

The Pritzker Architecture Prize

2017 Laureates

Rafael Aranda, Carme Pigem and Ramon Vilalta
Spain

Image Book



Rafael Aranda, Carme Pigem and Ramon Vilalta

Photo by Javier Lorenzo Domínguez

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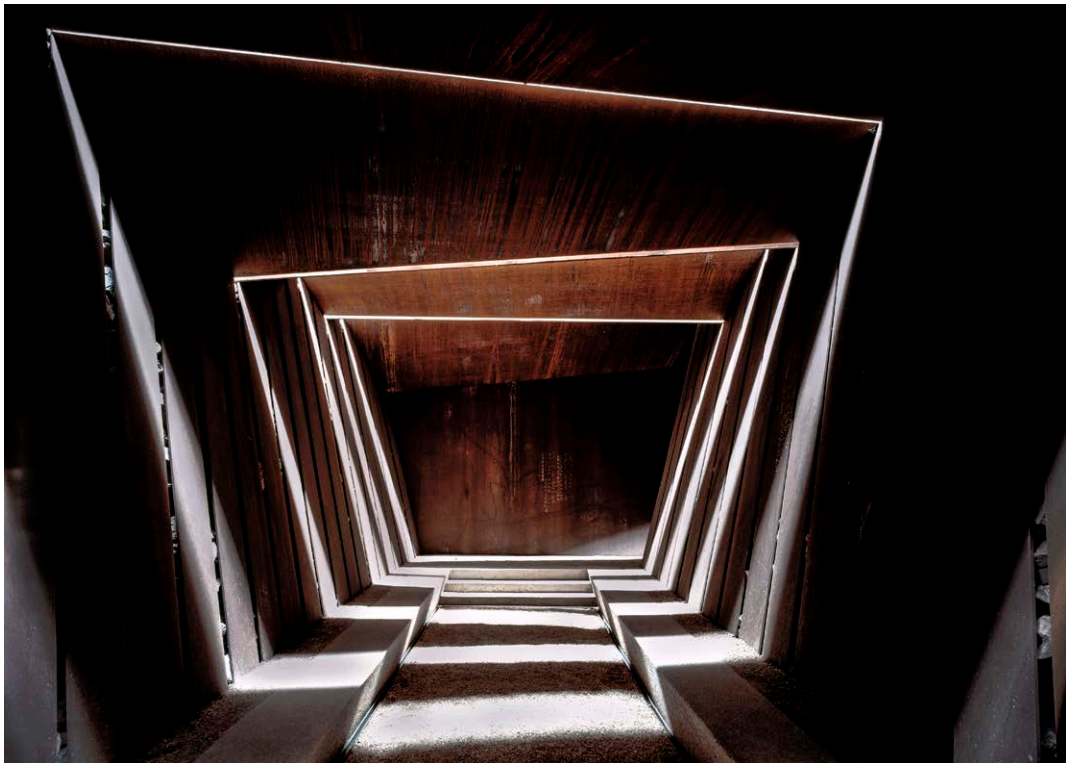
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**Bell-Lloc
Winery**
2007

Palamós,
Girona, Spain



Photos by Hisao Suzuki

Top: View of the interior of the winery toward the tasting room. The slats allow air, light and rain to enter and create ever changing shadows.

Bottom: From the forest, the valley extends towards the sea. The vineyards cover the cellar and the folded roof protects the laboratory and the walkways.

Cellars for private wine production and tasting are located between the vineyards and the woods, and designed in such a way that part of it is underground, thus creating a union where landscape and buildings become one. A promenade is defined by tilted recycled steel sheets with slits between them to allow natural light to penetrate. Visitors descend into the underground world of wine where there are large recycled steel vats, suspended barrels and bottles in racks. There is also a chapel at the foot of the slope and a small auditorium.

**Bell-Lloc
Winery**
2007

Palamós,
Girona, Spain



Photos by Hisao Suzuki

Top: One of the laboratories of the winery. The folded metallic roof with the inclined walls creates a large window with views toward the forest.

Bottom: A view to the exterior walkway that connects with laboratories and work areas on one side, and the wine cellar on the other. Here, visitors are able to contemplate the scenery of the forest.

This is an experience for all the senses. The silence can be “heard,” the aroma of the wine can be perceived, the strength of the materials and the changes in temperature can be felt, the minimal light and shadows are experienced. Finally, there is the tasting of the wines. The winery’s unusual appearance is the result of its spatial geometry and the materials – recycled steel and stone – which embrace visitors and carry them to a concealed world where they can feel and taste a different time.

