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2010-PRESENT



## OUR MOTTO

“Our craft is to **Live** our client’s  
**Dream** our gift is to make it  
tangible so they can **Pursue** it”





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# the studio

**the studio** With the Founder and Creative Director Jorge Amador firmly at the wheel, the team drives headfirst into complex architectural tasks armed with unconditional curiosity and an undying love for the process of finding an original take.

With almost 21 years of experience, we are always striving to perfect the art of listening our clients to understand the bigger picture. Our methodology is always inspired by the context and combines a blend of common sense and place- making strategies that produces designs which are sustainable and that fully engage their communities.







### Jorge E. Amador

ARCHITECT, CNU-A, APA, AIA

Jorge Amador in his 20 years of professional practice, advocates for the creation of socioeconomically diverse, walkable communities and more resilient cities, through designed and built projects and university teaching.

Currently, in his professional field, he is a founding partner of Amador architects; an Urbanism, Architecture and Interiors studio created in 2014, where he has developed projects with a value close to 125 MM, emphasizing walkable urban projects such as Eden Playa Blanca and Primavera. Previously, he was a founding partner of Amador + Valderrama between 2010 and 2014 whose design of Cubitá located in the Corregimiento de La Arena earned him the National Architecture Award in 2014. Between 1997 and 2005, he was part of Fractal Arquitectura and Orfila Arquitectos being a junior partner of the latter.

In the teaching field, he was professor of Architectural Design at the Universidad Santa María La Antigua (USMA) between the years 2003-2005 and guest professor of Urbanism at the Faculty of Archi-

tecture of the University of Panama between the years 2018 and 2020. He has been invited as a lecturer in multiple spaces such as the USMA Congress of Architecture and Design in 2020 and at the SPIA College of Civil Engineers, to mention a few.

About his memberships, he belongs to the Panamanian Association of Business Executives (APEDE) from 2014 to the present, where he was President of the Urbanism and Mobility Commission in 2016, he is a member Congress for New Urbanism (CNU) from 2018 to the present, from where he obtained an accreditation (CNU-A) in 2020, he is part of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) since 2019 and the American Planning Association (APA) since 2020.

At the academic level, he studied at the Universidad Santa María la Antigua (2001), where he obtained his bachelor's degree in Structural Architecture. Subsequently, he has continued his studies in urbanism at the Harvard Graduate School of Design in 2018 and at the University of Miami School of Architecture in 2020.

# urbanism

**Primavera** Before coming to us, this project, located on the outskirts of the suburbs of a poorly developed sector of the metropolis, was conceived by our client as one of the many existing neighborhoods with 111 ppl/ha. During the first interview we convinced them to change the approach and make, within the restrictions imposed by law, a more diverse environment in terms of uses, typologies and densities with changes achieving 180 ppl/ha or 60% more, in what we could have as common space, to encourage community development. The contradiction is that, according to our law, the only way to make changes in the common areas and in the disposition of the units is to maintain the complex closed with a gate, since otherwise it is not allowed to make changes in the public space.

However, we consider that changing the way in which the typologies are organized, giving priority to public space and promoting the relationship between people, could be a reference that should push the changes that are needed for the modification of our laws.

The first stage (13 Ha) of this project is located in what used to be a hill which was extensively modified by our client prior to our contracting, it is reached through a street that also connects with the second stage of xx Ha located in the foothills of the hill.

Its topographical condition isolates it from the rest of the neighboring development, which is why we are trying to generate, mainly in the second stage, greater density and thus be able to generate a more compact and diverse community.

The character of the project is marked by the recovery of the gateway to the front of the house with back-alleys for parking and bungalow courts that are connected to each other by common parks generating a pedestrian matrix of 60 m where vehicular traffic reduces its speed with 3m lanes and parallel parking.

Due to the zoning approved for this project, mixed-use activities could not be generated along the street, so only 4-story buildings could be accommodated along it, allowing to occupy this sector of the hilly terrain with higher density, leaving the mixed-use segregated at the entrance of the project. The rest of the project is composed of townhouses, duplexes and detached houses.



<b>CLIENT</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
Living Solutions	Arraijan, Panama

<b>LAND SIZE</b>
13 Ha.













**Eden Playa Blanca** One of the relevant aspects of the project was to implement low impact development decisions using retention ponds improving the water management capacity of the natural terrain by 20% thus reducing the impact of conventional rainwater construction as well as adapting to the topography of the blocks which, being in a rural environment, could be considered as a T3. As the land is isolated and because of its size 57 hectare, it can be considered to be large enough to be a village, although it must also be enclosed and isolated from its surroundings in order to have streets to promote walkable environments. The connection with the surroundings is through a sector where public use predominates, mixed use with affordable housing and a large commercial area in the center. Within the enclosed area the main aspect is the use of pocket neighborhoods that are connected to a linear park that functions as a backbone connecting the project from north to south. The edges of the project are articulated with courtyards and the higher density buildings are located at the back of the project, taking into account the irregularity of the terrain, even though we always understood that the most appropriate part of the project to place higher density was near the mixed use area.



**CLIENT**  
Eden Playa Blanca

**LOCATION**  
Rio Hato, Panama

**LAND SIZE**  
57 Ha.





EDEN PLAYA BLANCA









**Cubita** When we were approached, the project was already conceived with the Hotel on the property, leaving the residential area on the roadside and without the commercial area. Our advice was to relocate the uses according to their best location with respect to the surroundings and that is how we ended up including the commercial area on the road along with the hotel and in order to make the transition with the residential area we included the buildings that took advantage of the difference in level to place parking lots. The integration of the complex was our priority in order to give this development the desired walkability character, from the plaza to the hotel's internal courtyard and from the hotel's pool area to the residential area, visual axes are generated that generate a closed perspective that enhances the architectural elements. The inclusion of the commercial plaza at the business level helped the developer to improve the return by 30% and to have a better structured project. Although the complex had to be closed with a gate by our client, our interest was always to integrate it with the existing rural fabric.

**CLIENT**  
Inmobiliaria Cubita

**LOCATION**  
La Arena, Herrera

**LAND SIZE**  
5 Ha.









**Panama Pacifico’s Retail** Panama Pacifico, located in the western sector of the Panama Canal in what was the former U.S. air base, has a plan for development, conversion and revitalization of the area within the next 20 years, positioning it as one of the most important development points of the country. Among its different plans is the incremental revitalization of certain areas in disuse inserting within the community in formation activities that generate relationships and ties between them. Our study was commissioned to carry out in two sites, of approximately 2 hectares in total, interventions through tactical urbanism that involves the recovery and creation of public space, the generation of commercial activities that support entrepreneurship and local commerce along with others that allow to give vitality. In spite of us, the project was carried out with the participation of the developer's staff members without the participation of members of the community, so we did not see the feasibility of carrying out charrettes. The elaboration of the vision was the first stage of the deliverable, which we capture in this sample and the future ones will depend on the reactivation of the project paused by pandemic.



