

STUDIO ARTHUR CASAS

ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

USA - New York
547 W 27th Street, St #309
10001, EUA
+ 1 646 839 5063
ny@arthurcasas.com

Brasil - São Paulo
Rua Itápolis, 818 - 01245 000
55 11 2182 7500
55 11 3663 6540
sp@arthurcasas.com

FACTSHEET

Project	Campus Cabral
Author	Arthur Casas
Team	Raphael França, Pedro Ribeiro, Joana Oliveira, Gabriel Ranieri, Beto Cabariti, Maria Magalhães, Marcela Muniz, Giulia Koeler, Regiane Khristian, Rodrigo Tamburus, Daniela Diniz, Ana Beatriz Braga
Consultants	GreenWatt (acoustic, environmental comfort, sustainability, lightening, electrical, air conditioning); i9conceitos (quotations); Stec do Brasil Eng. Ltda (structural); PHE (hydraulic); Engetrel (woodwork); Kongrex (visual communication); Naggalli (Management Plan of Civil Construction Waste); Signum (earthwork); Gil Fialho (landscape)
Dates	2012
Plot area	15 225 m ²
Built area	20 845 m ²
Location	Curitiba – PR, Brazil
Images	Gabriel Ranieri and Rodrigo Tamburus

ABOUT

The new Paraná University Campus Cabral project, in the Southern city of Curitiba, results from a public competition where our team questioned the way government approaches this type of bid. The plot, located in between important transport axes of the city, is currently occupied with peripheral activities of the university, distributed among a mid-20th century High School building and several disorganized annexes. One of the conditions of the competition was to ask for a proposition to be built in two phases, first to answer immediate needs of relocating three Human Sciences departments to the area, then to fulfill the legal area allowed for the plot with yet to be defined departments. This was a rather contradictory starting point that imposed a speculative logic to a public space.

We aimed to find balance between architectural quality, density and planning, starting with the exceptional position of the plot in between public squares of different sizes. The project does not exclusively reply to the demands of the University or to the redistribution of the building in the plot: it is an essay on how to connect scales that range from small houses and neighborhood squares to the insertion of a large metropolitan equipment within the urban landscape.

Due to the great diversity of activities and the shared areas among the departments, we opted for a monolithic form, in a manner that the flow of people would be rationalized within a compact shape. We positioned the volume along the latitudinal axis of the city block, treating the neighboring General Eppinghaus Park as part of our project. Thus, if one considers this expanded perimeter, the building becomes a backdrop for the historical construction and the tree canopies, but also a tool for organizing urban flows, connecting the squares and stimulating their interrelation.

The steeped terrain oriented the redistribution of different functions according the topography and, if from a distance, the building presents itself as an abstract mass in Curitiba's crowded horizon, in section, it is made up of corridors, courtyards and loggias altogether framing the landscape. Different levels and ramps slide underneath the volume to transform the ground floor on two levels into one large plaza completely integrated with the surroundings. The library and the cafeteria ensure a welcoming atmosphere, typical of a college campus. The program was organized according to the intensity of the activities, gradually starting with large flows of people on the two-level ground floor, then rarefying to small individual administrative offices on the last floor.

A great staircase connects all the floors and courtyards into one single axis, creating a sort of diagonal promenade, as in the Pompidou Center. The section reveals that density does not imply monotony, nor that a monolith necessarily means indifference to people and to the landscape. Pathways are rich, filled with natural light and ventilation. Each floor has its own identity, enriching a coherent unit that largely remains flexible, able to constantly adapt to the needs of the disciplines it hosts.

We believe that a space conceived for educating should be mutant, able to engender curiosity and serendipity. As important as the classrooms, which require concentration and serenity are also the spaces that have apparently no specific use, seemingly residual, but that truly stimulates all the freedom that an Art School, a Communication Faculty and a Design Department demand.

The campus is designed as an integrating part of the city, an equipment that can positively transform its context, enriching the routine of students, teachers and neighbors. It reveals a new regard towards Curitiba's landscape and should become a fertile ground for new ideas.

