



UTAMED

ATLANTIC MEDITERRANEAN UNIVERSITY

CONDITIONS

- Renovation and reinvention of the building: 7000 m².
- Convert into a university campus.
- Low budget: 800 €/m²
- Short delivery time: 8 months.
- Maintenance of the glass façade.
- Limited programme of use.

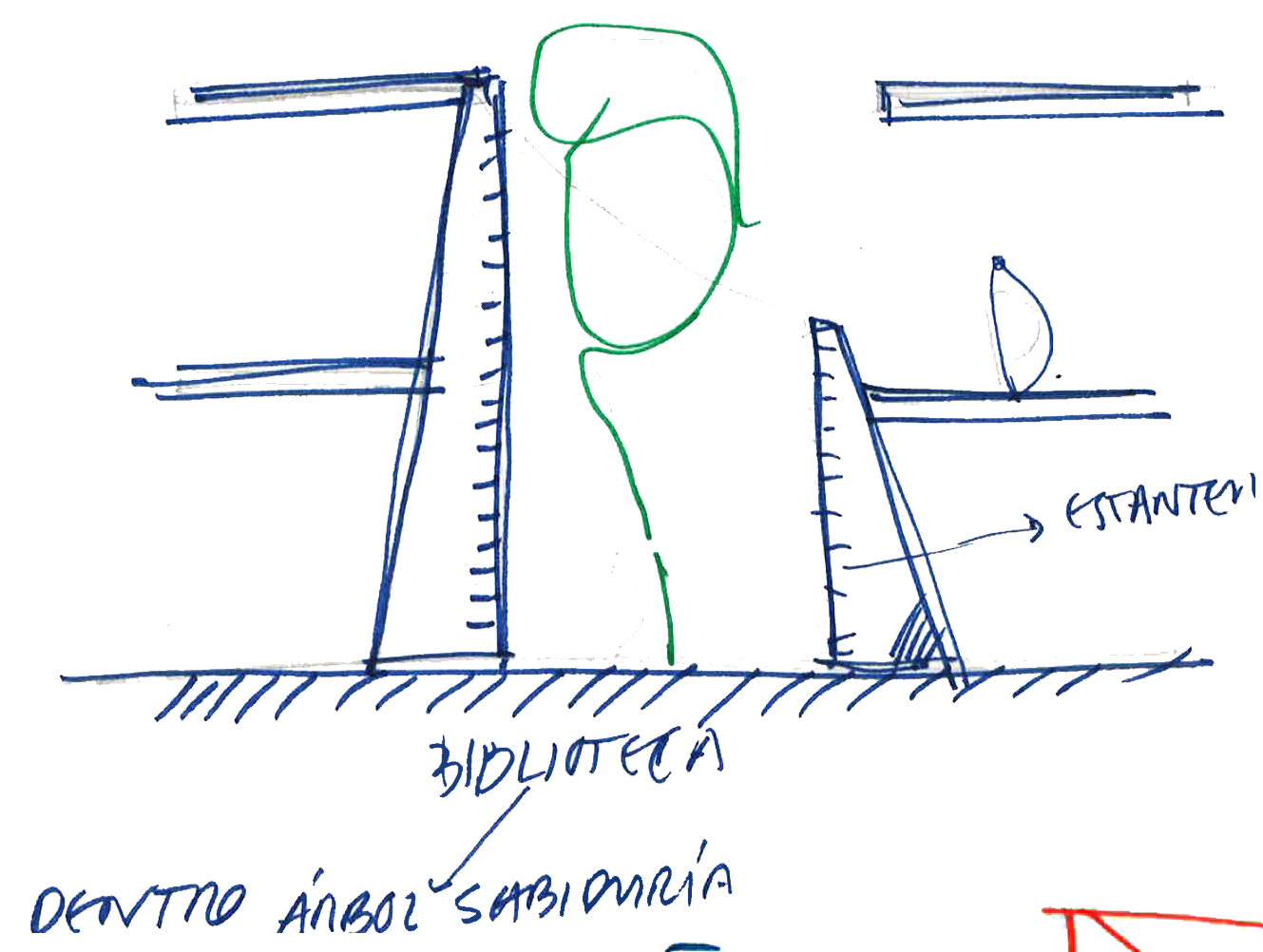
The project presented an additional challenge: it had to be carried out without interrupting the building's operations.

Throughout the renovation, 200 people continued to work in their offices, which required precise planning and phased execution. It was necessary to carefully design the progressive transfer of staff from one area to another, always ensuring that spaces remained operational and safe.

The entire process was carried out in a rigorous and organised manner, with the aim of minimising the impact on the daily activity of the offices as much as possible.

