

PROYECTALAB / NAU DE LES ARTS

Restoration and Extension



Recetas Urbanas
Santiago Cirugeda

Promoter: Benicasim Council+ As. Proyecta
Building Company: Self-Building + Subcontracts
Location: Benicasim
Area: 330 m² + 75 m²

Cost: 160.000 €
Start Design Date: February 2008
Construction Start: September 2010
Inauguration: March 2011

The Nau de les Arts / ProyectaLab is a multidisciplinary space, conceived to host different cultural activities. It was created with the will of solving the need for a creative and discussion space of Collectives and people who have no resources. Besides it, the project incorporated new spaces for the education and production as well as, two housing spaces for the guest artists. Initiated by Association Proyecta and built by Recetas Urbanas in collaboration with Rehasa Estructuras, Lucas Construcción and the help of numerous collectives from Collective Architectures network, the space, promoted by the Benicasim's municipality, starts with the re-utilization of 6 containers provided from Saragossa and belonged to the project Trucks, Containers & Collectives. The work was based on the rehabilitation and improvement of an old Renfe train station warehouse on which was added prosthesis made of containers, in order to make it able to host new uses. With this process of collective construction, space and material re-use, it was fast and low-cost to obtain a new facility. Equipped with different classes, courses, meeting rooms, warehouses and residences for artists, the space with nearly 400m² would have hosts, under a shared management model, the activities of Nau de les Arts during winter and Proyectalab ones during summer; making possible the possibility of multiple uses for the same infrastructure.



In spite of the two years of management done by the Proyecta collective, trying to find complicity and economical resources from the Benicasim Council, the fail in this process is the inability of the city council to sign the management agreement proposed. The opening of the space was organized by the city hall without the signature of the agreement. They believed in the project enough to secure its funding; however, they got lost in the public promotions and presentations even before they could assure its operation.