WonderfulVinyl
PVC in architecture and design

APRIL 2020
CONTENT

03
THE SUSTAINABILITY MARK FOR PVC

04
THE NEW BRICK TECTONIC

07
CAFETARIA JARDIN VERTICAL

09
PAVILION FESTIVAL DE LAS ARTES WALK & TALK

11
WELLNESS AND SPA LONE

13
NETLOG LOGISTIC OFFICE

15
CINEMAXX JUNIOR

17
Z9 RESORT
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Irregularly stacked volumes emerge from the facade of this residential building designed by Muñoz Miranda Architects. Located on the Spanish coast of Malaga and built adjacent to a protected early 20th century smokestack, the apartment complex alludes to the industrial activity that once took place in the area.
Inside the residential building, which is made up of 73 apartments, two courtyards are covered with a white corrugated PVC sheet to form access corridors to each dwelling. They are protected with a glass skylight, flooding the common space with Spanish sunlight and mimicking the exterior courtyards that neighbour the structure. Each atrium is surrounded by an open corridor providing access to the apartments at each level.

The architecture studio used the 20th century smokestack – the only remnant of its industrial heritage – as the starting point for the design. The facade is made from panels of glass reinforced with concrete that appear as if they have been pushed and pulled as though sculpted from clay.
The municipality of Elche launched in 2013 a list of 35 urban spaces for their transformation through the construction of cafeterias and bandstands.

Number 25 was one of the most noteworthy places: Santa Isabel Square. This spot in the city has extraordinary urban conditions due to the surrounding buildings: Basilica of Santa Maria (18th century), a tower which once was part of the Arabian city wall, Palace of Altamira (15th century) and the Municipal Park of Elche (World Heritage).

The municipality asked for a 20m² cafeteria with a terrace over the existing pavement, a green wall and old dividing wall. The main goal was, from the very beginning, to regenerate this residual area located in such an emblematic spot of the city.
In order to do so, the architects used an invisible architecture design that would not compete with its old neighbours and made the new vertical garden the focus of the creation. The architects built a quasi-vertical garden which accommodates therein the construction of the cafeteria, restrooms and storage room, leaving the rest of the square free for the terrace.

The construction work started with a triangulated structure formed by steel profiles fixed to the existing diving wall covered by two membranes: PVC and felt. Both membranes accommodate the irrigation system and plants. The garden is a tile of 150m² large made up of over 3,000 different Mediterranean species. Thanks to its hydroponic irrigation system, the use of pesticides is not required for its maintenance and therefore fosters natural pollination. This green wall can create oxygen for over 100 people. It can also catch 70 tonnes of gases, more than 26 kilos of heavy metals and almost 14 kilos of dust in one year.
PAVILION FESTIVAL DE LAS ARTES
WALK & TALK

TECHNICAL INFO
Inflatable PVC

ARCHITECTS
GA estudio + ArtWorks, Lisboa, Portugal
www.gaestudio.com
www.artworks.pt

LOCATION
Ponta Delgada, Portugal
The creation of this pavilion involved building a structure as the centre of the Walk & Talk’s 19 Art Festival to host concerts, performances and talks linked to the programme of the festival.

The structure is a temporary low budget pavilion where recycling (reuse of the Helium Pavilion balloon), the use of locally available materials (cedarwood) and the possibility of being dismantled for reuse in the future were fundamental goals to find a balance between design and available resources. The spatial possibility of the pavilion was summarised in three elements: wooden wagons that house the waterproof programme bar, kitchen, technical room and cellar, a PVC balloon of 6.8 meters in diameter and a fabric that connects both elements.

The hybrid nature of the result responds to the intention of contrasting elements without distorting them. In this sense, this construction was the expression of a kind of conflict that integrates elements of different structural and material nature: the textile elements, the inflatable PVC balloon and the supporting structures made of local wood. Half stable and half unstable, the pavilion established a dialogue between the material and the ethereal, bones and cartilage, and between apparently stable elements and others that escape us. It also allowed other types of readings and relationships.

The fabric of the cover was what was used to navigate. Its sound and vibration allowed the navigator to read the wind. The globe experiences pressure changes linked to the weather, pressure on which the tensions depend on and, consequently, the profile of the entire roof. These qualities are integrated in the way of experiencing and perceiving this pavilion, one that seeks relationships rather than forms.

PICTURE
CREDITS
Mariana Lopes, Sara Pinheiro, Tomás García de la Huerta, Xaviera Gleixner
WELLNESS AND SPA LONE

TECHNICAL INFO
PVC membrane

ARCHITECTS
Studio 92
Robert Dragogna, Esther Miletic,
Labin, Croatia
www.studio92.hr

LOCATION
Rovinj, Croatia

The Hotel Lone, the first design hotel in Croatia, is situated in the Monte Mulini forest park, Rovinj’s most attractive tourist area, located in the immediate vicinity of the legendary Eden Hotel and the new Monte Mulini hotel. The surrounding grounds and parkland are unique and part of the protected region of the Monte Mulini forest on the Lone Bay.
The term design hotel is meant to illustrate a space that nurtures the concept of a stimulating and functional design. Created by a team of renowned Croatian creatives comprised of a new generation of architects, conceptual artists, fashion and graphic designers, the Wellness and Spa Lone project is part of Hotel Lone.

