

Unity Emerging from Contrast

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Colegio de arquitectos de Puerto Rico

Mildred R Fontanez De Jesus

Abstract

Two architectural entities meet at a point in time, to form a simultaneous presence of both, habitation and expression. An architectural intervention in that sense is an evolutionary process in which ideas of different periods and languages are examined, translated and confronted. Even though opposed in their characteristics, they confer into a dialog of unity. The juxtaposition of architectural ideals, environmental resources and technologies of various times become stratified in a continuity of building.

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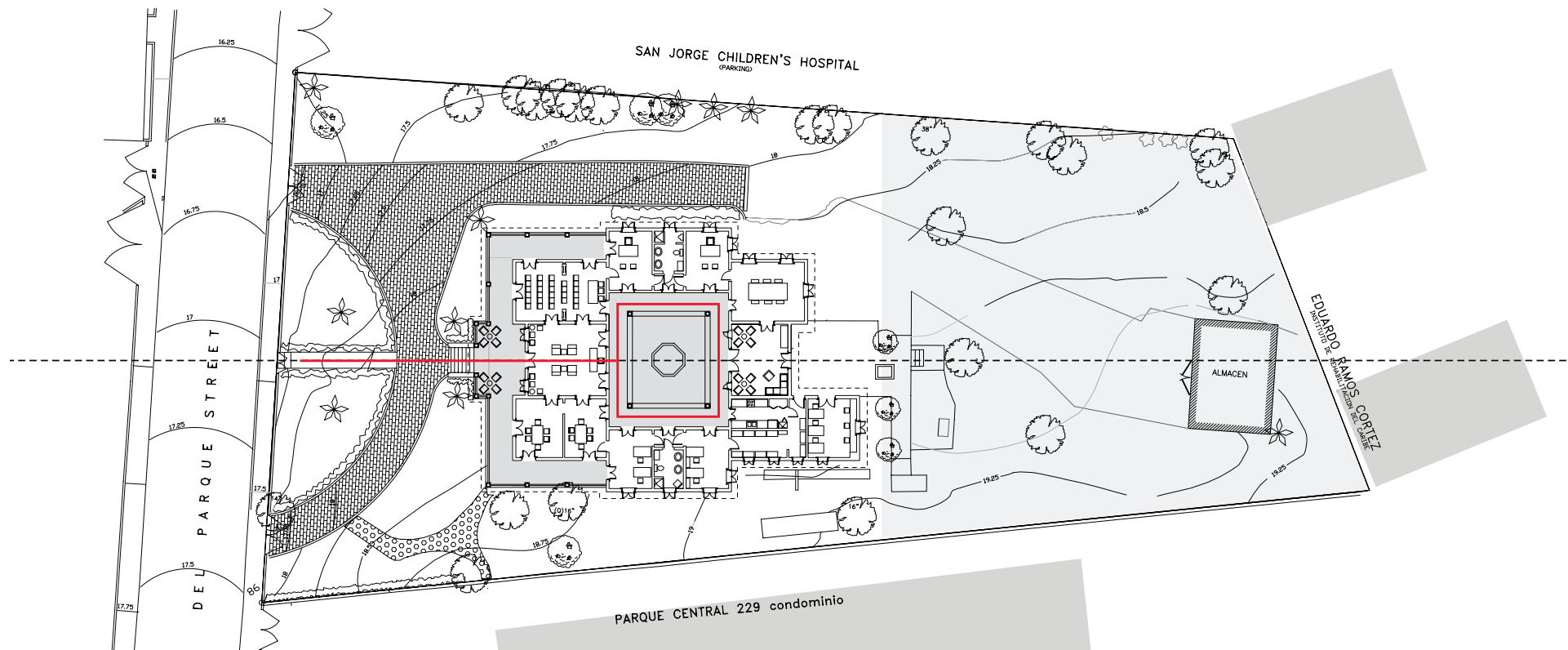
Introduction



Indiscriminate urban development combined with lack of resources often force reuse and rehabilitation of old structures. Reuse and rehabilitation can embody the expectations of society regarding economy and new programmatic demands and contribute positively to the urban context. This project is for the expansion of the Gonzalez Cuyar House, which houses the Colegio de arquitectos de Puerto Rico. The house built in 1907 was renovated for the use of the institute. However the growing organization needs to expand its facilities to provide more office space, a meeting room, a small library and a multipurpose room. Architecturally, the confrontation is proposed with a new addition to the existing house.

