22,000 students.

The provisions of the Special Plan established an area of 882,900 m² (a larger area than the university campus at that time) with zoned urban planning in the following uses: management and administration, education, residential college, sports, car parks, services and green spaces.

A number of projects were started once the Special Plan had been approved, and almost one decade after it had been drawn up, leading the plan being reconsidered by means of an amendment and authentication passed in the early 21st century.

According to the analyses it was perceived that the large increase in the number of expected students should be limited to prevent the saturation of the campus area, both in the number of students and the buildable area allowed.

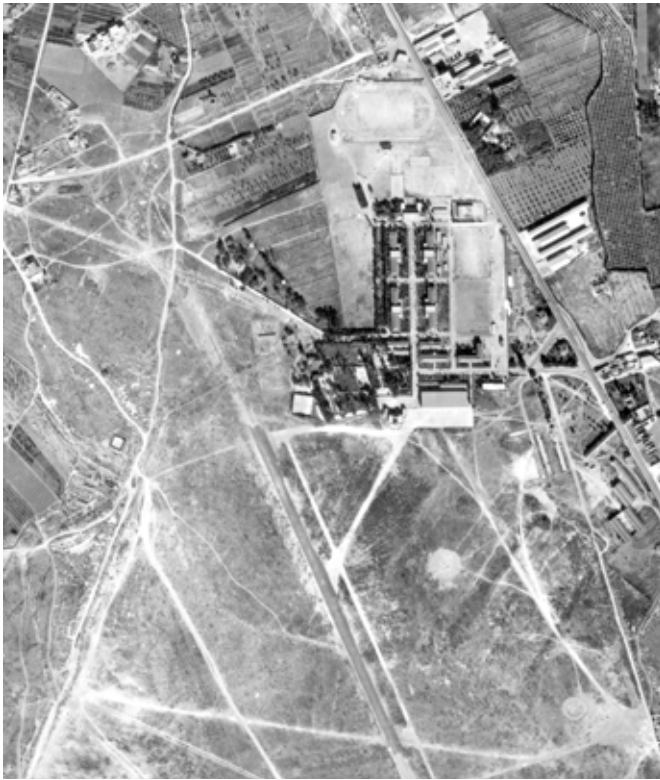
This approach was based on two essential criteria: the first one, related only

to teaching purposes, was that the university area must be appropriate for its teaching function; the second one, concerning urban planning, was that the buildable area would reach a limit that, while not exceeding the maximum established by the current plan, must be controlled from an environmental standpoint.

Taking these ideas as its basis, the aim of the plan was not to stop the expansion of the campus, provided that it was rational and well planned, but in fact to control the permitted buildable area and, consequently, the students that the limits could accept at the time.

In accordance with the parameters used, without taking into account the residential area allocated to the Residential College, the number of students should not exceed 35,000, according to the terms of this Special Plan. However, this number has not yet been reached. The reduction of the buildable area and a height restriction were proposed to prevent the construction of new five-storey and taller buildings, which had been permitted until then. To that end there was a decrease in the maximum allowed, from 352,714 m² under the approved plan to 236,646 m², an important reduction of the buildable area so as to achieve the environmental quality the university was committed to. However high the reduction was, it should be noted that, from then on, it was permitted to set up English gardens in basements, which would not be considered as part of the buildable area. All these measures were aimed at reducing the impact of buildings by limiting heights above ground level.

The commitment to limiting the buildable area expansion on campus was largely due to the conception of university as a place for relaxation, leisure and concentration. Thus, it was a premise that its users – students, teachers and administration and services staff – found it inviting and friendly. One of the first considerations regarding that aim was the significant decrease in car traffic, which entailed a



The University of Alicante in 1978



The University of Alicante in 1985



The University of Alicante in 1993



The University of Alicante in 2002



pedestrianisation process inside the campus area, with a ring road for vehicle traffic and the university central area for pedestrians only. These aspects did not have a mutual and direct relation with legal regulations, which is why this planning change sought to match the reality that already existed in an administrative document.

Furthermore, in order to achieve that goal, there were several modifications to unify and plan the land uses of the campus according to the following criteria: to adapt the document regarding modifications of the Special Plan to the existing reality; to maintain the criteria regarding the separation of vehicle and pedestrian traffic; to limit, to the extent possible, the increase in the volume of non-built-up areas; to set up more communication hubs with the outside to solve the accessibility problem without undermining the aforementioned goals; to restrict, depending on the volume, the unlimited or excessive expansion of the campus; to ensure that buildings can be used for different purposes and keeping a flexible policy with regard to teaching premises, that can be adapted to academic needs; to differentiate the successive planning throughout the history of the campus; to keep the identity of the campus landscape as a way of urban planning; and to maintain the “image” as a reality that has been built.

In 2000, the Modification and Authentication of the Special Plan of the University of Alicante was submitted. As for roads, the proposed planning consisted of a semi-perimeter road network with access from both the existing roundabout of the motorway and from Avenue leading to Alacant (Alicante). It also included three new main accesses: one connected to Avenida del Aeroplano; another to the junction of the Sant Vicent del Raspeig-Alacant road, already planned in the General Plan of Sant Vicent del Raspeig; and finally an access, which was being studied by the Town Council of Alacant, that crossed under the motorway and connected to the ring road in the University.

Regarding the internal structure of the

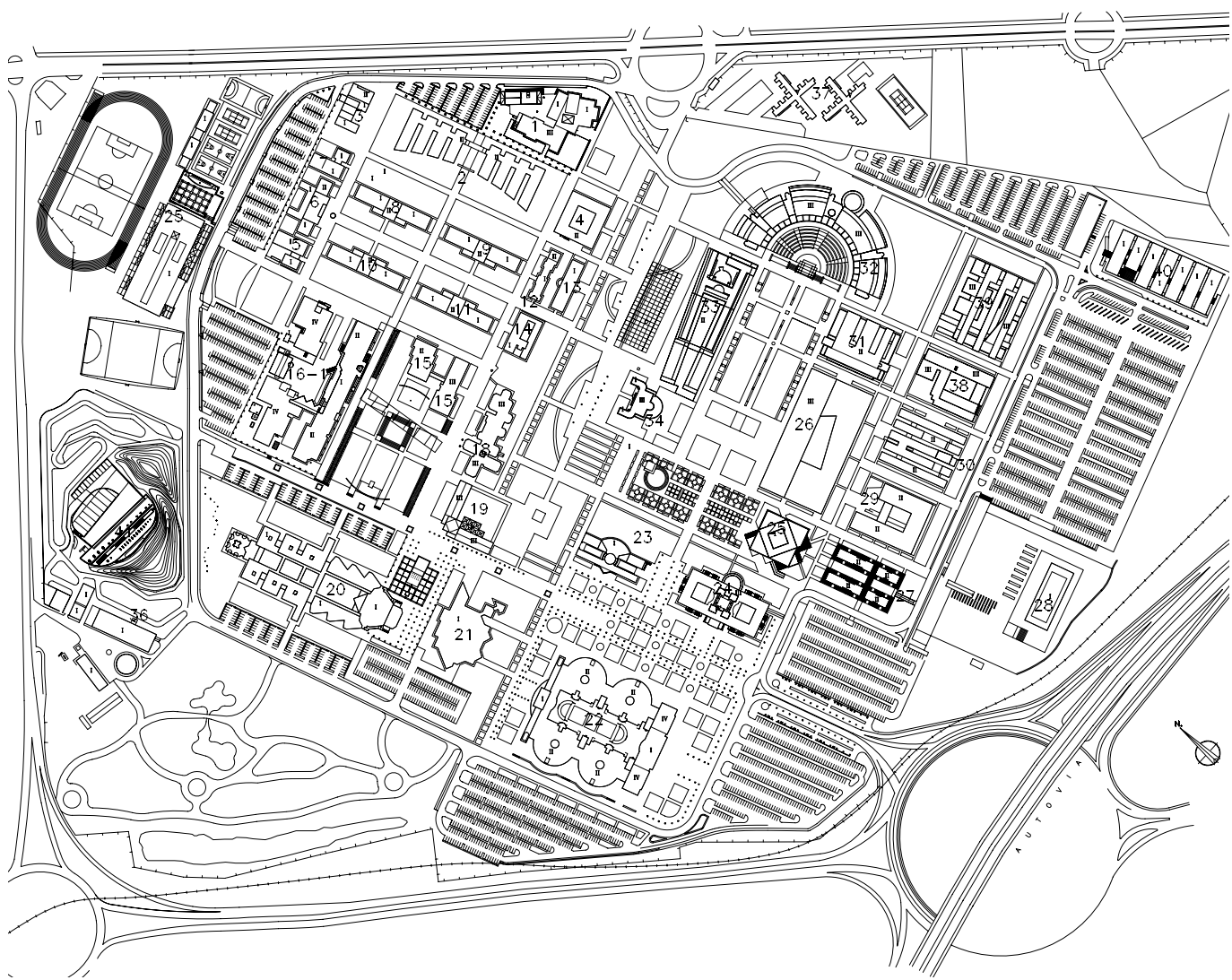
campus, a remarkable feature is that the ring road leaves several facilities outside it that define new relations with the outside. To the south and the west, new open areas, among which the Enlightened Forest, that provides some visual and acoustic protection from the big roads around it (motorway and Alacant-Castalla road); to the north-west the sports area; and to the north-east the Residential College and a protection area. Besides, most car parks are located in these spaces.

The area surrounded by these vehicle-traffic roads is for pedestrian use. The Special Plan set up a unitary area structured in two zones: the first one, zone number 1, consists of the initial core of the former campus, formed by the flying club buildings and the control tower (a protected building), and having a linear structure with a clear axis; the second one, zone number 2, with an axis perpendicular to the first, over the former runway and a large levelled area (nowadays with green spaces) where several buildings are located.

The remaining analysed zones comprise an area of buildings made after the university was established and the original buildings (the former buildings of the military premises and the flying club) were occupied, a process without a clear order and brought about by the availability of land, not so much by previous urban planning (zone 3). Zones 4 and 5 are intended for uses which are currently specified: the sports area and the parks.

This zone differentiation aims not only at urban planning, but also at understanding the university premises and enhancing the identity of each of its different parts.

In this description it is interesting to highlight two aspects about the rationale behind the zones. The first one is related to zone 1, where the goal is to maintain the existing buildings –at least their volumes–, provide a defined planning of the buildings, and protect the premises of the former control tower. The second one concerns certain areas to protect the existing vegetation, mainly in zone 1 and its axis,



Plan of the campus of the University of Alicante, the Special Plan.

where there is a pine grove. It seems that, in order to establish and maintain such areas, some potential actions on this land, which do not adjust to the intended planning, have been prevented.

Finally, we will mention some criteria that set the ground for the projected urban planning, which structures the current campus of the University of Alicante: to keep the existing occupancy and building rate; to strictly limit the building areas in each zone and the usage of unoccupied spaces; to generally and specifically use green spaces in five categories—non-built-up spaces in building areas, pedestrian areas, parks, plant screens and protected areas—; and to extend the access axis as a pedestrian walkway from the roundabout of the motorway to Avenida de Vicente Savall, in accordance with the General Plan of Sant Vicent del Raspeig.

When assessing the experience of the planning of the Sant Vicent del Raspeig campus, two relevant aspects must be highlighted: on the one hand, the late urban regulation of the university area, given that, although the University of Alicante was created in 1979, only in 1991 was the first Special Plan (approved in 1996) drawn up; on the other hand, the steady commitment of the planning approach to providing this university with quality, which led to giving up, successively, previous buildable area and existing vehicle roads.

Thus, the evolution of the urban planning approach governing the campus of Sant Vicent del Raspeig explains how the regulations passed at certain moments have enabled and enhanced the spatial and environmental quality the university enjoys nowadays.

CHARTS AND TABLES

		Surface	Occupancy rate	Plot ratio buildable area	0 m ² s	A m ² t.
Teachings	Management & Admin.	38.273	0,3	1	11.482	38.273
	Educational	249.590	0,3	1	74.877	249.590
	Support	55.288	0,15	0,3	8.293	16.586
Others	Services	19.020	0,3	0,5	5.706	9.510
	Halls of Residence	42.633	0,15	0,5	6.395	21.316
	Sports	58.130	0,15	0,3	8.719	17.439
TOTAL					115.472	352.714

Special Plan of the University of Alicante (1996)

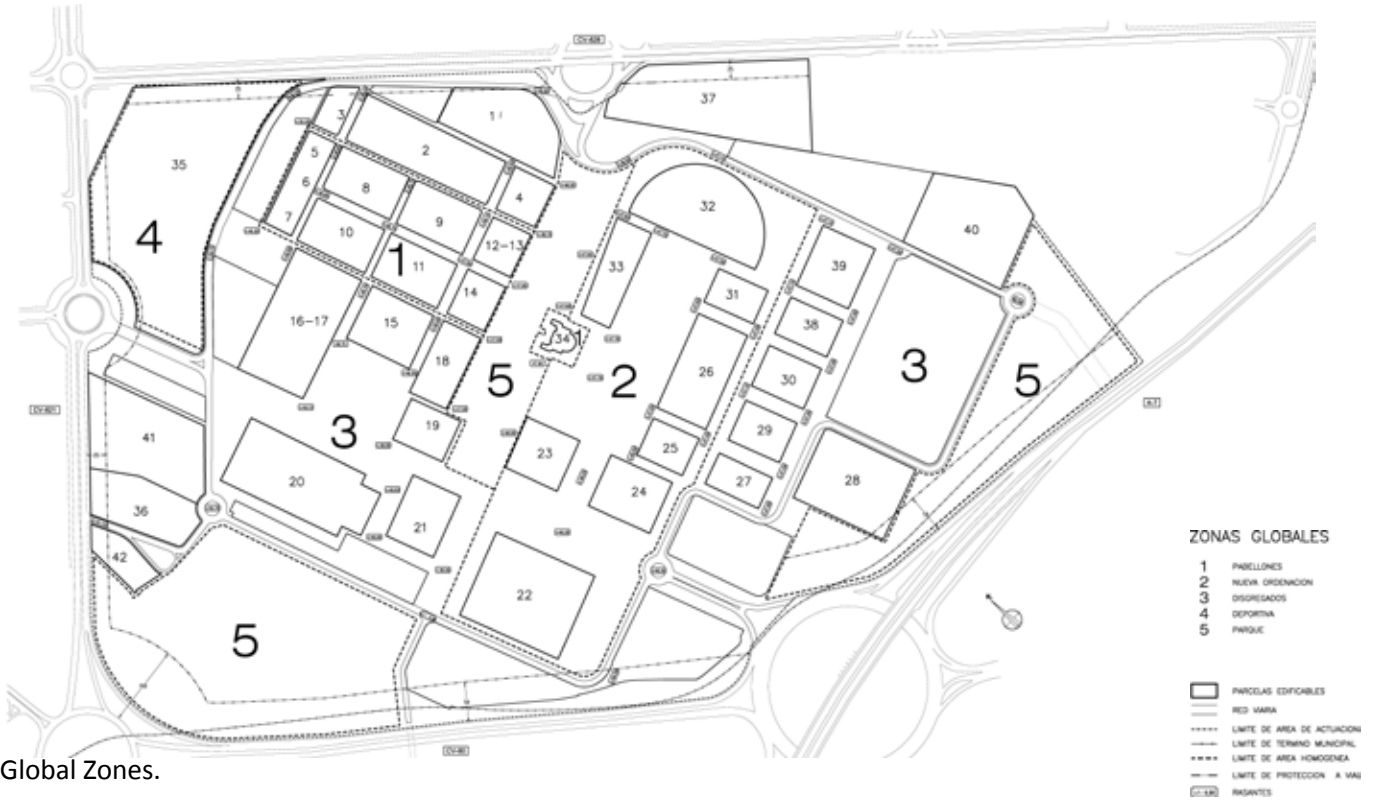
	Teaching uses	Halls of Residence
Surface	283.155 m ² s	21.169,4 m ² s
Occupancy	45%	20%
Net Plot ratio	0,83 m ² /m ²	0,60 m ² /m ²
Used surface	127.420 m ² s	4.233 m ² s
Built surface	236.646 m ² t	12.699 m ² t

	Buildable area (surface)	Surface
Special Plan 1996	352.714 m ² t	882.900 m ²
Modification and autorisation of Special Plan	249.345 m ² t	826.735 m ²
Current situation of the university facilities	214.848 m ² t	826.735 m ²

Modification and approval of the Special Plan (2000)



Soil depth rating.



Global Zones.





THE ARCHITECTURE AND OPEN SPACES OF THE CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALICANTE

Since its creation, the University of Alicante campus in Sant Vicent del Raspeig has played an important role in the area, due in part to the importance of the University as a cultural reference for the province, and also to its strategic position in relation to the province's main towns. This geographic and cultural relevance is complemented by the high quality of its facilities, as for much of its history the university has focused on quality in terms of its architecture and how the campus has developed in general planning terms. Thus, throughout the various projects to extend the campus, idea contests have been held to design certain buildings, with a commitment on behalf of the UA to build the winning design. Other buildings were commissioned using a less participatory process, although they did involve a certain amount of recognition for the architects, with important prizes involved. Furthermore, the campus has received praise from various specialist architectural publications, as a considerable number of campus buildings are featured in some of the main guides of the

most important architectural works produced in the province of Alacant (Alicante).

However, in spite of these acclaims, up until recently no thought had been given to the idea of a publication with the specific aim of documenting this important ensemble of buildings and spaces. This book seeks to meet that need. The idea of showcasing the architecture and public spaces of the University of Alicante campus comes from the Office of the Vice President for International Relations, and of Institutional Relations, bringing the various Architecture departments together to produce this publication. This book, therefore, is an analysis and study of the architecture to be found on campus, using an approach that, while not dismissive in any way of the scientific rigour of the researchers who have worked on it, does not limit itself to the exclusive field of architecture as an academic discipline, but rather as a way to bring the campus closer both to all members of the university community and to visitors who have a particular interest in the physical space in which we interact.

The book is organised into a series of introductory thematic chapters followed by others that take a close look at the campus architecture in chronological order. The first few chapters contain the institutional introductions and a few words on how to use the guide, as well as a chapter that discusses the campus' open spaces and another explaining the origins of the campus and its development over time. In the descriptions of the various buildings, each chapter is linked to a decade of construction: despite the fact that academia and universities tend to organise time differently to the natural cycle of years and decades (the academic year is never the same as a calendar year, and Vice President teams tend to be in place for four years), the decision was made to use a chronology based on decades. Thus, there is a chapter devoted to the period prior to the 1980s, and then the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s each have their own chapter, leaving the last chapter for the University's recent and ongoing enlargement.

The format and graphics used for each chapter attempt to provide a visual understanding of the campus, with more space provided for images than for text, and by using a select number of representative

photographs of the buildings described, rather than a complete graphic depiction of each one. The chapters organised by decades are preceded by an introduction of the analysed period, and by a descriptive plan indicating the buildings from that particular era. The criteria used for the coding and numbering of the buildings was as follows: on the one hand, as a graphic way to identify each decade quickly and easily, each period is colour coded (green for the period prior to the 1980s, magenta for the 1980s, yellow for the 1990s and blue for 2000 onwards), with the introduction and specific chapters all in grey.

Meanwhile, to ensure the greatest possible clarity when identifying campus buildings, the decision to not create a numbering system different to the one already in place at the University was made. In this way, the official identification used by the Technical Office for all buildings at the University of Alicante is maintained, and as such the code for each building is the same as that which appears in the SIGUA (the geographic information system developed by the University of Alicante) and is used on all University signs and maps.

Consequently, the numbering is not correlative within each decade, although this system undoubtedly helps to identify the buildings on any map or description not featured in this book.

It should also be made clear that in the chapters on the various decades of construction, the buildings are presented in order based on their use, starting with those that are most commonly used by the wider university community, followed by those that have a more specific function or role on campus. Thus, regardless of their date of construction, the first buildings discussed are those that belong to the general university as a whole (central services, libraries, lecture buildings and so on), before moving on to look at buildings used by particular schools and faculties, and ending with specific infrastructures or buildings that have a particular specialised use. However, within these three groups, the buildings are presented in chronological order. In terms of how much attention is given to each kind of architecture, the book has opted for a



The University of Alicante Campus in 2014

balance between institutional relevance and architectural quality, a balance which, in general, has not been hard to achieve.

Finally, this guide is not intended to provide an exhaustive description of the campus' buildings; rather, it aims to contribute to the knowledge and assessment of our campus' architecture as the most important heritage that an institution such as the University of Alicante can have, inaugurated as it was almost three and a half decades ago, albeit with a much longer history.

The landscaping project for the University of Alicante campus is based on two core principles: to imbue communal areas with a recognisable identity, and to ensure that how they are managed and how they are used is compatible with university life.

The endeavour to fulfil both objectives produced a series of open spaces where the aim is to provide a sensory experience that embraces all aspects of landscaping: colour, shade, fragrance and intimacy all define the site's open spaces, which have become an example for other university campuses to follow.

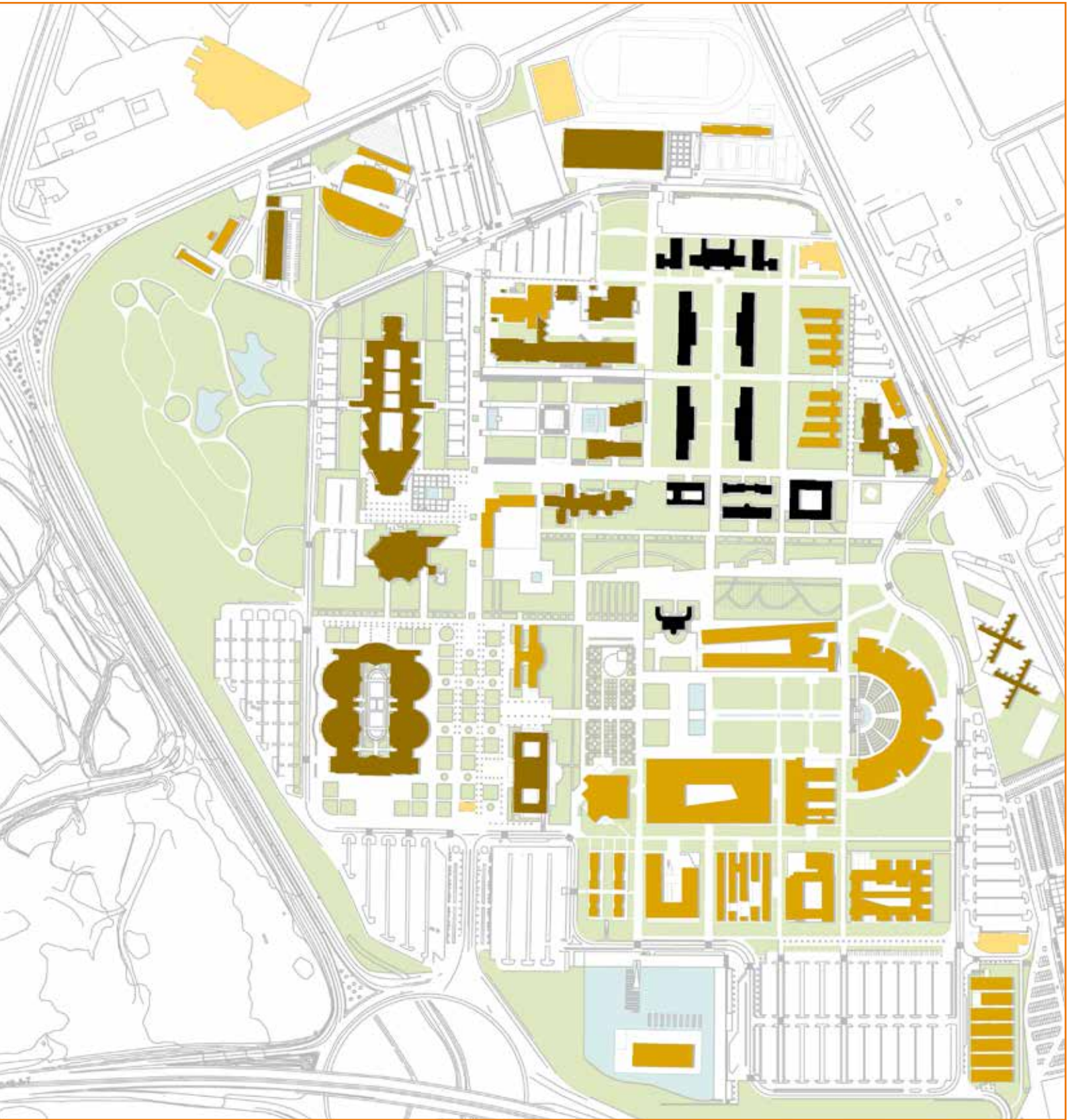
These design resources were developed following the directives of Agenda 21, and with the resulting aim of achieving the desired spatial characteristics through the criteria of sustainability and efficiency in how they are managed and maintained, in both environmental and economic terms.

Priority was therefore given to the use of automated and low-flow irrigation systems, which help to reduce and optimise how much water is used, which in turn is achieved by treating the brackish water in the subsoil at an inverse-osmosis desalination plant next to the Enlightened forest.