**CLIENT**  
London & Regional

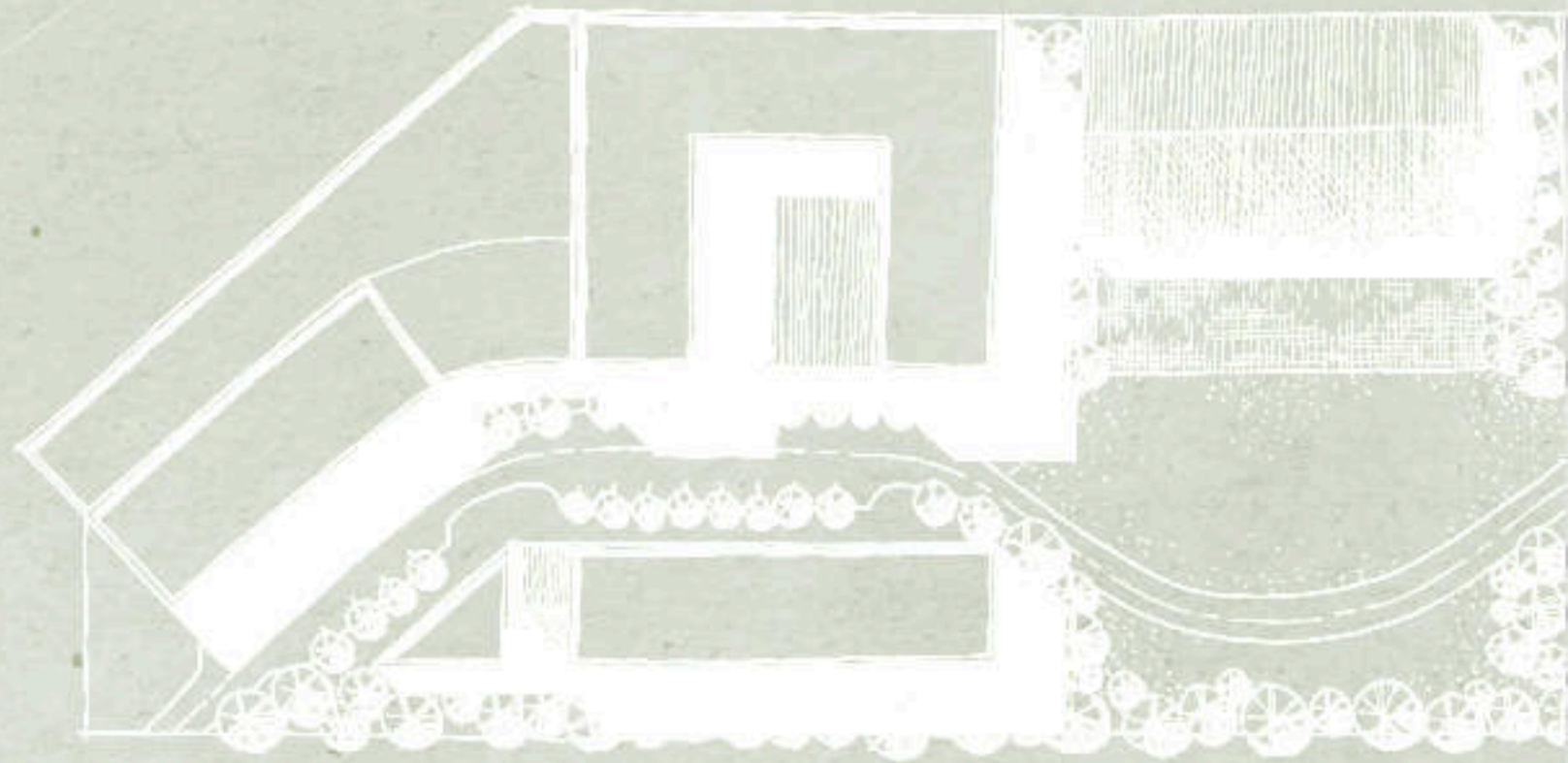
**LOCATION**  
Panama Pacifico

**LAND SIZE**  
2 Ha.









# architecture

**Tucan Town Center** Tucan is a residential project within a golf course located at the opposite end of Panama Pacifico with detached homes and apartments that cater to a high market segment. The Town Center project was born from our initiative, which was the result of a process of education and sensibilization of the client to transform their conventional form of development for one that would generate greater social and economic diversity, creation of public space and activities that would allow them to generate community in walkable environments. The project is located outside the gated community on a 3.5 hectare site and consists of several units of low-rise buildings with apartments of different sizes and retail or office space on street level. The buildings are articulated with the public space through courtyards, plazas and parks. The internal street only serves to create parallel parking lots and lead to the basements of each building so that it can be closed for any activity without affecting the functionality of the parking structure. Being in an area that was formerly part of the Canal Zone with an architecture adapted to the climate, the architecture of the project reflects the tradition of the place and the character of the climate of our country by roofing the sidewalks with continuous colonnades that allow its functionality throughout the year.