Analysis of the Gonzalez Cuyar House

- 1 Symmetrical organization of the house:**
the house is organized symmetrically.
- 2 Arrangement of the rooms:**
the arrangement of the rooms is a series of volumes connected with each other, forming the courtyard.
- 3 Circulation sequence:**
the courtyard is use as the main circulation element between the rooms of the house.
- 4 Exterior and interior differentiation:**
the exterior and interior spaces are differentiated by the change of textures and materials in floors and walls.



Program

The expansion of Puerto Rican Institute of Architects.
Location: San Juan, Puerto Rico

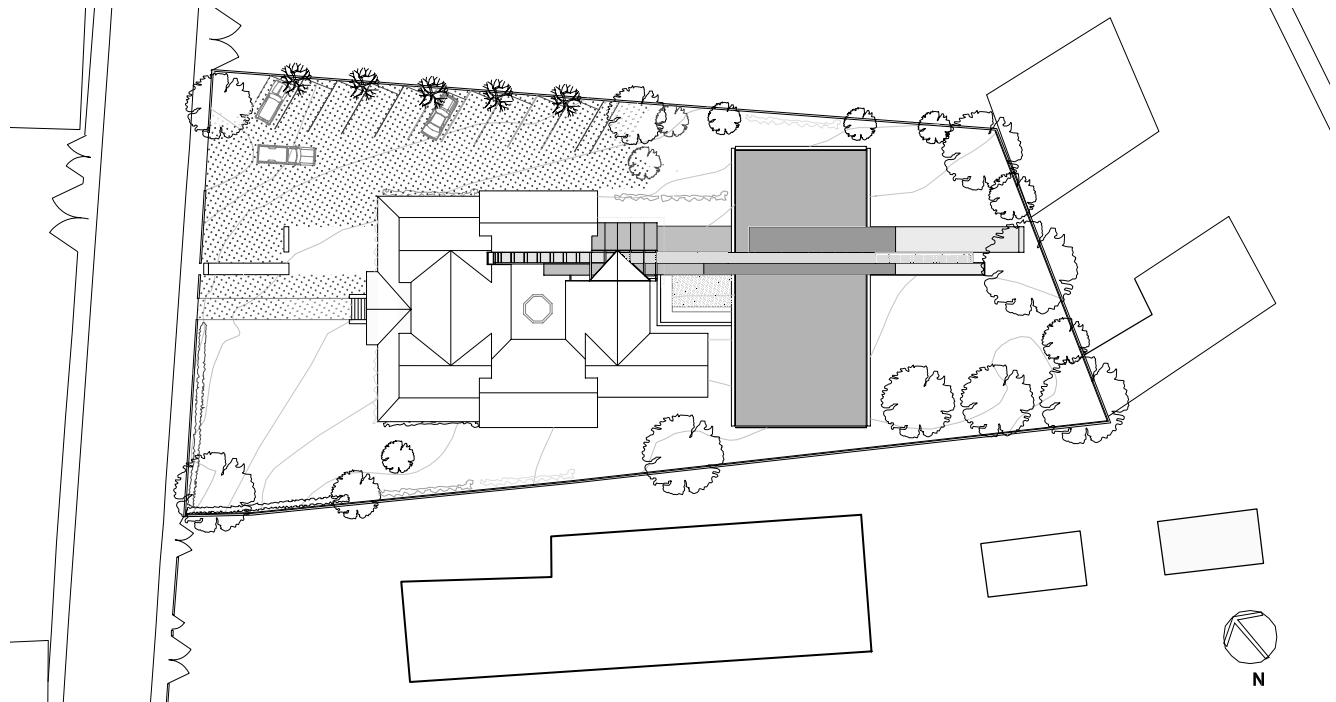
The current Gonzalez Cuyar House offers a reception area, a small meeting room, some office space and a exhibition area. The addition will provide more office space, a meeting room, a small reading room and a multipurpose room.

Existing Program

Lobby	200 sf
Exhibition	800 sf
Meeting room	330 sf
Director office	150 sf
Waiting Area	175 sf
AIA Office	150 sf
AIA archive	80 sf
CAAPPR archive	100 sf
Kitchen	175 sf
Restrooms	150 sf
Office for rent	150 sf
Office for rent	150 sf

Addition Program

Reading room	300 sf
Meeting room	430 sf
President office	150 sf
Executive Director	150 sf
Controller	150 sf
Public relationship	120 sf
Lobby	200 sf
Executive Secretary	175 sf
Waiting Area	600 sf
Multipurpose Room	1200 sf
Restrooms	150 sf
Storage room	200 sf
Janitor Closet	150 sf



Additions Case Studies

Based on approaches of different architects' work with an existing buildings, I propose six categories of building additions:

Imitation:

To preserve the original building and its surroundings, the addition duplicates the expression of the existing building.

