

arcVision Prize
Women and Architecture 2014

Honorable Mention



CECILIA PUGA
SANTIAGO, CHILE

The Jury selected Chilean architect Cecilia Puga (1961) for a special mention:

“With her own practice in Santiago de Chile since 1995, Cecilia Puga is an architect who is more interested in structural solutions than in surface aesthetics. She has shown sensitivity in relating the exterior and interior of buildings, and therefore sensitivity to the activities that will take place in her architecture. The library at the Faculty of Architecture, located on a difficult and constricted site, enables the landscape to be restored and unveils wonderful views. She is able to create strong buildings that are at the same time open and inviting.”

BIBLIOTECA Y CENTRO DOCUMENTACIÓN SERGIO LARRAIN GARCÍA-MORENO

CECILIA PUGA

PROJECT DATA

Location

Providencia, Chile

Use of the Building

Academic uses for the architecture Faculty of the Catholic University

Construction Period

2003 – 2006

In 1994 the Architecture Faculty of the Universidad Católica de Chile held a competition of preliminary designs for the SLGM Documentation Centre. The competition was won by Teodoro Fernández, Smiljan Radic and Cecilia Puga. In general terms, the project proposed a generous and unobstructed space by constructing an open esplanade and a roof that floats between the Lo Contador house (historic building) and the remaining buildings all of which would be united with the interior garden of the block. This solution enabled the landscape of San Cristóbal Hill to be restored and the views to east and west to be expanded. Linked to this, it was also proposed to create a second main floor, unobstructed and fluid, that would do duty as a second foundation of the campus on the subterranean level, where the main hall of the documentation centre (with a surface area of 20 x 54 m) was to be located. Ten years later another project was commissioned that would firstly complete the work and secondly resolve the needs of a campus that had changed a great deal. The second stage intervention is characterized by maintaining and defending the consistency of the original intervention, recognizing the non- negotiable features of the first proposal: on the one hand, a spatial structure that facilitates a process of growth and occupation for the campus (a necessarily dynamic process that unfolds in time) and on the other, the construction of spaces and scales that assure maximum flexibility of use by assuming that the current requirements will change.

BIBLIOTECA Y CENTRO DOCUMENTACIÓN SLGM

CECILIA PUGA



BIBLIOTECA Y CENTRO DOCUMENTACIÓN SLGM

CECILIA PUGA



PALACIO PEREIRA
DIRECCIÓN DE BIBLIOTECAS, ARCHIVOS Y MUSEOS
AND THE CONSEJO DE MONUMENTOS
NACIONALES HEADQUARTERS

CECILIA PUGA

PROJECT DATA

Location

Santiago, Chile

Use of the Building

Academic uses for the architecture Faculty of the Catholic University

Construction Period

2015 – 2016

The Palacio Pereira competition provided a starting point from which to attempt the reconciliation of two potentially antithetical positions – conservation and inhabitation. The character of assembly became crucial in communicating the life of the building where its ruination becomes wrapped up in, not an adjunct to its continued occupation. The two positions – modern and traditional – inevitably meet at a physical junction, and this aspect required the greatest care. Historic building work is a constant struggle to reveal and discover whilst refraining from disturbing or destroying. Yet without revealing and discovering, without accepting the radical change that discovery brings, there would be no interpretation. The fusion of both kinds of materiality through painstaking attention to detail required at the Palacio questions the polarising of historic and modern – manufactured materials can key, interlock, and accumulate degrees of protection too, but require the craft that Morris demanded to do so in a manner that re-establishes an architecture “alive with the spirit of the deeds done midst its fashioning”.

PALACIO PEREIRA

CECILIA PUGA



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