



Los Realejos, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain
ULPGC / EALPGC
2016 -2017
Center for Interpretation and Ornithological Studies - LA GORDEJUELA
Carlos Hernández Allende University / School

Academic year Title of the project Authors

Country / City





## PERFORMATIVE NATURE

**Barcelona International Landscape Architecture Biennial** 

September 2018 Barcelona SCHOOL PRIZE

## X International Landscape Architecture Biennial

Máster d'Arquitectura del Paisatge -DUOT - UPC ETSAB- Escola Tècnica Superior d'Arquitectura de Barcelona Avenida Diagonal, 649 piso 5 08028 Barcelona-Spain

## **TECHNICAL DOSSIER**

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Title of the course Proyectos-Patrimonio-Paisaje

Academic year 2016-2017

Teaching Staff

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Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

An object rises unexpectedly from the midst of a steep cliff. Perched perilously on an overhang, and defying the enormity of the expansive ocean before it. This building immediately turns into the centerpiece that drives this project.

Location: Preserved natural landscape of 'La Rambla de Castro', Los Realejos, Tenerife (North).

Structure: "La Gordejuela" water pumping station, built in 1903 by Hamilton & Co.Nowadays in its ruins.

At inception, the water pumping station served practical – not esthetic – purposes. It housed Tenerife's fist steam powered water pump, proving running water to the local population. However, its peculiar geographical location as well as the juxtaposition with its commanding natural setting offers a powerful association, with enormous visual appeal.

Queues as to how to inhabit the structure coherently can be found in the local ecology. The location is home to a large number of autochthonous plants and endangered bird species. The behavior of the organisms that constitute its biota share a common language that could be mimicked to establish a seamless symbiosis between artifact and natural environment. In other words, the project will aim to blur the limits between nature and architecture, to minimize the impact of the structure on its pristine natural environment.

The building will house a conservation and research facility, which will also serve educational functions. The new proposal consists of a main structure overlooking the old ruins. This will be embedded into the rocks that crown the overhang on the cliff. The setting intends to be respectful of the local landscape but also encourage the proliferation of wildlife around it. The eclectic nature of this exercise – experimental to some extent – reflects an obsession to "make the most out of it" and encourages the insatiable human drive to explore new horizons, which is an integral part of any creative process. Both qualities constitute fundamental principles inherent in the scientific spirit and the very nature of the human being.

For further information

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