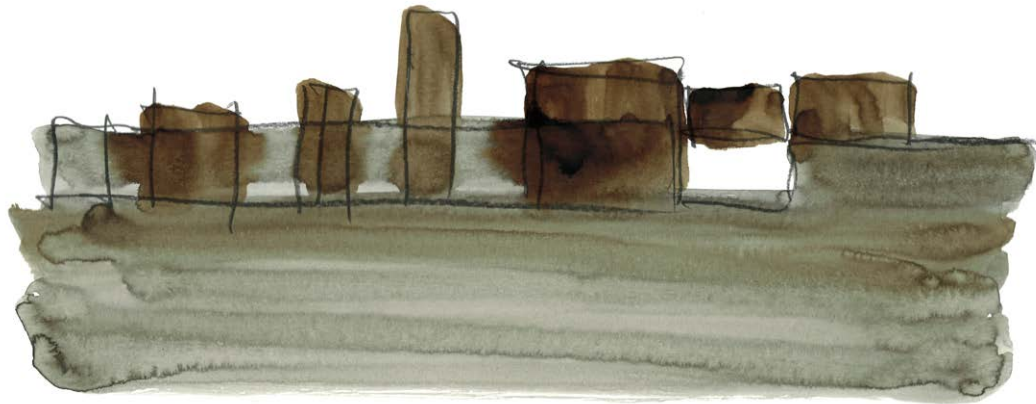
**Soulages
Museum**
2014

Rodez, France

In collaboration
with G. Tréguët



Photo by Hisao Suzuki



Watercolor courtesy of RCR Architectes

"The solid and the void, neither can be expressed without the other. They are absolutely complementary and positive."

Located in the small southern French city of Rodez, and opened in 2014, it houses the diverse collection of works by the abstract artist, Pierre Soulage, from stained glass windows, preparatory works for the windows, figurative paintings and other early works, as well as complete printed works. A document center, temporary exhibition space, children's workshops and storage spaces complete the program. The building, realized in collaboration with local architects, Passelac et Roques Architects, is formed by a succession of cubes. Using just one material, Cor-Ten steel, the building and landscape merge together and will slowly change over time. "Museum and landscape thus have a mutual feedback, like the painter and his work, displaying a wealth of relationships where nothing can be removed, because everything that belongs to this new created world is inherent."

**Soulages
Museum**
2014

Rodez, France

In collaboration
with G. Trégouët



Photos by Hisao Suzuki

"A museum for Soulages, the French painter of "light" who has inspired us so often was –and still is– a cherished dream."

Top: Since the opening, temporary exhibitions have displayed Soulage's works. The dimensions and lighting of the gallery allow many different types of exhibitions to be hung in this space.

Bottom: View towards the entrance showing the dialogue between the parts of the building and the slats of Cor-Ten steel.

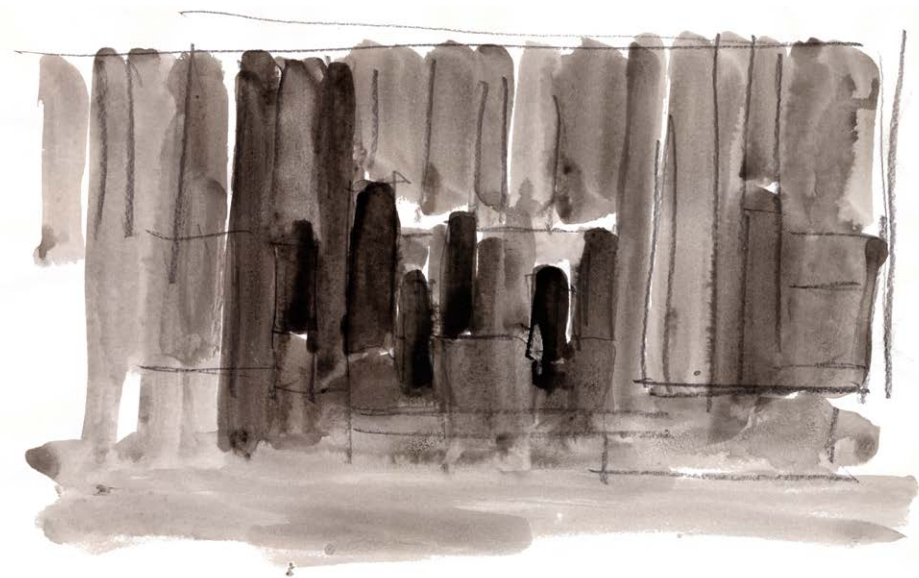
**Soulages
Museum**
2014

Rodez, France

In collaboration
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Photo by Hisao Suzuki



Watercolor courtesy of RCR Architectes

Top: View of the interior of the museum showing the relation between the space and the paintings of Soulages.

Bottom: The colonization of place: colors extend beyond themselves and relate to the natural colors of this place.

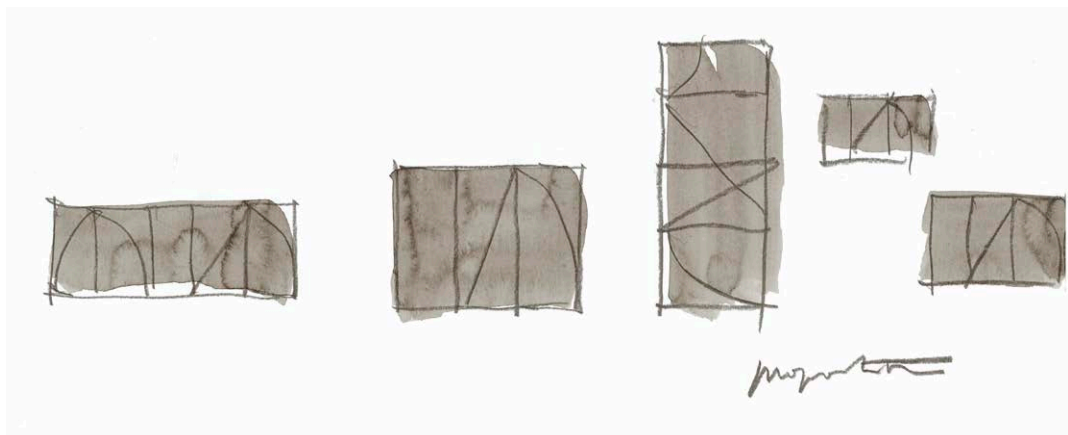
**Soulages
Museum**
2014

Rodez, France

In collaboration
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Photo by Hisao Suzuki