**CLIENT**  
Tucan

**LOCATION**  
Tucan Golf & Country Club

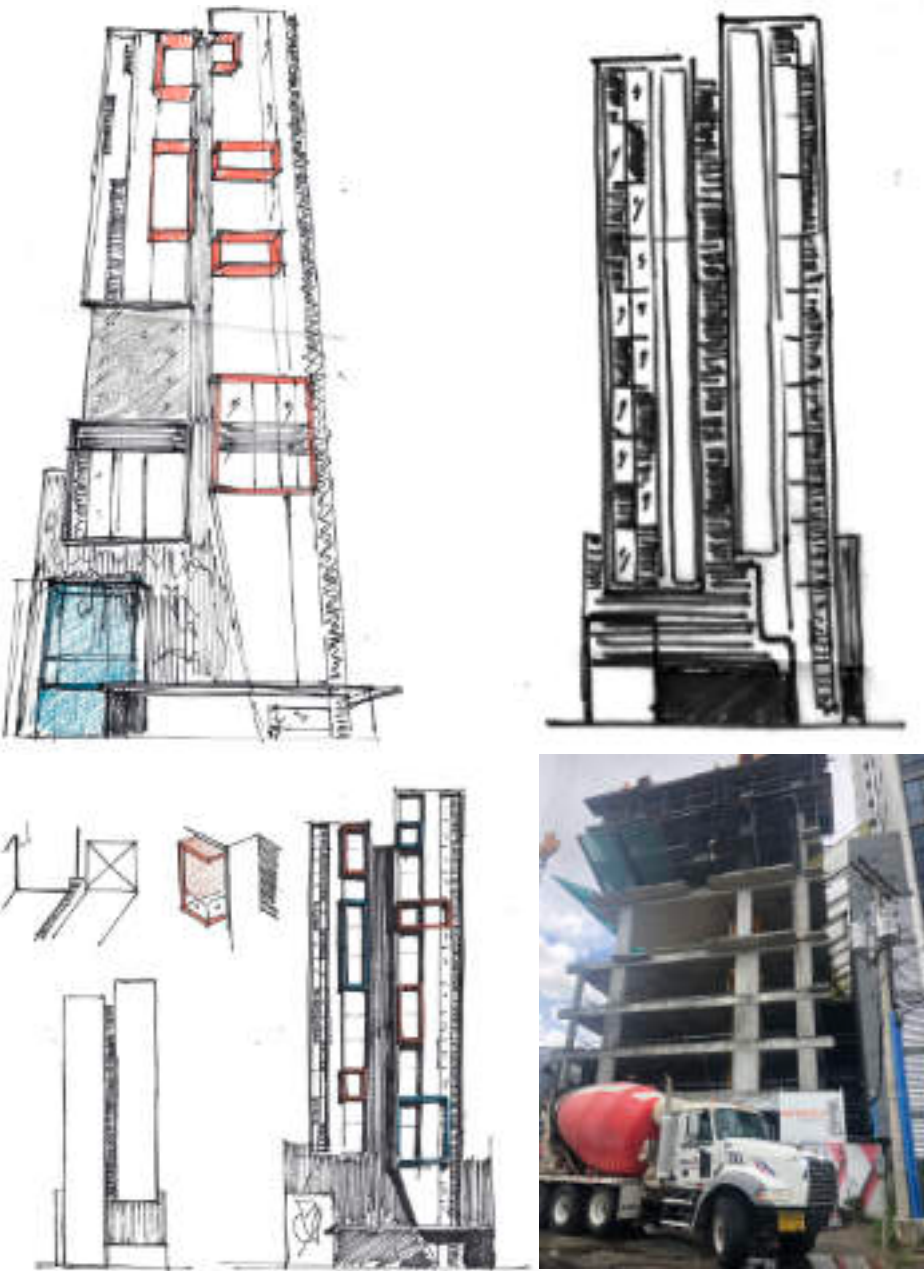
**CONSTRUCTION AREA**  
25,000 sq.m

TUCAN TOWN CENTER









**Demetra** When our client arrived at our studio, they already had a version of the project in which did not feel sufficiently satisfied with in its internal distribution, its facade and interior design, so they requested our intervention to create a more functional and striking project that would allow them to have efficiency and differentiation. At the time of accepting the project the construction already had the foundations executed, so the limitations to meet the request of our client had a strong conditioning factors which determined many of the answers to the problems posed. One of the aspects that we successfully proposed was the use of the rooftop, since in our country is uncommon the activation of this last level, for activities that would promote the generation of cohesion in this vertical community through co-working areas, gardens, pet corral and lounge in addition to the usual for residential buildings. One of the most interesting challenges was the work on the façade because of the restrictions of structure, site setbacks and budget; we had to create a dynamic reading, trying to divide the volume of the tower to reduce the reading of the mass and offer points of interest that guide the reading of the façade in different directions, reducing the monotony resulting from the predictability and scale of the volume.

<b>CLIENT</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>CONSTRUCTION AREA</b>
Living Solutions	Parque Lefebre, Panama	15,000 sq.m









**Greenhouse** One of the interesting aspects of this condominium is that it is located in a residential development with golf course where the architecture was defined by design guidelines which were our basis for the development of the project. In spite of these guidelines, during the construction of the project, the landlord allowed other developers to avoid these guidelines, which defined architectural elements of an architecture locally known as "Bellavistina" (Californian Revival), in favor of releasing them completely, which evidently put pressure on our client since the sales of the project were affected by not having a uniform environment, so we had to change the aspects that defined the façades of the project to adapt it to the new situation. The exercise was interesting because at all times until the completion of the project we had to define the character of the building, a somewhat chaotic and unconventional situation that left us great lessons on how to approach a project while it is under construction.

**CLIENT**  
Noble Properties

**LOCATION**  
Santa Maria Golf & Country Club

**CONSTRUCTION AREA**  
12,000 sq.m





**Panama Pacifico  
Town Center**

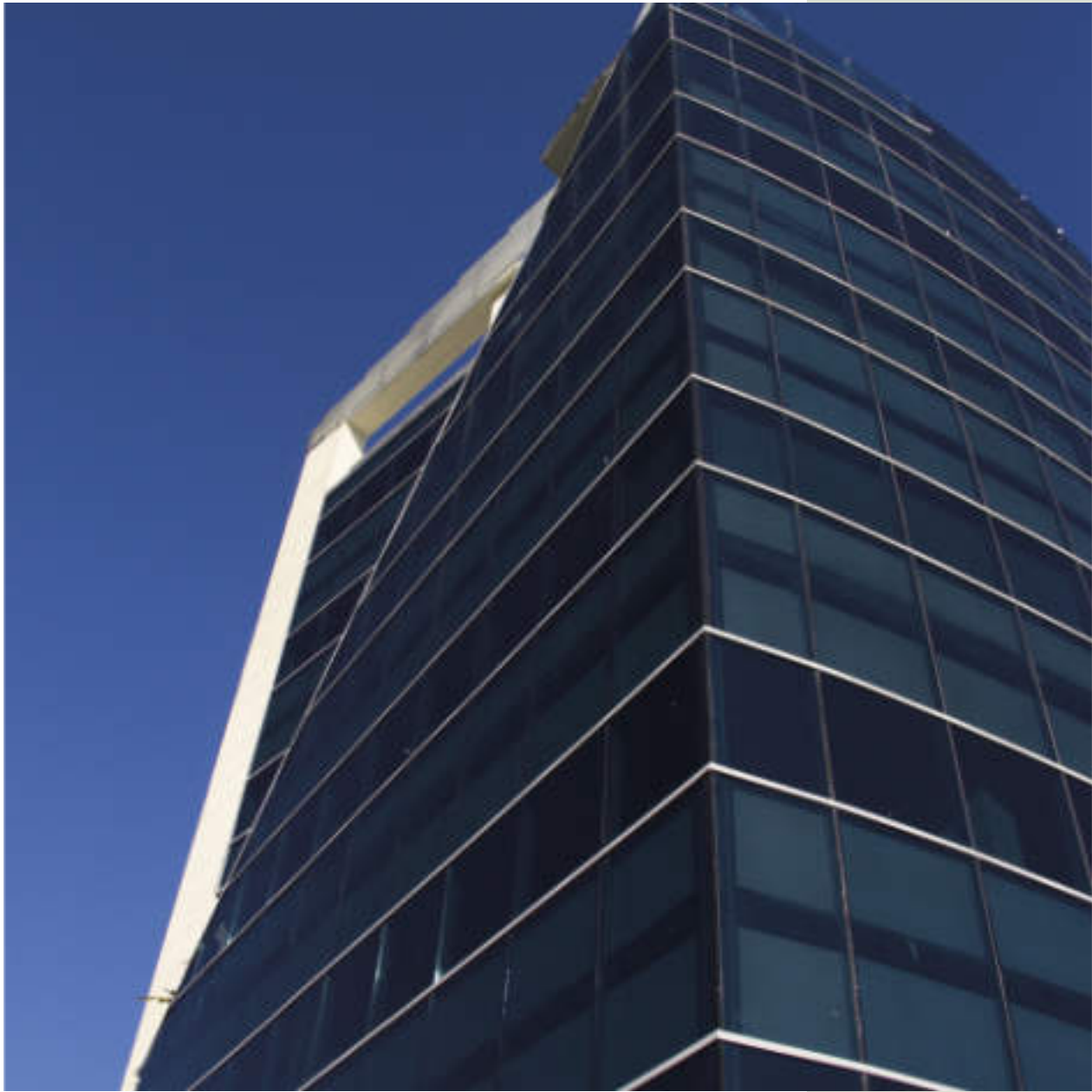
The developer called upon us to develop design proposals based on a concept presented by THE JERDE PARTNERSHIP for a mixed-use complex located in the center of the Panama Pacifico development. Our proposal beyond taking to the limit the density which was regulated by the height sought to improve the walkability of the site by dividing the block which was 120 m wide by two blocks of 60 m, but instead of opening it to the car it is opened to the pedestrian with the creation of a covered plaza that articulates the two blocks created from this separation. This creates more areas for mixed-use activities on the first floor, recreational activities in the square and the creation of a perspective towards a linear park that was a conditioning factor of the project. The rest of the buildings did not move away from JERDE's proposal as it was considered appropriate for the desired objective, which was to provide the area with a walkable environment with a vibrant public space.

