



Recetas Urbanas
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THE SCHOOL GROWS

New Self-Building, Classrooms in Educational Process

Promoter: ESDM
Building Company: Selfconstruction
Location: Madrid
Area: 170 m²

Cost: 69.580€ = 409€/m²
Design Start Date: March 2014
Construction Start: October 2014
Inauguration: September 2016&17

The School Grows is a project launched at the Madrid School of Design. In 2014 the school hosts more than 700 students in a 1965 building originally intended to house 172. As a first step, the school turned to educational authorities and different proposals were submitted to them, but finally rejected because of lack of funds. The proposed building extension included 170 square meters on two floors. We chose a construction system based on prefab units made by ourselves and allowing for a dry installation with no need of mortar—so we skipped the necessity of hiring companies to provide specialized services. Both the structural system and most of the employed material were recycled. It is important to note that the new building project was never understood as a closed design, but as a work-in-progress to be solved as it happens. The design itself is conceived, therefore, as a process in which the participants are not mere workforce that "helps" or "carries out" orders from the headship: they share with them, with their decisions, the responsibility of what is built. The construction of the new building is carried out through workshops and the students interested in participating can do it without neglecting their studies because this activity is part of the curriculum and they are allowed to request that their work be included in their transcripts, filling up to the 6 ECTS credits of free choice subjects they have to complete.



This fruitful transfer of theoretical background and practical knowledge has gone beyond educational community. The School Grows is open to members of groups, associations or non-academic professionals from different fields. The searching for a new physical space has thus made possible the creation of a new human space which, in contrast to the former, has no deadline and will continue to produce learning opportunities in the future. 90% Self- Construction system, 366 adult volunteers, 177 working days, 85% reuse of materials .