Watercolor courtesy of RCR Arquitectes

Top: View of the museum from the city side, showing the container-like galleries and the stepped path that makes a connection between the city and the park.

Bottom: Volume, area, proportion, composition...seeking balance and harmony.

**La Lira Theater
Public Open
Space**
2011

Ripoll, Girona,
Spain

In collaboration
with J. Puigcorbé

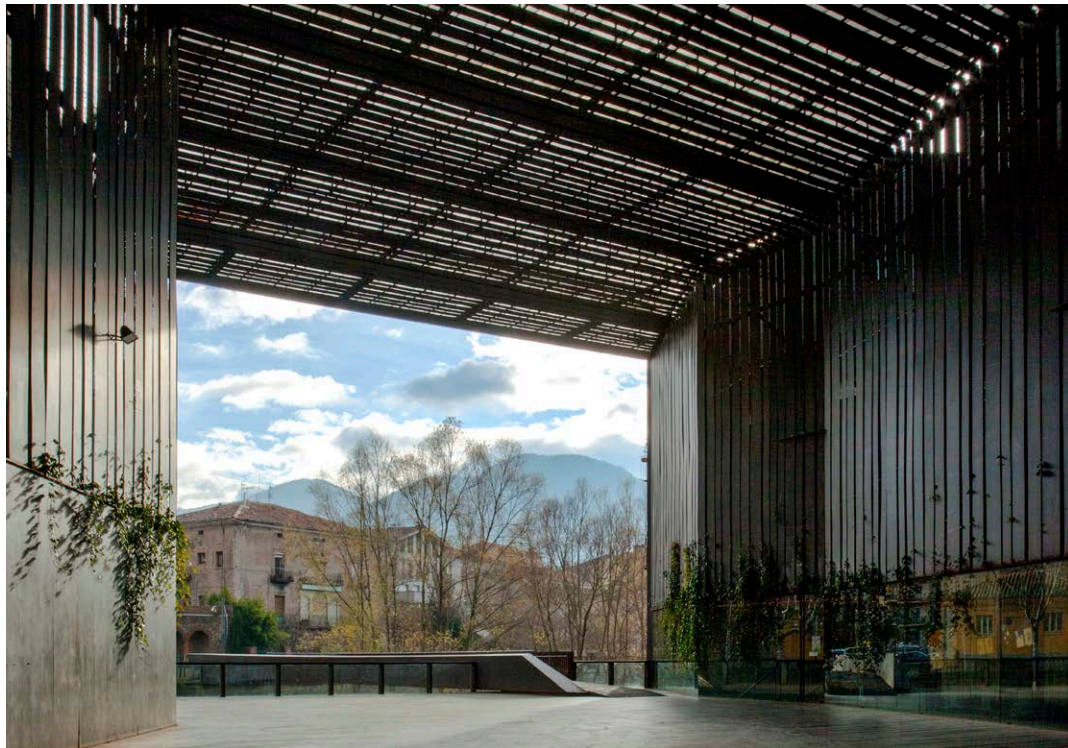


Photo by Hisao Suzuki

View from inside the covered space looking toward the opposite bank of the Ter River.

The demolition of La Lira Theater left an urban void in the historic district of Ripoll, a town in the province of Girona, overlooking the Ter River. With recollections of the scale and spirit of the former theater, and also understanding the importance of town squares, the architects have created a unique covered square, suitable for many types of activities and an outdoor space to be enjoyed informally by residents. Beneath this, there is an underground multi-purpose room.

The new Lira structure frames the view across the river toward the newer part of the town and the mountains beyond. When approaching by the new weathering steel footbridge, also designed by RCR, across the river, it forms a gateway to the old part of town. Weathering steel, the predominant material used throughout, evokes the metallurgical past of Ripoll.

**La Lira Theater
Public Open
Space**
2011

Ripoll, Girona,
Spain

In collaboration
with J. Puigcorbé



Cross section courtesy of RCR Arquitectes



Photo by Hisao Suzuki

The covered square, where a theater once stood, has become an accessible urban stage and meeting place, thanks to the 40-meter footbridge that crosses the river.

However, the way it is employed – as pavement, latticework on the side walls, roof, – results in a variety of uses, textures, and hues gained through the passing of time. Both a richness and continuity are gained by this “wrapping” of the space in just one material. Light and shadows, which are constantly changing throughout the day and with the passing seasons, enliven the space – a new “stage” for the people of Ripoll.