**CLIENT**  
London & Regional

**LOCATION**  
Panama Pacifico

**CONSTRUCTION AREA**  
30,000 sq.m





**PRIME 507** It does not escape from being an office building located in a Business Park (Santa Maria Business District) whose challenges and achievements are oriented to the resolution of a design program, the application of the corresponding electromechanical systems and seek efficiency in the structure and its construction systems. Designed in 2013 achieved LEED SILVER certification as CORE and SHELL and due to the restrictions of the site (only 20 m frontage), height attached to the property line up to the 5th floor a design exercise was developed, which was not executed by the developer for construction planning reasons, which sought to give some kind of visual interest to the very predictable block of elevated parking.

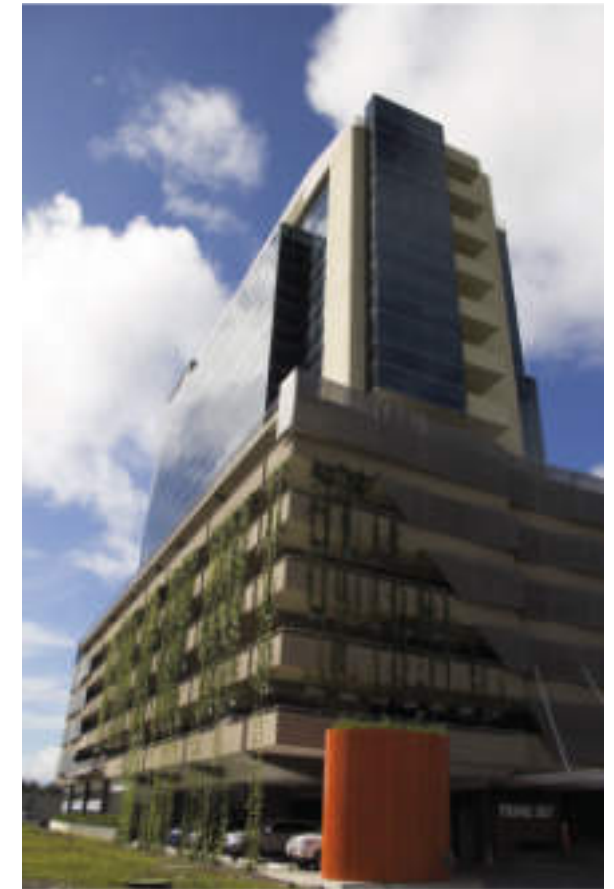
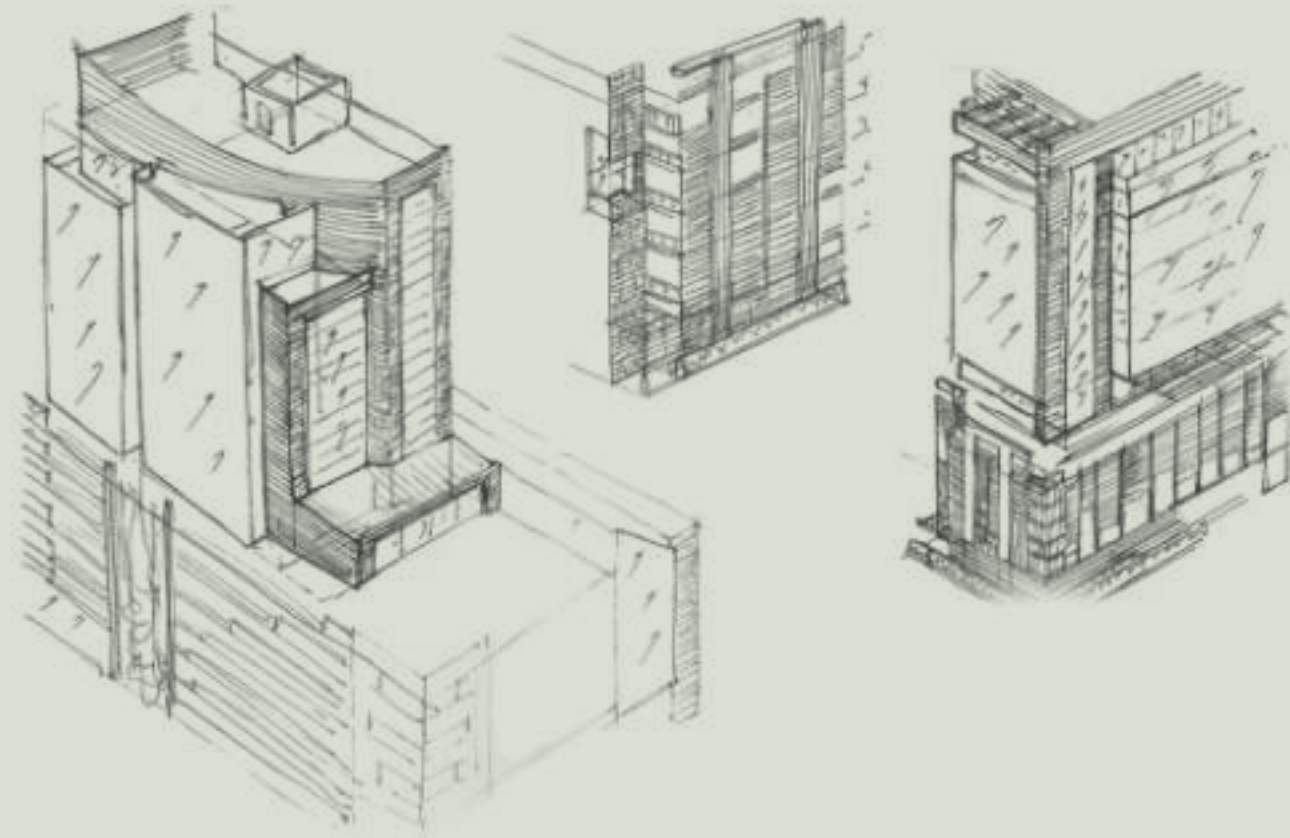


**CLIENT**  
BR COT

**LOCATION**  
Santa Maria Business District

**CONSTRUCTION AREA**  
8,000 sq.m









**Tucan Tee** This project is a two level driving range with event rooms, restaurants, bars, lounge and children's play area which is located adjacent to the Town Center project. Its architecture as well as that of the Town Center obeys the spirit of the place with architecture that follows the formal tradition of the buildings of the Canal Zone.

