

**Herzog & de Meuron**  
**TEA**  
**Tenerife Espacio de las Artes**  
Santa Cruz de Tenerife  
Canary Islands, Spain



Photo © Iwan Baan

*"The new Cultural Center is not only a place of encounter for people but also a place of intersection for the landscape of the contemporary city, the old city with its skyline along the barranco and the archaic topography of the barranco itself."*  
Herzog & de Meuron (1999-2008)

Located in Santa Cruz's restored old quarter the TEA is a multi functional exhibitions center, a lively place for people of all generations and with various interests, where the different activities and spaces of the Center are interfusing and interflowing.



Photo © Iwan Baan

A public path cuts diagonally through the building complex connecting the top of the General Serrador Bridge with the shore of the Barranco de Santos.



Photo © Iwan Baan



Photo © Iwan Baan



Photo © Iwan Baan

The path literally cuts through the large reading room of the Biblioteca Insular where large glass screens allow for views inside and outside the generously open space of the library.



Photo © Iwan Baan



Photo © Iwan Baan



Photo © Iwan Baan



Photo © Iwan Baan

On its way down to the Barranco the path is widening, transforming itself into a triangular, semi-covered space in the heart of the Cultural Center.

This triangular public Plaza, enlivened by the Museum Café and Restaurant, orients visitors towards the building complex and the Lobby; conceived as a spatial continuation of the Plaza.

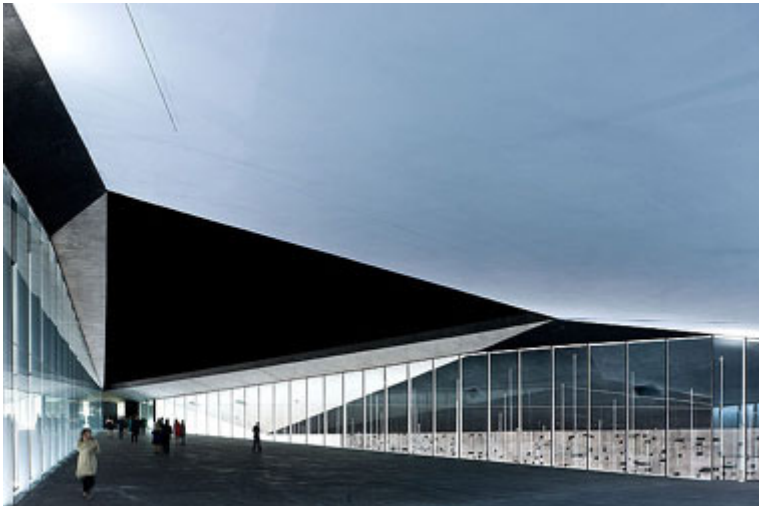


Photo © Iwan Baan



Photo © Iwan Baan

In the Lobby a large spiraling staircase, behind the Museum Shop and Ticket counters, connects to the upper and lower museum level.



Photo © Iwan Baan



Photo © Iwan Baan



Photo © Iwan Baan



Photo © Iwan Baan

The upper level has skylit galleries in various sizes adapting to the requirements of the Oscar Dominguez Collection. The lower level, housing the Centro de Fotografía Isla de Tenerife, can be subdivided to match the needs of temporary exhibitions. Ceiling heights on both levels are close to 6 meters.