Derivation:

The addition derives its own expression from the existing building. The original expression is translated to create something new. The new addition acknowledges the original expression.

Correspondence:

The addition in this case is based on an understanding of the existing situation. The intervention uses the old as a background for the new expression. New elements are added to the pre-existence space to enrich its expression.

Unitary Tension/ Confrontation:

The new addition in this case follows its own expression. The old and the new expressions are confronted to enrich one another. The confrontation between the elements creates a new order. The tension that emerges from the different expressions enriches the character of the space.

Disengagement:

This approach creates a new order completely independent from the existing building. The new expression takes over the old one to manifest its identity.

Concealment:

The intervention in this case protects the identity of the existing building and hides its self-expression. The existing building maintains its expressive hierarchy.

IMITATION



DERIVATION



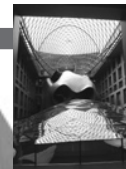
CORRESPONDENCE



UNITARY TENSION
CONFRONTATION



DISENGAGEMENT



CONCEALMENT



Historical Values



Existing North West Elevation, Gonzalez Cuyar House

The Gonzalez Cuyar house is located in a historical zone. This means that the structure can be modified as long as the overall image from the street is not drastically affected. This zone had been designated based on the age of the buildings, but makes no distinction as to the architectural value of a structure. The Gonzalez Cuyar house could be regarded as icon of what the general public considers vernacular architecture. In reality, the house is a combination of vernacular elements of American and European styles, perhaps an image of an archaic constructive typology .