THE INTERIOR DESIGN PROPOSAL FOR THIS mixed-use building combines a modern approach with a few rustic details to accommodate the client's taste.

While each space has its own design concept, stone and wood are used throughout the project and serve as neutral base materials.

It was also important for the interior design to complement and utilize the building's architecture. One way in which this was accomplished was to bring into some areas the structural stone walls already in place in the building's floor plan and facade.

Lighting design plays a very important role. There are compositions using decorative lamps almost in every space, each an example of utilizing light as a design element.

Another design feature to highlight is the double height vertical garden in the lobby, which creates a link between the interiors and the natural environment surrounding the project.

The furniture selection is somewhat eclectic, with pieces chosen both for their aesthetic and functional qualities, especially in the case of the outdoor furniture. This selection process was done always keeping in mind the final user as well as the client's style preferences.



**CLIENT**  
Tucan

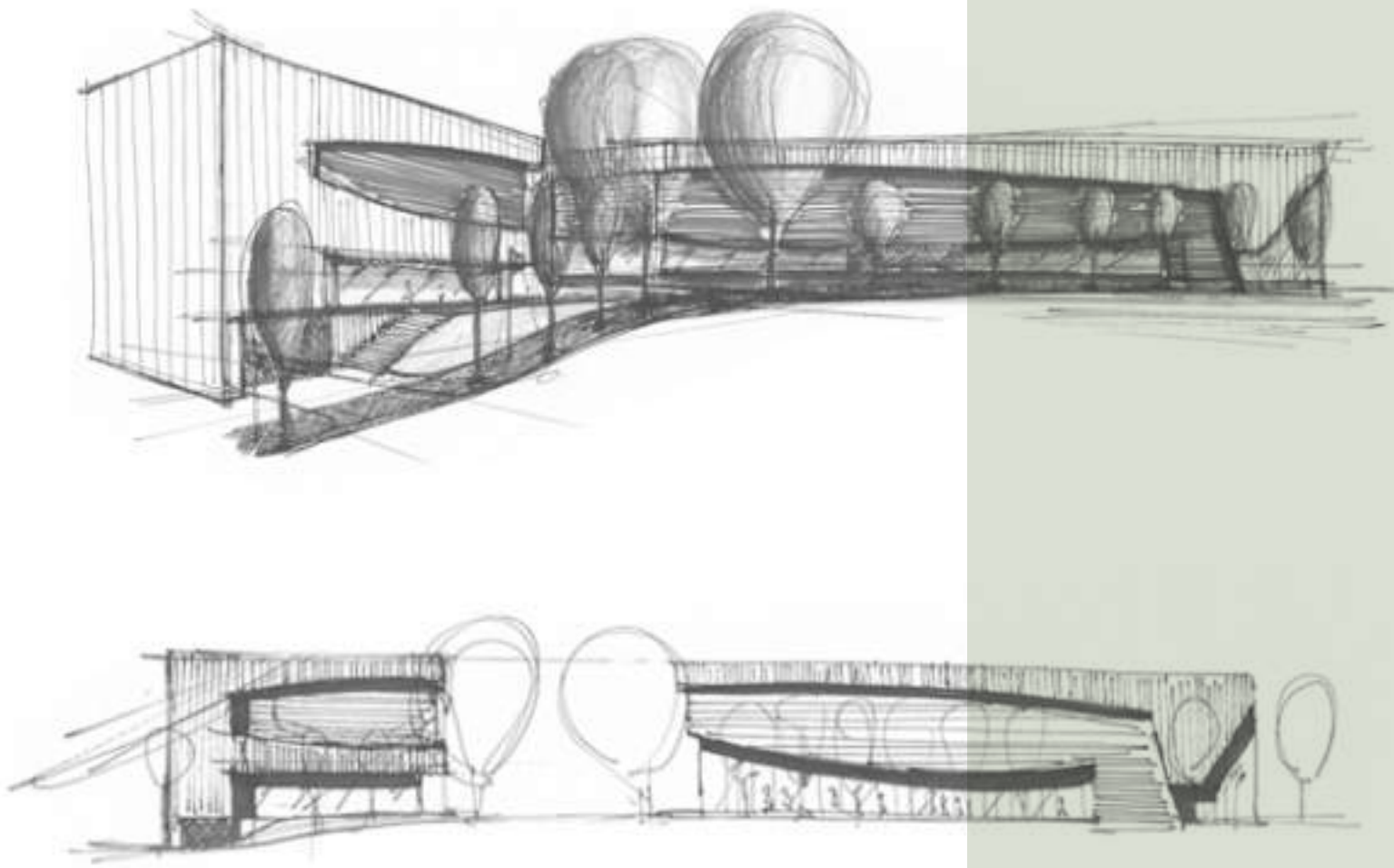
**LOCATION**  
Tucan Golf & Country Club

**CONSTRUCTION AREA**  
5,000 sq.m









**Paseo Las Mercedes** Located in one of the suburban areas with the greatest predominance of conventional low density developments and gated residential complexes, this project is located on a 5 hectare lot whose main purpose was the creation of mixed use but given the limitations of its zoning it could only be taken to purely commercial and office development. In spite of this, a project was designed to favor walkability within the property, since there is no opportunity to reach it on foot in the immediate vicinity. The way in which each complex was arranged is intended to promote a reconversion towards an open complex in a more efficient way by being separated by blocks with parking areas that can be transformed into public space at a later date.



**CLIENT**  
Grupo Jova

**LOCATION**  
Arraijan, Panama

**CONSTRUCTION AREA**  
25,000 sq.m

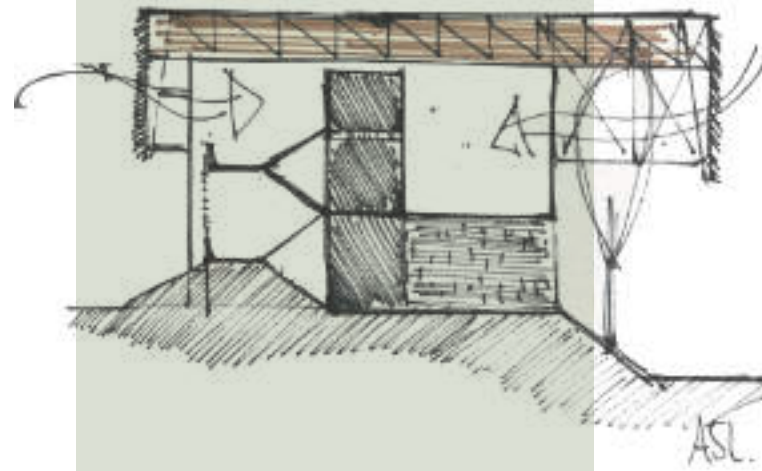
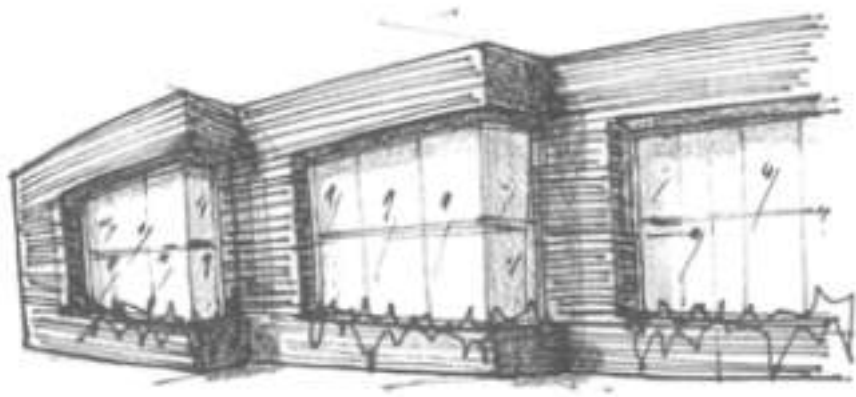