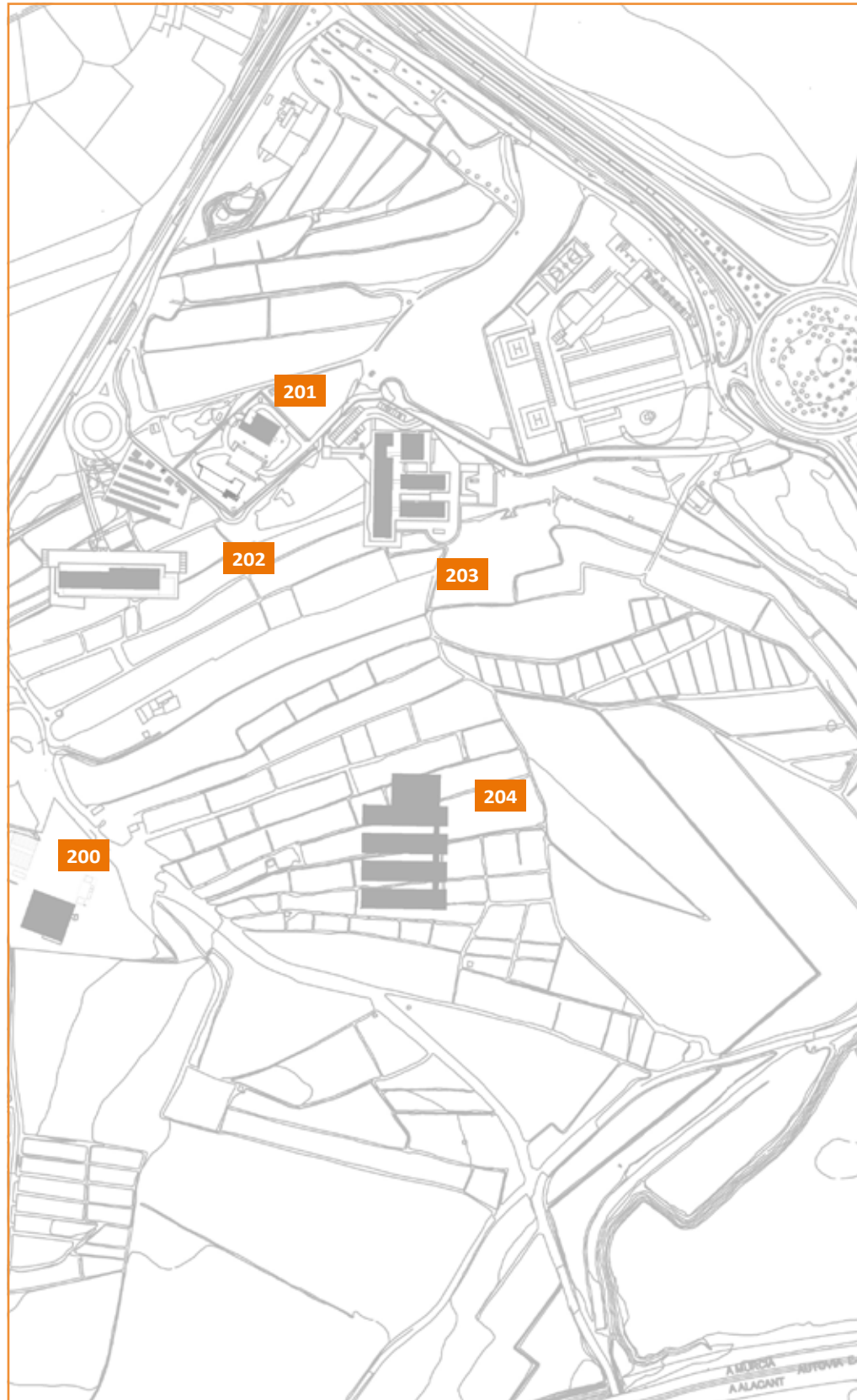


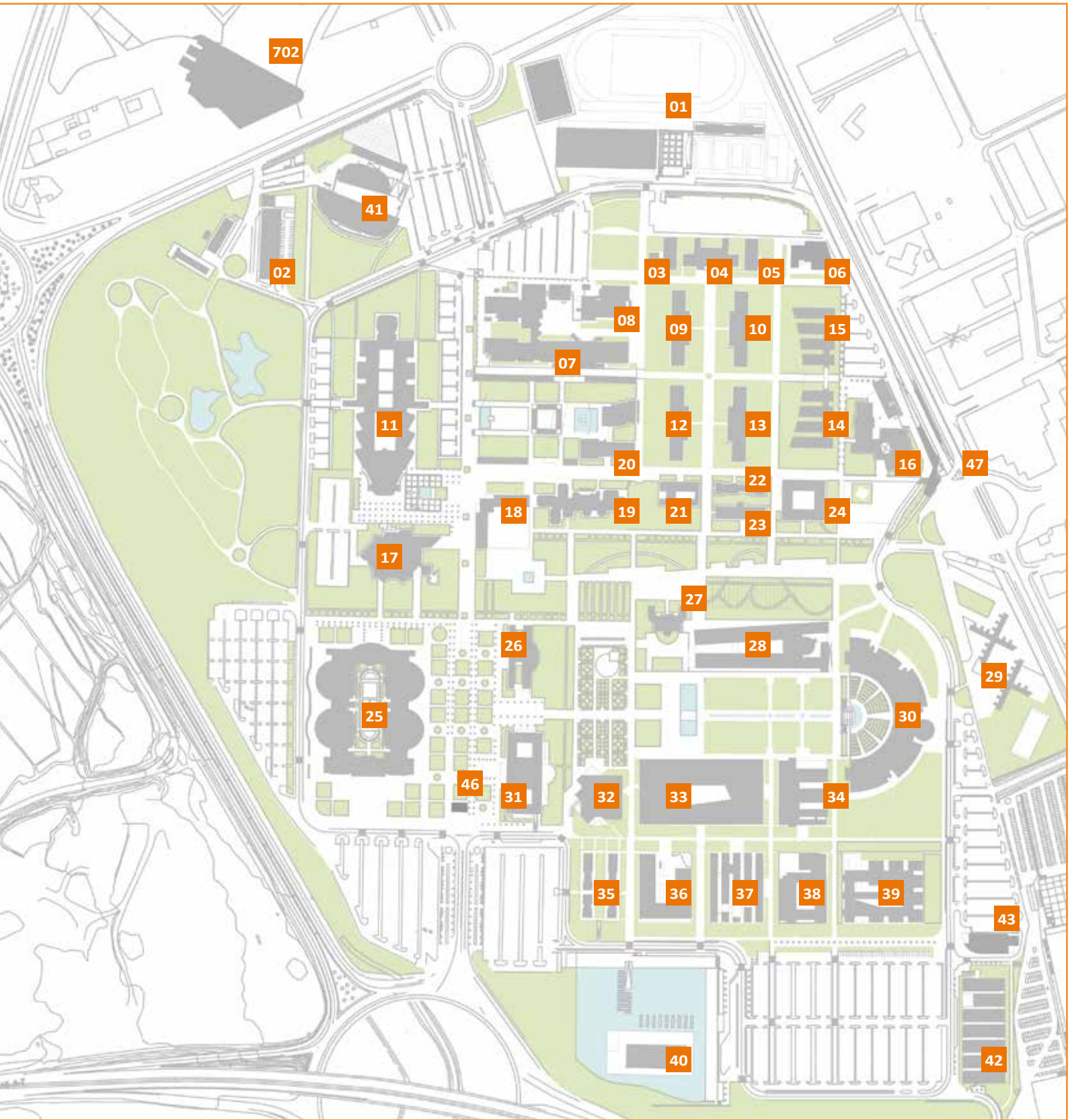


- Work carried out before 1980
- Work carried out between 1980 and 1990
- Work carried out between 1990 and 2000
- Work carried out after 2000



- 01 Sports Area
- 02 Industrial Experimentation and Services Area
- 03 Faculty of Sciences
- 04 Faculty of Sciences 4
- 05 Computing Service
- 06 General Use Building 1
- 07 Faculty of Sciences 2
- 08 Faculty of Sciences 1
- 09 Biotechnology building
- 10 Faculty of Sciences 5
- 11 Faculty of Law - Auditorium
- 12 Building 12
- 13 Building 13
- 14 Polytechnic University College 3
- 15 Polytechnic University College 2
- 16 Polytechnic University College 1
- 17 Social Club 1
- 18 Faculty of Arts 3
- 19 Faculty of Arts 2
- 20 Faculty of Arts 1
- 21 Students' Building
- 22 General Use Building 2
- 23 Jorge Juan Building
- 24 General Use Building 3
- 25 General Lecture Building 1
- 26 Faculty of Health Sciences
- 27 Control Tower
- 28 University Council and Administration Services
- 29 Residential College
- 30 General Lecture Building 2
- 31 Faculty of Economics and Business Sciences
- 32 Social Club 2
- 33 General Library
- 34 Social Sciences building
- 35 Shopping Centre
- 36 Germà Bernàcer Building
- 37 University Institutes
- 38 Optics and Optometry Building
- 39 Polytechnic University College 4
- 40 University of Alicante Museum (MUA)
- 41 Faculty of Sciences 6: Lecture Building
- 42 General Lecture Building 3
- 43 Social Club 3
- 44 Café and self-service Faculty of Sciences
- 45 Café and Restaurant Polytechnic University College
- 46 Security Control Centre
- 200 Greenhouse-Photovoltaic Plant
- 201 Animal Laboratory Service
- 202 Petrology
- 203 Technical Research Services
- 204 Research Institutes
- 702 Faculty of Education







SCULPTURES, PUBLIC SPACES AND GARDENS

The sculptures, plaques and landmarks on the campus of Sant Vicent del Raspeig of the University of Alicante are among its main hallmarks, and play an active and significant role in creating an image in which attention to detail results in the quality of the university as a whole.

Even if in many cases the classification has no clear limits, it is possible to group these unique features according to three different – but supplementary – concepts. In the first place, the University of Alicante has and has always had strong ties to the production, both artistic and scientific, of the community it serves and benefits from. That is why on our campus there are several “auteur” sculptures that form a rich, interesting and cultural heritage. In that regard, there are works by Arcadi Blasco (*Dialogues*), José Díaz Azorín (*Drawing space*), Antoni Miró (*Almansa Battle*) or José Ángel Merino (*Harmony*).

Besides its intrinsic value, each and every one of these sculptures plays a main role in defining the space where it is located, to the extent that such space is identified by its intriguing presence. They are clearly intended, then, to nuance and enrich the public space of the campus – another decisive factor, as explained afterwards in this chapter, is vegetation. Thus, art and nature idyllically meet at the University of Alicante creating a unique world, their world, ideal for scientific production and knowledge transfer.

Secondly, the campus is sensitive to the events of its environment and this is shown by a number of commemorative elements, usually paying tribute to the memory of relevant people or events. These elements are generally smaller than the sculptures and almost always consist of a plaque and another element, such as a monolith (Monument to the victims of the 11 March 2004 attack) or a tree (Tribute to Montserrat Casas).

Thirdly, the University of Alicante acknowledges and is grateful for the missions, donations and sponsorship received throughout its history, as expressed on the campus geography. These acts, which evidence the permanent relationship between the University and society, as well as how productive this dialogue is, are symbolised by monoliths (El Pinós Town Council and CAM), reproductions (Lady of Elx in the Enlightened Forest), plaques (Altea Town Council) or the donated materials themselves, such as the Spanish Rocks or building elements from the Alacant/Alicante harbour.

The richness and variety of this heritage appears on three plans, one for each group, and small photos attached for easier identification invite all the university community, as well as visitors, to walk around the campus and discover and enjoy everything it has to offer.





01. Untitled



02. Area Light



03. Sundial



04. Dialogues



05. Untitled



06. A star on the road



07. Musical instrument



08. Plurality



09. Drawing Space



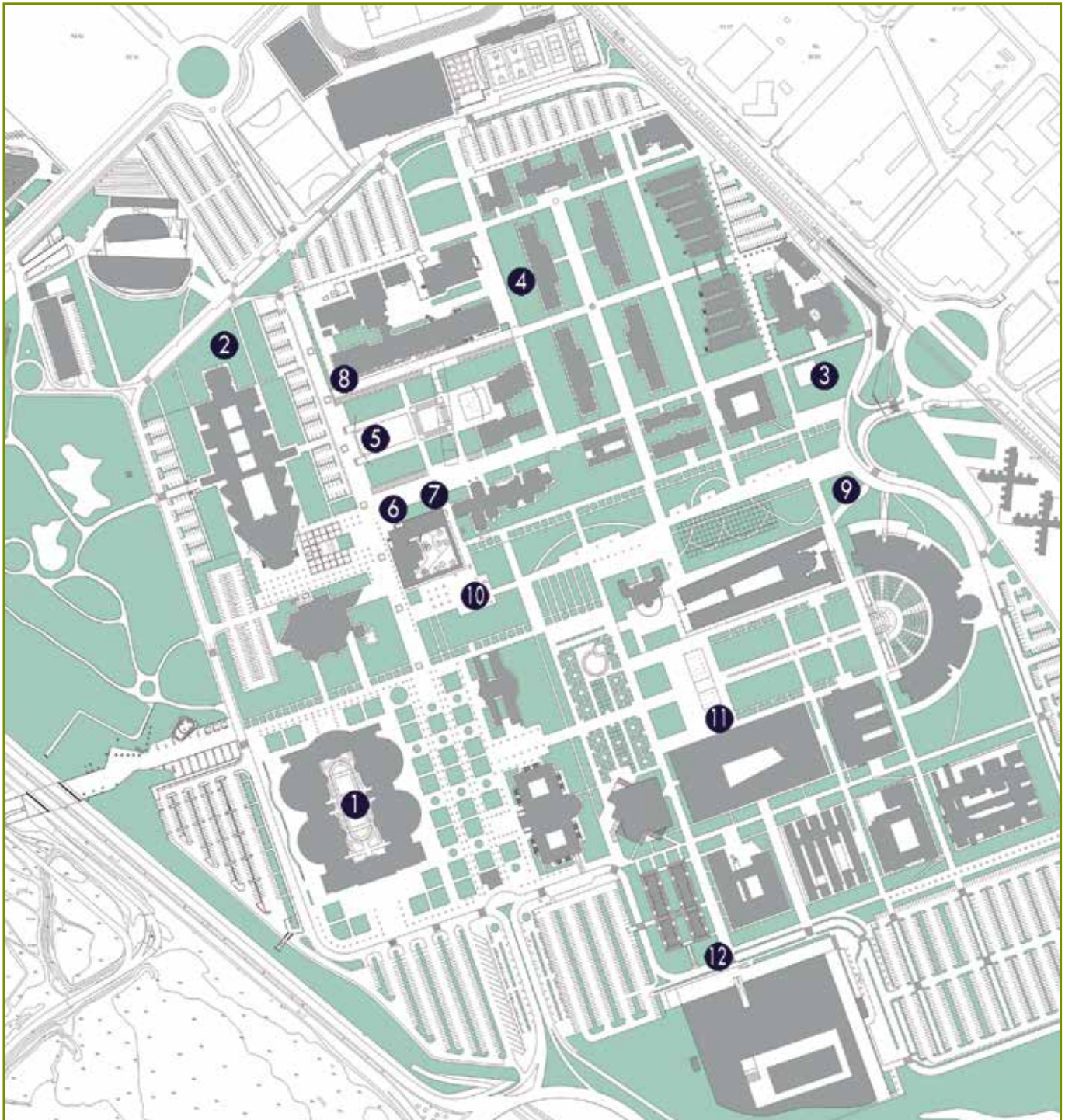
10. Almansa Battle



11. Harmony



12. Tribute to Arcadi Blasco



- 01_ ANONYMOUS
- 02_ SOL PÉREZ, MARÍA PONSODA, ÁNGELES ANTOLÍ,
CARMEN NARANJO, CARMEN DE LA FUENTE, BEATRIZ
CANDELL, MATILDE PAU Y MORÁN BERRUTTI, 1992
- 03_ RAMÓN MAESTRE LÓPEZ-SALAZAR, 1993
- 04_ ARCADI BLASCO, 1995
- 05_ ANONYMOUS

- 06_ RAFAEL CARRIÓ PAYÁ, 1995
- 07_ DIONISIO GÁZQUEZ MÉNDEZ, 1996
- 08_ DAVID A. ANGELINI BARROS, 1996
- 09_ JOSÉ DÍAZ AZORÍN, 1998
- 10_ ANTONI MIRÓ, 2011
- 11_ JOSÉ ÁNGEL MERINO, 2012
- 12_ CERAMIC SCULPTURE WORKSHOP, 2014



01.



02.



03.



04.



05.



06.



07.



08.



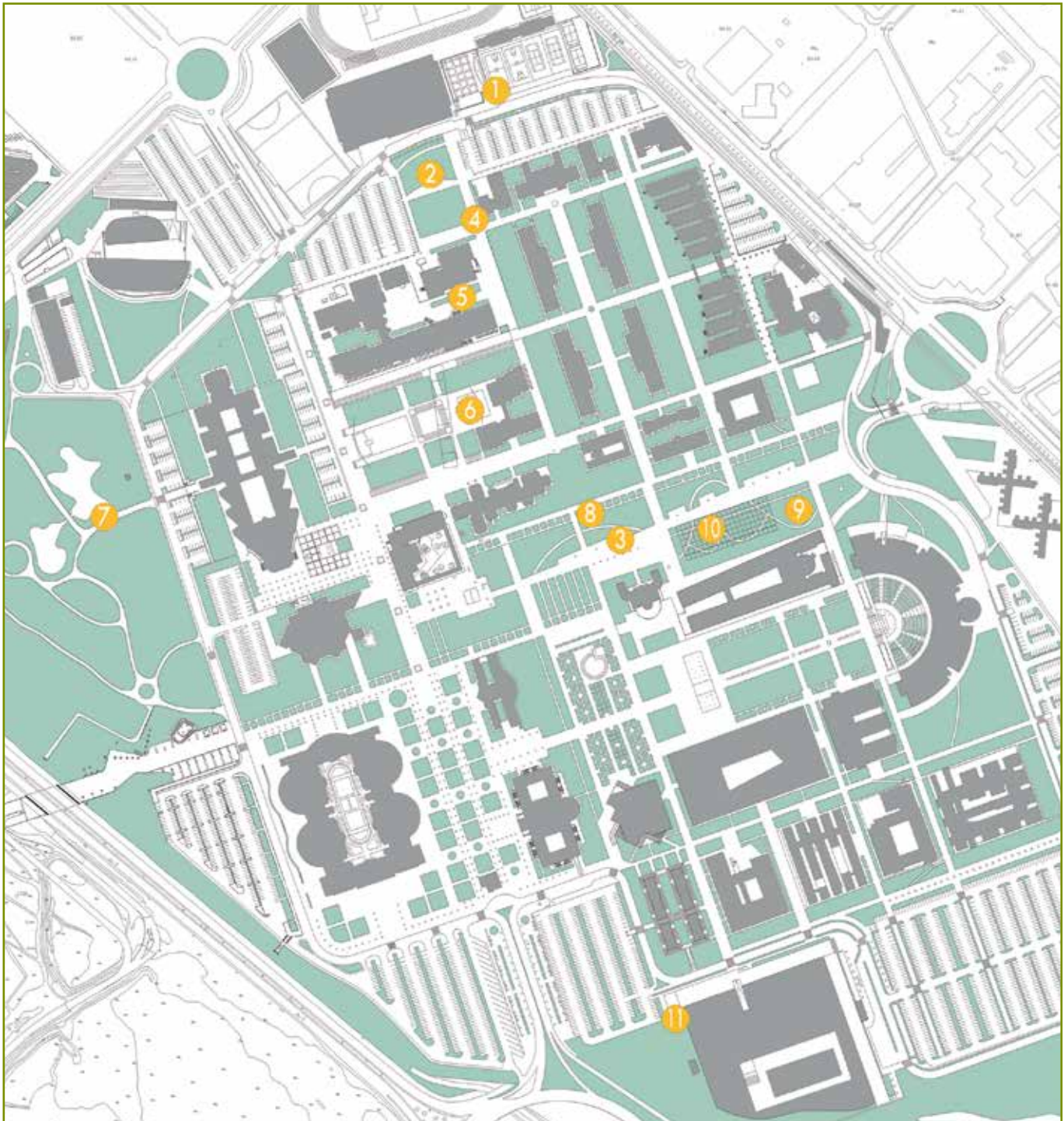
09.



10.



11.



- 01_ MIRIAM BLASCO, 1992
- 02_ ARANTXA SÁNCHEZ VICARIO, 1994
- 03_ MARIO BENEDETTI, 1997
- 04_ ANA SEVA PATIÑO, 1997
- 05_ EXPEDITION TO ANTARCTICA
- 06_ MIGUEL HERNÁNDEZ

- 07_ VICTORIA MATESANZ, 2000
- 08_ UNIVERSITY OF ALICANTE AND SECOND SPANISH REPUBLIC, 2002
- 09_ VICTIMS OF TERRORISM 11 M, 2004
- 10_ CENTENARY OF AVIATION, 2011
- 11_ MONTSERRAT CASAS, 2013



01.



02.



03.



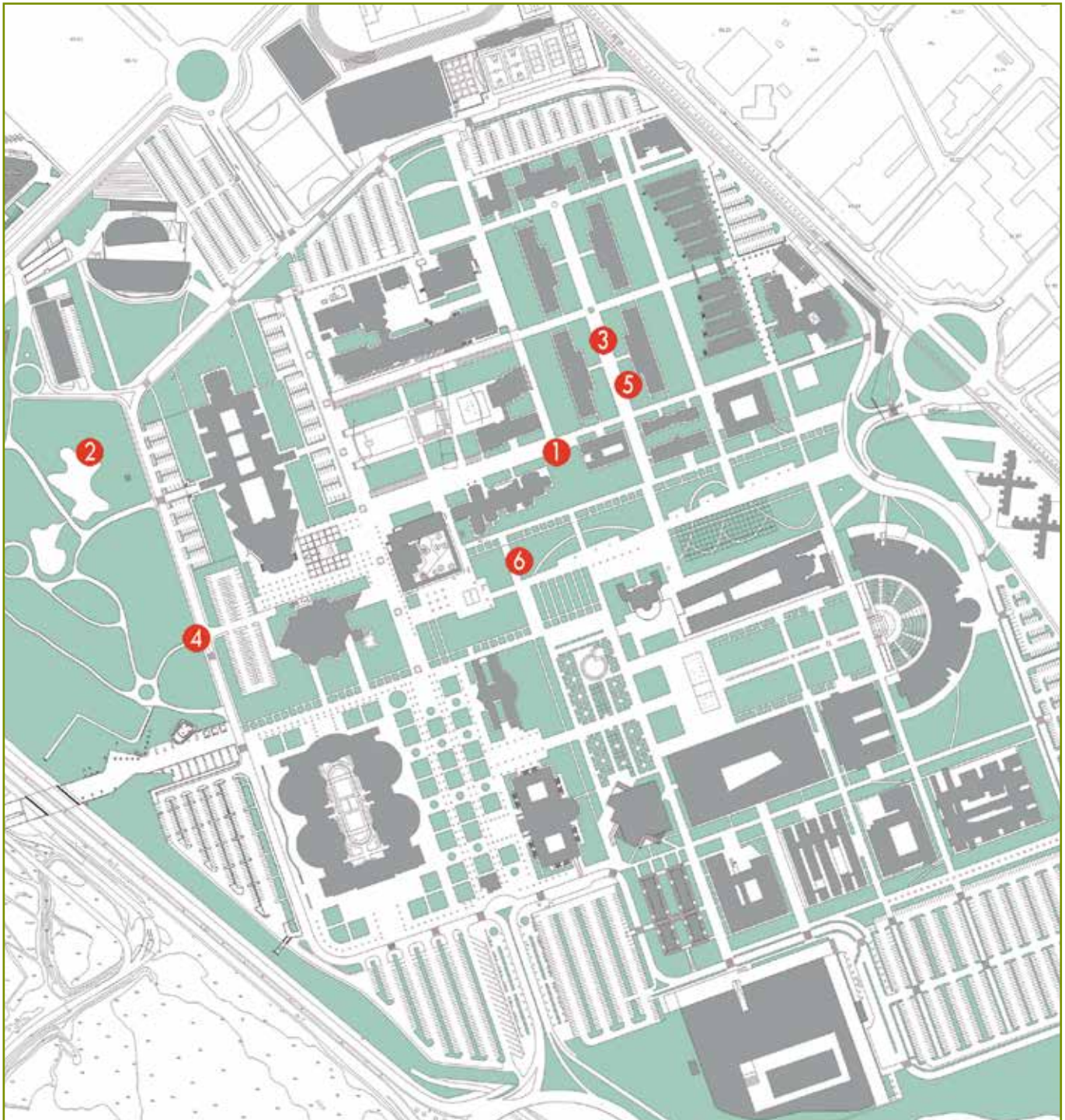
04.



05.



06.