The development of spa businesses has been booming all over Croatia over the last few years, giving the possibility to experiment different design processes. The principal of minimalistic aesthetic present in the hotel inspired a contemporary, natural approach towards the Spa Lone, by using PVC Barrisol membranes to emphasise extreme leisure and comfort with an artistic note.

PICTURE CREDITS
Studio 92
Netlog is an integrated logistics and transport provider. When designing the Netlog Logistics office, the architects wanted to emphasise the tools used in the logistics sector. By doing so, an important point was to avoid tiring the employees with the everyday objects in their sector, and to try using the elements in a discreet way.
After finalising zoning plans of the departments and employees, the architects decided to use glass separations for the manager rooms and transparent office space to preserve the natural light across the whole 1,650m² floor. This was achieved using natural light in the whole floor.

In order to use the maximum height in the open workspace, the architects kept the ceiling open with subconstructional elements. Some of those subconstructional elements were painted to colorise the office and add the color-coding elements of the various departments. The flooring in the entire office is a mix of PVC flooring and various PVC carpet types.
CINEMAXX JUNIOR

TECHNICAL INFO
PVC seats and flooring

ARCHITECTS
DP Design,
Jakarta, Indonesia
www.dpdesign.com.sg

LOCATION
Jakarta, Indonesia
Cinemaxx Junior, the first cinema of its kind in Asia, breaks new ground in the typology, offering a blended experience of visual and physical entertainment for children and their families in fun and cheerful surroundings.

The concept of Cinemaxx Junior arose from the observation that families with young children often do not fully enjoy their first experiences together at the movies, where silence is expected and parents spend more time attending to their children than paying attention to what is happening on screen. This created a unique opportunity to custom-design a space dedicated to children aged 3 to 10 and their families, by bringing together the two enjoyable activities of movie-watching and playing in a cohesively designed environment.

Cinemaxx Junior has been designed as a holistic concept seamlessly integrating two separate recreational functions into one enriched experience where “the whole is greater than the sum of its parts”. The space has been designed to accommodate manageable 3-hour blocks for users, offering a full hour of play time in the play area before the film starts in the screening area, after which children are free to move between the two areas. Special meal options for children are also offered, rounding off a memorable and fulfilling experience.

There are also multiple points of entry into the screening area from the play area, and a variety of ways to reach them. One of the most exciting ways to enter would be to climb up the yellow ‘Wall-o-lla’ to reach the tube slide, which lets children slide into a colourful ball pit right below the movie screen.

The cinema accommodates 106 people at full capacity, translating to approximately 30 families per session. The seating configuration was specially designed to appeal to a child’s sensibilities, with four types of seats upholstered in stain-resistant PVC fabrics in bright and vibrant colours. The seating design encourages informality, with bean bags, loungers, sofa beds and standard cinema seats. The non-conventional seats were also designed to foster parent-child bonding where, for example, parent and child could choose to cuddle at the bean bags while watching the movie, much like how a parent would cuddle their child while telling them bed-time stories at home. Extensive thought was put into the selection and design of the diverse range of play equipment and colourful PVC flooring to achieve a good balance of high physicality and low-impact activities for children to choose from.

Cinemaxx Junior is without a doubt much more than its prescribed function of a playground and a cinema; the seamless and skillful blending of the two results in a celebration of family and togetherness and redefines the movie experience amidst a chorus of children’s joyous laughter.
Z9 Resort is a multi-award-winning floating resort, perched on Kanchanaburi, Thailand. It is renowned for the appropriate use of materials and nature-oriented structure which offer private on-land accommodation and cozy raft accommodations.
Each building utilises natural ventilation, the shapes and colour intimately blend with the attractiveness of mountain and river views. The proportions are also in line with the environment. The lines of the building represent the natural lake-side context, and the lobby is designed based on lunar direction which means resort’s guests can enjoy stunning “sunrise and sunset” scenic.

At Z9 Resort, a sustainable architecture design approach based on the “3R” concept (reduce, reuse and recycle) was applied through construction techniques and material selections. The light-weight steel structure promotes eco-friendly outcomes in many ways: the wider span means less on-ground touching and can be adjusted to suit with the existing footing, it offers faster and cleaner construction in comparison with concrete structure. However, guests can see concrete structures in some parts of the resort (roof deck). This concrete roof deck was built by casting some concrete on the pre-cast concrete flooring. This means construction time could be reduced and less cement water was wasted into the soil. The cement water is one of the main reasons for the disappearance of trees at most construction sites.

Material selections and construction details were based on the understanding of natural “on-water” condition. Light-weight and non-rigid materials such as local bamboo, old wood from the existing resort, shingle roof and PVC flooring were used for all the main building. The non-rigid properties of these materials allow self-adjustment due to the water current of the “on-water” condition.