**Academia Integral San Lucas** In the same sector where Paseo Las Mercedes would be located, we had the opportunity to design this school on a 4.6 hectare plot of land. The ideal that education is the source of development of a nation is a current discourse in our society where the State is increasingly absent to its own complicity. It is for this reason that our clients were dedicated to the mission of creating this school for the development of the community which is of average economic resources and to provide it with an institution of which they would feel proud. Our position as architects when designing it was to be faithful to this idea and use the natural elements within our reach such as natural lighting and ventilation, the creation of atriums for recreation at any time of the year, the creation of visual axes that frame the landscape and allow the incorporated landscaping to dissolve the volumetric force of the construction and therefore diminish its impact on the natural environment. The project is implanted on the slope of a low hillside and revolves around it. The articulating elements of each block are the atriums that in turn contain the stairways and exits to the courtyards. Today only 30% of it has been built but you can feel the intention of its composition, its rhythms and perspectives as well as the views that are generated by the openings of the volumes. For these reasons the project received in 2021 the NATIONAL PRIZE OF ARCHITECTURE becoming an important source of pride and identity of the people of Nuevo Emperador.



**CLIENT**  
Academia Integral San Lucas

**LOCATION**  
Arraijan, Panama

**CONSTRUCTION AREA**  
16,000 sq.m

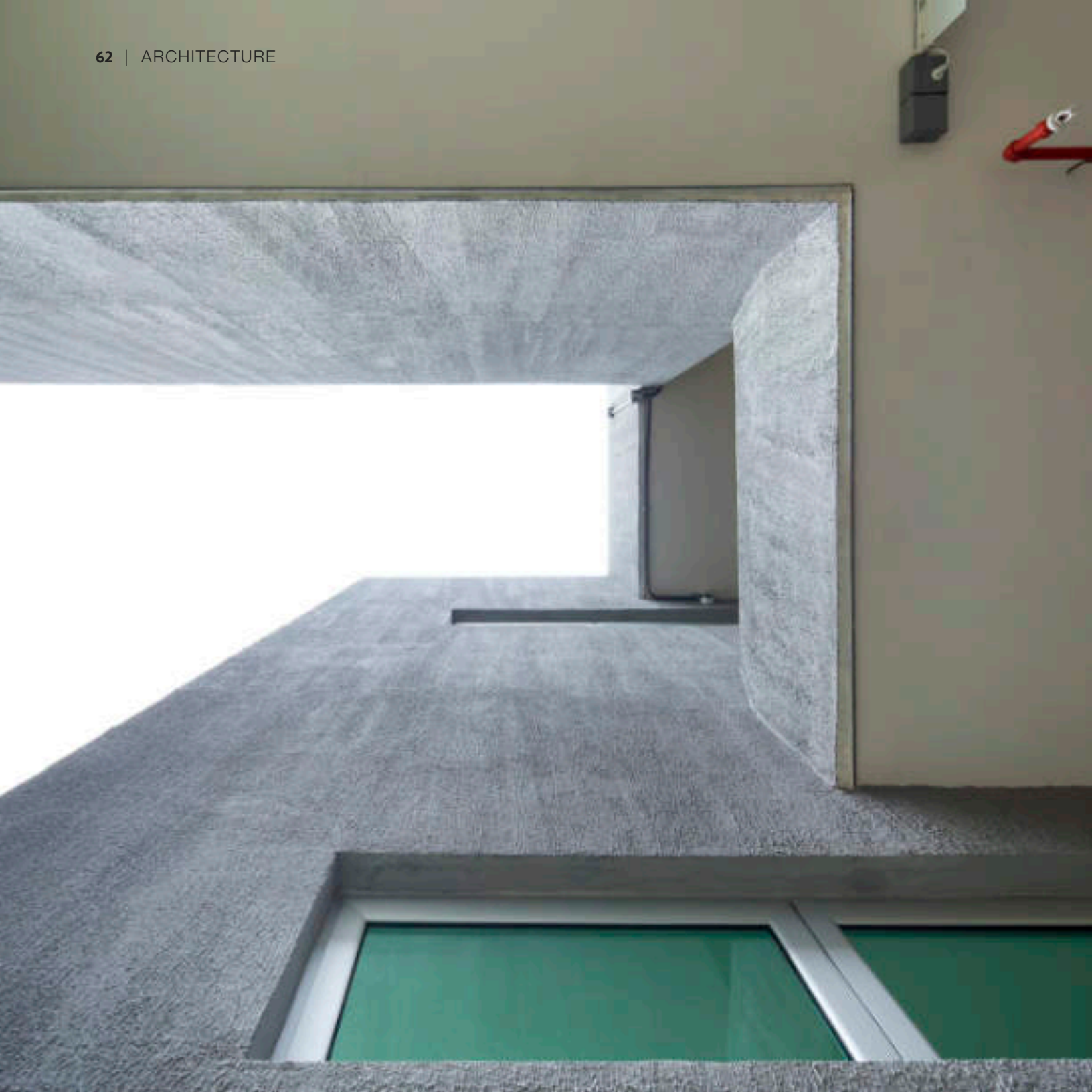












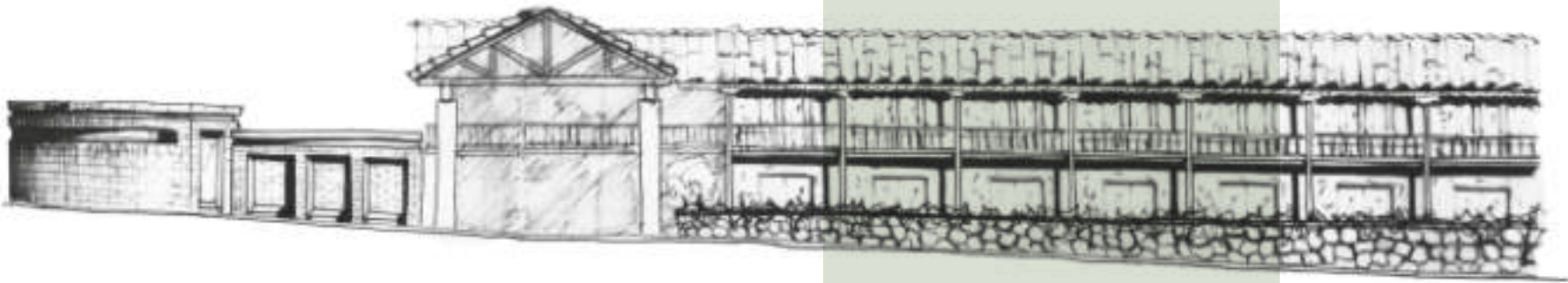








**Cubita Hotel** Within the project that bears the same name, is the hotel project that has an extension of 1.1 hectares, 100 rooms, event hall, restaurant, museum and social areas. One of the main aspects is the composition of the complex through 3 pedestrian and visual axes that connect the plaza, the gazebo and the chapel within the internal courtyard; the main access with the gazebo and the social area with the residential area. Through them the permeability of the Cubita complex is enhanced towards the hotel as a focal point. The architecture of this village is very rich in elements typical of the construction tradition of the early Spanish colony, with clay tile roofs, wide eaves, stone and brick building bases, adobe plaster, wooden structures, great heights and cross ventilation. However, due to the desire of this town to move towards what they understand as modernity, they have stripped their architecture of this language, which led us to make this project a symbol of the rescue of their architectural tradition, incorporating its most relevant elements with a current construction technique and others such as the gazebo, the church, the internal patio, the path; as conformers of the spatial relationships of the whole. For all this the project received the **NATIONAL PRIZE OF ARCHITECTURE** in 2014 and is today a source of pride and identity of the people of La Arena.