.brainstorm

original first floor



EOIF. OFICINA
CARRIÓLITA NUEVA MATILDA

komplett

GENERAL
EXPLOTA

NUEVO AÑO EN LA UNI

CURVA COMO
ELEMENTO
DE (NOTURA Y
CONEXIÓN)

↓
LA CURVA SALE
Y SE REFLEJA
EN EL EXTREMUM

CONTINUIDAD

7 ARSENIC
VIGAS
HER

ÁRBOL
COLGADO
DE ESTRU

RAMPEN
IN-OUT

→ NECESIDAD DE CREAR CAMPUS
EN UN SOLO EDIFICIO

A PUNTA 30
NO FLEO EN PUNTA

original second floor

section

original ground floor : access

ESPARTO GRASS



ESPARTO GRASS



ESPARTO AS AN ARCHITECTURAL MATERIAL

- **Strength:** The high concentration of cellulose and lignin gives it remarkable mechanical strength.

- **Durability and resistance to biodegradation:** The lignin present makes it resistant to biodegradation, allowing products made from esparto to be more durable when exposed to adverse environmental conditions.

- **Flexibility:** Despite its strength, it is a flexible fibre that is “easy” to handle and braid.

- **Esparto has good water absorption capacity,** making it useful in the manufacture of products such as paper, where ink absorption is crucial.

- **Thermal insulation capacity:** It has low thermal conductivity and has been commonly used in construction as thermal insulation.

- **Ecology:** Esparto is a natural and biodegradable fibre. When processed traditionally, it does not produce waste, nor does it involve the use of polluting substances, high temperatures or large amounts of water. The small amount of water used can be reused for irrigation. It is an ecological alternative to synthetic fibres or, rather, synthetic fibres were a more profitable option (for large producers) and more polluting than esparto grass.

ESPARTO TO PROMOTE A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

- It grows in southern Andalusia, in full sun and requires very little water. It has been used since Roman times, when its resistance was already valued and it was used for navigation and construction.
- Waste is reduced to a minimum.
- Packaging is avoided.
- The environment is protected.
- The use of materials for circular use drives innovation in different sectors of the economy.
- Consumers will have more durable and original products.
- No dependence on other countries, as this raw material is sourced locally.



ESPARTO GRASS



ESPARTO AS A MEAN OF TRANSMITTING KNOWLEDGE

The use of esparto has a history stretching back thousands of years, as it is one of the oldest plant fibres used by humankind. Its use has been documented in various cultures throughout the Mediterranean and North Africa.

During the Middle Ages, it continued to be an important resource in the Mediterranean. Rural communities used it to make domestic utensils and agricultural tools. In Spain, esparto production became a significant economic activity, especially in the south-eastern regions.

Esparto production in Spain enjoyed its golden age during the First World War. After a decline in production in the 1930s, it returned to prominence, becoming so important in Spain that in 1948 the Esparto Service was created as a joint agency of the Ministries of Industry, Trade and Agriculture.

Esparto entered a period of decline and crisis in the 1950s with the arrival on the market of other cheaper natural fibres. Today, synthetic fibres derived from petroleum have replaced esparto, especially in rope-making, which dealt the final blow to esparto, which was displaced and is now only used in handicrafts and some traditional products such as basketry and hats.

This had serious consequences for the villages that lived off its production.

Both traditional knowledge and those who worked in the esparto industry were destined, some to oblivion and others to emigrate far from their mountains. Today, it is very common to see large, lonely esparto plants abandoned on the slopes of the mountains: esparto has now been forgotten.

The recovery of esparto for construction has meant a return to the villages that worked with it, full of people working with this material and seeing how knowledge is passed on from one generation to the next. In addition, we combine hi-tech with traditional techniques, such as the use of computer-aided design and manufacturing, which allows us to create new and innovative products.

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FACADE



before



in progress



MAIN HALL



before



in progress

MAIN HALL



after

ATLANTIC MEDITERRANEAN CAMPUS

This public building project arose from the need to create an emblematic building in the city of Malaga. It is located in a business area, where there is an urgent need for renovation and reinvention of buildings instead of continuing to build. In this refurbishment, we start from an original office building without any characteristic elements. In this we will have to include an entire university campus.

The proposal is based on the idea of ‘stripping down’ the building, exposing its soul and eliminating all superfluous artefacts to express the very essence of knowledge. The structure, originally designed for different functions, is redefined as an open space, without internal boundaries, where nature penetrates through large courtyards and the exposed structure, forming a unique whole that extends outwards that promotes reflection and questioning, breaking down the traditional barriers between the different areas of the campus.

The interior design has been radically transformed to promote a different experience: We wrap the building with curved elements that surrounds the entrance of the building and enters it, making it stop being a building with straight shapes and have movement with partitions and curved shapes, as plastic as the mind of a teenager who begins his university stage. It represent that vital stage of university life when you have an “explosion” of ideas, which may even be incompatible, but at that vital moment they make sense (that is why each walkway railing is painted a different colour).

The project is materialised with ecological and regional elements: esparto grass and wood. With the use of these materials we give visibility to the work of many artisans who work in villages, fighting against the empty Spain and defending traditional work. On the glass façade, esparto grass is used as a shading element to reduce the greenhouse effect while allowing light to enter.

Most of the traditional floors and ceilings have been removed, creating an interior space approximately 15 metres high, symbolising the elimination of the unnecessary, clarity and freedom of creativity.