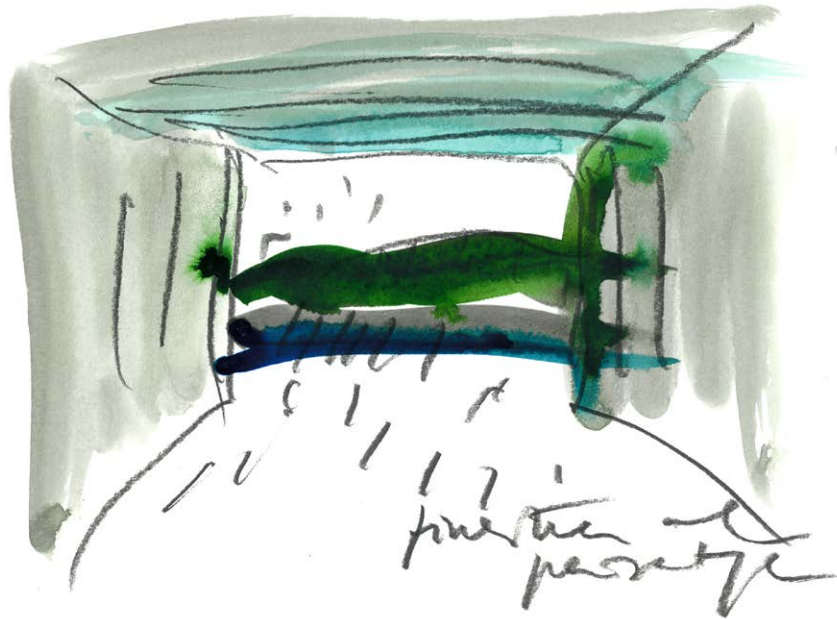
**La Lira Theater
Public Open
Space**
2011

Ripoll, Girona,
Spain

In collaboration
with J. Puigcorb 



Photo by Hisao Suzuki



Watercolor courtesy of RCR Arquitectes

The covered square seen from the opposite bank of the Ter River.

**El Petit Comte
Kindergarten**
2010

Besalú, Girona,
Spain

In collaboration
with J. Puigcorb 



Photos by Hisao Suzuki

Top: Children playing on a porch area.

Bottom: Overall view of the nursery school.

"We love children and their world. Their toys, their colored boxes, their raised heads seeking an adult's gaze."

The new municipal school, built to free up the old site in the town, has approximately 80 children occupying its 1000 square meters. From the exterior, the almost rectangular building appears simple. Vertical tubes (some of them structural) of different diameters create a perimeter using a rainbow of colors, which some have likened to giant colored pencils surrounding the building. Some of the tubes rotate and invite the children to play. Floor to ceiling glass is used to enclose much of the building, so that natural light full of color filters in.

**El Petit Comte
Kindergarten**
2010

Besalú, Girona,
Spain

In collaboration
with J. Puigcorbé

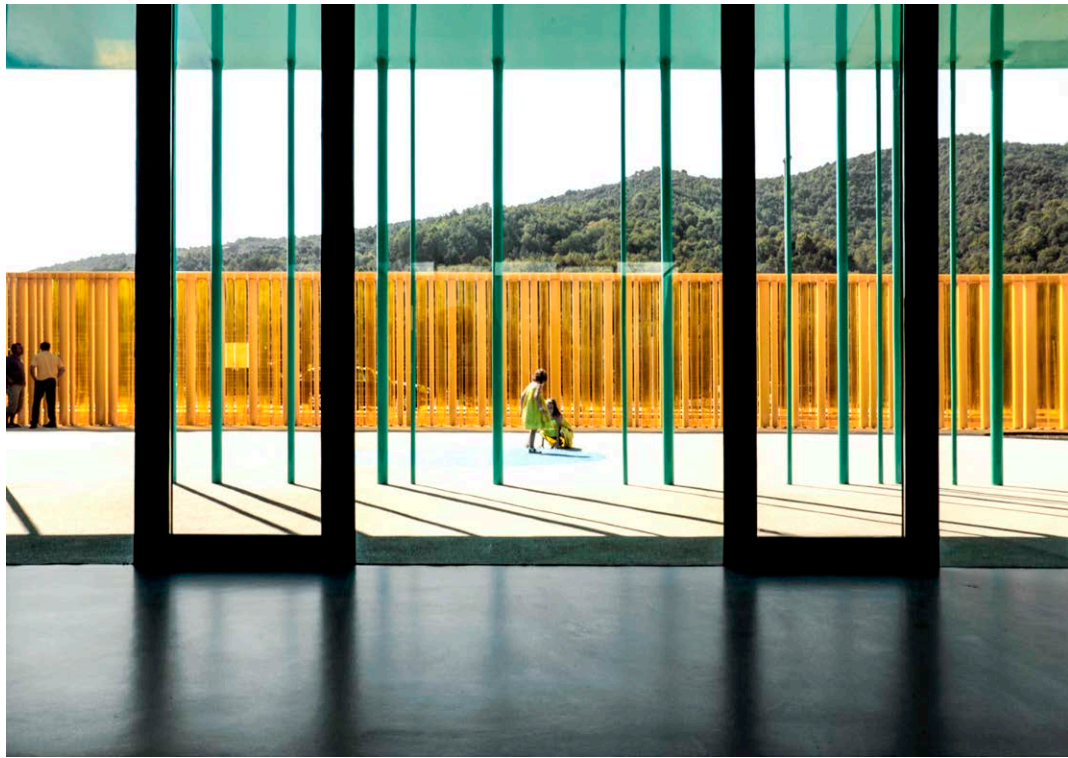


Photo by Hisao Suzuki

From the classrooms it's possible to see the courtyard, with its steel and Plexiglas tubes, and the mountains beyond.

