



CORUJAS BUILDING

- Project Name: Corujas Building
- Location: São Paulo/Brazil
- Year of Completion: 2014
- Site Area & Building Area: 3470m²/6880 m²
- Associate Architect(s) if any:
- Consultants & Contractors: Gama Z Engenharia/ Idea!Zarvos
- Architect's design description:

Corujas building, located in Vila Madalena, is a building of offices of several sizes and shapes. The proposal for this structure is creating a more humanized space for work, going in the opposite direction to the traditional mirrored glass cubes located in São Paulo.

The height limit of buildings in the location, of only nine meters, led us to a horizontal solution. The starting point of the project came up with the desire of creating an architecture which would enable the offices to have, besides their closed areas, generous porched spaces for outdoor meetings, and their own private gardens.

For such, we have used some resources such as: garden ceilings, large glazed façades, generous spans and not so conventional porches. The sets located on the ground floor are double ceiling height offices, taking advantage of the natural land slope. Thus, the visitor arrives through a mezzanine and can go downstairs to the main working area, where there is a porch and its private garden at the back, a place in which there are original fruit trees. The constructions on the ground floor have a determined volume that we call “basement”, and this volume ends up reaching the neighbors’ limits and is wider than the rest of the construction. In order to intensify that differentiation, that floor is all wrapped in wood.

The upper floors do not reach the borders. In these parts, we have opted to make the precast concrete structure visible, and on the intermediate floor, which is of metallic structure, this structure is visible in white. All that part is completely glazed, contrasting with a much more opaque basement closure. Over the basement parts, that are larger than the upper floors, garden ceilings arise; they are the private gardens of the first floor offices. And the large porches, either with simple ceiling height or double ceiling height, come up among the sets, in between the precast pillars.

The top floor, on the other hand, has the same porch system the lower floor has, but in these porches there are metallic stairs with independent access to the rooftop. This rooftop works as a private garden ceiling of each one of the sets on the second floor, enabling that even the highest floors can enjoy their own gardens.

The mechanisms and organization described above allowed their very spatiality, rare in offices buildings in São Paulo. That spatiality seems to us extremely appropriate to the climate of São

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Paulo and particularly to the location, a bohemian and cultural neighborhood of Vila Madalena, in which the pedestrian scale and the act of living together among people is in the foreground. Aiming to reinforce these issues, in the building there are many living areas, bicycle racks, common changing rooms and even a Café so that the users can meet each other and also work in the common areas, almost creating a micro-community. It is completely the opposite of modern office buildings, which highly segregate their users from each other.