“The project enhances the building by making a total redistribution, in which the ground floor breaks its limits and connects with the outdoor terraces, and with a triple height courtyard that we created in the main hall of the university. Walkways connect the spaces that dance with the exposed metal structure which, together with the large amount of vegetation included, create a haven of rest for the students.”

COURTYARD



before



after



COURTYARD

The first 100% Andalusian online university.

In this project, we wanted to recover one of the most deeply rooted hallmarks of our architecture:

the Andalusian courtyard.

This traditional element not only functions as the heart of the building, but also as a space for meeting, interaction and connection for the entire university community.

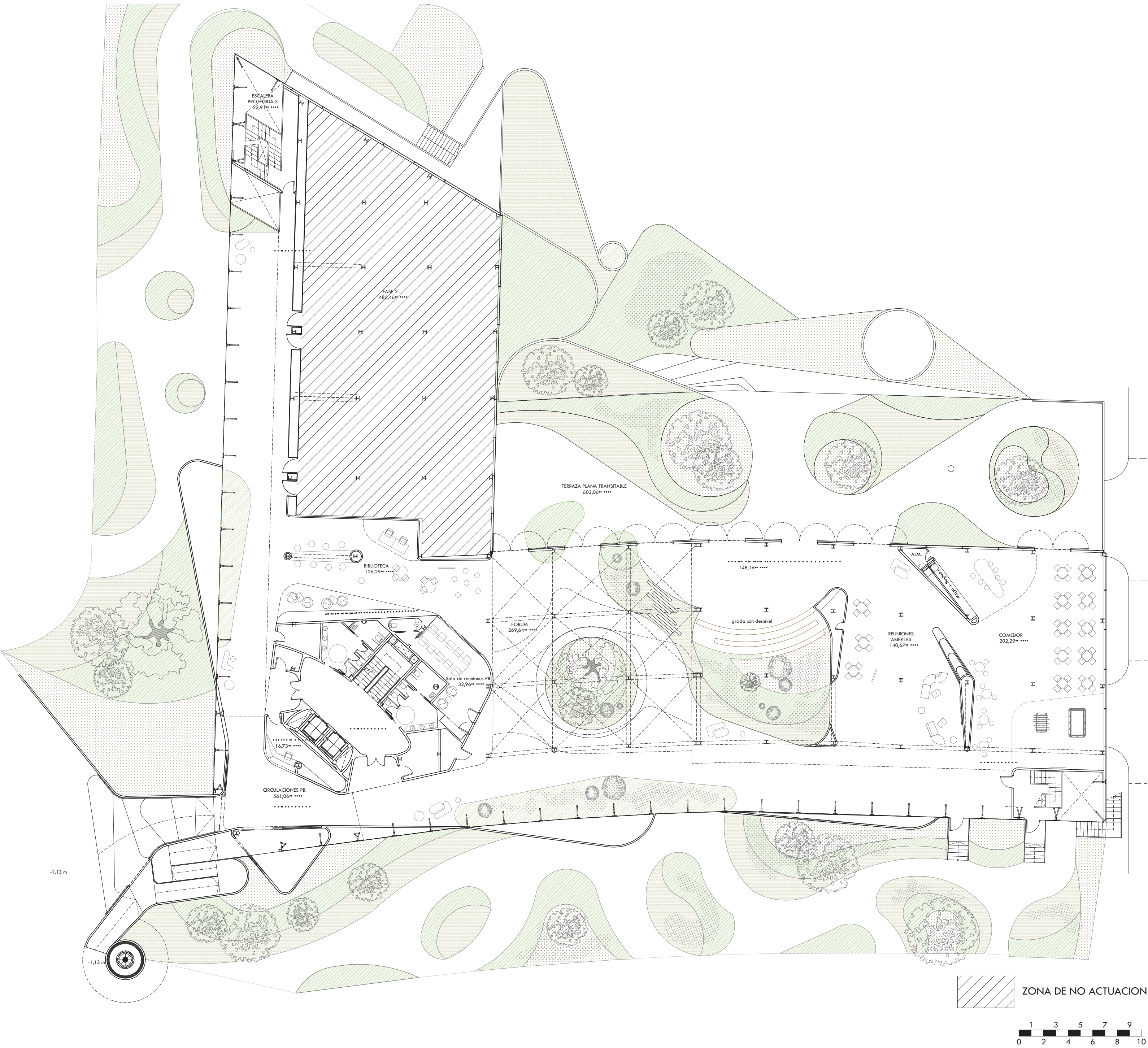
The intention is for activity to revolve around a large central courtyard —with *triple-height ceilings*— onto which all spaces open, fostering a continuous visual and functional relationship between the different academic areas.

This decision not only responds to cultural logic, but also allowed us to reduce the built area, opting for fewer square metres but with higher spatial quality.

Thus, the new campus not only pays tribute to our architectural roots, but also proposes a contemporary, sustainable and people-centred space.



GROUND FLOOR







FIRST FLOOR





FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



LIBRARY



LIBRARY



OFFICE






UTAMED