The one-story school has a courtyard or play area around which are the classrooms, sleeping areas and a multipurpose room. A light well provides natural light for the administrative offices and the kitchen, with its service area. With this arrangement, there are no corridors, dark corners or residual spaces; every room overlooks the outside, but is protected and secure, thanks to the colored tubes. Interaction, fantasy and luminous play spaces make a welcoming environment for children and teachers alike.

**El Petit Comte
Kindergarten**
2010

Besalú, Girona,
Spain

In collaboration
with J. Puigcorbé

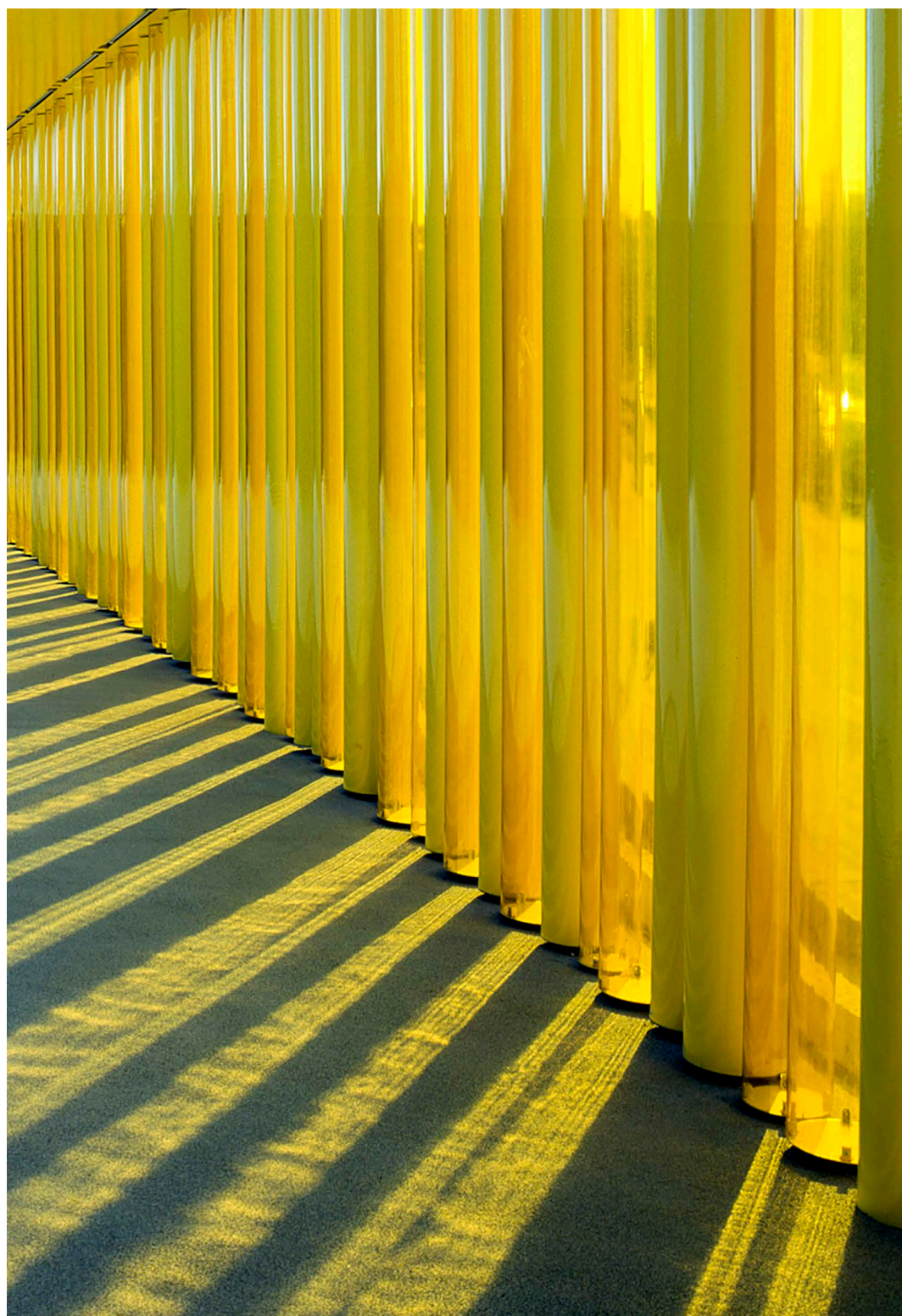


Photo by Hisao Suzuki

Detail of light and shade made by the tubes that protect the courtyard from the exterior street.