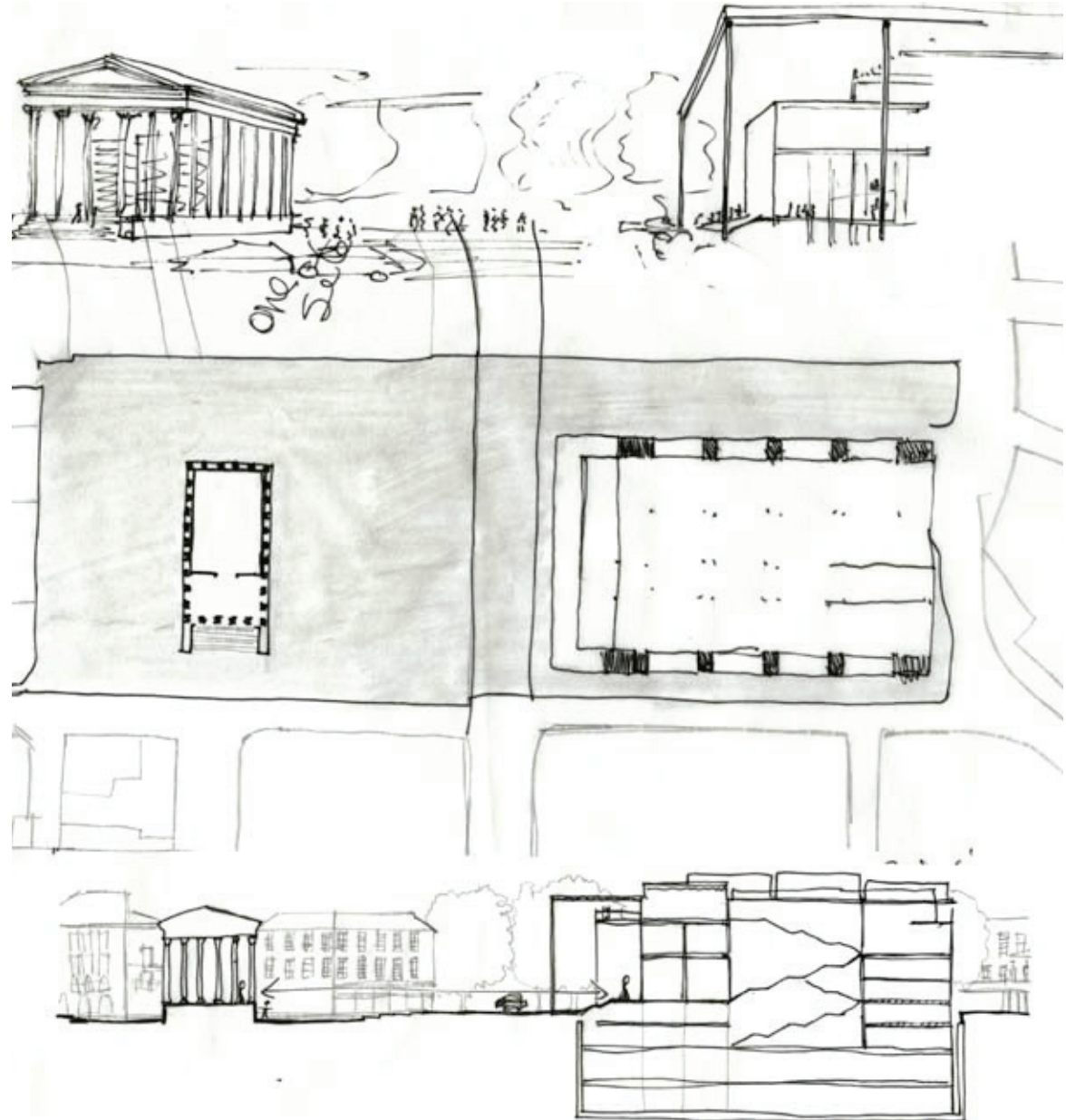
Case Studies

Maison Carree and Carre d' Art

Nimes, France

Foster Associates

In the case of Foster's work in Nimes, the project does not have physical contact with the existing structure. The elements of connection are not noticeable at first glance. But both structures hold a very strong relationship with each other in terms of proportion, scale and arrangement between their parts. Foster reinterpreted various motives of the Maison Carree and used them in his new design. For example the use of columns on the front of the building creates a communal space that welcomes the visitors and is correspond with the existing. Significant also is the common plane between the structures. The floor plane extends from the new building to the existing structure and past it to the ruins of a destroyed part of the temple. This suggests an association between the structures and the character of the space.



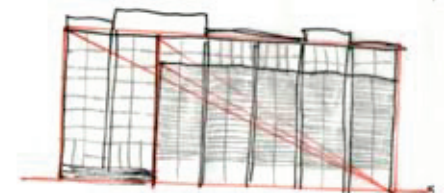
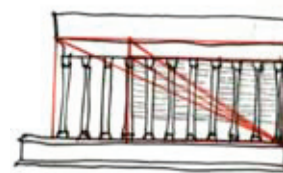
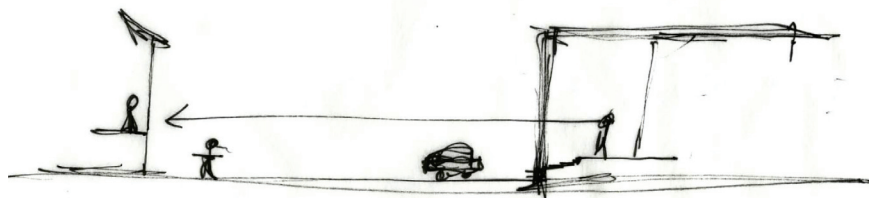
Analysis sketches of Maison Carree and Carre d' Art.

Maison Carree and Carre d' Art

Nimes, France
Foster Associates



Façade relationship between Maison Carree and Carre d' Art



Analysis sketches of Maison Carree and Carre d' Art.

Castelvecchio

Verona, Italy
Carlo Scarpa

Castelvecchio by Carlo Scarpa is a project created by the correspondence between old and new the layers. The existing structure serves as a background for a series of detail layers that are adding to the original structure. Walls, windows and floors are transformed with the addition of new pieces as a secondary layer for windows and doors. These new layers confront the original element and brings a new character of the space through new materials, contrasting shapes and different scale and proportion. The addition in this case enriches the building by providing a new hierarchy of space, such as the new piece added to the entrance as a guide element and the re-positioning of the Can Grande statue.



Sketch of window layers relationship



New gate, exhibition room



Maison Carree and Carre D' Art by Foster Associates,
Nimes, France



Castelvecchio by Carlo Scarpa,
Verona, Italy

Both projects successfully develop a dialog between different periods and their subsequent expressions and achieve confrontation that unifies their elements into a new whole. Confrontation is used as a connector of disparate architectural expressions.