**CLIENT**  
Inmobiliaria Cubita

**LOCATION**  
La Arena, Herrera

**CONSTRUCTION AREA**  
7,000 sq.m

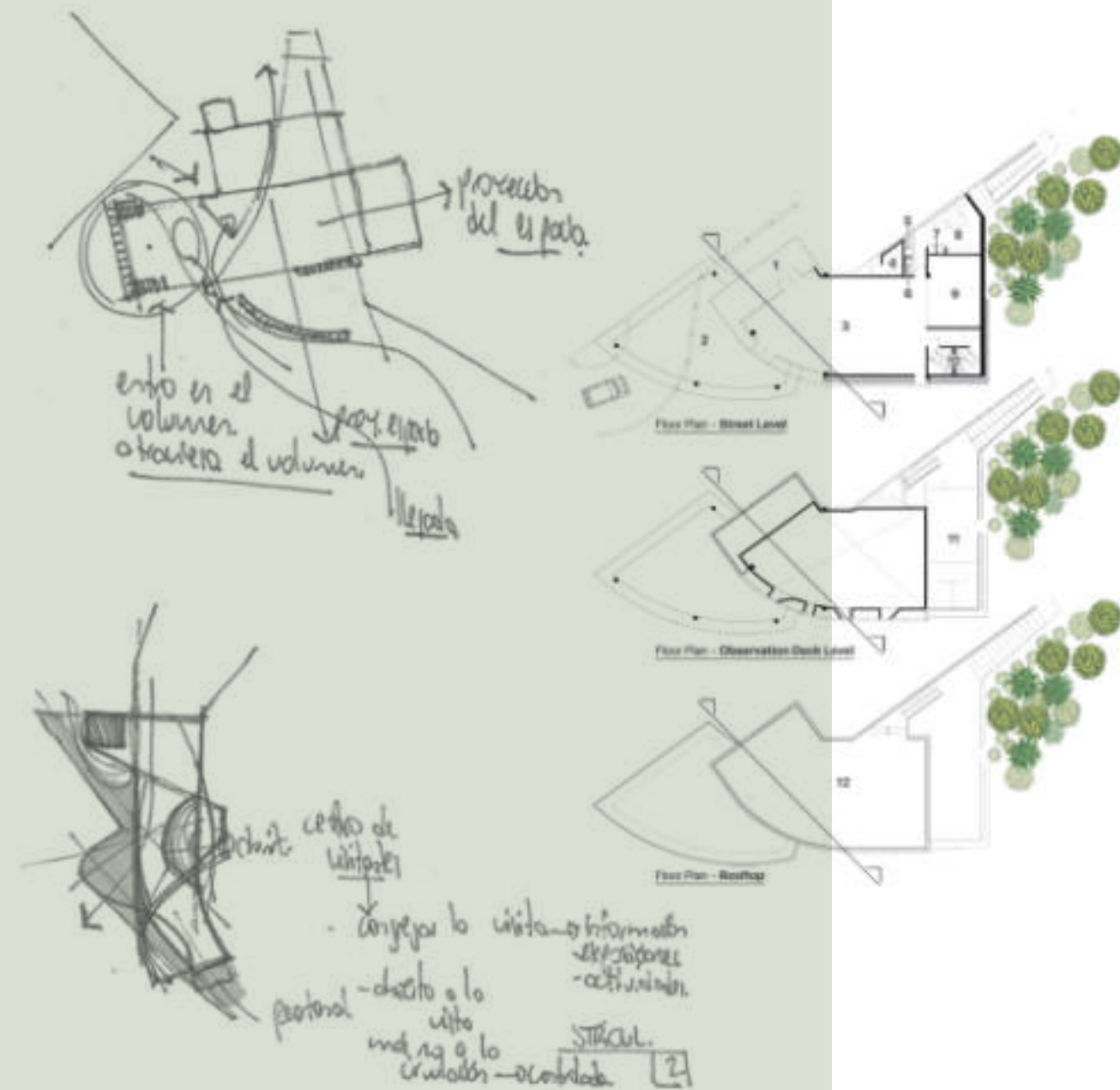








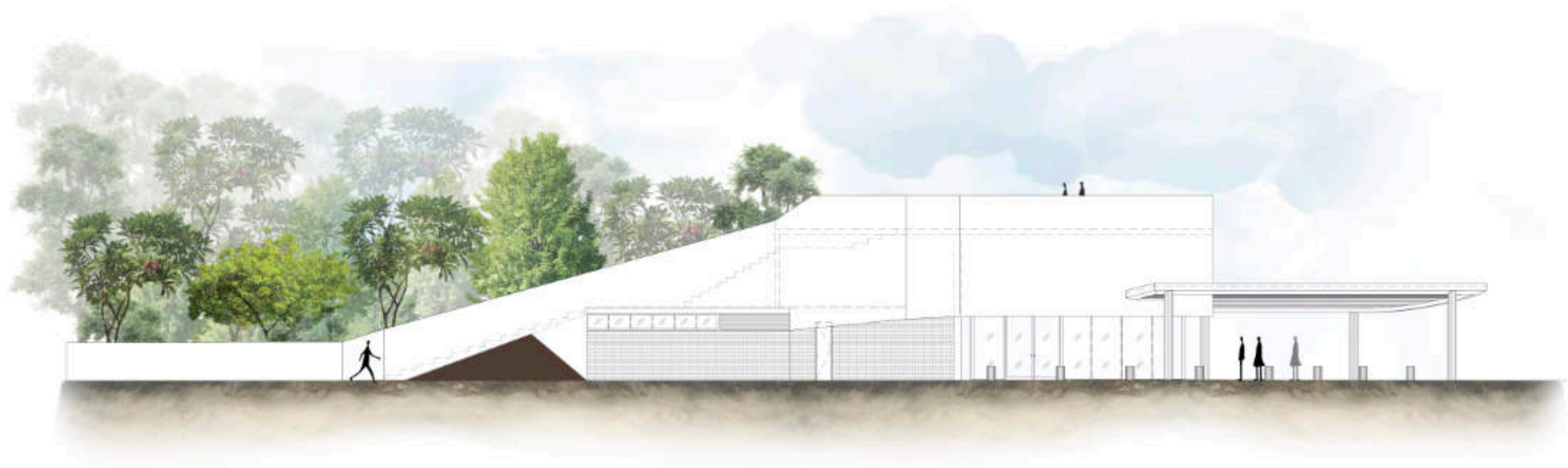




**Punta Culebra Visitor's Center** Located on Punta Culebra, an island connected to the mainland through the Amador causeway located at the entrance of the Panama Canal, is the Punta Culebra Visitor Center. The facility is part of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute's (STRI) marine science and education program. In this project, which has restrictions on the dimensions of its footprint, which should not exceed 140 m<sup>2</sup>, all the activities of communication of scientific knowledge developed by STRI will be developed. Being at the entrance of the center and adjacent to the hill that bears the same name of the site, we conceptualized a project that was the projection of the hill towards the arrival of the visitor with a characterization of a skin of scaly appearance that evokes the multicolored biodiversity of both birds and fish and why not, the nuances that the sea provides. The result is an open floor plan with a small office area and gift-shop which is contained by a "suspended" enclosure that rests on a transparent glass and stone base. In its upper part there is a terrace for outdoor events and a viewpoint to take advantage of the view towards the Pacific entrance of the Panama Canal.

CLIENT	LOCATION	CONSTRUCTION AREA
Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute	Punta Culebra, Panama	area: 300 sq.m









Punta Galeta  
Laboratories and  
Dormitories

The facilities of this marine laboratory are located on an island connected to the mainland by land through a road that crosses the mangroves near the Atlantic entrance of the

Panama Canal. The site conditions with its strong winds and sudden rises in sea level led us to design a facility that would be protected from them with a concrete construction elevated 2 feet above sea level. The project program consists of wet and dry laboratories for the study of marine species, administrative offices as well as a conference room to receive international and local exchange students in support of STRI's educational program. There are also dormitories for the scientific staff, a dining room and laundry facilities. One of the main intentions of the project is the creation of internal courtyards to protect from the strong breeze the species of trees that are to be planted in them in order to open the facades and cover them with the shade of these trees. The high degree of salinity due to its proximity to the sea gives a "bunker" character to the complex, since the use of steel or wood is totally discarded due to the little life that can be found in this site under these conditions.



**CLIENT**  
Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute

**LOCATION**  
Punta Galeta, Panama

**CONSTRUCTION AREA**  
300 sq.m



# interior design

**Clinic Ponce Barberena** SMALL INTERIOR AND RENOVATION DESIGN PROJECT housed in a 35 sq.m space located at John Hopkins Hospital in Punta Pacifica. The intention was to create a relaxing atmosphere where the patient will feel confident and comfortable. The use of wood, indirect lighting and materials that create soft shadow aim to that goal.

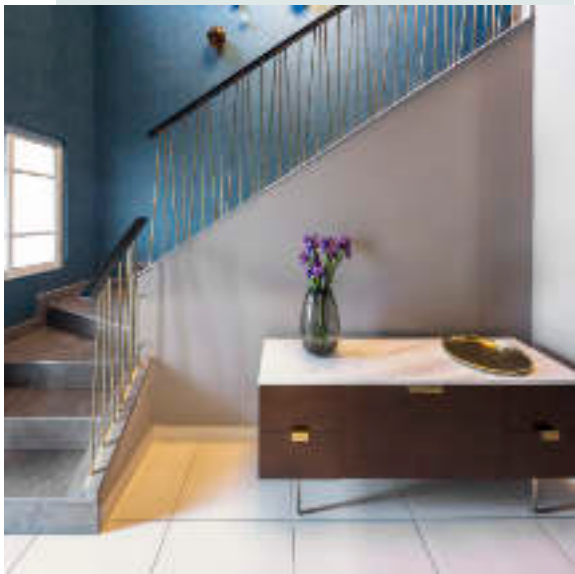