**Les Cols
Restaurant
Marquee**
2011

Olot, Girona,
Spain



Photos by Hisao Suzuki

Top: View showing the lightweight roof made of tubes that curve due to their weight. They are supported by the walls of stone at each side, where trees have been planted.

Bottom: The transparent Plexiglas tables and chairs are throughout space, with guests who seem to be suspended in air.

"Living a celebration. A gathering for an event which evokes time, outdoor living, the culinary arts, the essential and the future."

Seeking to evoke family picnics in the countryside or outdoor gatherings with friends, of a bygone time, RCR has created a semi-open event and banqueting space near Le Cols restaurant in Olot, Spain. The terrain was hollowed out to be able to make the structure unobtrusive, but also allow for beautiful views of the surrounding volcanic countryside. The stone that was removed was returned to the site in the form of walls, embankments and pavements. The whole space, which can accommodate hundreds of guests, is covered by a lightweight, transparent roof to protect against the elements. The steel catenaries supporting the roof give it an appearance of "floating"; while the acrylic, almost invisible furniture, allows the people, food and countryside to take center stage.

**Les Cols
Restaurant
Marquee**
2011

Olot, Girona,
Spain

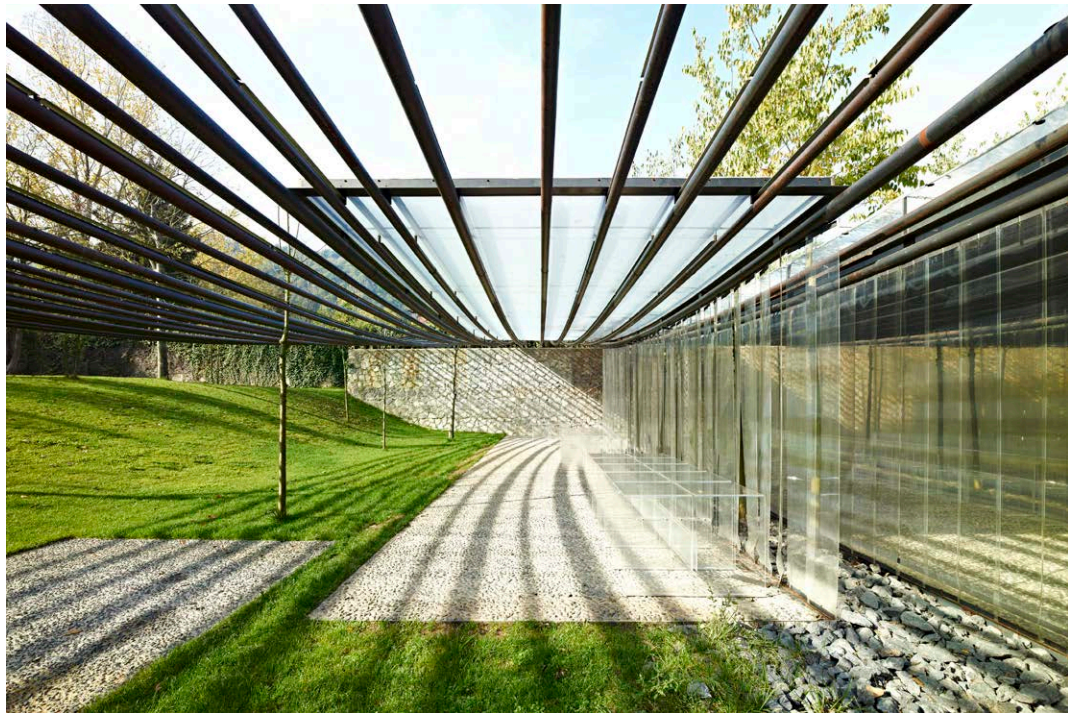


Photo by Eugeni Pons

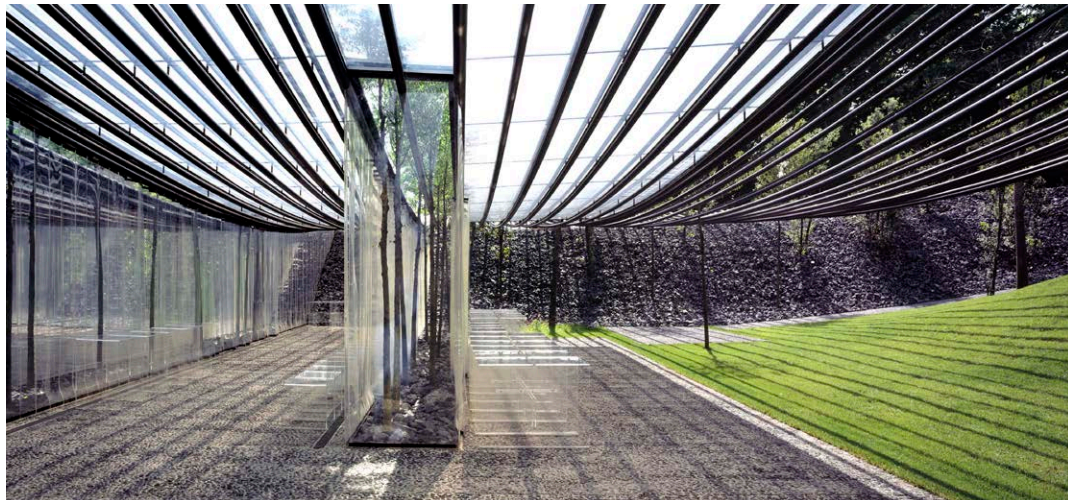


Photo by Hisao Suzuki

Top: View of the event space from the entrance porch. At the right, the structure is visible as well as the first structural tubes covered by the plastic roof.