01_ EL PINÓS TOWN COUNCIL, 1993
02_ ELX TOWN COUNCIL, 1997
03_ ALTEA TOWN COUNCIL

04_ ALACANT (ALICANTE) HARBOUR
05_ PATRONAGE CAM
06_ SPANISH ROCKS

The finishing touch to these technological resources came with the inclusion of a range of autochthonous species that require very little water and several traditionally ornamental species, which together create a combination designed to encourage biodiversity.

This diversity can be seen in the campus' botanical collections, such as the cactus garden, the palmetum and the aromatic garden, as well as in the ever present floral species. The result is a collection in constant flux that decorates the campus with tones and colours that change throughout the year.

One of the most influential aspects of the campus' landscape design is the fact that the site is surrounded by very busy main roads, which meant creating plant-based screens to lessen the visual and acoustic impact caused by the heavy traffic. Given this objective, an artificial layout was created using material excavated from the various campus buildings, including hills up to five metres high, planted with olive, pine and carob trees, as well as various shrubs and smaller species, such as mastic, juniper, lavender and rosemary. One of the most significant aspects of these perimeter landscapes is the "Enlightened Forest", created in 1990-91, where trees were planted with a particular density to mitigate the effects of pollution from the cement works in Sant Vicent del Raspeig near that part of campus. This wooded area contains the irrigation ponds mentioned previously, and is the university's main greenery area. The aim of the design is to convey the idea of a Mediterranean forest, using autochthonous species arranged without any apparent order, which then helps other spontaneous vegetation to colonise the area and attract associated fauna.





BUILDINGS DATING FROM BEFORE

1980

ARCHITECTURE FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF ALICANTE STUDY CENTRE: YEARS OF POLITICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL TRANSITION (1968-1978)

Although the University of Alicante was created as such in 1979, the Sant Vicent del Raspeig campus was actually inaugurated as a university complex a decade earlier in 1968, with the creation of the Alicante University Study Centre, generally known as the University Study Centre, CEU (Centro de Estudios Universitarios). Rather than erecting new buildings, the former Rabassa military airfield barracks were converted to house the Centre's headquarters.

Rabassa was first used as an airport in 1919, when the *Lignes aériennes Latécoère* (Latécoère Airline Company) started to use Alacant (Alicante) as a stopover on the Toulouse-Casablanca route, which also connected with the recently created route between Alacant and Oran. The first aircraft

landed at Rabassa on 23 February 1919 which, according to the Spanish Air Force website, was among the first commercial flights to operate in Spain.

In 1936, the old airfield became the Rabassa Aerodrome and consequently part of the Fourth Spanish Aerial Region, acting as an airbase for the Republic from 1937. During the Spanish Civil War, the base was used for the aerial defence of the port of Alacant/Alicante and was bombed on several occasions by the national army. Photographs taken of the base during this period show the military barracks and hangars, which were used to repair the Republican army's aircraft. These were located next to the road between Alacant and Sant Vicent del Raspeig, close to where the former University Halls of Residence and General Lecture Building 3 now stand. These buildings have since disappeared, together with a concrete bunker and various other defensive elements, such as sentry boxes and defence posts.

The most relevant building from the Republic still standing by the end of the 1960s was the aircraft hangar which, according to an inventory found in Spanish Air Force archives, dates from 1938. The hangar remained in its original state until the late 1990s, when it was stripped of its walls and roof, leaving only the rectangular metal structure, which is now used as a greenhouse for a palm tree garden.

In 1939, once the war had come to an end, the Air Force was created and Rabassa was used as a base for the Levant Air Region. The control tower dates from this period, as it was built around 1940 (according to published testimonies, it was built once the war had come to an end, and photographs of it appear in the local press from 1941). To the north of the control tower building were the military barracks, which may have been built during the same period or possibly earlier. In any case, both the control tower and the barracks now form part of the university complex, and have been fully adapted to their new uses.

Following the discontinuation of the aerial groups in 1956 and due to the gradual withdrawal of material dating from the Spanish civil war, military aeronautical activity at Rabassa fell into decline. At the


end of the 1950s, the airfield was already being used for mixed purposes: both military and civil (the passenger terminal was a small pavilion located on the site of a large modern-day shopping complex). As a result, Alacant-Alicante city council agreed to the airfield's renovation. Nevertheless, the problems derived from the site's proximity to the city centre tipped the balance and a new international airport was built to the south of the city, in the area of L' Altet, part of the municipal district of Elx (Elche). After successive expansion projects, this is where the airport still stands today.

Between 1964 and 1978, and despite the loss of Rabassa airfield's military status, the hangar and control tower continued to be used for aviation purposes, as these were taken over by the Alacant Flying Club. When cross referencing dates, it can be observed that this coincided with the time when the CEU began to use the military barracks for teaching purposes.

Thus, the Rabassa military complex, still surrounded by its walls and sentry boxes, underwent a ten-year process of transition (1968-1978), gradually evolving into the university complex that would eventually become the University of Alicante campus. This period coincided with the final years of the Franco regime and the political transition to democracy in Spain. Therefore, on the plains of Rabassa, the transition from a study centre to a university was concurrent with the transition from military and aeronautical use to teaching and research, as well as with the transition from the Franco regime to current democracy.

This is not a coincidence as it in some way expresses the changes that were occurring in Spain at that time on all levels, including in the political and academic domains, as well as the repercussions of these changes on a peripheral part of Spain, such as Alacant (Alicante).


By reusing a pre-existing series of buildings, the university complex was completed in a record time of six months, under the expert supervision of renowned architect from Alacant, Juan Antonio García Solera.



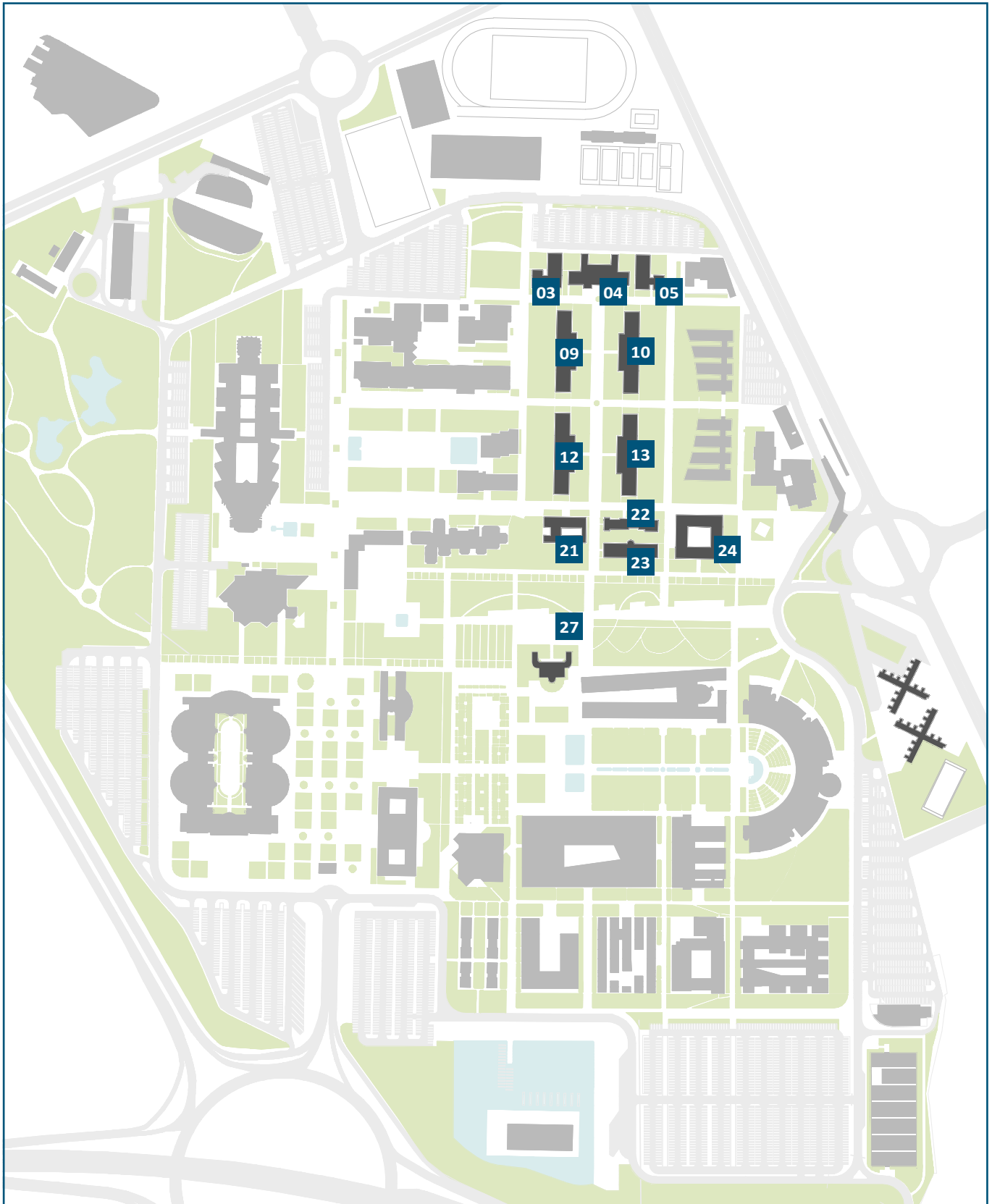
Given the short time taken and the limited budget available, the project was more respectful of the original military complex than it might otherwise have been. The condition of the military buildings as the architect found them is perfectly reflected in the aerial photograph, at the beginning of this section, which also coincides with the scale of the buildings included in the model presented by the architect at the time.

This process involved retaining the dispersity of the buildings as well as their modest scale, as these were single-storey buildings with a number of bodies featuring a second level, which indicated the point of access to the buildings. This also helped to establish a hierarchy between the various buildings, as well as to mark the axes of symmetry for the complex as a whole and for the buildings themselves. Consequently, the appearance of the original military complex is maintained, as are the pine trees around the buildings, particularly those to the north and west, which form a symmetrical counterpoint to the new pines planted behind the barracks to the east.

During the first half of the 1970s, Juan Antonio García Solera was to produce three draft projects for the CEU: one attractive proposal for the School of Technical Engineers of Public Works, based on a dynamic composition of prismatic volumes (which appears in the initial model for the CEU); a large Faculty of Medicine, designed following an extensive tour of Europe's main universities; and a small Arts building with a somewhat sculptural appearance. However, changes at the Ministry of Education led to these three projects being halted until, in the second half of the decade, construction began on the School of Public Works (the present-day Polytechnic University College 1), following a new project drawn up by the ministry's technical department, but that is another story.



03_ Faculty of Sciences 3
04_ Faculty of Sciences 4
05_ Computing Service
09_ Biotechnology Building
10_ Faculty of Sciences 5
12_ Building 12
13_ Building 13
21_ Students' Building
22_ General use Building 2
23_ Jorge Juan Building
24_ General Use Building 3
27_ Control Tower



ca. 1935-1945 y 1968

[034]	[037]
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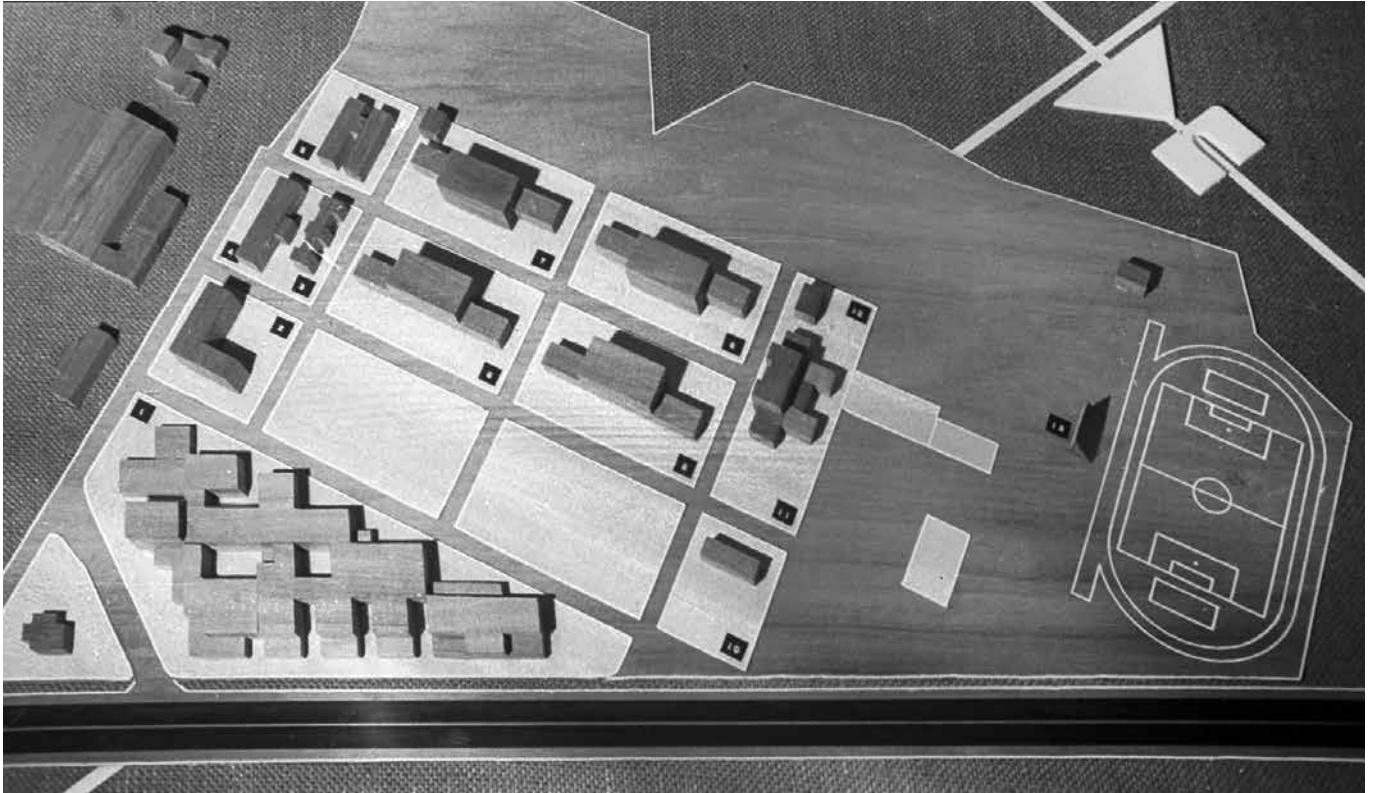


FORMER MILITARY CAMP OF RABASSA'S AIRPORT

The university campus as it exists today began life as a number of military buildings on the Rabassa airfield. When the military left, most of these buildings were kept and altered for their eventual use as places of learning. If the UA's Sant Vicent del Raspeig campus is thought of as a small city, then the former barracks are undoubtedly its 'historic quarter', in the central-northern part of campus as it stands today. The layout of this old quarter is a grid design of pedestrian areas that has served as a point of departure for the design of the rest of this grand city of learning that forms the modern-day campus.

The grid layout includes a very clear hierarchical ordering in the design, with a perfectly defined main avenue flanked by four identical long and low buildings, originally built as barracks and now used for various purposes by the Faculty of Science (Biotechnology, Science 5 and University Buildings 12 and 13, used by Genetic Physiology and Microbiology). The main avenue leads to the most representative of the military buildings, originally a mess hall and due to its location, it was chosen as the building for the CEU Governors' Building (currently used by the Faculty of Science 4).





The buildings have a very simple and self-contained architecture, with clear volumes of either one or two storeys. The various resources used include three-arch porticoes, small apses (the Jorge Juan Building) and the higher central body used as the entrance to the buildings, and to break up the monotony of the various pieces. All these elements bestow a Mediterranean feel, helped no doubt by the predominantly white finish, contrasting with the green of the pine and palm trees, and with the texture of the roof tiles.

When the buildings were refurbished, they were turned into relatively versatile spaces, as the single-storey areas had no intermediate pillars, which meant they could be used as lecture rooms and laboratories for a Faculty of Science. The architect who undertook this first intervention, Juan Antonio García Solera, was respectful of the buildings' original physiognomy, keeping the original materials and the few elements that stand out on the austere frontages, such as the balconies, grilles and latticework. However, he also incorporated small details of restrained modernity adapted to the need for the project to be completed quickly and within the provided budget. The interior staircases have smooth round steel railings and wooden handrails, and the doors of the CEU President Building (behind the three entrance arches), with their large glass surfaces and simple wooden handles, are a good example of this style. Various interventions have taken place over recent decades to adapt the facilities as needed, and in general these have been respectful of the overall scale of the site and its architecture.

The magnificent pine forest to the west known as the Enchanted Pine Grove was kept, and various sculptures were installed, including a work by ceramicist from Alacant, Arcadi Blasco. Since then, the pine grove has been a protected area and remains quiet and peaceful, due in part to the lack of traffic, which is restricted to the campus perimeter. This sense is heightened by the beautiful and carefully tended gardens on either side

of the main central avenue, which although now only for pedestrians, did allow cars in the 1970s. The buildings continue on this axis towards the south, but the buildings begin to be arranged perpendicular to the main avenue, and in a less orderly pattern. Solera added a parallel block joined by means of an enclosed intersecting corridor, forming a small access courtyard planted with palm trees, to the building nearest to the control tower, used as an academy by the military. It was initially used by the School of Public Works, but the special layout, around a courtyard, led to its use as the University Council and Administration Services Building when the University was first established. It is currently used by Student Services.

Towards the end of the 1970s, various buildings were added to the site, following the layout of the original grid and maintaining the scale. However, rather than adopt the style of the older buildings, a different compositional approach was taken, making it easy to identify the older elements from later additions. The same white colour was used, to properly integrate them into their surroundings, but they were given flat roofs and downward elements built into the facade, modulating the elevations and casting gentle shadows on them. Following this criterion, there are two buildings on either side of the former CEU President Building, forming the main element in the ensemble of buildings (currently occupied by the Faculty of Science 3 on the east side and the IT Service on the west). One of the blocks located crossways to the main central street on the south-east corner also stretches to the east following this criterion (Faculty of Education 2). Finally, the former building for non-commissioned officers on the military camp, which has two storeys and is built in an L shape, located to the east of the group of buildings behind the hangar and slightly breaking the general symmetry of how the buildings are arranged, features two wings forming a central square courtyard, which currently houses the Faculty of Education 1.

Interestingly, although to the north the central avenue ends at the CEU President



Building arcade, to the south it does not end at the similar arcade behind the control tower. The symmetry of the avenue reached as far as the runways, requiring the control tower to be built to the west and the large hangar to the east. Although these two buildings were on either side of the axis, they are not completely symmetrical to each other, as the tower is further to the south so that the runways were better controlled, and also because the two buildings had very different sizes.

There is no doubt that the memory of the former Alicante University Study Centre, remembered as the CEU, is closely linked to the image of the former military camp on the Rabassa airfield, specifically to the images of the wide central avenue flanked by the white buildings and palm trees, and with the simple CEU President Building in the background.

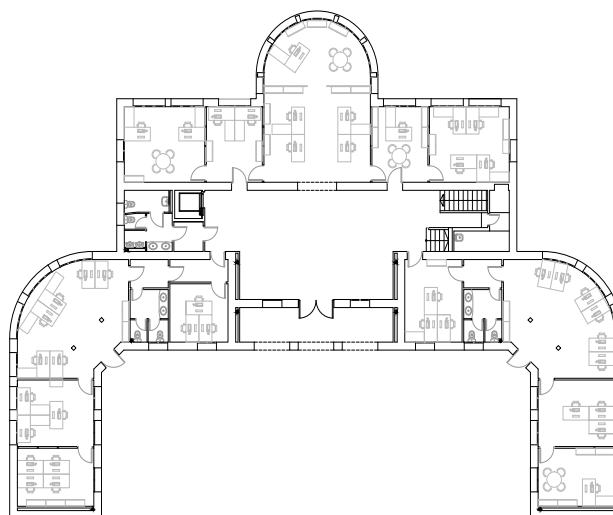






ca. 1940 y 1993 - ca. 1938

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HANGAR AND CONTROL TOWER AT RABASSA'S FORMER AIRFIELD

The two buildings, the Control Tower and the Hangar, best evoke the original use of the campus land. If in the UA campus the old military camp is its 'historic quarter', the Control Tower (which now houses Research Services) and the metal hangar structure are its landmark monuments. Just as the church and town hall are usually the main features in a historic city, the Control Tower and large Hangar were the main buildings in the Rabassa airfield around which its activity tended to revolve.

The Control Tower is perhaps the building on campus whose architectonic value is least well-known and least recognised, having been eclipsed by the media coverage of the newer buildings that were designed, particularly from 1995 onwards, by prestigious architects with a reputation both in Spain and abroad, and which have often appeared in specialist architecture journals. For example, to the east of the Control Tower and not far from it is the University Council and Administration Services Building, designed by the internationally renowned architect Álvaro Siza, winner of the Pritzker Architecture Prize in 1992. One way of understanding the architectural value of the Control Tower can be seen in how Siza approached





his design for the University Council and Administration Services Building, where certain gestures of complicity with the former military building can be detected. These gestures begin with the white exterior and with the simplicity of design and clean lines in the building's volumes. However, there are other more complex features beyond these obvious formal similarities that show a respect for the pre-existing building. One example is the search for perspectives from the inner courtyard of the University Council and Administration Services Building, with the columns and the walkway intersecting it, complemented by the presence of the control tower above. However, Álvaro Siza's building also pays its respects to the Control Tower by reducing its height as it gets nearer to the tower, not wishing to overshadow the historical significance that it deserves.

Comparing the simplicity of the Control Tower with that of a contemporary building highlights its greatest element: this is a great example in Alacant of the first stage of modern architecture that can be seen all over Spain. The contrast between the simple forms of the tower and the finishes used for the rest of the buildings in the former military barracks (wrought ironwork, roof tiles, arcades, etc.) that most resemble traditional architecture provides a good explanation of the tower's innovative and modern design. In fact, the tower includes certain contradictions that illustrate just how pioneering it was to make use of such a modern aesthetic. It is natural for any innovative process to show a certain hesitancy in its initial stages. The clean and modern expression of the prismatic volumes and the semi-cylindrical volume, perforated by large glass surfaces, contrasts with other more traditional elements of the building, such as the access arches, the decorative treatment of the main staircase and the resolution of the metal corbels supporting the round balcony on the cylindrical facade, which resorts to a kind of formalism in a spiral that is clearly ornamental.

In the history of Spanish architecture, this modern aesthetic, which became known

as rationalist architecture, was mainly confined to the 1930s; once the Civil War had been won, the new political regime advocated a more historicist language for official architecture, as can be seen in the emblematic projects carried out by the political authorities during the 1940s and much of the 1950s. The use of a modern aesthetic in this example by those in power to provide for their army, is understood by the fact that it is a work of civil engineering with a mainly practical nature, rather than an urban architectural work representing the power of the establishment. The building's architect remains unknown, and it is most likely to have been designed from within the central administration by a military engineer.

The Control Tower has been cited in several studies of Alacant architecture, and over time has come to be known beyond the city and the province, and has even been featured in both regional and national publications. The tower was recently catalogued for inclusion on the Iberian Register of Buildings for Equipment, which covers both Spain and Portugal, by the most relevant international organisation, DoCoMoMo, which has as its mission to protect and foster interest in modern architecture created between 1925 and 1965.

As a command centre, the Control Tower remained operational up to the end of the 1970s, housing the Alacant Flying Club. The building has been modified and altered various times to adapt it to the needs of successive occupants, but has managed to retain its overall image and interior layout. Between 1993 and 1997, the building was renovated by architect and UA lecturer Jorge Domingo Gresa. Two interesting features are the unique styling and lightness of the command post on top of the building, and the existence of a shelter in the basement, under a metre-wide concrete slab.

The former hangar stood next to the Control Tower, set back slightly so the tower remained in the best position to control the runways. The huge structure, built around 1938 alongside the runways, was 80



metres long and 30 metres wide. Despite clearly being an industrial building, the sides and the back featured windows arranged horizontally in a style very much in line with the aforementioned rationalist architecture of the 1930s.

The structure was typical of buildings of this type, designed to allow fighter aircraft to enter unimpeded. The rectangular surface area of 2,400 square metres was completely open, with a single central pillar on the side closest to the runways, creating two entrances 40 metres wide for aircraft to access the hangar. These entrances could be fully opened up or completely closed off by means of 25 sliding metal panels (plus two hinged panels at the sides) measuring around 3 metres wide and 6.5 metres high, which were moved on rollers and could be left against the interior side walls. The size of the hangar is illustrated by the fact that until just before it was completely removed, it housed the entire fleet of a coach company.

When the University of Alicante expanded to the south in the 1990s, the Hangar was, to a large extent, in the way. So when the decision was made to build the University Council and Administration Services Building in parallel and very close to the hangar, demolishing it entirely was considered, but an eleventh-hour decision was made to save its unique rectangular metal structure, which ended up forming part of the campus' large garden area as a kind of greenhouse with a palmetum or garden of different types of subtropical palm trees.