CLIENT	LOCATION	CONSTRUCTION AREA
Ponce Barberena Gynecology-Obstetrics	John Hopkins Hospital, Panama	35 sq.m









**Residence Dominguez Bello**

THE DESIGN REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS RESIDENTIAL interior design project were simple and straight-for-ward: to optimize the spatial distribution of the house while updating finishes and furniture.

A carefully selected mix of materials including gray marble and textured wallpapers was used, along with contemporary details such as the stair railing. Metallic accents in brass and bold color touches complete the material palette. This combination achieves the desired balance of modern yet comfortable spaces, and also reflects the clients' personalities.

The material selection carries through the entire project creating a seamless flow between the spaces and cohesion in design elements.

Light fixtures and furniture pieces were chosen to act as the perfect complement to the finishes and feel of each room.



**CLIENT**  
Dominguez-Bello Family

**LOCATION**  
Costa del Este, Panama

**CONSTRUCTION AREA**  
250 sqm









**Residence Ponce Palermo** ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL ELEMENTS OF THIS PROJECT was to organize the ground floor, which is an open space, to accommodate living and dinning rooms, den and bar area without blocking the view to the backyard through the terrace. Giving to each ambience their individual personality and making them form part of the whole, was the challenge of this project. Establishing elements, such as wood and marble panels, through the project as a common thread was a strategy implemented to create joints among the ambiances. The stairway scale exaltation, through the herringbone pattern, is one of the focal pints when entering the house.



**CLIENT**  
Ponce Palermo Family

**LOCATION**  
Santa Maria Golf & Country Club

**CONSTRUCTION AREA**  
140 sqm









**Hotel Tucan** PROJECT REALIZED UNDER THE CONCEPT OF “Fusion of Elements”, between the classic and con- temporary styles, resulting in a scenario of eclecticism that is able to reach the different profiles of guests and visitors. It highlights the use of golden tones that evoke the classic style and that adapt to celestial and aqua tones, synonymous with modern elements. Wood, marble and perforated metals used in different shapes and scales, excel in all intervened areas (Lobby, Lounge Bar, Reception, Business Center, Restaurant, Events Room, Conference Room, Bathrooms and Rooms). The garden is highlighted as the main element of the hotel, through the large windows that attract the exterior landscape to all the areas served and the neutral colors that create an atmosphere of calm and relaxation. The double stair- case stands out as an authentic element whose goal is to give a warm welcome to a space full of natural and ecological trails.



**CLIENT**  
Tucan

**LOCATION**  
Tucan Golf & Country Club

**LAND SIZE**  
3000 sqm







## CONTACT US

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