Bottom: The translucent roof and vertical plastic blinds as seen from the entrance porch.

**Barberí
Laboratory**
2008

Olot, Girona,
Spain



Photo by Hisao Suzuki

The work space that Rafael, Carme and Ramon share is a library with a large table - appropriate for hours of long conversations amongst the three.

"Making a dream come true: discovering a place to dream in, with meetings, debates, conversations, meditation, silence, the garden, history, and... smelling and breathing. Creating: architecture and landscape. Sharing: for us and many others... Quietly getting on with our work."

The old Barberí foundry, built at the beginning of the 20th century was acquired by the architects in 2004 for their office, which they like to call Barberí Laboratory. The previous building had smoke-laden walls, ceilings and floors from previous fires. The materials, colors and smells of the old furnace and chimneys provided the powerful starting point for the new project. There are three main parts to the office, the double-height library which runs along the length of the building, a second building opening onto the courtyard with workstations, and a new glass enclosed pavilion supported by iron columns. The original materials – wood, stone, and ceramics – are in contrast and dialogue with the new steel and glass, which were added to make highly functional and inspirational spaces. The trees and ferns in the interior courtyard spaces make both a divergence and a connection between architecture and nature.

**Barberi
Laboratory**
2008

Olot, Girona,
Spain



Photo by Hisao Suzuki

A pavilion hidden in the garden is a space where the limits between interior and exterior disappear. The central steel table rises as needed and also lowers to become part of the floor.

**Barberí
Laboratory**
2008

Olot, Girona,
Spain



Photo by Pep Sau

Barberí Laboratory during the Summer International workshop, organized by RCR Lab.A and RCR BUNKA Foundation.

**Sant Antoni
– Joan Oliver
Library, Senior
Citizens Center
and Cándida
Pérez Gardens
2007**

Barcelona,
Spain



Photo by Eugeni Pons

View towards the five story library and the row of tamarind trees that extend from the street into the courtyard.

The library, named in honor of playwright and poet Joan Oliver, came about through a competition won by RCR in 2005. The original competition merely called for the design of an administrative building. Once the spatial and social opportunities of the architects' proposal were understood, the commissioning body agreed that urban amenities, a library and senior citizens center, would be more appropriate for the site and the neighborhood. The architects sought to make the street more dynamic and to open up the inner courtyard for public use, as well as to create a library. The glass-enclosed main reading room is raised up and set between the two lateral wings of the library, which allow light to filter through from both sides, forming a gateway into the public space. This courtyard, with its trees, earthen paving, sitting areas, games, etc. can be understood as an extension of the library's reading rooms. The senior citizens center extends along a side of the interior patio further defining the reclaimed space.

**Sant Antoni
– Joan Oliver
Library, Senior
Citizens Center
and Cándida
Pérez Gardens
2007**

Barcelona,
Spain



Photos by Hisao Suzuki

Top: View toward the senior citizens center. Light filters through the windows from both sides, connecting the patio with the city beyond.

Bottom: View from the courtyard towards the library with the senior citizens center to the right.

**Sant Antoni
– Joan Oliver
Library, Senior
Citizens Center
and Cándida
Pérez Gardens
2007**

Barcelona,
Spain



Photo by Hisao Suzuki

A covered walkway is created between the steel slats and glass facade of the library.