BUILDINGS DATING FROM

1980 - 1990

The 1980s in Spain have a name of their own, '*la Movida*' (the Movement), a phenomenon that accompanied the country's process of democratic normalisation. This dynamic name described the cultural movement led by young people throughout that 'prodigious decade' that covered such a broad range of artistic spheres. With repercussions that were felt far beyond Spain, its most genuine expression was the emergence of various music groups that were to revitalise Spanish pop, such as Mecano, Alaska, Radio Futura, Vídeo and Golpes Bajos, among others, although it also exerted considerable influence on cinema, producing superb directors such as Almodóvar, Garci and Trueba, who filmed uninhibited stories from new points of view that had been made possible by the lifting of censoring. It was one of the ways that the youth of the time had to manifest democracy that had recently been ushered in, and was undoubtedly the first of the *movidas* that would lead to major change.

The Spanish Constitution had been ratified in 1978, and in 1979 the first

democratic municipal elections were held after more than forty years: for the first time, people aged 18 or over were able to vote. Freedom and democracy were becoming a reality. Calm slowly returned to society in general and in particular to the university community, which had always been more activist, although strikes continued to be held by secondary school teachers and pupils.

Banned protests, where students were pursued by *'los grises'*, the grey-uniformed forces of law and order, were a thing of the past. The future looked bright, and the 1979-80 academic year saw the first students who had been through the new primary and secondary education systems attend Spanish universities: the 'children of the former primary and secondary education' were taking over the campuses. These young people arrived at university in numbers that had never been seen before: they were the baby boomers, born in the 1960s, the decade of 'developmentalism'. According to a survey conducted in 1985, university students in Alacant (Alicante) belonged mainly to the middle class and were not highly politicised. It was to be a decade governed in almost all institutions (national, regional, provincial and local) by socialists. They were years in which the Valencian language gradually became normalised.

The decade could not have begun better for the province, which ranked seventh in terms of income tax collected in Spain: in late 1979, both the lower and upper chambers of the Spanish parliament approved the creation of the University of Alicante (UA).


That embryonic CEU campus, covering more than 200,000 square metres on the site of the former military airfield's buildings and around a large pine forest, contained only the Faculty of Science and the Faculty of Arts. The institution gained impetus with the addition of the faculties of Medicine (next to the University Hospital in Sant Joan), Law and Economics, together with the university schools of Business Studies, Teacher Training and Nursing. In 1980, the UA named Geography professor Antonio Gil Olcina as its first President (1979-85), who had the huge challenge of extending the initial area to house both the new faculties and those that would be developed in the future. In the mid-

1980s, around half a million square metres adjacent to the campus belonging to the Ministry of Defence were incorporated into the university grounds. With these 720,000 square metres and the aid of European funds that were beginning to reach Spain, it became easier for the second President, Law professor Ramón Martín Mateo (1985-93), to make the dream of a university city a reality. From 3,000 CEU students in 1977, admissions to the university increased to 7,000 in 1982, a figure which by 1990 had almost tripled to 17,000.

The new campus moved on from the group of existing buildings, which were small in size and insufficient to house the new studies and large student population. The Governing Board therefore commissioned a plan to organise the new buildings, with a proposed grid layout that showed a certain respect for the rather austere military constructions. The project, put together by a team of architects with extensive experience in public works, created a somewhat inward-looking layout, as after all, the aim was to build a small autonomous city that would sit like an island in the middle of the arid lands of Rabassa.

The campus was therefore designed as a huge geometricised garden, richly populated with plant species that were native or well adapted to the Mediterranean climate, acting as a kind of refuge for pedestrians and over which the necessary large structures, namely the schools and faculties, would then be built. However, these buildings did not appear randomly, but rather they were distributed along a very broad boulevard running from north to south, arranged parallel to the avenue containing the army barracks, though at some distance from it.

The north section next to the pine forest was completed first with the Faculties of Law, Science (1 and 2) and Arts (1 and 2), as well as the first Social Club. This was followed by the south section with the Faculty of Economics, the School of Nursing and General Lecture Building 1, the first of the buildings designed as a general-purpose lecture building to be used for different degree courses. This new criterion was in response to the 1983 law on university reform, which proposed a university model that separated teaching, administrative and research uses.

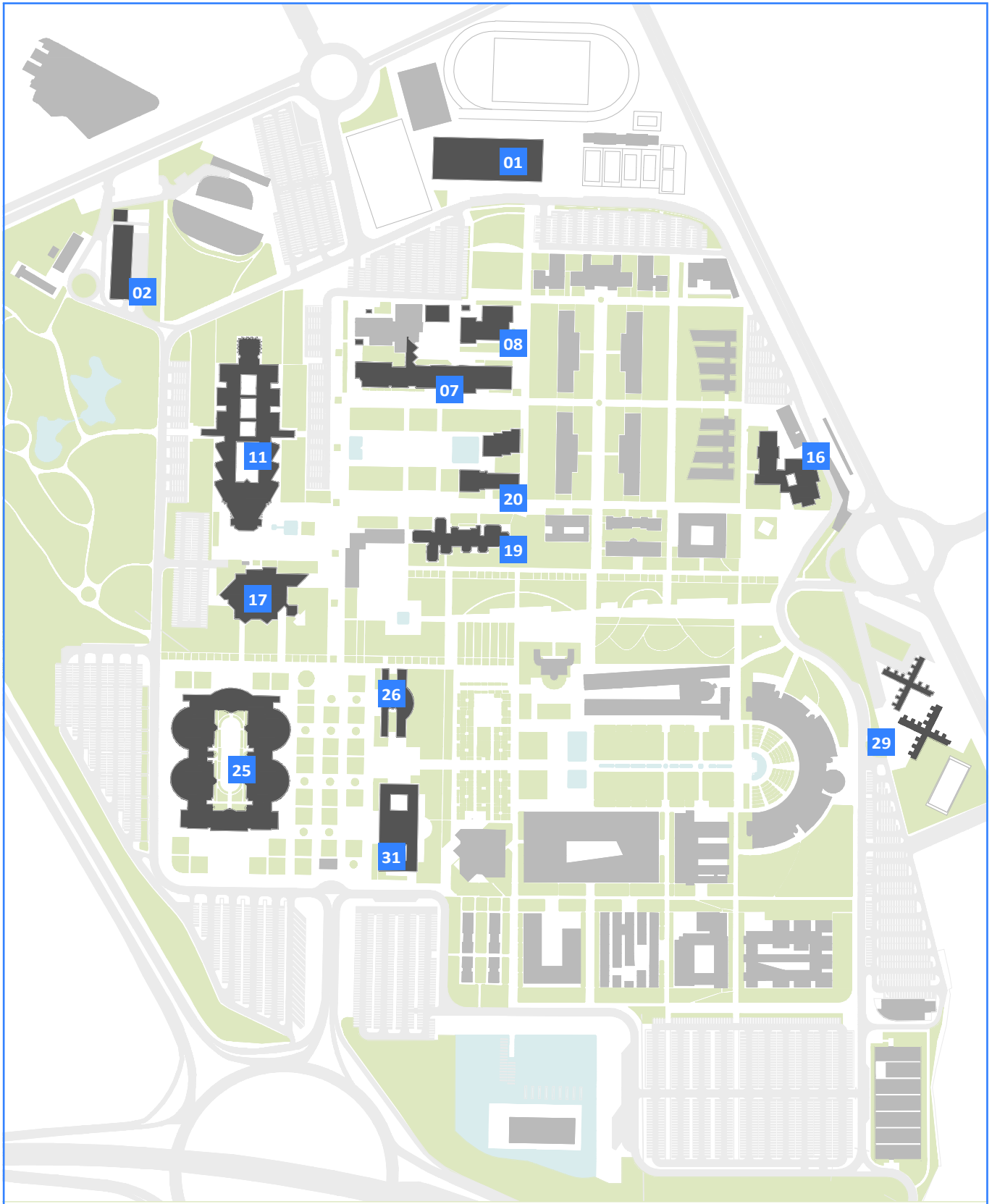


All these buildings on either side of the main avenue, or boulevard, were placed next to a series of squares designed as urban environments with trees, street furniture and ponds with cooling fountains. In the early 1990s, the campus had emerged from its rather desert-like surroundings and became an oasis of measured peace, with various main roads running round the perimeter, and access from the Alacant ring road. The University had become an independent and dynamic place.

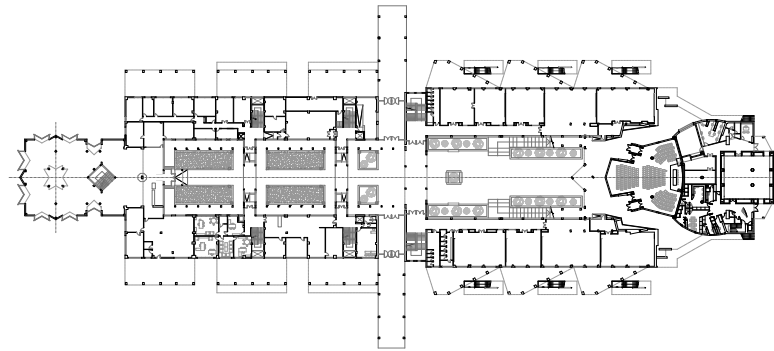
The 1980s were years of great changes for Spain, and were also the decade of '*la Movida*' at the University of Alicante. It achieved its autonomy, consolidated its campus (spread across almost three quarters of a million square metres) and reached a student population of almost 20,000. The Sant Vicent del Raspeig campus had become an independent 'satellite city' which, located as it was on a motorway junction, reflected the idiosyncrasy of the network of towns in the province that it served, although its influence and client base extended much further. This was a university campus with a new environmentally-minded sensibility, built on a green tapestry (partly in response to the energy crisis of the mid-1970s) and which had its sights set on the 21st century away from the historic city centre and nearer to all the other towns, as it was by rights a new town on the map.



01_ Sports Area
02_ Industrial Experimentation and Services Area
07_ Faculty of Sciences 2
08_ Faculty of Sciences 1
11_ Faculty of Law - Auditorium
16_ Polytechnic University College 1
17_ Social Club 1
19_ Faculty of Arts 2
20_ Faculty of Arts 1
25_ General Lecture Building 1
26_ Faculty of Health Sciences
29_ Residential College
31_ Faculty of Economics and Business Sciences



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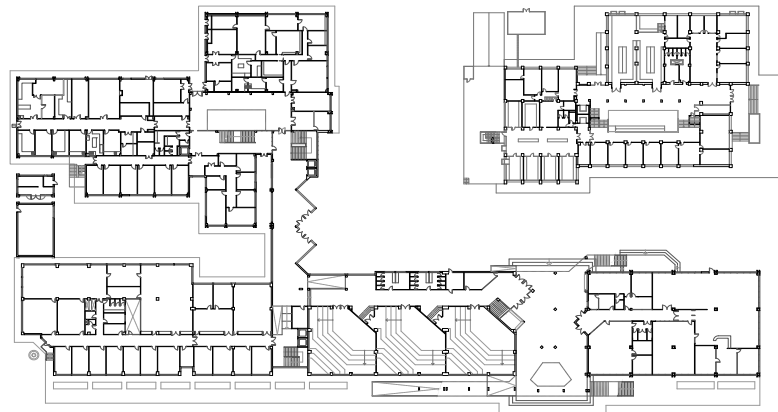


The Faculty of Law was the university's first building, and was designed to be compact in the manner of an English college, built around an elongated courtyard. With a rectangular design and two axes of symmetry, the faculty building is highly structured in its layout: the auditorium is to the south, the library is to the north, and the teaching blocks are in the middle. There are four ways to access the building: through two corridors running along the auditorium and, from east to west under each pergola to reach the tree-lined courtyard. This open-air space is used for transit between the various parts of the building and encourages interaction between students and lecturers. The functional and discreet teaching buildings can be up to four storeys high, with the ground floor used for administration, and are located between the interior garden and exterior portico. The main architectural feature of the building lies in the tension created by the function hall and library, which stand in contrast at either end of the faculty building. The auditorium, a busy, noisy place, is of scaled volume, solid, white and dynamic, and competes with the library, a silent place that looks like a box made of red bricks, making it more static than the auditorium, and dotted with glass prisms giving views of campus. The whole building is reminiscent of Nordic university architecture, from Aalto to Stirling.

The building currently has more complex uses, as the initial Law course has been added to and become more specialised, with degrees in Business Administration and Management, Public Management, Labour Relations and Criminology, among others.



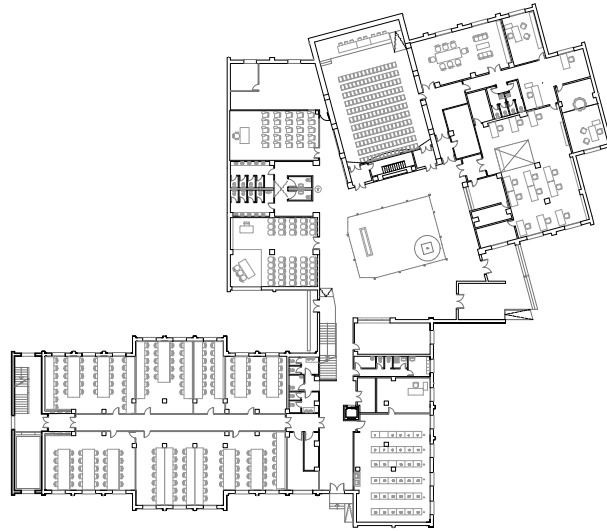




The current Faculty of Science 1 and 2 was built at the same time as the Faculty of Law. These two Faculties stand opposite each other very much like the military buildings. Access to the new buildings, a pair of free-standing blocks (one large block surrounding a second more compact block) on a rectangular plot of land, is gained via an interior courtyard reached through an open corridor with a ramp and an exterior staircase. The larger of the buildings, Science 2, is formed by a two-storey flat prism and a five-storey tower joined by a corridor open to the square, which acts as the building's entrance, from where users can enter the tower of departments and classes, and the horizontal block of larger classrooms. The passageway separates this lecture building from the administrative section. The other block, the four-storey Science 2, contains only offices and laboratories. Both towers place all their elements on the facade, using wide central spans surrounded by broad staircases, and corridors running round the whole of the top section. They are very luminous spaces with skylights overhead. The exterior finishes in brick, artificial stone and concrete are similar to those used for the Faculty of Law building. The most surprising architectural feature on the outside is the sincerity with which some installations are left on view, and what is most striking about the interior is the stark brutality of the bare concrete used for so many elements. Today, this 'Science' building is home to various departments: Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics, Geology, Optics and Marine Science.

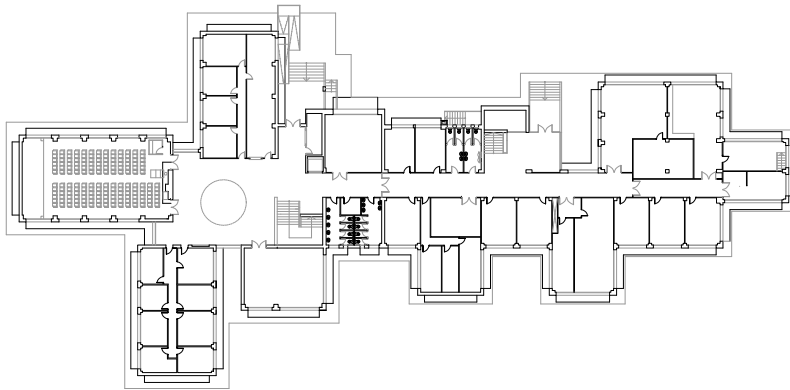






The present-day Polytechnic University College 1 is the only one of the buildings dating from the 1980s that did not originally belong to the UA; in fact it formed part of the Universitat Politècnica de València and housed one of the only three university schools in Spain specialising in Public Works Engineering. The school, which at the time offered courses in technical architecture and computing, became part of the UA in 1988 following the efforts of the school's three directors: lecturers E. Sentana, L. Martínez and M. Louis. The building, located in the east area at some distance from the campus boulevard, is formed by a single piece with two blocks, one high and one low, which are arranged around a square porticoed courtyard, a haven of peace and light broken up at the edges, with entrances on the north and south sides: with the greenery of campus on the one side and with the cafeteria and parking area on the other. The lower, more horizontal piece, which has a more representative and public aspect to it, is used for administration and by senior management, and as a function hall, with corridors running around the side of the open-air courtyard. The other piece is prismatic in its conception, three storeys high and with a much more vertical design, housing computing laboratories and classrooms, arranged on either side of a corridor reached from a staircase leading up from the courtyard. The exterior of the building is very discreet and austere, with a neutral white finish.



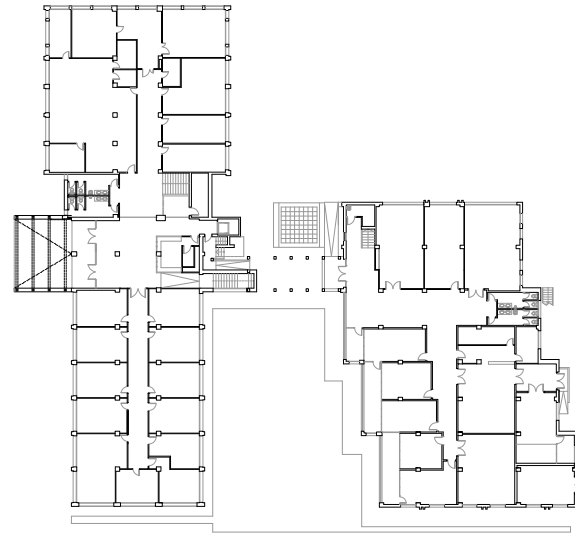


The Faculty of Arts 2 was built once Law and Science had become operational. As with the Faculty of Science (1 and 2), one side of the building ran alongside the former military buildings, with the other overlooking the new boulevard, which explains its elongated block shape, running from east to west, and why it is surrounded by high leafy trees from the old pine forest. This is a three-storey building with its main entrance on the side street, linking the barracks with the main boulevard. The entrance features a roofed area which leads into the middle of the building, a large vestibule that visually and spatially links the three floors thanks to the vertical cylindrical hollow and the semi-circular windows of the skylight flooding the space with light from above. Architecturally, this interior space is the most suggestive because of the power of the curved forms and the brutalism of the concrete on all walls and horizontal surfaces, structures and stairs. The block is a single volume containing theory and practical classrooms and laboratories, offices and administration services, all grouped together in sections of different sizes that form a range of prisms projecting from the facade. The surrounding grey and white tones, together with the expressive bare concrete, confer a certain serenity to the building. The faculty (2) forms an ensemble with its sister building directly opposite (1).

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The Faculty of Arts 1 was built at the same time as the Faculty of Arts 2, and is clearly the work of the same team: the volumes, materials and tones are all similar, though not identical, which helps to clarify that they form part of the same classical 'Arts' faculty. Covering a smaller surface area than the previous building, it consists of two elements arranged one behind the other, with four storeys at the front and two at the back; the two elements are joined by a walkway linked to a single staircase. Like the other buildings, this building houses all the faculty's various uses, with classrooms, departments and offices spread out on the different floors. The way the interior is arranged is similar to the Faculty of Arts 2, with a large central vestibule acting as a hub for the various corridors and the connecting walkway. Entry is also gained from a roofed area off the same street as the previous building. However, the corridors and rooms in this building seem much brighter, due to the abundant use of white. With the building set back from the central boulevard, space was provided for a square between the two faculties, at a tangent to the boulevard, with greenery, pergolas and shaded corners to sit and watch the fountains in the pond. The first 'Arts' degrees offered were in Geography and History, and these have since been added to with courses in Humanities, Language Studies, Translation and Interpreting and Tourism, all of which are housed in this building.





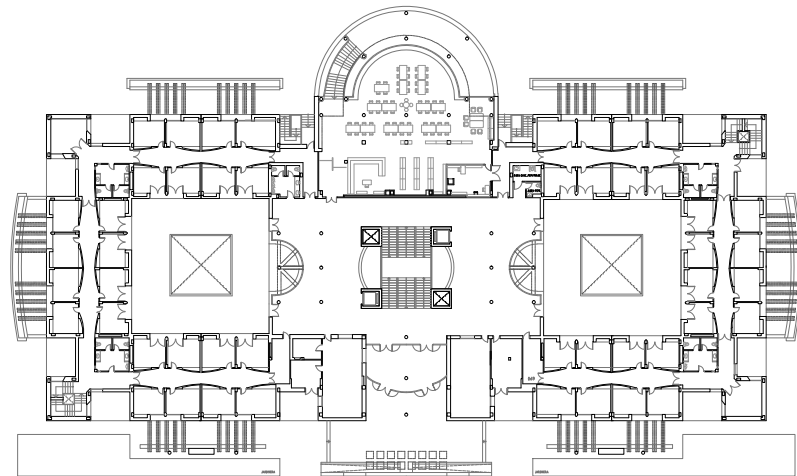
FERNÁNDEZ ALBA, Antonio

1988

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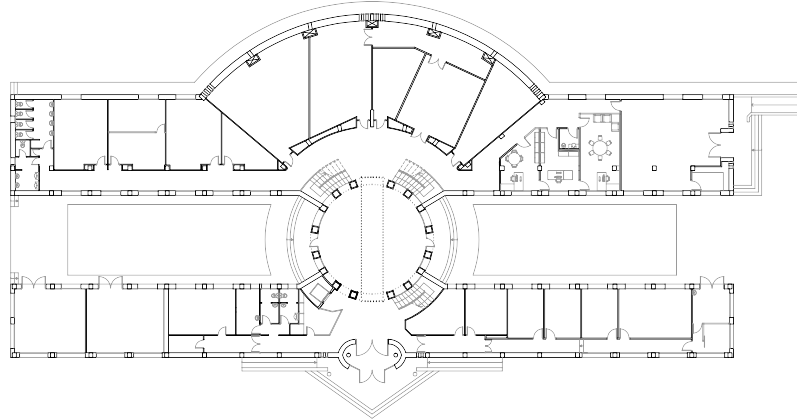
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The Faculty of Economics and Business Sciences is the first building to be seen when entering campus from the motorway, and stands at the beginning of the now pedestrianised central boulevard. It is a restrained and solidly rectangular-shaped building, attenuated by the alternating horizontal bands of grey and beige stone, and elements in bare concrete; above there is a large skylight providing the interior with a classical sort of lighting. Once past the entrance portico, the prism contains a large central vestibule with a huge staircase and two symmetrically arranged roofed courtyards, both with ponds. An impressive effect is produced by the sequences of space and the points where the light enters. The building's three floors and basement contain all lecture rooms and departments. The library is the most important element (as a depository of knowledge), located behind the hall at the far end, and its semicylindrical shape forms part of the exterior wall, with a round inner space and a ceiling at staggered levels to illuminate the room. Throughout the building there is an air of academic serenity reminiscent of the Provincial Council Building, although here the atmosphere is somewhat austere as a result of the monochrome finishes, ranging from black to white. Today, a much wider range of degree courses is available, including Sociology, Social Work, Advertising and Public Relations.







The University School of Nursing brought the second phase of buildings on the first main boulevard to a close. This is an imposingly solid building, with very few openings and an emphatic sense of volume (a cylinder resting on two rectangular prisms). It shares certain characteristics with the two previous buildings in terms of its appearance (dense), finishes (textures) and academic layout (all arranged symmetrically); it also bears a similarity with the Sant Joan Medical Campus, which was built at the same time. The School of Nursing building is made up of two prisms in parallel separated by an elongated courtyard, the ends of which are open to the elements and which the classroom and office windows look out onto. In the centre stands a clear empty cylinder the same height as the rest of the building, with a walkway running through it half way up, as though it were floating, and which acts as a vestibule and a way for people to reach the various parts of the building. In terms of finishes, there is a predominance of rough white concrete, both inside and out, which helps to diffuse the light; the only large panes of glass are by the entrance. The top of the building features a half cylinder at the back. The simple emphatic volumes identify it with the fashionable revivals in architecture that are so characteristic of campus, as the new main axis starts at the General Lecture Building 1 and runs between Nursing and Economic and Business Sciences. It should be made clear that the original School of Nursing gave way to Health Science, perhaps an indication of changes to how life is perceived.

