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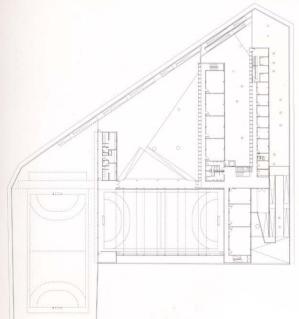




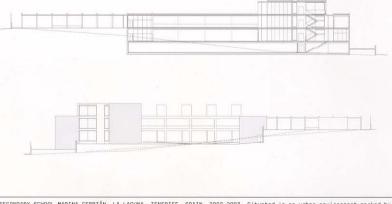
The first thing the partners of GPY ARQUITECTOS mention when describing their work is its context. Juan Antonio González Pérez, Felix Francisco Perera Pérez, and Urbano Yanes Tuña build predominantly on the Canary Islands, where they were born and raised. While many architects are busy making abstract responses to the complex phenomenon of the urban environment, GPY's partners personally relate to their sites with physical and cultural sensitivity. GPY buildings always connect with their surroundings, whether this means being built into a slope - as with the studio's Tenerife School of Scenic Arts - or opening out to double as a public space, in the case of the Cultural Center San Bernardo. The Tenerife School of Scenic Arts is an architectural space that makes room for the unfolding of everyday life - or, as GPY describes, "a large stage with the city and the landscape as the background scene." The scenic box — defined by two buildings that accommodate functional programming is a space characterized by regional and contextual specificity. The sloping surface of the patio, considered as a natural spectator's area, is intentionally designed to respond to any events that could happen in the open-air theater. The whole image of the building becomes a public forum that is full of the everyday life of its citizens. Theirs is a specific architecture that creates indeterminate space not for ightarrow





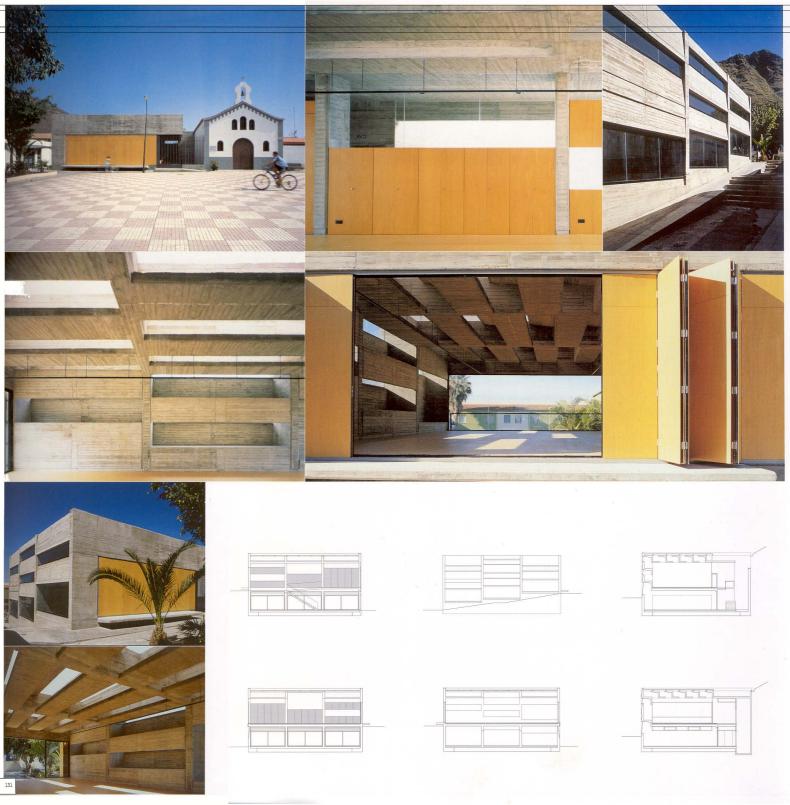


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ightarrow fixed use but for spontaneous and open occupation. In addition to the studio's sense of openness, GPY projects are marked by a distinct affection for light. The multipurpose hall in the Cultural Center San Bernardo magnificently takes in Tenerife's strong sunlight and connects two outdoor plazas with an inner space. The filtered light through the Z-shaped concrete structure in the roof and wall calls for a recognition of the solid existence of architectural space. GPY creates spaces in reaction to specific conditions for a specific population — spaces that are inextricably linked to the topographic, cultural, and historical context of the Canary Islands.  $\_$ Jong-Kyu Kim



SECONDARY SCHOOL MARINA CEBRIÁN, LA LAGUNA, TENERIFE, SPAIN, 2002–2003. Situated in an urban environment marked by a high level of social conflict, this school is structured by a covered veranda as a base with perpendicularly placed teaching, administrative, and sports areas. The continuous glass surfaces that form the facade of the northeast teaching saction provide natural indirect lighting, while the system of corridors to the southwest feature vertical mullions that generate a play of light and shadow on colored surfaces.





1999; Master Plan of Junghua Architecture Park, Zhejiang. <u>RECENT PUBLICA-TIONS</u>; "Chinese Art Archives and Warehouse," A + U, 2003; "Wei Wei Ai: Studio for an Artist," A+U, 2001; *Tu Mu: Young Architect of China*, Aedes, 2001. <u>RECENT EXHIBITIONS</u>: "Ai Wei Wei," Kunsthalle Bern, Switzerland, 2004; "No. 250/Herzog and de Meuron," Schaulager, Basel, 2004.

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