

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
SECOND SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
Master of Science in Architecture
Honors theses

The Cradle of Flamenco

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My project is inspired by an international architectural contest, repeated again last year, as a contest for students. The purpose is the re-development of the historic center of Jerez de la Frontera, a city in the region of Andalusia, through the creation of the "City of Flamenco."

Everything will be located in Plaza de Belen, an area equidistant from the two historic districts of Jerez: Santiago and San Miguel, traditionally considered the cradle of Flamenco dance.

From the second half of the twentieth century, the area was subject of a progressive isolation, whose degradation is found in both architectural and functional.

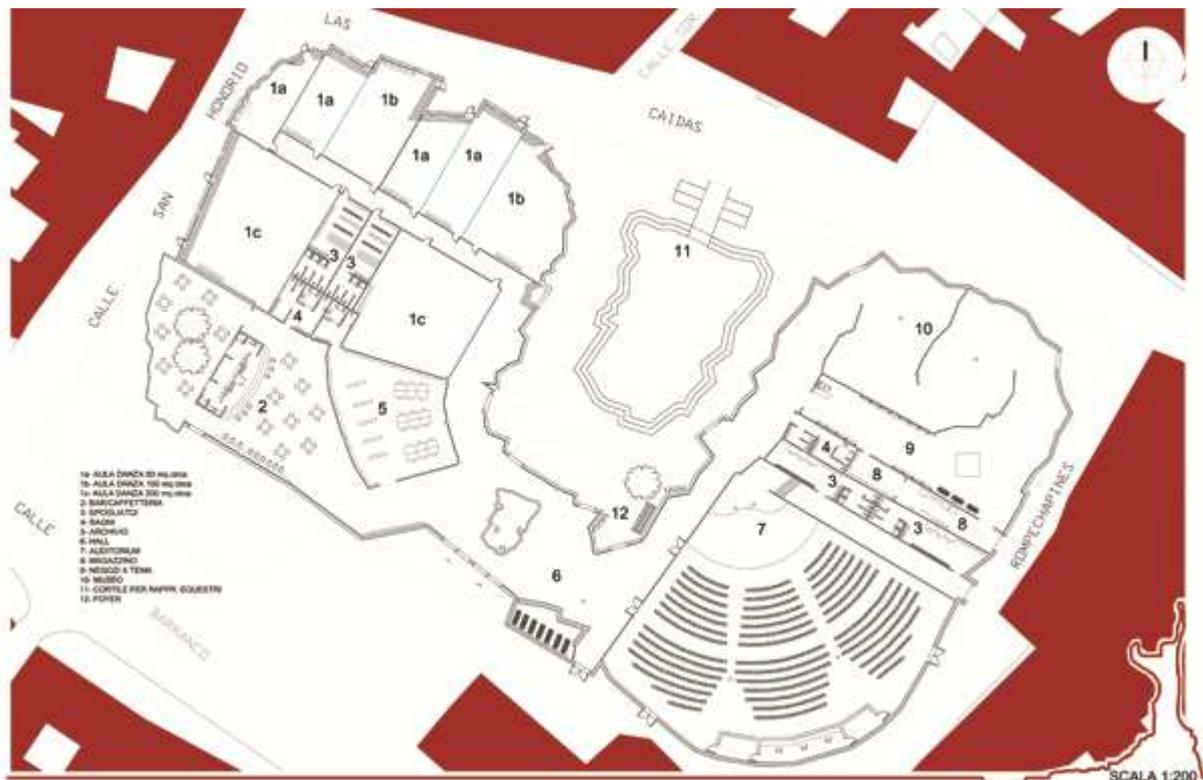
The objectives to achieve through the creation of the complex are:

- to expand the boundaries of Flamenco's development ;
- to establish a permanent training center;
- to promote the research on Flamenco's origins;
- to provide a documentation service on the art of Flamenco;
- to create a museum on the history of Flamenco

The contest location is represented by an empty area of 5370 m², where, until 1984, was sited a building used as a convent, before, and at school, later. Currently the site is used as a parking and as a "passage" between the two sides of the block. For this reason indeed, I have reviewed the viability, creating a link with the existing track, and modifying slightly the size of area.

Since it is an "idea's" contest, I had no special rules to follow: there was a list with a variety of activities with their sizes to be located in the new city of Flamenco, but it's purpose was just to provide guidance.

Analyzing the urban texture I have noticed a of slight predilection for buildings in court; assuming this I began to trace the plan, considering the list of features to be included in the complex, the orientation and the dialogue with the context. The macro-climate research initially, and the micro-climate research subsequently , are the basis of all my the choices as well as of the final result itself One of the contest's aims is the spread of Flamenco dance, so, I decided, intentionally, to move away from the architectural style of the context, designing something that could become a symbol for Jerez. Inspired by ruffles that characterize the dresses of the flamenco dancer, in the same way I dressed my unit of protrusions and recesses, both in the plan-view and in the front-view, in order to give "movement " to the building.



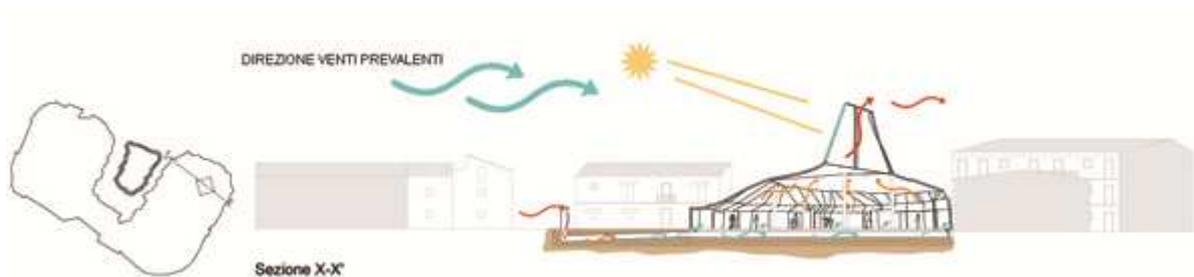
Plant building

The building is entirely on one floor above ground, except for the auditorium that is partially underground in order to ensure a good point of view for all the spectators, and for the dance classrooms, designed in a more fresh position under the ground level in order to ensure thermal comfort where there is a high expenditure of physical energy.



View from the north

The primary requirement for my building regards the cooling action, being the location of Jerez characterized by mild winters. I intended to use, as much as possible, passive air-conditioning systems, so I devised and designed a ventilated drywall combined with a mashrabiya (façade element used to shield the large openings) and the partial underground position for classrooms. For the entire building I have tried to exploit the passing ventilation system, and, where it was not sufficient, I have combined its effect to the plenum, pumping it off through a solar chimney.



Section functional solar chimney

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