

The Modular Nursery

Architecture as well as various arts have evolved along with human needs and avant-garde minds. Over time, design methodologies have emerged optimizing the use of materials and working times, without compromising creativity and innovation. Drawing on these ideas, the implementation of a modular architecture is proposed for the construction of 'creativity learning spaces;' due to its versatility to form a variety of configurations, the special technologies involved in its construction process and the speed of building.

There is no doubt that architecture will not cease to surprise us with its ability to adapt to our needs, which are increasingly being supplied by technology and in the search to expand our human capacities to learn and create. A modular Nursery is designed using 3 meter-side modules that allow multiple compositions of spaces and furniture. The modules enable freedom of movement and the flexible configuration of space; supporting fluid communication, dialogic encounters, and creative self-expression for children between 3 and 6 years old. The modules can be arranged to create 'learning spaces' for a maximum of 15 children, which will foster spontaneous collaborative play, sensory perception, mutual respect and critical thinking.

Multiple studies affirm that children learn in a better way through practice and play, since their reasoning capacity is still in development. In the search to meet that need, a minimalist architecture is generated with repetition of triangular elements that shape spaces through the arrangement of the modules, which allow the use of natural light and the direct connection with the nature that surrounds it. The use of a palette that includes warm light colors (yellow) for younger children is suggested, since these tones relate to dynamic and playful activities. Cool tones (blue) are used for middle-aged students to enable higher levels of concentration. The design is child-centred, so that learners can freely explore and interact in a custom-proportioned environment; with low shelves, different sizes of tables and chairs, where they sit individually or in groups, forming a classroom subdivided into thematic areas. The furniture modules allow great freedom of movement and creativity for children and teachers, in addition to the use of learning technologies such as interactive screens, promoting the development of problem-solving skills and innovation.

Although technology is constantly advancing, creativity is something irreplaceable. This is why the environment of learning spaces "...must be rich in motives that give interest to the activity and invite the child to lead their own experiences. " Maria Montessori.