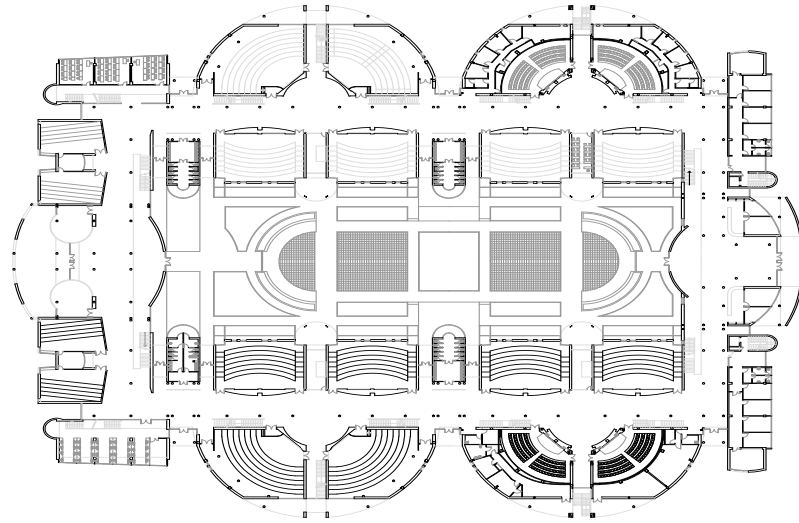




GENERAL LECTURE BUILDING 1

CASARES, A.-NAVARRO, A.-RUIZ, R.-FRANCO, M. 1989

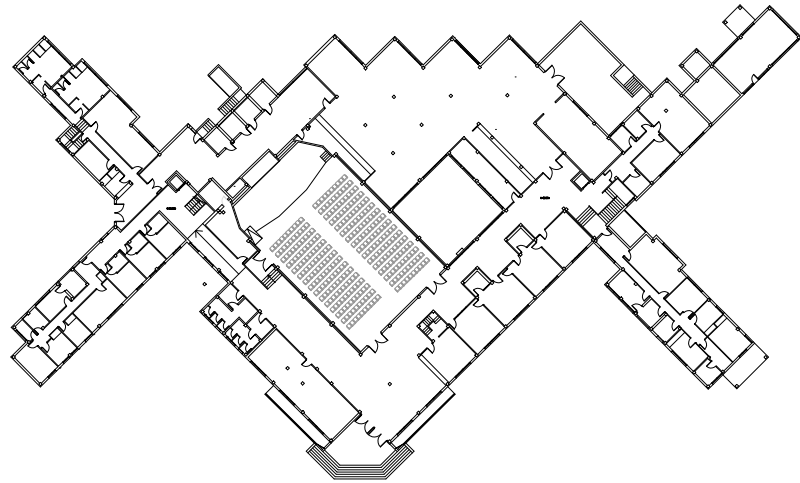
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General Lecture Building 1 is located on the first main boulevard, opposite Economic and Business Sciences, and Health Sciences, at one end of the new axis on which the campus had begun to spread towards the General Lecture Building 2. This is a huge construction built around a large elongated courtyard containing gardens, leisure areas and a body of water, creating a very pleasant spot. Around it is a building which seems somewhat compact from the outside, and light and airy on the inside. The design features four storeys on the main entrance facades, with certain expressive elements in the structure, and with two storeys on the side walls (one overlooking the boulevard), from which the semi-cylinders of the large classrooms emerge. The General Lecture Building was the first to be designed on campus in accordance with the University Reform Law, which advocated properties being given specific uses, rather than the model preferred up to then of centres assigned by courses and housing a varied collection of spaces and uses. This is a building designed to house lecture rooms of different types and sizes (large lecture rooms on the outside, and rectangular classrooms on the inside), to be used at the same time. The building as a whole features a predominance of concrete block walls in white and salmon-coloured stripes, offsetting the otherwise restrained tone, and with slim concrete columns alternating at the entrances. To counteract this solidity, large panes of moulded glass and woodwork are used to provide light for the interior corridors, which have a great sense of warmth and quality. The building's exterior includes various architectural features that are highly characteristic of the period when it was designed.







The former University Halls of Residence is characteristic of the contemporary projects produced by Alacant architect Francisco Muñoz Llorens, who in the late 1960s began to use a very particular language based on simple geometric patterns created using the continuous stone finishes that were so prevalent in the 1970s and 80s. These flat geometric patterns used different colours to create optical effects giving a three-dimensional feeling. The concept was strengthened in expressive terms with the simultaneous use of areas finished in prefabricated reinforced concrete, producing authentically three-dimensional pieces.

In contrast with this formalist approach, created with a certain economy of means, the building's floor plan is stricter, more rational and less capricious. Standing on a large podium that formed the ground floor, which was used for the building's communal areas, rose two cruciform structures (the male and female halls of residence) three storeys high, their shapes defined and distinguished by the use of colour: warm ochre hues for one, and colder grey tones for the other.

The rooms on the four wings of each cross face south-east and south-west in a row on one side of the corridor, with the bathrooms (facing north-east and north-west) projecting from the side of the building, and therefore allowing the corridors to be properly lit.



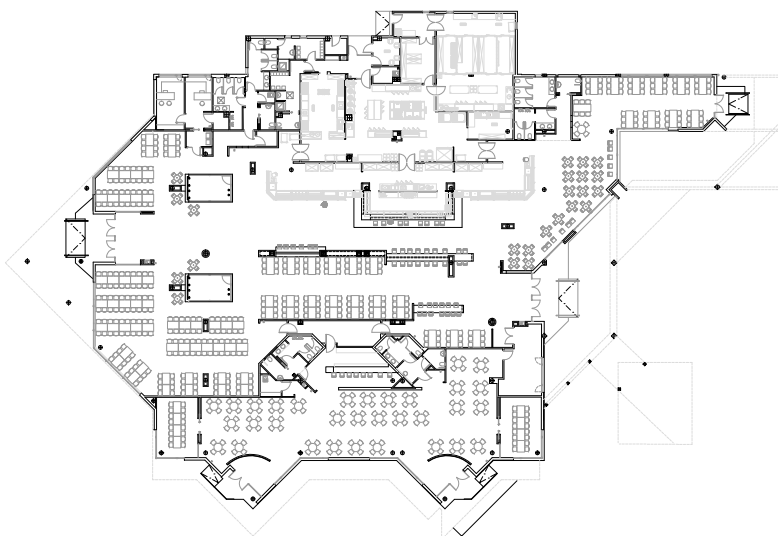
SOCIAL CLUB 1

VÁZQUEZ CARRASCO, Pilar

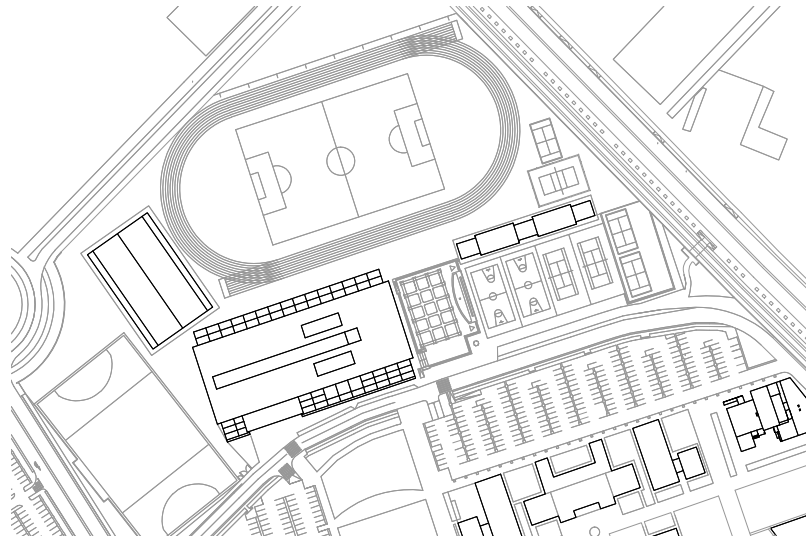
1987

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With Social Club 1, University acquired its first large enclosure to use as a cafeteria, where students could top up their strength, as many of them would spend half or all of their day at university. This building marked the final section of the avenue and equipped campus with a space that was proportional to the needs of the recently built faculties. Because of its strategic location on the central boulevard, it also came to be seen as a meeting place for the future centres (Economic and Business Sciences, Nursing and Lecture Building), as this building brought the first stage of construction to a close. The cafeteria is a single-storey building for ease of access and transit. It is surrounded by gardens, and its porches provide shade and protection from the sun. The building has large windows, which were extended at the same time as the large interior, and was initially divided into different rooms for different uses (bar, cafeteria, fixed price or à la carte menu) before it was refurbished to combine these various sections and, with illumination provided by both the windows and the skylights, create a more diaphanous and more flexible space. The relationship between the cafeteria and its surrounding environment, which is practically an oasis, is the result of using terraces and concrete arcades, turning this into a very peaceful and relaxing place. This quality is improved with terraces at different heights, which can be reached from an exterior staircase (signposted with a vertical landmark) to provide better views out over campus. The white finish contrasts with the surrounding greenery.



The University Sports Area is located next to the campus' west entrance and features both indoor and open air facilities for a range of sports. The main building is the covered pavilion, which houses the swimming pool, general-use indoor court and gymnasium, as well as changing rooms, lecture rooms and facilities for other sports, such as squash and judo. The large parabolic concrete roof gives an indication of the building's size and is the centre's most recognisable element, around which the other facilities are arranged. The plaza in front of the building leads to the athletics track, the football/rugby pitch and the paddle and tennis courts, which are bounded by a pavilion with changing rooms and related services.

This elongated, strongly symmetrical building has a central entrance that opens onto both the east and west sides of the facilities. The simple lay-out features a total of four changing rooms located on both sides of the entrance vestibule. Four more rooms at the ends of the building are used for treating athletes.







BUILDINGS DATING FROM

1990 - 2000

In terms of architecture at the University of Alicante campus, the period between 1990 and 2000 was a truly prodigious decade. This was a time when architecture took centre stage as the driving force behind various urban transformations that occurred in Spain, such as the Barcelona that emerged for the 1992 Olympic Games and the advanced, cosmopolitan image of the World Exhibition of Seville that was held in the same year, marking the fifth centenary of the discovery of America.

Thanks to this prestige, other Spanish cities that were in a position to compete for their place in the metropolitan network of the new global village undertook major operations of their own, entrusting their triumphal entrance onto this new world stage to various renowned architects. Remember, for example, Bilbao's decision to radically overhaul its image by means of Frank Gehry's Guggenheim Museum (1992-97) or, closer to home, Valencia and its City of Arts and Sciences (which opened in 1998), orchestrated by Santiago Calatrava.

However, with almost 20 years' hindsight and in light of the current economic situation, the

smile may well slip from our face when recalling those heady times and their consequences.

The University of Alicante campus did not miss this great festival of architecture. People from within the university and beyond joined forces to face the considerable challenge of creating the structures and spaces that would occupy the main axis of the campus' new layout. Thus, General Lecture Building 2 appeared in 1993 as a counterpart to the building on the other side, concentrating and closing off the axis at its east end with open air banked seating. It was followed in 1995 by the General Library which, like the beauty in the plays of Calderón de la Barca, deserves to both see and be seen, and the Social Science Building. The operation culminated with the serene presence of the University Council and Administration Services Building.

At the same time, to the north and west of the main axis, the Polytechnic University College 2 and 3 buildings appeared (1994), with an architecture that owes much to a by then fading post-modernity, and the Faculty of Arts 3 (1993), which lit the way to a high-tech future. There is also the series of buildings that form the avenue to the south of the axis: the Shopping Centre (1994), which leads on to the neighbouring Social Club 2 (1995), the Germà Bernàcer Building (1994) and the University Institutes (1995), all superbly designed and with a lasting, permanent elegance.

In the second half of the 1990s, the main axis was consolidated and new buildings progressively filled the spaces on the edge of campus, such as the School of Optics and Optometry (1998) to the east, Social Club 1 (1999) to the north, the changing room pavilion next to the sports courts (1995) to the west, and the University Museum (1995) to the south.

The University Museum, University Polytechnic Building 4 (1999), the Chemical Technology Centre (1995) and Lecture Building 3 (1999) form a disperse combination of buildings both in their location and their various uses; together, they are a faithful reflection of the fine era of architecture in Alacant during the 1990s.

Once campus had become consolidated, the first buildings to appear on the expanded site were Petrology (1997) and the Animal Laboratory Service (1999).



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- 14_ Polytechnic University College 3
 - 15_ Polytechnic University College 2
 - 18_ Faculty of Arts 3
 - 28_ University Council and Administration Services
 - 30_ General Lecture Building 2
 - 32_ Club Social 2
 - 33_ General Library
 - 34_ Social Sciences Building
 - 35_ Shopping Centre
 - 36_ Germà Bernàcer Building
 - 37_ University Institutes
 - 38_ Optics and Optometry Building
 - 39_ Polytechnic University College 4
 - 40_ University of Alicante Museum (MUA)
 - 41_ Faculty of Sciences 6: Lecture Building
 - 42_ General Lecture Building 3



UNIVERSITY COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATION SERVICES BUILDING

SIZA VIEIRA, Álvaro

1997

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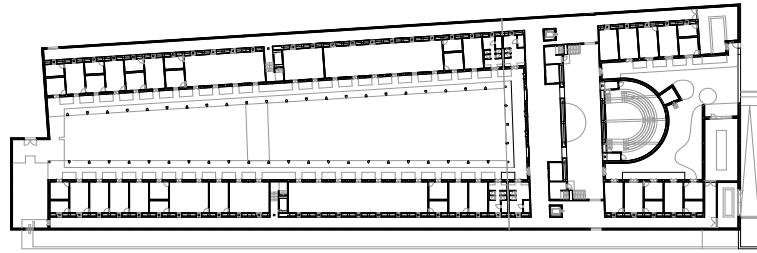
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Among the stellar architects, the Portuguese 1992 Pritzker Prize winner Álvaro Siza is unique. The University Council and Administration Services Building is testimony to his fame and his peculiarity, and is a veritable triumph on the universal panorama of architecture at the gateway to the Third Millennium.

It is audacious in its simplicity, outwardly severe and inside warm and intimate, much like the architect himself. This is not monumental architecture, and shows none of the arrogance of representation or protocol, and went against the supposition that one might attribute to the President's role.

As a flagship for an institution which quite rightly views itself as a model, the building's very location, side-on to the main avenue and in the form of a wedge, bows to the pre-existence of the former airfield (the Control Tower Building and the remains of the original hangar), in a display of modesty which at first sight can be somewhat disconcerting.

Despite this, the building subtly announces its presence, as a piece that initially shows signs of its unconventional character. Its peg-shaped layout features two courtyards of different sizes, the smaller of which guards the discreet semicircle of the auditorium. In this way, the architect subscribes to the timeless validity of the cloister (a secular and proven university tradition) as well as subverting it by dividing it into two unequal halves, counterpoised and semi-open.

In the serene reserve of its clean lines, there is however an amiable concession in the form of the gallery: this is the terrace balcony which, as though representing the authority behind it, appears in the main collective space in a gesture of symbolic courtesy.



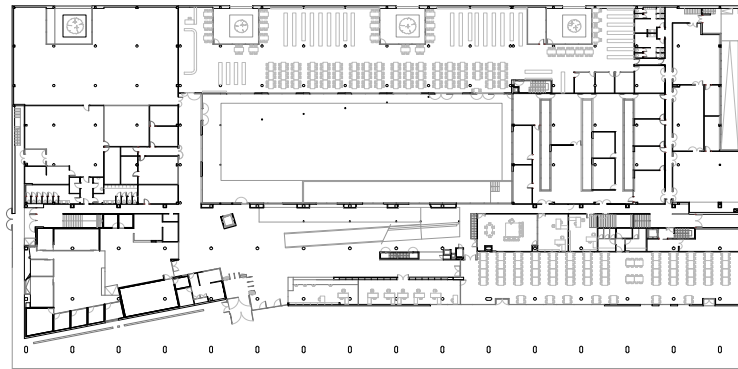












On a large plot of land and in a premium spot, as befits a University Library, opposite the University Council and Administration Services Building and on the south side of the large avenue presided over by General Lecture Building 2, the Library is a solid campus building in a style reminiscent of how Latin America once interpreted modern European style.

A front row spectator and a first-rate spectacle, the Library was designed as a luxurious belvedere over campus and enjoys the benefit of the ineffable Mediterranean light.

With the ground floor acting as a kind of podium, and above the portico that runs along the whole of the building on sturdy pillars in the form of truncated pyramids, a large modulated prism with an air of lightness and double height houses the reading rooms, which are both used as a tribune and vantage point at the same time, overlooking the superb landscape and with the mountainous massif to the north-west. The rest of the ground floor is treated like an opaque plinth around an inner courtyard, built in ochre-coloured face brick in counterpoint to the materials (aluminium and glass) and the geometry of the box.

Inside, a highly emphasised ramp seems to commemorate the peripatetic origin of Western culture, as consecrated by Greek antiquity and which modernity has rediscovered and cultivated with fortune and provocative freedom on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean.

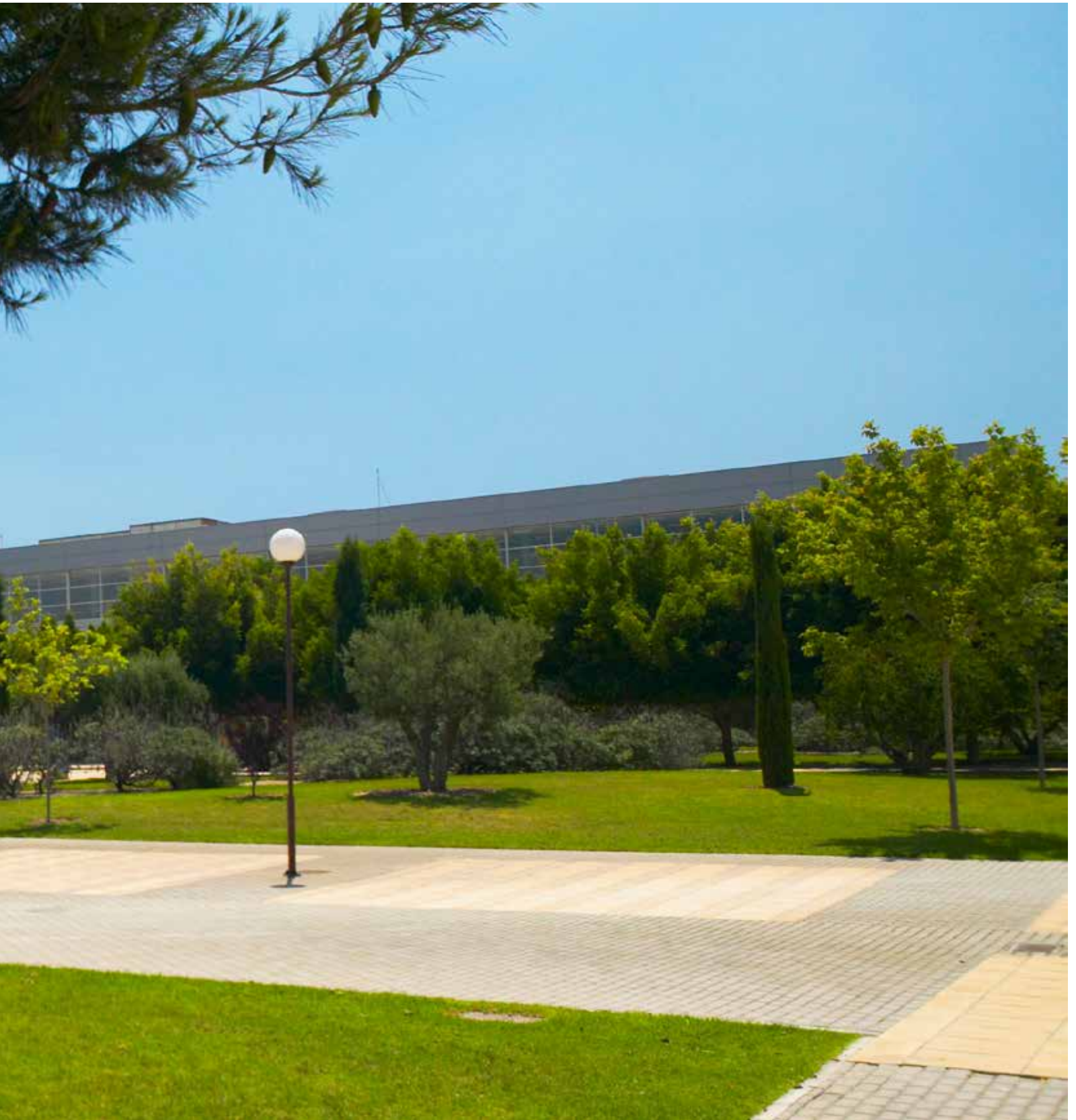


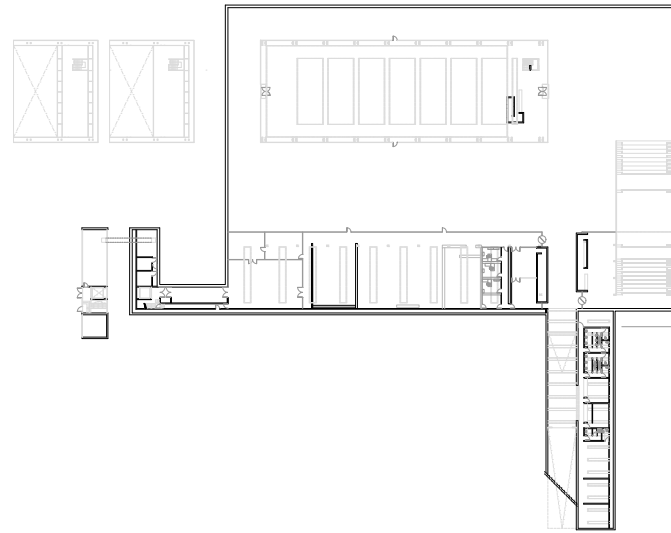












The magnificent University Museum (MUA) is one of the most internationally acclaimed buildings on the campus at the University of Alicante. It is the result of a competition won by the architect Alfredo Payá Beneyto.

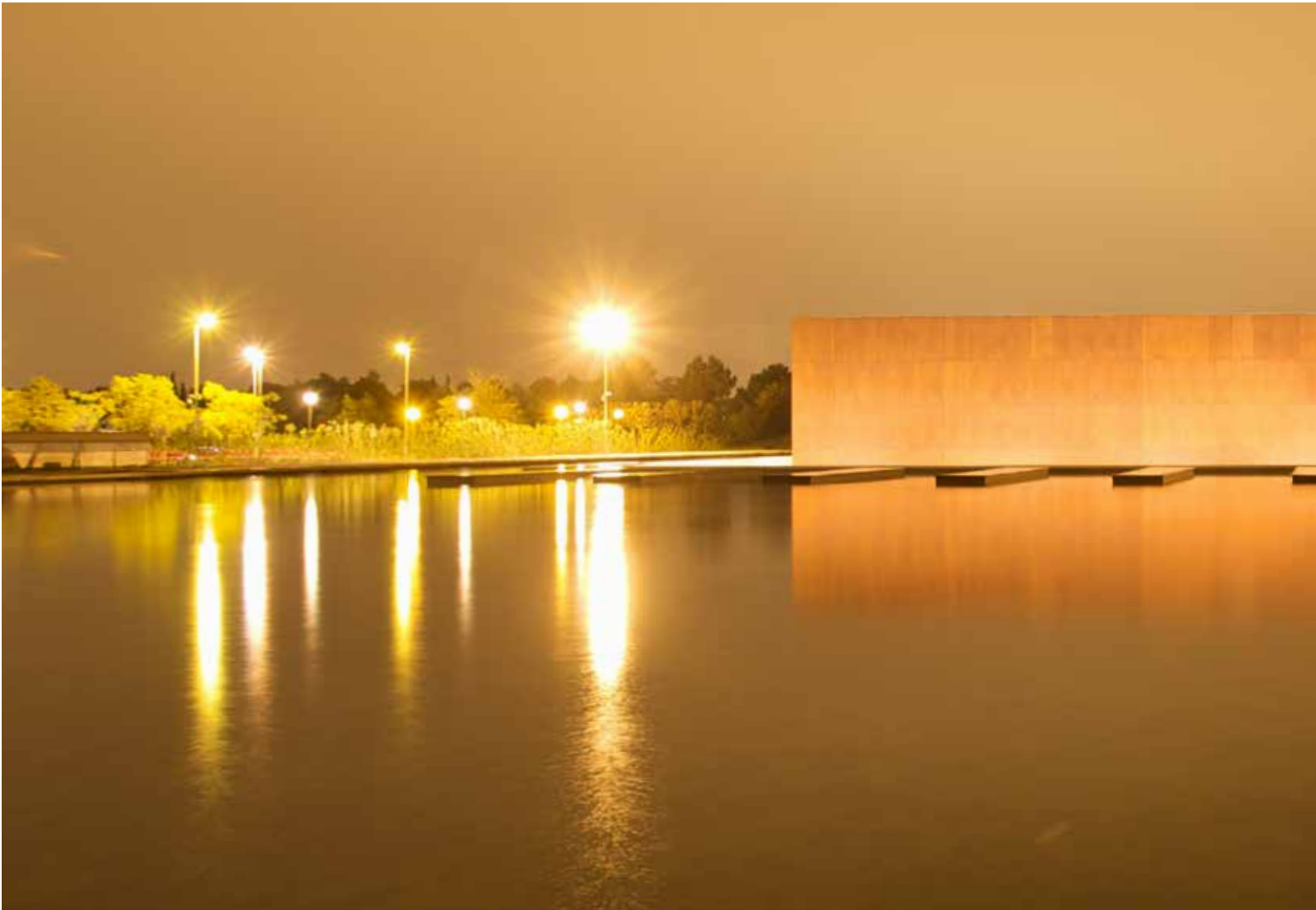
The building is on the edge of campus, near the main road. The image is a spectacular, emphatic, elegant and delicate, and yet also inaccessible: a big wooden box floating in space. This box houses the main museum room and sits in the central part of a large excavated area. Around it there is an artificial pond, reflecting the view of the wooden box and creating the effect of weightlessness. The rest of the museum's rooms and other features are all located beneath the pond.