**Tossols-Basil
Athletics Track
2000**

Olot, Girona,
Spain

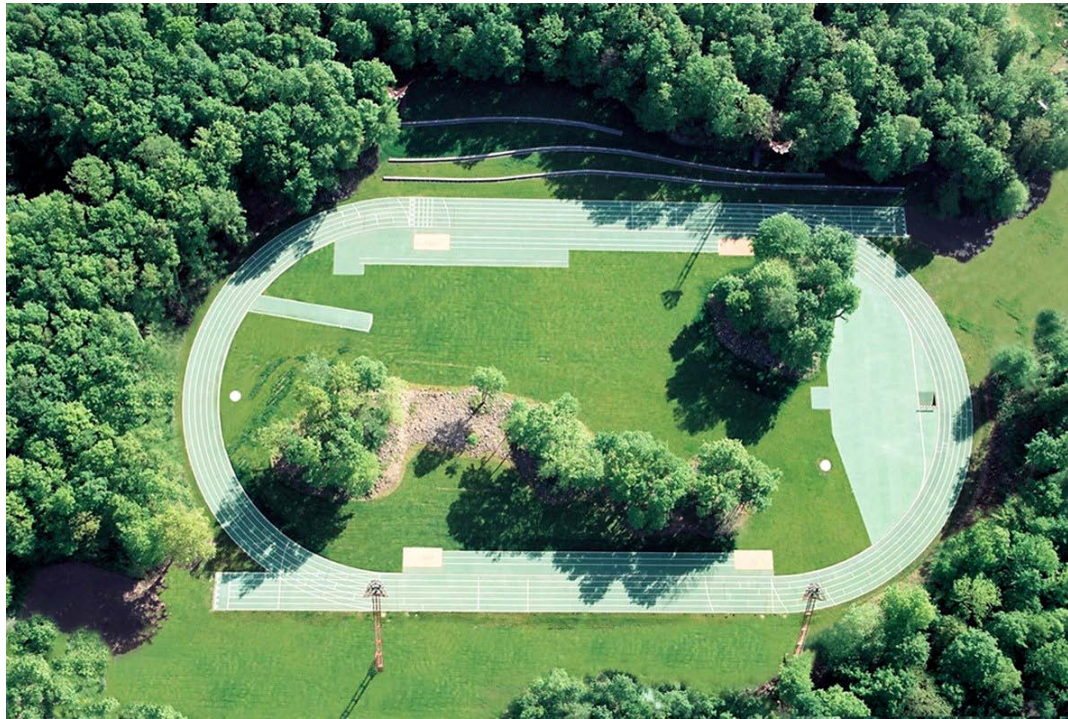


Photo by Ramon Prat

The athletics track presents the act of running in the middle of nature, in the spirit of the first Olympic Games in Greece.

The area called Tossols-Basil, which is designated for leisure activities, is located at the edge of both a city and a natural park along a river. When contemplating adding sports facilities here, the architects faced a dilemma of either clearing large amounts of slow-growing oak trees or succumbing to environmentalists who wanted no change at all. The solution was to site the athletic track in a forest clearing, previously used for cultivation. Nature and sport are united and runners appear and disappear as they make their way around the track. The project highlights the beauty of the landscape and preserves the vegetation as a filter that changes with the seasons. The seating for observing the athletes is developed as small terraces or embankments between the clearings, often using the natural topography. The slender lighting towers become points of reference in the landscape.

After completing the track in 2001, other facilities have been added; a soccer field and an entrance pavilion with changing facilities, that RCR calls the 2x1 pavilion. This structure that acts as a gateway to the area has a thin roof supported by two volumes allowing multiple views through. Once again, RCR employs only one material – Cor-Ten steel – and the structure settles easily into its natural setting.

**Tossols-Basil
Athletics Track**
2000

Olot, Girona,
Spain



Photo by Hisao Suzuki

View of the track in autumn with the small terraces where the public can sit. The lights protrude from the forest like large curved trees.

**Tossols-Basil
Athletics Track**
2000

Olot, Girona,
Spain



Photos by Hisao Suzuki

Top: View of the athletic track in winter, surrounded by trees and the service pavilion in the background.
Bottom: The track is not seen in its entirety, but is filtered by the existing oak trees and volcanic mounds.

**La Cuisine
Art Center**
2014

Nègrepelisse,
France



Photos by Hisao Suzuki

Top: The quadrangular castle with towers at each corner defines the principal space – the central courtyard. Bottom: The kitchen leads to an exhibition space and at the small auditorium beyond. The window provides continuous views to the landscape.

A 13th century fort-like castle in Nègrepelisse, a village in the Midi-Pyrénées region of southwest France, was designated for a new cultural program focusing on arts and cuisine. The project, won by RCR through a competition, activates the inner courtyard by structuring the new facilities around the old castle: the kitchen, exhibition and educational spaces, are on one side, while the workshops for children, artists and performers, and the administration areas are on the other.

**La Cuisine
Art Center**
2014

Nègrepelisse,
France



Photo by Hisao Suzuki

Looking towards the north wing, the view of the trees is mixed with the reflections in the glass.

By using few materials, mostly steel and glass, and attaching the new construction to the existing castle walls, the architects have both minimized the impact on the historic structure and created a clear dialogue between old and new. The facades pierced by large windows, allow light inward and let the activities of the center flow outwards, creating a luminous and energized.

Row House
2012

Olot, Girona,
Spain



Photo by Hisao Suzuki

From the patio, it is possible to understand the single central space and how it is used, and see the stairs and services located at each side.

In the architects' home town, a new house was inserted into the space between two walls when an old house was removed. The main façade has been preserved, as required by the town for heritage purposes, and the new house is conceived as a single space with "floating" platforms at different levels to create the interior living spaces. Several of the platforms serve as seating benches and frame the space.

Although the space is almost entirely open, privacy is afforded by limiting views to some areas. There are two side corridors that run along the depth of the building, encased with steel slats extending to the ceiling that houses the staircases, bathrooms, and utility rooms. The wall towards the back garden is glass, fusing interior and exterior.

The idea pursued throughout the entire project is to return to what is essential to a home, reducing the number of parts to those that are absolutely necessary, and rethinking the nature of the house to allow the life inside to flow naturally.

Row House
2012

Olot, Girona,
Spain



Photo by Hisao Suzuki

The interior of the house showing how different levels create the different spaces. Stone is used for the walls, while steel is used to separate the lateral service areas from the central living spaces, as well as for the platforms.

Row House
2012

Olot, Girona,
Spain



Photo by Hisao Suzuki

View from the living room into the dining area and kitchen below, and a bedroom above.