

**TITLE OF THE PROJECT: NURSERY 8 UNITS**  
**SITE:** C/LOS ANGELES SN. VÉLEZ-RUBIO. ALMERÍA. SPAIN  
**PROJECT DATE:** BASIC PROJECT 2004, CONSTRUCTION PROJECT 2006  
**CONSTRUCTION DATES:** 2007-2008  
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PHOTOGRAPHY: JESUS GRANADA, LOS DEL DESIERTO

**FLOOR AREA:** 874 M2  
**URBANIZATION FLOOR AREA:** 429 M2



## NURSERY Velez-Rubio Village

### SOMETIMES THE HOUSE STARTS AT THE ROOF

At an early age and instinctively, children identify the pitched roof with the house, hence their drawings: the roof, the box and, last, the doors and windows. A nursery is but a “big →house” in which they spend most of their time.

This idea, interpreted of course, is the origin of this proposal. The structural slab (roof) is folded in the space. This allows to duplicate the space of one floor in height to adapt the skyline to the next buildings as well as to amplify the interior space and the natural light. This cover wraps all the rooms in the nursery and houses most of the facilities (plumbing, telecommunication and lighting).

Below this tent, the program develops into eight classrooms assigned to three groups of children, divided according to age, and also into a polyvalent dining-room, a kitchen, and administration office distributed around a patio for the children to play. The different classrooms are connected to open-air spaces, which allow a permanent inside-outside relation.

Once the roof and the program were designed, we had to decide upon the façade. We did not want the traditional windows that abound in the village; we wanted to give a special identity to the building. So we made up a simple system of panels in the form of a jigsaw puzzle to configure the distribution of voids in the façade. The circular trims are colored with butyral papers in green, yellow, blue and magenta tones inside a double glass.

During the day, the interior is tainted with different colors, like natural lanterns. At night the interior lights illuminate the façade, giving the quarter a fun look.

The world of the children is separated from the worlds of adults through the color in the walls, which disappears at 1,30 meters, the height of the spatial vision of a child. Above this limit, the surfaces of the walls are unfinished and the facilities are all visible. At best, they are just treated with polyurethane so that they can be easily cleaned.

We use a flexible vinyl laminate for floors and the base of walls. The color of the material is used to differentiate classrooms by the age of the students. For children up to the age of 1 the color is blue because it suggests relaxation, fluidity and dreaming. Orange, identified by experts with psychomotor stimulation and activity, is used for children from 1 to 2 years. For children from 2 to 3 years we have opted for the green, related to contact with nature. In the common areas all the colors are mixed to favor communication among the children.

Radiant floors are installed all over the building except for the kitchen annexes. The hot water feeding the installation is supplied by solar equipment attached to the roof.







Floor plans and elevations 1/700



>>>> central patio



>>>> Classroom type (children 2-3 years old)





>>>> Dining room - polyvalent room