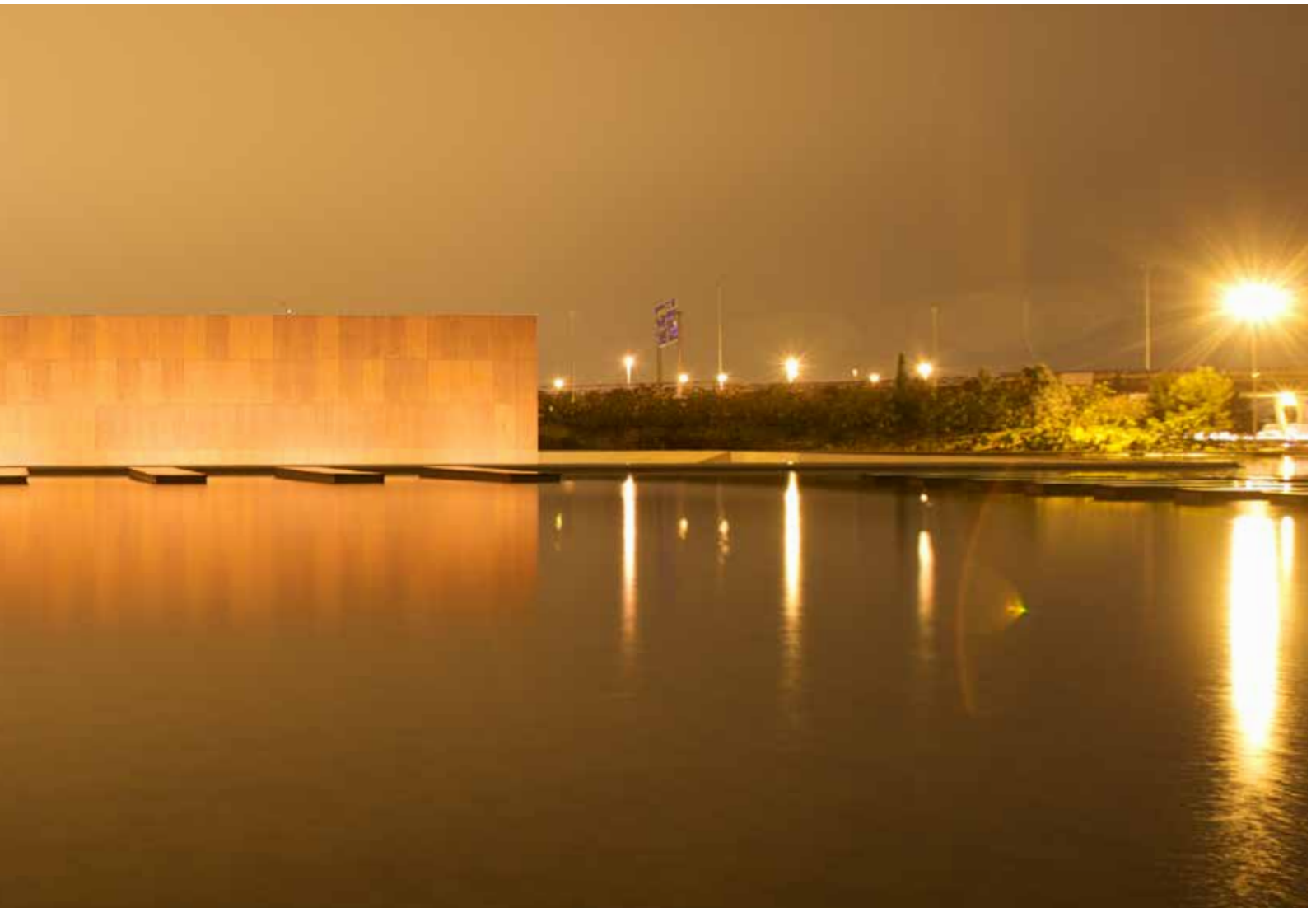
The main hall features natural stone on the walls and floors, adding to the idea of excavation, and it undoubtedly has an almost magical feel to it, a space for reflection and for silence.

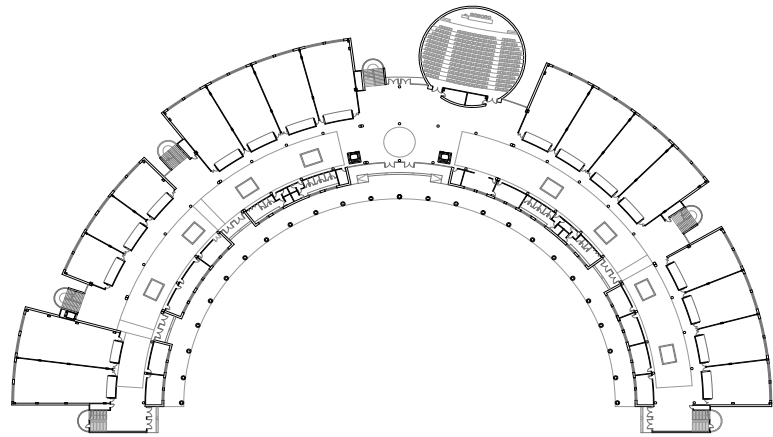
This courtyard-vacuum leads off to all the rooms in the building: general-use rooms, covered rooms, the open air auditorium and the main room forming the huge wooden box. Access is gained via a large ramp running under the artificial pond. All the rooms mentioned above are on a single floor, all below ground level, and with equal heights except for the main room, which is three times taller, making it a notable feature on the campus.











General Lecture Building 2 is fully aware of its privileged location, and rather like the apse of a church it forms the focal point of the main axis that it stands on. Its presence is notable: its every inch is a landmark. Yet the design also adds a nuance to the building's various functions by using a range of asymmetrical elements and attenuating the ceremonial aspect that is so striking at first sight.

Outside, the building makes an imposing allusion to the hemicycle of a Greek theatre or a kind of great open air lecture hall. Presiding over the platform there is an abstract sculpture on red metal, at a distance from the banked seating, which alternates concrete benches and grass, around a semicircle of water with a square cutting into it.

The interior, which has been cleverly organised and considered, is dominated by an image reminiscent of a foyer or an airport terminal, with three floors and an impressive white metal roof structure, a bright and roomy hall which confers a sense of predominance to the fan-like arrangement of the lecture halls.

This splendid hall rather suggests that something important must be going on around it for such an impressive preamble. Its *raison d'être* lies in its unequal rhythmic wings, between which, and slightly off centre, is the circular auditorium and a string of vertical communication elements arranged in a semicircle.



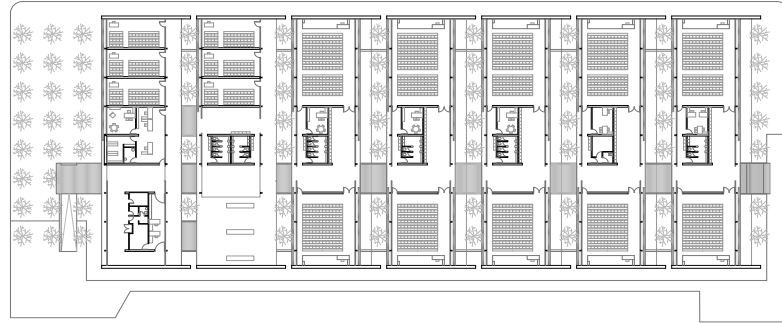


GENERAL LECTURE BUILDING 3

GARCÍA SOLERA, Javier

1999

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This superb building is widely cited and is a key part of Spanish architecture from the first decade of the 21st century, having won several awards and accolades.

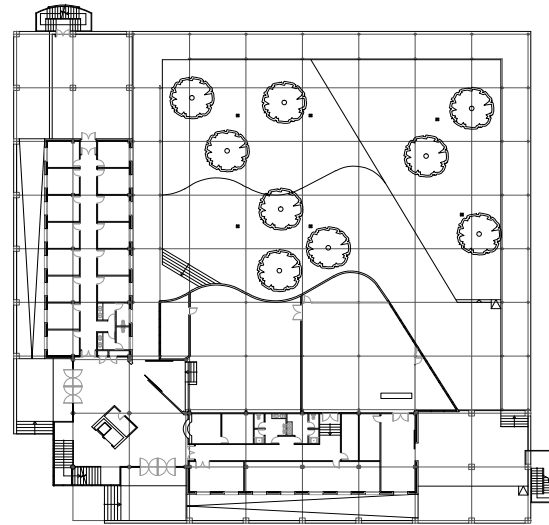
The lecture building is on the south-eastern edge of the campus, next to Social Club 3, which stands alongside the road that runs through the campus and to the large parking areas. The surrounding area is not favourable, and the building is a response to this situation. The building seems closed in on itself, not only in terms of the lecture halls themselves but also in what the surrounding environment does not provide: light, greenery, and the peace and quiet needed for a teaching environment.

The building's defining feature is the seven buildings that stand apart from one another and are connected crossways by a central axis which, despite having no clearly marked limits, manages to join the seven pieces and extend beyond them to create the entrances to the building.

The original plot of land was converted to create an area of greenery on which the seven buildings stand. The separation between them brings the greenery into view: the courtyards help to bring into the building what the environment otherwise lacked. The building is a simple and elegant solution, a masterly piece of architecture.







This building is part of the transition of an architecture that attempts to prolong the validity of Modernity in a high-tech direction.

In terms of form, this is a modern building: in its composition, in the purity of its volumes, in the emphasis on how the different areas are connected, and in the severity of the materials used. Yet at the same time, in its details it showcases solutions that are indicative of an advanced industry, with the connotation of luxury known as the International Style.

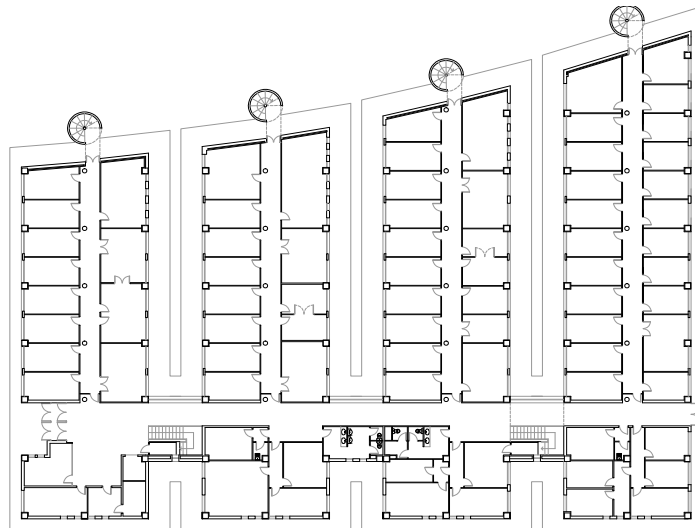
Its L-shaped layout, with the tall entrance area at the angle where the two solid wings join, features a spacious and completely square hall, to which the unexpected winding curve invading the courtyard adds the necessary finishing touch in terms of distribution.

Above the ground floor, the determinedly efficient layout remains constant and in two unequal parts features offices around the outside, leaving the courtyard area for classrooms.

Throughout the building, from the corner staircase to the pergola that acts as its diagonal counterpoint, the design revels in and garners admiration for the spectacle of technology clearly and simply, without interfering in the organisation of the project. At the same time, the quality of that same design tempers and attenuates the generously proportioned space, corrects any possible presumed indifference and solves the risks of neutrality that any space can suffer from.







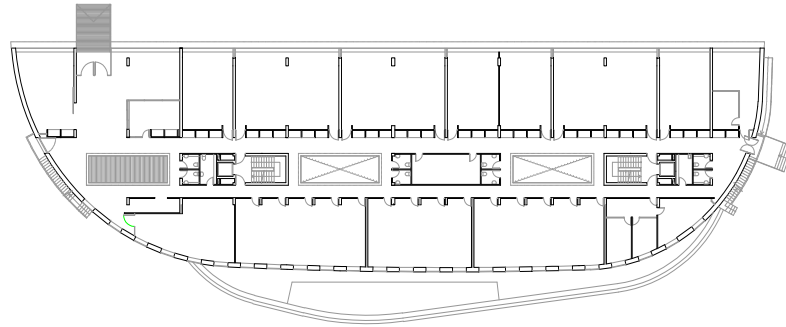
The architecture used for the UA Polytechnic University College Buildings 2 and 3 is as complex as the use made of these buildings, elegantly assuming the contradictions of so-called post-modernity, and bears a certain similarity to some of its most characteristic gestures. Finding unity in plurality is not the least of its challenges, as seen in the link arch, which as a background providing perspective and axis of symmetry spans the avenue separating the two groups of modules between two blocks of the campus. The layout, featuring four plus four parallel buildings, reveals in its double condition as part of a whole on the one hand, and as a whole made of various parts on the other. Thus, the pavilions, which are interconnected like the teeth of a comb, give due consideration to the surrounding area in the curve described by the sides facing the avenue, on a background reminiscent of a nymphaeum. In this way, the disciplined geometry of the various functions for which each block is used greets and politely gives way to the perspective of representation, in a composition which when viewed from the outside is a celebration of public space. Also added to all this are other features of the post-modern vocabulary, such as the double facade, the wall that stands separately from the body it belongs to so as to house complementary services and the cylindrical bodies used for vertical communications. As an advocate of post-modernity once said, more is not less.





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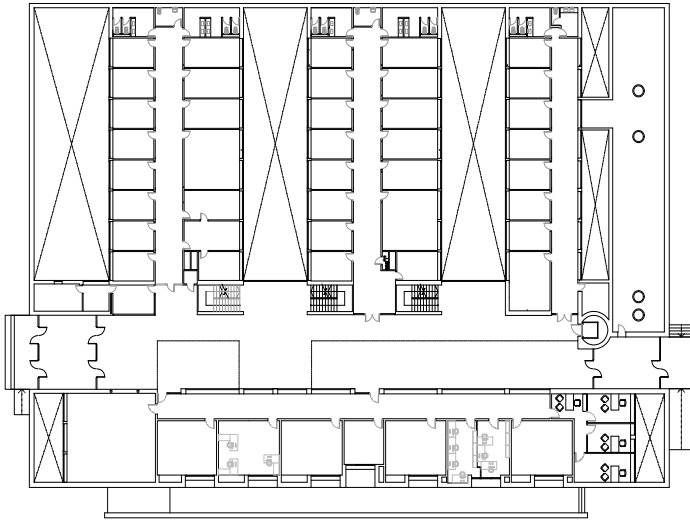
The Chemical Technology Centre is a clear example of how a building can be designed to create its own atmosphere, with its back turned on its immediate environment, which is made up chiefly of roads and a car park, and yet so decisively gives the building its character. It is an example of creating not just a building but an inner world in which to operate. As a result of this appearance, the building displays a particular formality and material nature, built on a large and partially hidden excavated courtyard and comprising two blocks facing each other in parallel with blind and almost inexpressive outer facades. However, the facades facing each other form a dialogue, leaning in towards each other almost to the point of contact. As a much more permeable kind of facade, they help to breathe life into the courtyard formed between them. It shows the design's clear aim of creating a building looking in on itself.

The design is based on a strong sense of rationality, which allows it to function optimally. The interior features double corridors which, combined with the use made of the small courtyard in the first block and the variety of spaces available, show that this is a building that inhabits an inner world all of its own.



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The mark of this architect is that of an old master, a true professor, from the generation whose works ennoble the panorama of Spanish architecture in the second half of the 20th century. This is a strictly modern style, free of caprices, concessions or vanities, and a quality of construction that makes the most of the tiniest details. This is an architecture that is pure without being purist, rational but not rationalist, or rather not as an emblem of one trend or another, with the aplomb of a modernity that has already become a tradition, a state of the art that is already history, and with a pleasant manner to its severity.

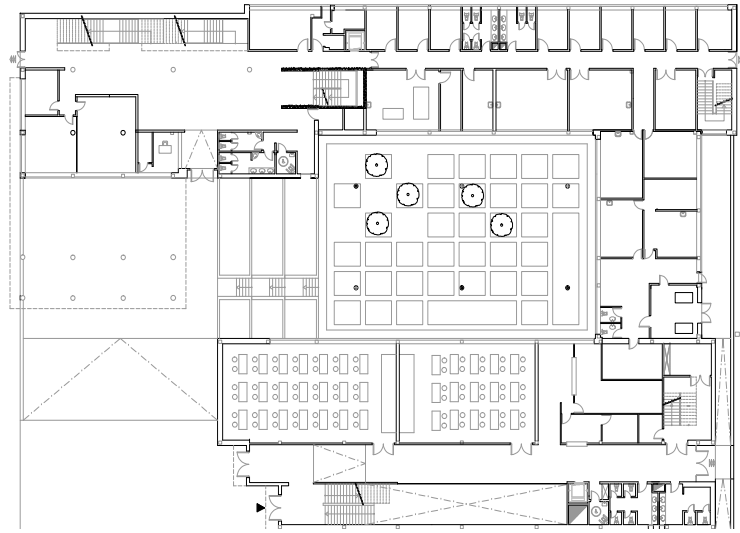
Three clear and impeccable parallel prisms, two double and one single, joined by one of their tops, rest on a blind podium of concrete and determine the comb-like composition that describes the use given to each section, each with an intimate, airy and well-lit courtyard. On the outside, the play of volumes on the various weights reaches the point of nuanced plasticity which is echoed by the University Council and Administration Services Building, with which it forms the main space that the Lecture Building's hemicycle presides over, between this building and the General Library.

Inside, this emphatic style is broken up by the light that it provides. Volumes and lights share the construction of a space designed with wellbeing as its aim, and where a cross-section is shown in its perspective. There is a crossing of Mediterranean lights (the architect is interested in this place) in the three separate heights that are created. They display a design that leaves no loose ends. The exact dimension can be felt in the details used in the construction, and in how comfortable its full use feels. It also proves the aphorism that states that, just like a violin, a building must also be finely tuned.

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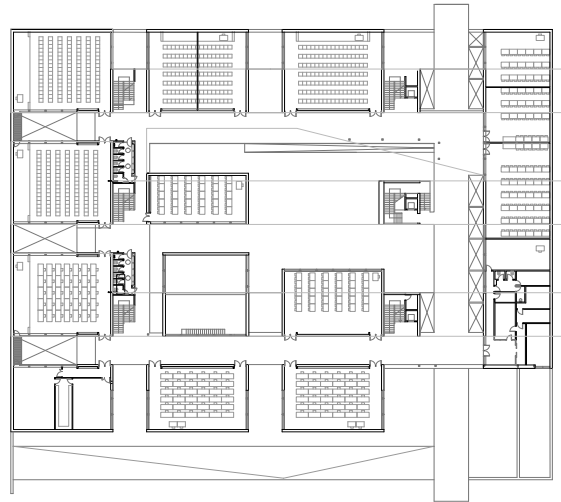
The building housing the facilities of the University School of Optics and Optometry has a heavy, robust appearance that occupies the whole of the plot of land it stands on. It is a building created with great skill, a building with presence. Standing on a rectangular plot, the work comprises a series of rectangular blocks arranged to form a large central courtyard, a pleasant open air garden inside the building, which most of the rooms overlook and which contrasts with the marked solidity of the building.

The main entrance is through a square which is visually linked with the courtyard garden and emphasises how differently users perceive the building's interior from its exterior. Two staircases in the building's main vestibule provide access to the large banked hall on the first floor.

In terms of use, the four-storey east block houses the School of Optics almost in its entirety (teachers' offices, and research and teaching laboratories). The west block contains classrooms. These two blocks are joined to two others, one of which is used as a reception for patients, and has its entrance from the south side, and the other, is used for administration.







The fourth building belonging to the Polytechnic University College is the result of the winning project in a major international competition held by the University of Alicante in 1997. The building's layout is based on the study and solution of three architectural aspects: the building's spatial and functional organisation, consideration of the Mediterranean climate in Alacant and the subsequent use of the courtyard, and strengthening visual relationships inside what is an open building.

The school is organised on two basic levels, one above the other, each with two floors. The first level is made up of classrooms and open areas of transit organised along a regular geometric layout of right angles. The lower floor on this level is below ground level, but as it is designed as a large excavated courtyard and used by classrooms spread evenly around it, it makes the most of the Mediterranean light, as this is a building that is very much open and in permanent contact with the outside world. The second level rests on the first and has a design based on three enclosed blocks in a line that contain teachers' offices.

The even geometry and the way that the first level of classrooms is fragmented, together with the free and open corridor around them, gives the building an interesting visual dynamic.





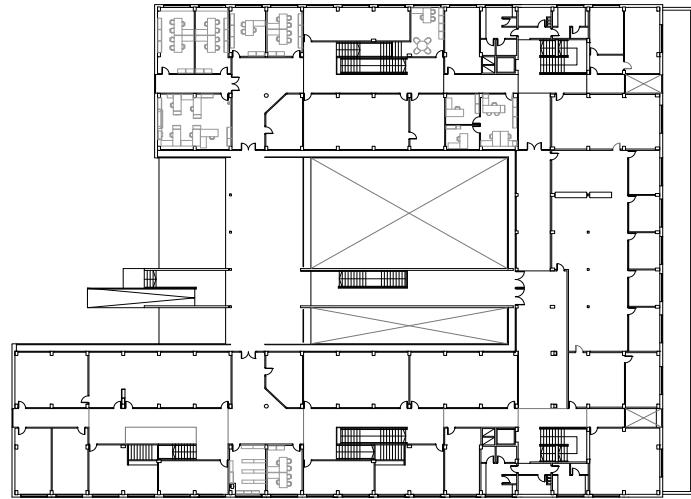
This building is arranged around a courtyard and has a timeless but unusual design, with a sunken courtyard and the rest of the building surrounding it in an open and uneven U shape, featuring classical and modern architecture, not in equal measures or half and half, but rather all of one and all of the other, in an exemplary and model fashion, with no gratuitous spectacle and patiently decanted.

It occupies most of the plot of land it stands on and opens out onto its own interior, where the essential pleasures of greenery and wood are combined in a space that works on all levels and with a wealth of crossed perspectives.

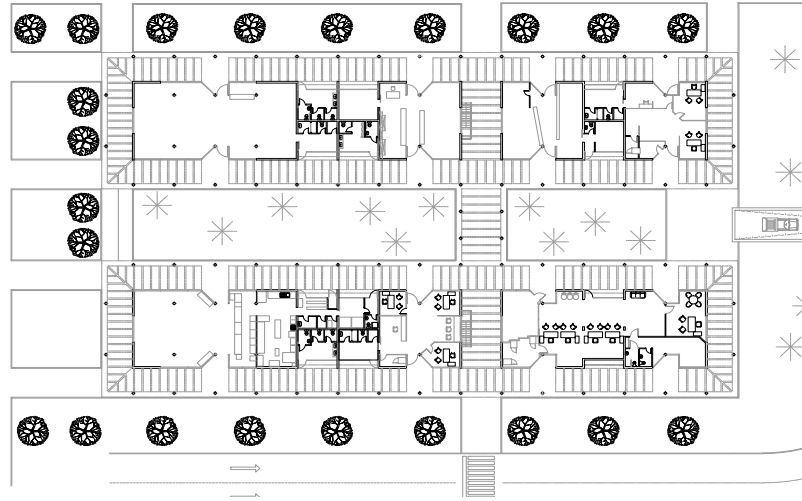
In its execution, in the complexity of its volumes and in the nuanced way in which each is achieved, everything about the building is modern: a very carefully administered primordial space, where nothing is squandered but nothing is left out, and with no ornaments other than the very materials and finishes used.

The idea is that what is on show, so solid and splendid, should also be agreeable to the touch. The severity of the heavy prefabricated concrete, attractive when seen from afar, when viewed up close, seeks to be seen as tangible and affectionate in the wood of the filters, floors and handrails. The attractiveness of this building's architecture is no less emotive with the change of scale that occurs upon accessing the building along the discreet and gentle walkway.

This is photogenic architecture yet also warm and generous; diaphanous in appearance, yet complex in the trajectory of its dynamic spaces, halfway between horizontal and vertical. Everything about the building seems to have been planned, yet also open to the unforeseeable. Its clear order adapts well to the ups and downs of life.







If the design of Social Club 2 turns in on itself, the design for the neighbouring Shopping Centre, by the same architect, is based on the spontaneous and natural transit of people that occurs on a pedestrian street.

However, there is also a certain stylistic air that links Social Club 2 and this Shopping Centre: it is a response to the assumption that in this age of globalisation, what is commercial (and therefore leisure-based) and what is social (understood as public relations) are often interchangeable, given that they both allude to the pleasure of exchanges and encounters, which require similarly attractive settings. This allows for the creation of a light, open, fluid and affable space.

Filters of various kinds, both horizontal and vertical, casting light and shadow, images and atmospheres, use grace and a delicate touch to condition the diverse spaces, or rather diversities, along a single boulevard axis though in an order that is far from rigid.

In the twin arrangement of services provided by the Shopping Centre, rather like the buildings in a porticoed street, nothing is closed off, but rather everything is enclosed in the fabric of pergolas, suitable for multiple purposes, whether business or leisure, and ready for anything at every step. This is an architecture which, like the opportunity that it provides for, is broad, relaxed and well managed.