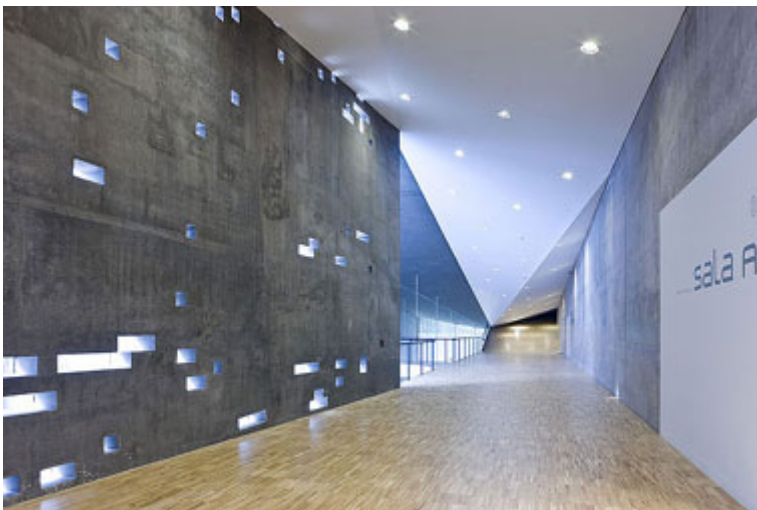


Photo © Iwan Baan



Photo © Iwan Baan

The building's exteriors are finished in dark grey colored concrete, pierced by small pixel-like glass-filled openings, in random patterns, that filter the natural light to the interior. The perforations were created using a complex formwork system.