SOCIAL CLUB 2

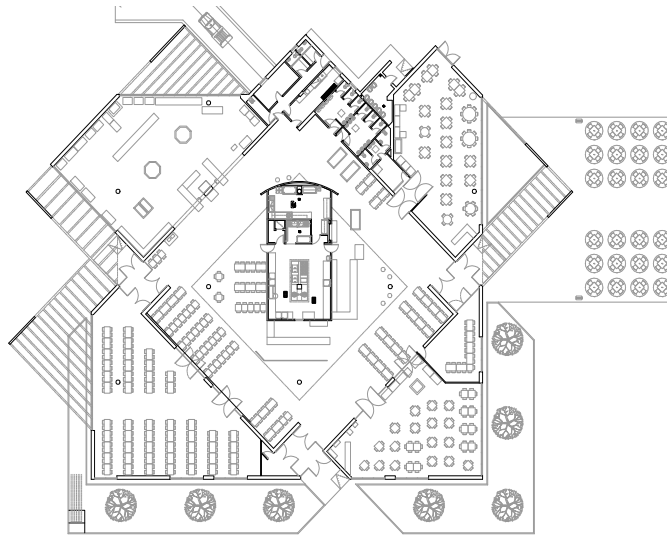
MARTÍNEZ PLANELLES, Luis

1995

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In order to understand this building, the plot of land that it stands on needs to be defined: three blocks belonging to the Faculty of Science forming an open square. The cafeteria building acts as one side to the square, forming a new open space for the campus.

The interior of the building is the result of its function: a long continuous space that starts with a dining area and ends in a cafeteria.

The facades are designed to be consistent with the building's location: the east frontage is made entirely of glass to create a link with the square created, while the west facade, used as the kitchen area, is almost entirely blank.

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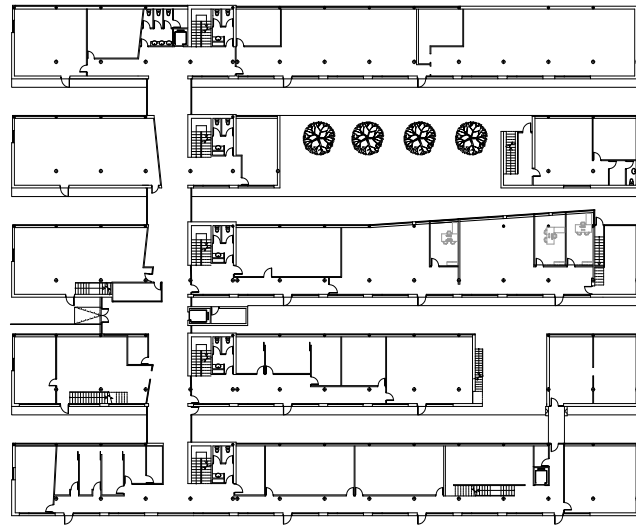
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It is clear, in the very best sense, that the people responsible for these complex architectures are teachers of the discipline that prepare students for their career. That is because these buildings contain that hint of a lesson, though not in an arrogant or impertinent way, by which all worthy architecture is self-descriptive and self-explanatory. It is pedagogical by nature, and by art.

This is how it is, the buildings seem to be saying. This is how it should be. As though following the steps 'that have to be taken', according to the protocol handed down since the time of the Enlightenment, the architects submit themselves to a secure canon in their projects, which the buildings make no attempt to hide. On a plot of land measuring 70 by 54 metres in the south-east area of the campus, five equal wings crossing each other in a double-comb design, impose a global order nuanced on a second scale by subtle variations that adapt the design to the various uses made of them. They also house courtyards open to both ends of the building, which they can either access or not, as appropriate. That is the certainty of this architecture, which as far as it can objectifies how the space is administered: that is why it is exemplary. The emphatic synthesis proclaimed by the five parallel buildings sits between two analyses: the history of the campus, and where it sits within it, on the one hand, and in terms of its use, on the other.

These analyses determine accidents or variations, how the walls twist and fold back, staircases that are added, gaps in positions and uneven dimensions, always as required by the building's purpose and never beyond what is strictly necessary. This ensures the proper combination of floors, elevations and sections, which are all coherent with a single concept and which the real perspectives of the complex building show in situ, helping to create an easy and immediate intelligibility.







By the year 2000, the University of Alicante campus was almost fully consolidated, and only a few alterations were made in the subsequent decade. Three types of changes were made: refurbishing areas or buildings to adapt them to new circumstances constructing new buildings not originally envisaged and using various spaces that were previously empty.

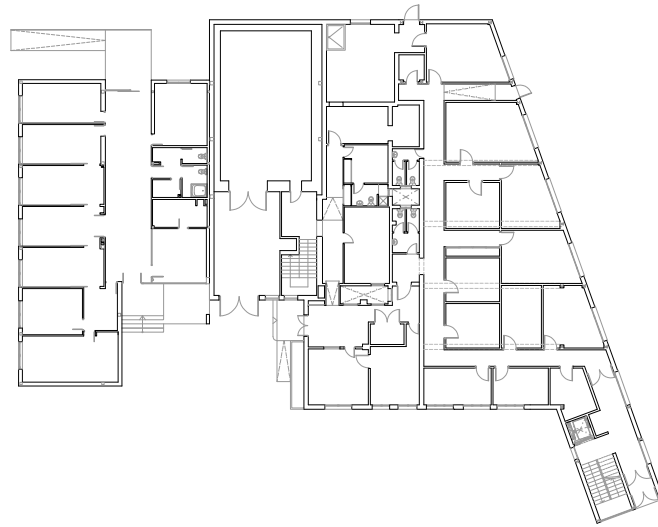
Projects concerned with the first of these include the east entrance and the Audiovisual Lab which, due to the creation of tram line 2 between Alacant and Sant Vicent

del Raspeig that runs along the campus' east perimeter, required alterations to the surrounding buildings and entrances. In the second case, the Security Control Centre replaced a provisional building that had not been included in the initial campus design. Finally, a few new sports pavilions were created and Social Club 3 was built in the south-east part of campus.

These various projects led to saturation on campus, which meant that the university needed to expand onto new land.

06_ General Use Building 1
43_ Social Club 3
46_ Security Control Centre
47_ TRAM- University Access





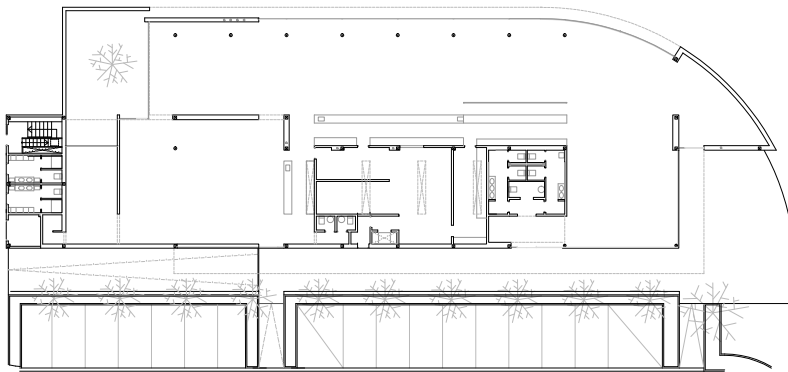
This building is at one end of a series of constructions belonging to the university's first period, markedly white buildings of small dimensions. All the buildings in this part of campus use a barrier of trees at the back to isolate them both visually and acoustically from the road and car park.

The Prevention Service contains consultation and treatment rooms, a reception area and waiting room, which acts as a kind of double 'comb', linking and separating two sets of rooms.

This single-storey building stands approximately 80 cm above the level of the ground it is built on, with steps up to the south-east entrance and a ramp for the north-west entrance. This is a new construction attached to an existing building, with a concrete roof placed at an intermediate height, creating a giant visor over the entrance and the side block of offices and allowing light to enter the vestibule from the west.

The main link with the greenery surrounding the building is found in the waiting room, with natural lighting that is both direct (in a north-south direction) and indirect (through the gap between the shell and the interior elements), and which helps to create the transparency that exists between the interior and exterior, one of the building's finest assets.





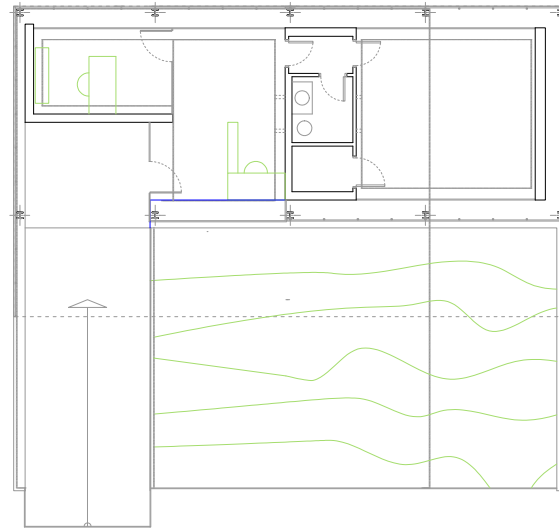
Originally designed as a neutral industrial building, for several years it was used as a lecture building by the Polytechnic University College. Its main characteristic is its sense of being an enclosed space, and of heavy construction.

With this starting point, the project to transform the lecture building into a cafeteria included an inner courtyard, which together with the exposed stonework strengthens the sense of enclosure of the original design.

The cafeteria itself has three sections: the bar and kitchen in the middle, the dining area in the west wing and the cafeteria and reserved area on the east side.

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Located on the first curve of the road into the campus off the Mediterranean Motorway roundabout, the Security Control Centre offsets its necessary condition as an imposing and impenetrable building by incorporating a certain transparency in its central section, providing a view of the space between the faculties and the university centres on this part of campus, on one of the main avenues running from one end of the campus to the other.

From the elevated base of the building, various screens and metal pillars emerge to support a large slab that projects out to the south-east by the entrance. It is topped by a concrete perimeter plate, as are other buildings on campus, concealing the building's insulation and waterproofing elements.

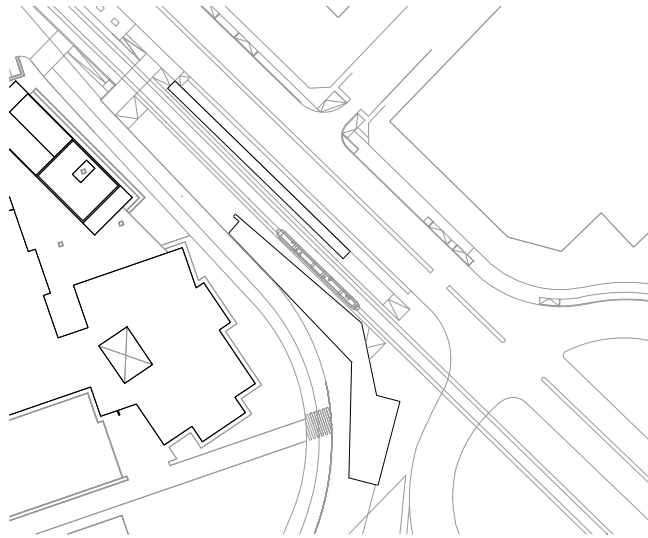
Access is by means of a gentle ramp on the south corner, and through a gardened area on the south-east side. The building has a slate floor, and the walled surfaces use opaque or glass panels to produce a double skin all the way round with a gap of around 70 cm, which is only accessible for maintenance work and creates a dark area from which to keep watch without being seen, through aluminium lattice work.

Functionally, the layout of the building is organised around the control room, from where the entire campus is monitored by means of video security cameras, with a small public reception area, an office for the control manager, a bathroom and other adjoining rooms.



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The new tram line between Alacant and Sant Vicent del Raspeig runs past the eastern edge of the campus and features a new station at one of the university entrances.

The design for this stop was the result of a competition that could be entered by students attending any architectural college in Spain, tutored by a teacher who would define and oversee the winning project. The winning entry was a comprehensive design that included a new tram stop as well as plans for a new eastern entrance to the university, altering not only the appearance but also how vehicles and pedestrians alike would enter the site.

Functionally, the project prioritises pedestrian access, as it includes uninterrupted paths that lead directly from the tram stop into the campus, eliminating the need for pedestrians to cross roads in order to gain access to campus.

As for the tram stop itself, the design features two covered platforms that are adapted to the different context on either side. The sides of the platform located next to the main road that Alacant and Sant Vicent del Raspeig are made from blind concrete, separating the platform from road traffic. The vertical face of the platform, closer to campus, features metallic elements that help establish visual permeability and the appropriation of the campus' interior space.

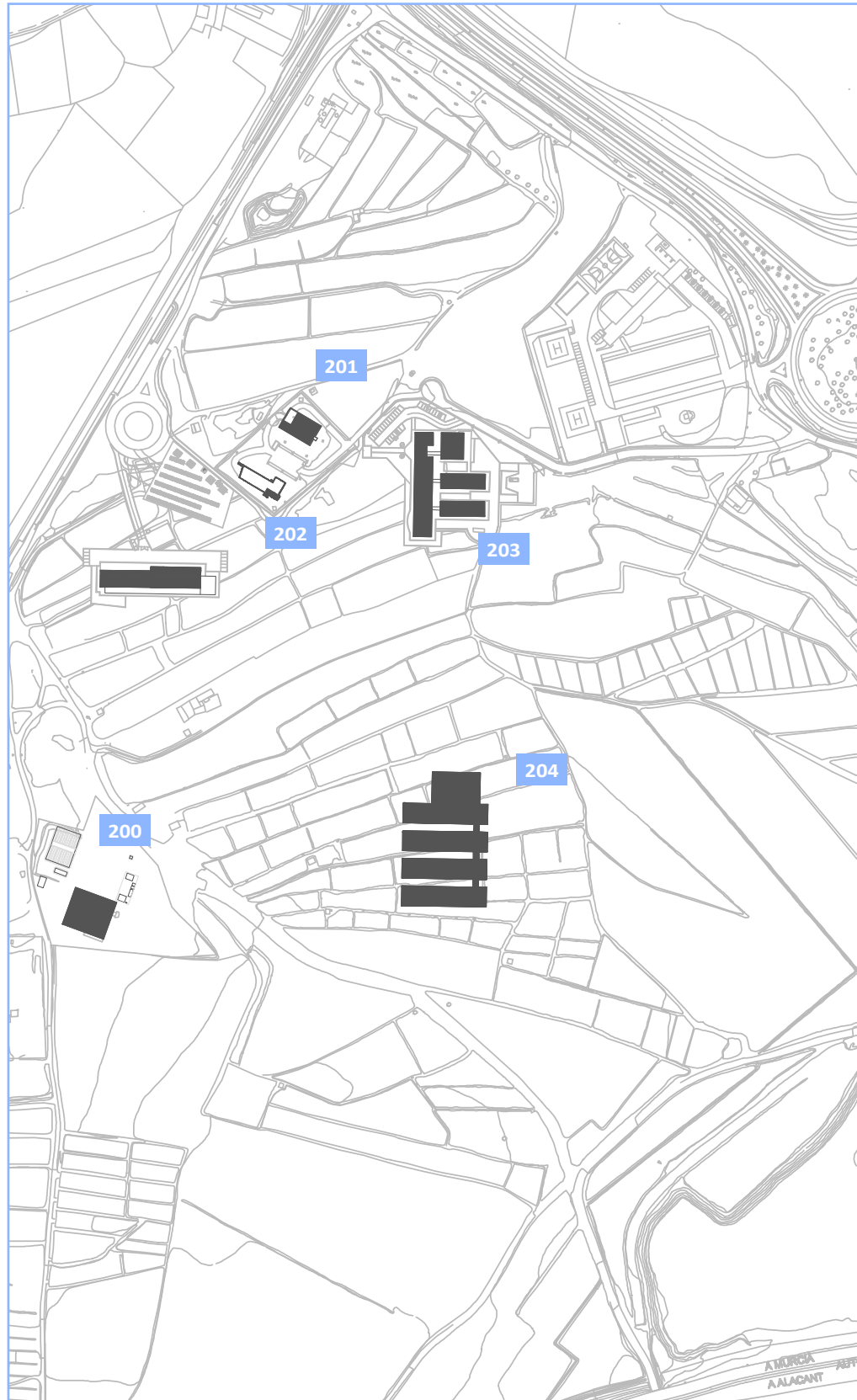


UNIVERSITY EXPANSION AREA

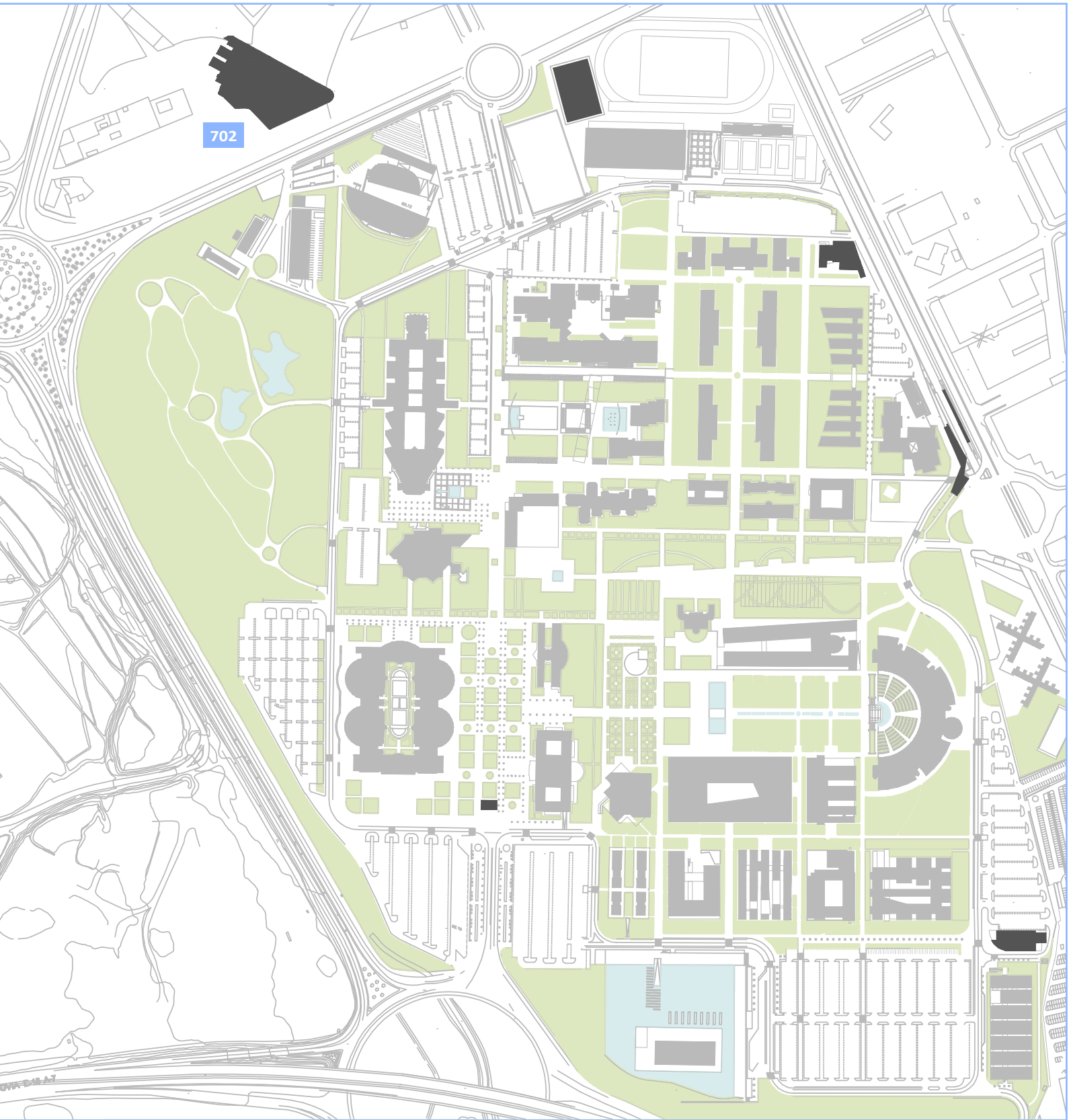
Expanding the university's modern but well-established and fully occupied campus will increase its size as well as improve the facilities and areas of excellence that are essential to ensure a successful future.

It will allow the campus to connect with the city of Alacant (Alicante) through development initiatives, and with Sant Vicent del Raspeig, which the university already has links with. Just as our modern-day campus is based on the former military airfield and has retained various historic references that now have become part of its heritage, such as its layout and its emblematic control tower, aircraft hangar and former military barrack buildings, the expansion project has taken that same layout as a reference and used it as its basis from the start.

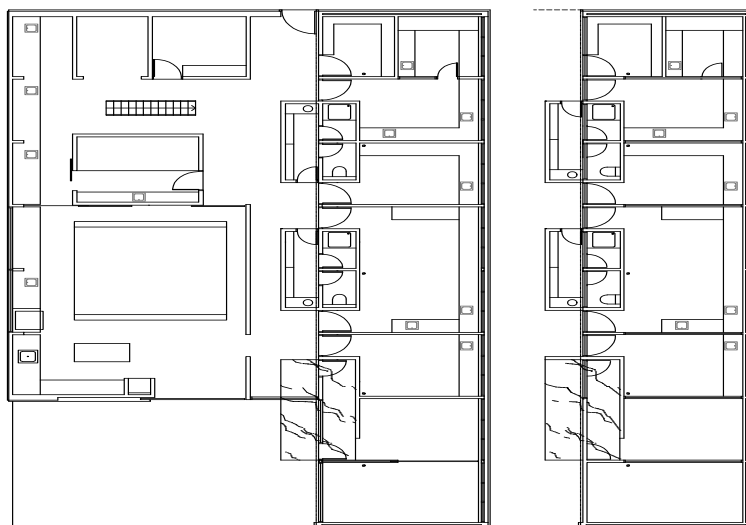
The aim of the new expansion is to create more open spaces on the current site, improve the quality of the teaching facilities and optimise the amount of space provided for research and knowledge transfer purposes. With research becoming a much more prominent part of university activity, making the project compatible with the needs and requirements of research has been a clear objective from the start. Those needs are met by the Science Park. To speak of expanding the university is to speak of the future, of better teaching, better research and improved transfer to the business world, and of drawing the university closer to the city and its inhabitants, both socially and culturally. This is a real commitment to increasing the generation and transfer knowledge, as well as exchanging content and initiatives.



- 200_ Greenhouse-Photovoltaic Plant
- 201_ Animal Laboratory Service
- 202_ Petrology
- 203_ Technical Research Services
- 204_ Research Institutes
- 702_ Faculty of Education



702



The building is divided into two parts that differ in both function and design.

One side is the curved industrial area, which is taller and acts as a single space, where the entire stone handling process occurs. This section houses the various machines used to prepare samples, which are separated by means of low-level lightweight or heavier enclosures, so that they all share the interior ceiling, and there is also the possibility of using a rail and a bridge by means of concrete walls reaching half way up the interior.

The other side of the building houses the research area, which is lower in height and contains the laboratories and a small reception and administrative area. These are specific offices and laboratories accessed from the central area of the industrial section.

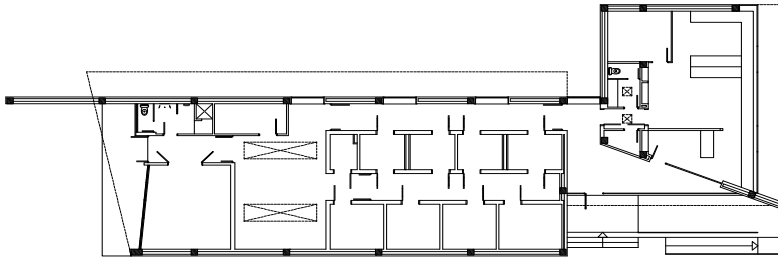
The difference in height between the two areas allows light to enter the industrial section, combined with slats in the final section of the roof.

The curved section of the industrial area has a frame built from very light and slender metal tubing, strengthened by double panelling where needed (close to the supports), and uses Vierendeel trusses to lighten the structure in the horizontal section. It takes on a diagonal design in the curved part, stretching from the concrete floor structure to the multilayer roof of galvanised metal panels and anodised aluminium slats.



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The Animal Laboratory Service is located in the University of Alicante campus expansion area, opposite the Petrology building.

The building's volumetric configuration is simple, comprising two white prism-shaped pieces of differing height. The larger of the two is at the front and forms the entrance to the building. It contains a series of offices and laboratories fitted to house various cages and controlled environment booths, together with other laboratory pieces. It is designed to provide the University with the animals, facilities, materials and equipment needed to carry out research projects and/or teaching duties.

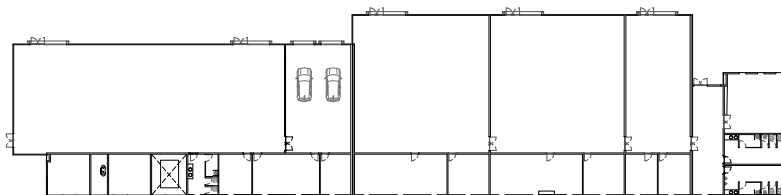
The Support Facilities for the Science Park are on land next to the University Campus, and shares its structure with the Mechanical Workshop Building. The support facilities feature two very different sections.

On one side there are three different areas (maintenance, gardening and cleaning), in a portico structure that is 16.75 metres wide with five arches every 8.20 metres. The lean-to roof is at a seven per cent angle, so at the lowest point there is a six-metre headroom.

On the other side, the service module features prefabricated concrete panelling with incorporated vertical windows. This area is used for offices, changing rooms, multi-purpose rooms, storage, canteen, food area, and so on. It is 4.5 metres high and attached to the main body.

The Mechanical Workshop Building is next to the Science Park Support Building, with a set-back frontage to allow vehicles to park outside. This reduces the structure's span to 13.2 metres.

The building is used as a mechanical and vehicle workshop, with offices, workshops, storage, toilets and changing rooms, and the communal areas contain general facilities, the transformation area, compressed air and firefighting facilities. The building has a significant element of urbanisation in the pergola used to cover the parking area, made from metal pipes with a 'tramex' cover in galvanised steel to provide shade. The mechanical workshop building has a total surface area of 739.18 square metres, and the interiors, with floating floors and hard-wearing industrial finishes, maintain the image of well-lit workshops. The exterior of both of these buildings is industrial and austere, and represents the functionality of the buildings as general support structures for the University and the Science Park.

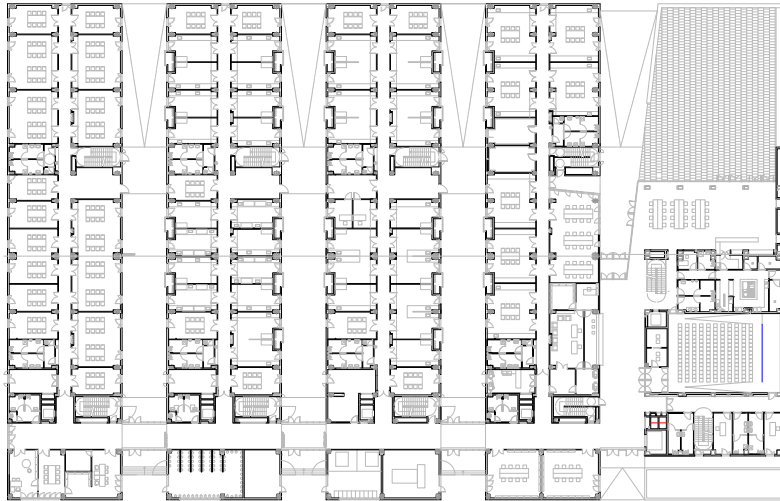


AÑÓN, Juan

2001

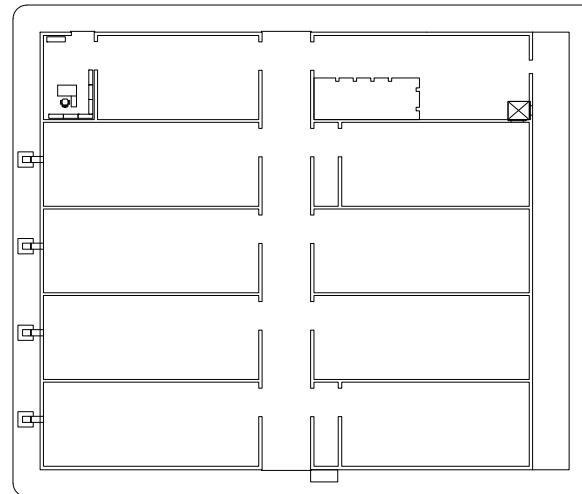
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The aim of this building is to meet the increasing demand of new spaces devoted to university research institutes. Research at the University of Alicante's Institutes has been constantly growing in the last few years, and this building is the headquarters of several institutes and the place where their research activities are carried out.

The project is made up of five rectangular units joined by a block that is at the same time the access to the building and the main element in its directionality. Functionally speaking, the building is divided on three floors and a basement with several storage rooms. Three of the rooms on the ground floor are dedicated to research on computer science, electrochemistry and modern languages, and they are also home to CIBIO (University Research Institute on Biodiversity). The rest is used for common services such as the cafeteria, the assembly hall and workshops. On the second floor, there are classrooms and laboratories belonging to each of the above mentioned departments. The second floor is home to Ramón Margalef Institute for Environmental Research, the Institute of Organic Synthesis, the University Institute of Materials and the Institute of Chemical Processes Engineering.



The 100 kW photovoltaic plant is located next to the University campus in the Science Park, between lots 27 and 30 of estate 44.

The facility is an innovation by the University to build a sustainable environmental model by integrating a clean energy production model through the use of renewable energy. The facility brings the following benefits:

- Environmental: reducing CO₂, SO₂ and NO_x emissions.
- Energy savings and efficiency: using on-site resources and introducing new technologies to the University while carrying out environmental policies.
- Electrical supply strategy and safety: reducing supply dependency.
- Example of sustainable development: providing the Campus with an innovative ecological image.

The photovoltaic system is made up of monocrystalline and/or polycrystalline panels attached to fixed and moveable structures, together with amorphous panels with their inverters to reach the designed level of power.

The versatility of the plant means that new structures can be added and performance analyses can be run using the equipment in the inverter room.





The building stands on a plot of land more than five thousand square metres in size located in the area that the campus has expanded into, and it is connected visually and physically to the avenue upon which Lecture Building 1 stands, with pedestrian access from the north-west and vehicular access from the south-east.

The building has a total surface area of around 5,700 square metres spread over three floors and is used by various research units linked mainly to the University of Alicante's Faculty of Sciences.

Designed from the start to be flexible in terms of how it can be divided up, it has various options for future growth based on a general layout in the form of a 'comb', which can be transformed into a 'spine' if new blocks are added, and with flexibility in terms of parking spaces for different vehicles, pedestrian traffic and barrier-free access.

The materials used for the building's exterior vary with the direction faced and the general layout.

Two styles of window are used: those on the lower level have a more vertical design and form a repetitive series, whereas the upper windows are much more horizontal in their arrangement, with three variations that adapt to the different uses of the building's various parts.

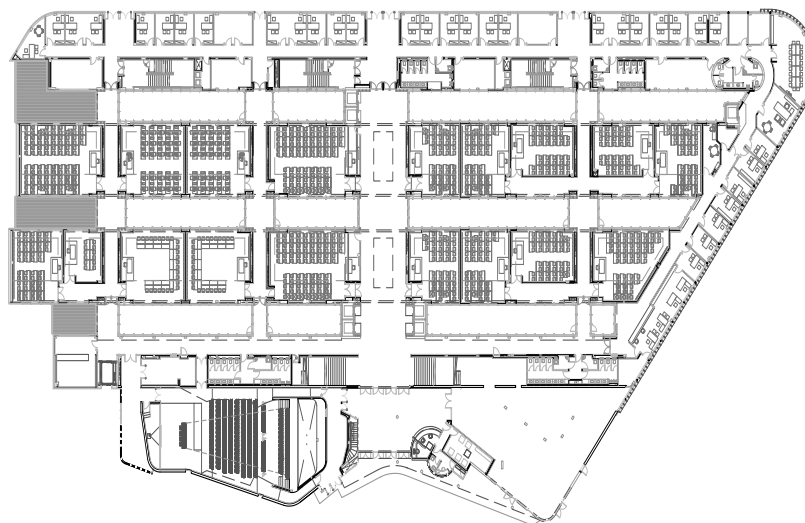
This building stands outside the perimeter of the campus, which meant that particular attention had to be paid to how it might connect with the main site. The building is designed to be appropriate for its educational function, and it is adapted to administrative and university use by means of an accessible, inclusive and non-hierarchical organisation. The design also allows for functional changes and extensions and is compatible with the new Special Plan initiative on the edge of campus.

The design turns the two main uses in the original tender (lecture halls and departmental rooms) into parallel ground floor blocks, with two upper storeys that provide for the building's other uses, and courtyards running lengthways between them, connected by walkways or bridges. The main entrance is under a large exposed concrete wall on the south side, which leads to the south-north axis (where temporary exhibitions may be held), and with direct access to the east-west axis, containing the large steps connecting the different levels.

In terms of use, the first block contains the entrance and special areas such as the assembly hall and cafeteria. The assembly hall seats 350 people, and it has concrete walls and two amphitheatres with access from the upper levels. The roof uses a sequence of gentle sloping sections to join the assembly hall ceilings with those in the lecture rooms used for physical theatre and the plastic arts.

The second and third blocks are used as lecture buildings, and all three blocks, though on different levels, are of the same size. The general lecture rooms (which seat 70 students) are arranged in pairs and are separated by a moveable wall, which can be removed to create a larger single space. Other special lecture rooms (physical theatre and plastic arts) are located above the entrance and have split ceiling heights.

On the highest level of these blocks (at an elevation of 7.52 m) stands the library, adapted to the block design



and which includes the offices, newspaper archives and free-access deposit, reading room, newspaper room, working areas and computer rooms.

The fourth and last block borders the lecture room area to the north and east, with offices and seminar rooms belonging to the departmental area, such as the administrative secretariat, student delegations and the dean's staff offices. There is a separate entrance for teaching staff offices on the north side of the building. Public lifts are found next to the south-north axis, with departmental lifts on the east side of the building and a goods lift for maintenance work on the south-west side. The walkways between blocks act as wider corridors and as visual connectors through to the courtyards.

Finally, the structure uses gridded structural slabs resting on a concrete frame with beams that hang loose or are embedded into the walls.





UNIVERSITY VENUES

One of the most important territorial features of Alacant (Alicante) is its system of cities, as they form a polycentric network of medium-sized cities covering the whole province. This unique feature is also spread over the other provinces of Valencia and the neighbouring provinces of Murcia and Albacete.

This territorial peculiarity has also been transferred to the university context and the University of Alicante has a number of venues, as well as a set of scientific stations, which are distributed throughout the province, enabling the expansion of the University to a wider scope.

The presence of the University of Alicante in many towns of the province dates back, as the university itself, to the 80s when courses in the different municipalities of the geography of Alacant (Alicante) were taught as a result of an agreement with the then savings bank *Caja de Ahorros del Mediterráneo*. This initial tradition has been continued by means

of new agreements with various public and private institutions up until recently when the current university venues have become established. In this way, the University of Alicante is present in all the local councils of the province, from the city of Alacant, with its own venues, to Benissa in the north, Orihuela in the south and Villena to the west. In all cases the agreements are the result of a common consent between municipalities and other institutions, derived from previous collaborations.

The representation of the University of Alicante in the different regions that make up the province of Alacant is established as follows:

- La Marina Alta, based in Benissa.
- La Marina Baixa, based in La Nucia.
- El Comtat, based in Cocentaina.
- L' Alcoià with scientific stations in Alcoi and Ibi.
- L' Alt Vinalopó, based in Villena, Biar and Sax.
- El Baix Vinalopó with scientific stations in Elx and Santa Pola.
- La Vega Baja del Segura, based in Orihuela.
- L' Alacantí, based in Alacant.

The special feature of all of the venues is that their buildings are part of the historical and artistic heritage of the places they belong to.

These venues are developing a wide variety of activities ranging from Master's courses and postgraduate courses to supplementary free-elective courses for undergraduates, cultural activities related to information technology, exhibitions, concerts, and winter, autumn and summer sessions.

Also, many of the venues have support facilities, computer rooms, libraries and study rooms for the students who, even if they are attending classes at the campus of Sant Vicent del Raspeig, have these facilities available.

Finally, despite the existence of another public university in the province, the University of Alicante is the institution that has proven to have a more diverse and intense presence in its different counties.



CITY OF ALICANTE VENUE

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The venue of the University of Alicante in the capital city of the province, with a population of approximately 335,000 inhabitants, is located in one of the most iconic buildings that represent the cultural and educational progress of Alacant, as well as the economic urban development of the city. A neoclassical mansion of the late nineteenth century, which served as the Inland Revenue Department, School of Commerce and Business School, the latter joining the University of Alicante at the beginning of the 80s, currently hosting the University venue in the City of Alacant (Alicante), located at the meeting point of the main avenues, Dr. Gadea and Dr. Ramón y Cajal.

Amongst its institutional roles, it is worth mentioning the construction of the University Council & Administration venue in the city of Alacant, thereby welcoming distinguished authorities, companies and institutions involved in major projects and research collaboration agreements. However in this venue, a variety of activities are being developed: scientific, artistic, social, academic and extra-curricular activities. Having hosted the Germà Bernàcer main conference hall and the Ship Handling Simulator Training Centre assigned to the Alacant International Maritime Institute for a few years, most of its premises are now devoted to the teaching activities of the ambitious Project of our Permanent University.

Thus, being an important part of the cultural scene of Alacant, the City of the University venue is an excellent meeting place for all citizens and visitors to the city.



UNIVERSITY VENUE IN BIAR



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The L'Alt Vinalopó county, located in the northwest of the province of Alacant (Alicante), is the one with closer links with the University of Alicante, with more than 54,000 inhabitants distributed mainly among Villena, Sax and Biar, all venues belonging to the University of Alicante.

The venue of the University of Alicante in Biar, which serves about 3,700 people, is located in the former convent of the Order of Friars Minors, which is actually the Culture Centre.

The building dates back to 1720 and has been restored several times to maintain the building. The last one took place between 1990 and 1993. The interior has been rebuilt respecting the arches, vaults, original mouldings and facings. From an architectural point of view, it is a masonry and brick-free industrial building with a gable on the facade.

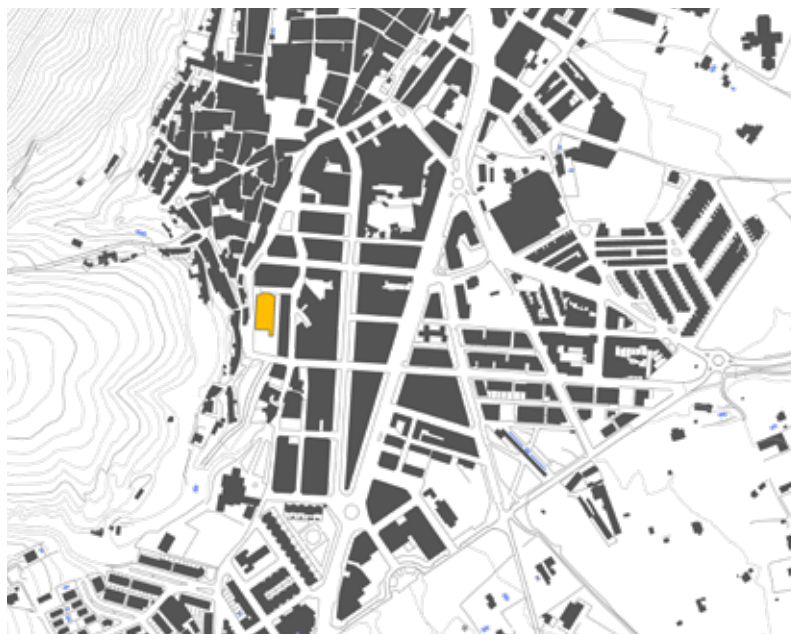
The building belongs to a historic set consisting of remains of wall with guard towers, arches that served as access to the inhabited site and cobbled streets, characteristic of Almohad architecture from the twelfth century. Its layout is developed concentrically around the castle and stands out as one of the few medieval urban examples that has survived nowadays and the only one in the province of Alacant that is so well preserved. Due to the importance of this historic set in the city, the building has been used as a place where courses, seminars, musical events and exhibitions related to Biar as a university venue are held.

UNIVERSITY VENUE IN COCENTAINA



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The venue of the University of Alicante in Cocentaina is not only locally reachable by the 11,000 inhabitants of the municipality, but also meets the demand of the population of the entire county, known as El Comtat, which has a population of 28,000 inhabitants.

Although the venue in Cocentaina has been changing its location within the municipality over the years, it has always been located near the most representative areas of the city centre. Until recently, El Palau Comtal has been used as the university venue and was the first building built in this town and the county's surroundings. Its facade dates back to the sixteenth century although, according to documentary sources, it was built before by reusing the remains of a Moorish castle from the twelfth century. The initial work was carried out by the successors of Roger of Lauria, the most famous member of the Royal Spanish Navy during the reign of Peter III of Aragon.

It is only recently that the venue has been moved to El Teular Cultural Centre, a new building with a capacity for 400 people, with an administrative office, a computer room, an exhibition room, a general-use room and a theatre.

Among the activities carried out, we find a wide variety of courses and sessions, theatre, concerts, opera, choir competitions, major local events, films, photo and painting exhibitions, and it also serves as a classroom to teach the University of Alicante courses.



UNIVERSITY VENUE IN LA MARINA



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The venue of the University of Alicante in La Marina Alta is strategically located in the northern county of the province of Alacant (Alicante). This venue operates in an environment surrounded by a number of European residents.

It is located in the town of Benissa, near the old church-fortress of San Pedro, along Calle de la Puríssima Street, where the houses of the most influential families of the town in the eighteenth century were built. Amongst the most interesting, we find the Andrés' and Pere Bigot's houses, which have become the University of Alicante venues in Marina Alta.

Andrés' House was built between the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. It was the only urban palace in Benissa at the time, and is a clear example of a manor house. The House of Pere Bigot not only stands out as one of the most interesting examples of civil architecture of this period in the Valencia Region, but its uniqueness lies in the character that lived there, Pedro Ivars Sala, popularly known as Pere Bigot who was engaged in telling his most endearing stories, accompanied by his accordion.

Amongst many other activities, a comprehensive programme is developed at the Benissa Venue throughout the year, including events related to Valencian culture and language.

UNIVERSITY VENUE IN LA NUCIA



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The building that houses the venue of the University of Alicante in La Nucia, pursuant to its particular interest in the dissemination of knowledge and education, has had an outstanding architectural and cultural background. Opened in 1936 right in the city centre, the building was formerly the San Rafael Public School and has been renovated and adapted throughout its history to accommodate different programmes. At first, it was a nursery school; later on a primary school and afterwards a high school, becoming the first secondary school in La Nucia.

In 2001, an agreement with the Permanent University of the University of Alicante was signed (UPUA) whose objectives include, among others, to promote a cross-generational programme for scientific, cultural and social development to improve the quality of life and the social inclusion of the elderly and foreigners through university courses. Later on, after the refurbishment and expansion of the building in April 2007 by local architect, Jose Luis Campos Rosillo, it became a permanent venue of the University of Alicante, meeting not only the local demand of 19,000 inhabitants, but also those of La Marina Baixa county, with about 172,000 inhabitants. Currently, a wide thematic range of courses, workshops and cultural activities, aimed at university students and the public at large, come together in the remarkable architectural complex that is this venue.



UNIVERSITY VENUE IN ORIHUELA



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The venue of the University of Alicante in Orihuela is linked to the wide county La Vega Baja del Segura, one of the most densely populated in the province. It consists of twenty-seven municipalities with around 398,621 inhabitants, which include Torrevieja as most populous city with 101,000 inhabitants, followed by Orihuela, with 91,000.

The Diocesan College of Santo Domingo, located in the city of Orihuela, is a landmark building which was commissioned by Archbishop Loazes in 1547 to house the Colegio del Patriarca. It was only after five years when Pope Julius III granted it the status of university. Finally, King Philip IV of Spain granted it the status of royal public and general university, as well as the universities of Alcalá de Henares, Valencia and Granada. Many personalities such as Miguel Hernández and Gabriel Miró have studied within its walls. Although it was closed in 1835, the building never lost its academic activity, becoming an upper secondary school until the creation of the current Diocesan College in 1956.

This historic building is the largest national monument in the Valencia Region, with 15,000 square metres where two cloisters, three courtyards, a dining hall and a church, with classrooms and offices are housed. There, the University of Alicante owns the permanent venue with the Archbishop Loazes Chair in remembrance of the founder of this educational space, from which a wide variety of activities are coordinated, focused on issues of interest in this county.



UNIVERSITY VENUE IN VILLENA

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The venue of the city of Villena, alongside with the venues of Biar and Sax, brings the presence of the University of Alicante to life in L' Alt Vinalopó county, the westernmost county of the province of Alacant (Alicante). Apart from a municipal population of nearly 35,000 inhabitants, it serves a group of more than 54,000 people living in this county.

After various locations in the town, the venue of the University of Alicante has been, along with the Economic Development Office of the City Council of Villena, situated in La Tertia building, a former renovated school. Its location in the city is notable for being located in El Rabal, a neighbourhood in the heart of the historic city centre within walking distance from the Atalaya city castle and the main civil and religious historical buildings.

The University of Alicante has been traditionally linked to this municipality through two types of activities: first, the specialised activities related to archaeological sites from the European Bronze Age and, on the other hand, more diverse training and specialisation activities aimed at the population of L' Alt Vinalopó county. It is also worth mentioning amongst the latter that the training activities are aimed at different municipal associations and groups that have promoted the involvement of the institution in the social life, especially in the social and health care field.



UNIVERSITY VENUE IN XIXONA



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The population of Xixona belongs to L' Alacantí county and has traditionally been an industrial town and currently has approximately 7,500 inhabitants. Located about 27 kilometres from the University, it is housed in both the premises of the Culture Centre and the Dalt Cinema.

The venue of the University of Alicante in Xixona is the result of an agreement among public institutions, as in this case the University of Alicante, with the representative bodies of the city such as the chocolate and nougat industries —both characteristic products in the area—. Therefore, the most representative activities in the Venue are related to the food industry. Thus, this educational forum belonging to the University has several objectives, which are similar to other venues: bringing the university educational environment closer to a population in their local context; conducting training activities that complement the needs of the citizens in the area, such as specialisation courses; adapting themed activities to the issues of interest to the citizens of this city and the surrounding populations.

Dalt Cinema is a general-use room with a capacity for 400 people, while the Culture Centre is a conference hall with a capacity for around 40 or 50 people.

UNIVERSITY LECTURE HALL IN SAX

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The municipality of Sax, in L' Alt Vinalopó county has a long industrial and agricultural tradition favoured by the crossroads between the coast and the interior of the peninsula, which has accommodated major road infrastructure, from the Roman Via Augusta to contemporary high-speed railway (AVE).

This Lecture Hall of the University of Alicante is an eighteenth century mansion, owned by the city council, located on the Calle Mayor, where the upper middle class used to live. It was there where Alberto Sols García was born in 1917, renowned biochemist who received the Prince of Asturias Award in 1981 and the Santiago Ramón y Cajal Award in 1987.

Renovated and refurbished as a municipal study centre and as Alberto Sols historical archive building –CEHAM for its Spanish acronym– was opened in 2007 to host the legacy of Alberto Sols, of composer Miguel Villar, the photo archives by Uñac y Payá, a tour throughout the twentieth century, and the Hall of University Extension of the University of Alicante.

Amongst other facilities, a computer room is set up by the University of Alicante on the ground floor. The office of the local archivist and historian, the most prominent collection of the archive and the photographic legacy, all in the form of glass plates, are located on the first floor, as well as a small room for researchers, a study room and the conference hall, where courses and lecture sessions are held. Also a showroom where the exhibitions organised by this UA venue and other local exhibitions are displayed, is hosted on an open space on the second floor.

According to CEHAM's purpose, as a strategic landmark for the recovery of the city centre of Sax, this venue is specialised in proposals and programmes focused on heritage recovery and management.





SCIENTIFIC STATIONS

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Apart from having University Venues in several townships, the University of Alicante has set up a number of scientific stations that play a key role in the development of research, teaching and environment education on different ecosystems.

The Scientific Station of Font Roja Natura is the University of Alicante's contribution to Font Roja Natura centre, which is devoted to interpreting, researching and disseminating the environmental values of Natural Park "Carrascar de la Font Roja" by means of courses, seminars, meetings and environmental education and promotion services.

The Biological Station of Torretes in Ibi, is a research, conservation and promotion unit for Mediterranean biodiversity that is linked to CIBIO, the University Research Institute on Biodiversity. Studies and reports are carried out at the station in order to establish environmentally protected areas, which nowadays include the flora micro-reserve of Mas de Torretes, its natural site and the voluntary fauna reserve. Also, the Biological Station of Torretes implements specific plans to conserve germ plasm from traditional crop varieties and it also has a splendid botanical garden.

On the other hand, L' Alcúdia Foundation manages the large archaeological site of the ancient city of Ilici as well as a museum where prehistoric, Iberian, Roman, Visigoth and Byzantine pieces are shown. The most famous of all is the Lady of Elche. Archaeological excavations are constantly being carried out on this site. Also, visitors can enjoy the Interpretation Centre and the Monographic Museum, located on the site premises. L' Alcúdia Foundation regularly organises teaching and promotion courses aimed at bringing Elx's archaeological reality closer to university students and the general public.

Finally, the Marine Research Centre CIMAR works to make marine environment and its biodiversity known so people can learn to make the most of the resources it offers in a responsible way and also contribute to protecting this ecosystem and using it rationally. This centre was created in 2005 and is located in a former police station in Santa Pola, which was built in the 1920s and is known as the "Torre d'Enmig". This is a privileged spot, right by the fossil coral reef of Santa Pola and just a few metres from the shore.

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