Photo © Iwan Baan



Photo © Iwan Baan



Photo © Iwan Baan

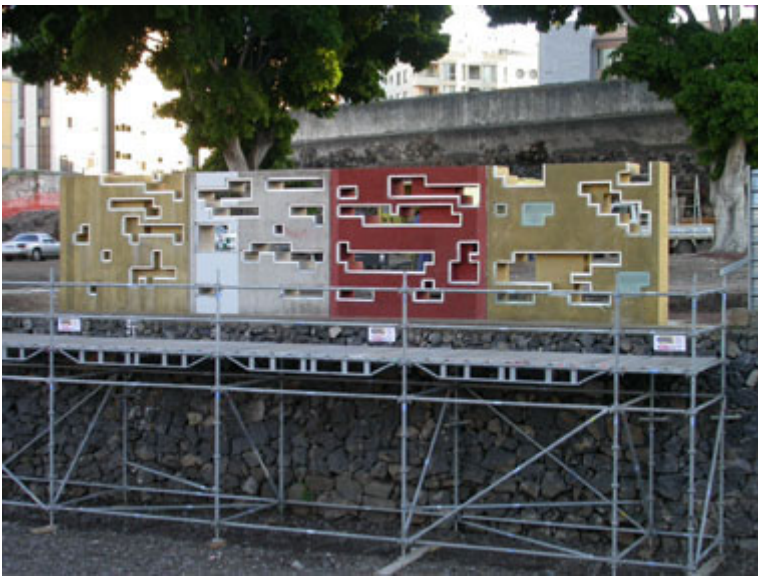


Photo © Herzog & de Meuron





Photo © Herzog & de Meuron

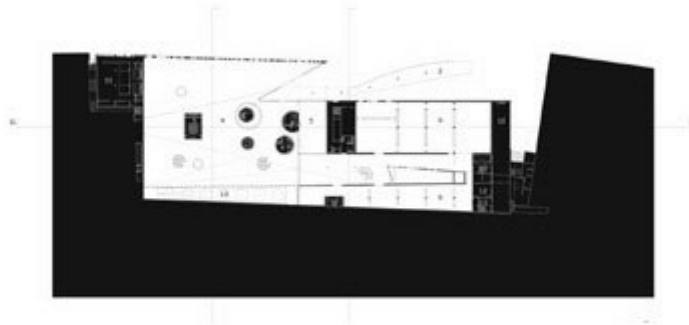


Photo © Herzog & de Meuron

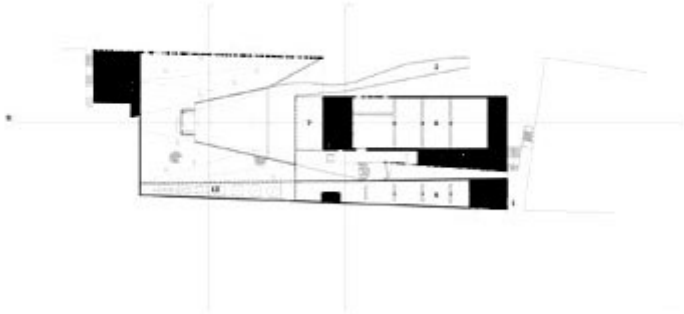


Photo © Herzog & de Meuron

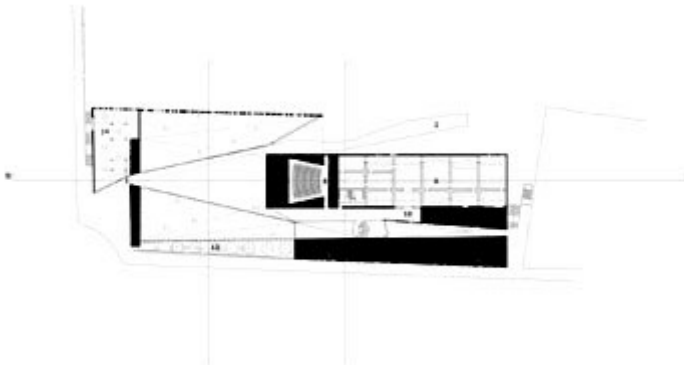
*"The building typology of our design for the TEA is based on courtyards. The elongated courtyards are important in many ways, providing daylight, views and orientation for the visitors and users of the museum spaces and the library. One of them, between the office and museum wings of the building complex is planted with typical plants of the Island. From the very beginning of the design process we operated with courtyards, also because we wanted to connect the new Centro typologically with its existing neighbour building, the Antiguo Hospital Civil which has recently been transformed into the Museo de la Naturaleza y el Hombre. However it took a while before we understood that all different activities and functions of the Centro should be assembled under one continuous roof structure rather than break down into individual wings. This is also one of the reasons why the elongated courtyards do not appear like embraced exterior spaces but rather like interior spaces that are being left open. The spatial interplay between inside and outside integrates rather than separates the very diverse urban landscapes which are so fascinating in Santa Cruz."*  
Herzog & de Meuron (1999-2008)



Drawing © Herzog & de Meuron  
Ground Floor Plan



Drawing © Herzog & de Meuron  
First Floor Plan



Drawing © Herzog & de Meuron  
Second Floor Plan



Longitudinal Section S1: through the inner courtyard  
Längsschnitt S1: durch Innenhof

0.00 10m

Drawing © Herzog & de Meuron  
Longitudinal Section through inner courtyard



0.00 10m

Drawing © Herzog & de Meuron  
Section through Exhibition Space



0.00 10m

Drawing © Herzog & de Meuron  
Section through Library

Site Area: 8,800 square meters  
Building Footprint: 7,753 square meters  
Gross Floor Area: 20,600 square meters

Completed: 2008

Client: Cabildo Insular de Tenerife, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain

Architects: Herzog & de Meuron

Project Team

Partners:

Jacques Herzog

Pierre de Meuron

David Koch

Partner Architect: Virgilio Gutiérrez Herreros

Project Architect:

Astrid Peissard

Benito Blanco Avellano

Luis Jativa Quiroga

Alexander Franz

Project Team:

Jose Luis Berrueta

Gustavo Garcia

Nicolas Grosmond,

Sara Jacinto

Diego Martínez Navarro

Monica Ors Romagosa

Lara Semler

Lys Villalba Rubio  
Benjamin Wiederock

Design Development 1999-2003

Project Architect:

Astrid Peissard  
Daniel Mallo

Miquel Rodriguez

Project Team:

Béla Berec

Blanca Castañeda

Stefan Dambacher

Diana Garay,

Ana Inacio

Peter Jenni

Matei Manaila

Sonia Neves Campos

Reto Pedrocchi

Raquel Ramalheira

Camilo Rebelo

Frank Schneider

Claudia Thomet

Architect Planning/Construction:

Herzog & de Meuron

Virgilio Gutiérrez Herreros Arquitecto

Structural Engineering:

Dionisio Castro Pérez

Martínez Segovia Pallas y Asociados

Construction Management:

Virgilio Gutiérrez Herreros, Arquitecto

Quantity Surveyor: Topografía Canaria SL

HVAC Engineering: Techne Ingeniería

Plumbing Engineering:

Virgilio Gutiérrez Herreros, Arquitecto

Mechanical Engineering:

Techne Ingeniería, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain

Electrical Engineering:

Techne Ingeniería, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain

Light Consulting: Ove Arup, London, UK

Acoustics: Estudi Acústic Higiní Arau, Barcelona, Spain

Contractor: OHL S.A.

Photographed by [Iwan Baan](#)

[Herzog & de Meuron](#) arcspace features

April 20, 2009