

# X Marks the Spot

## Socially-focused architectural design, Spain



## Main authors

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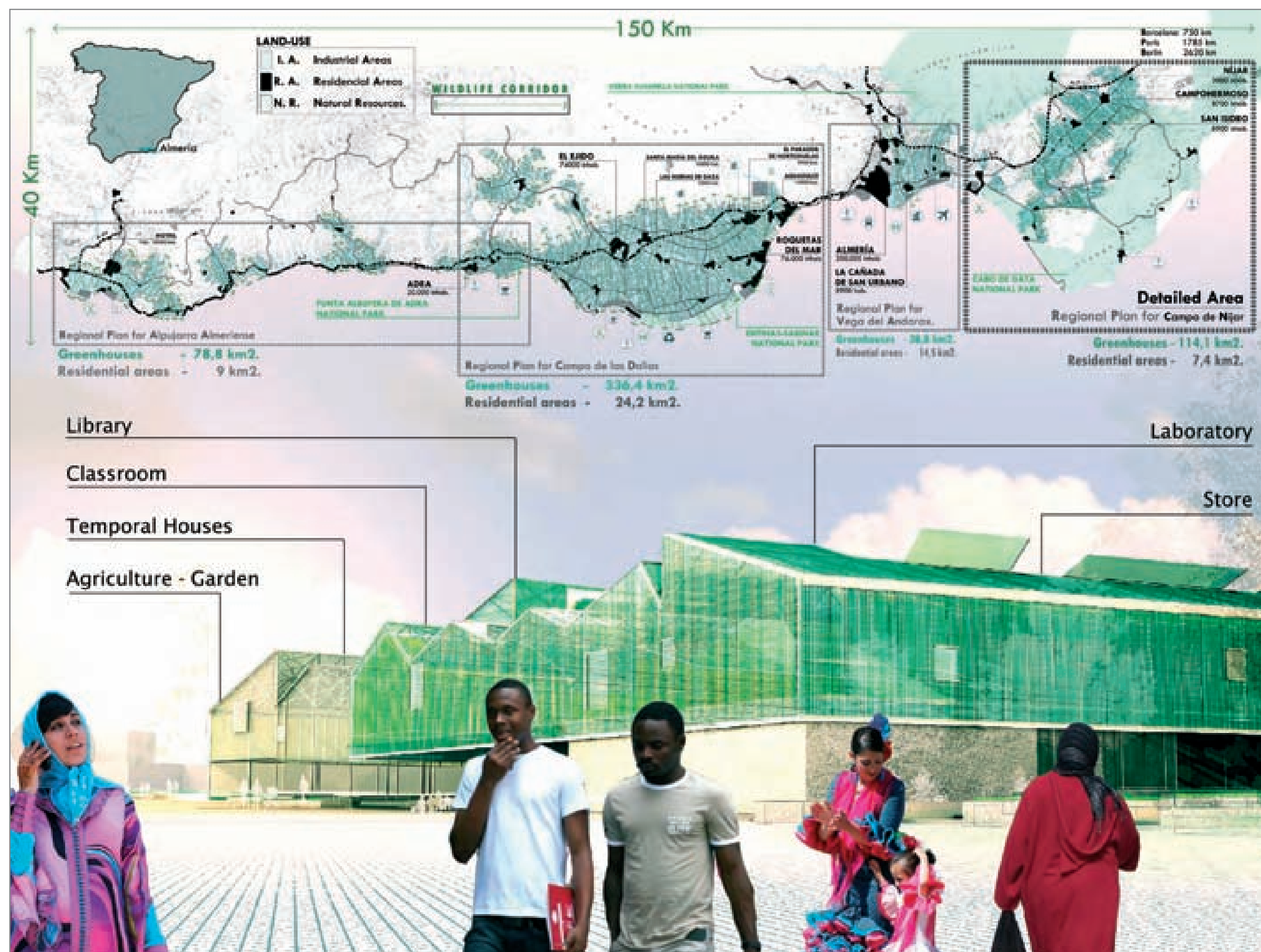
## Project data

Context	Landscape, urban design and infrastructure
Clients	Junta of Andalusia/Foundation Konecta/Roquetas Town Council
Background	Research project

## Appraisal by the jury

The jury awarded the first prize in the “Next Generation” category for Europe to a group of young architects from Spain who submitted a range of excellent projects planned for Pujaire and Roquetas de Mar in Almería in southeast Spain, and also in Madrid. The individual entries made it to the last round of jury deliberations and were all deemed exceptional both in terms of content and form. In these unusual circumstances, the prize was conferred to a collection of projects by the group of designers rather than to a single project. Of significance in this regard is the group’s name “Designs for Architectural Territories” (DAT) which is more than a simple designation of an architectural collaborative, but stands for a program of action – where architectural design is a method to raise and potentially solve societal deficiencies.

The design propositions aim for a dialog between architecture and politics, taking key social problems into consideration while offering appropriate design solutions to address specific issues at hand. The projects tackle, for example, the devastating social conditions of workers in the agricultural sector in the region of Almería in southeast Spain and the lack of public parks in cities and towns throughout the region. Similarly, measures are offered to improve the role of public spaces in neighborhoods in the city of Madrid. Considering the shared spirit of the group, the jury strongly recommends an equal sharing of the prize awarded to the team.



Project 1: Spatial plan and agricultural restructure: The greenhouse city is a spatial planning that gives geographical expression to the economic, social, cultural and ecological policies of society. It is at the same time a scientific discipline, an administrative technique and a policy developed as an interdisciplinary and comprehensive approach directed towards a balanced regional development and the physical organization of space according to an overall strategy.

## Project summaries

### Project 1: Spatial plan and agricultural restructure

The spatial plan for 600km<sup>2</sup> of land used for intensive agriculture in plastic greenhouses in Pujaira in the region of Almería, Spain, remediates a destroyed natural habitat and declining economy that lacks social infrastructure. The project proposes the rearrangement of water supplies, introduction of wildlife corridors, development of model cities, and enhancement of the greenhouse architecture—all focused on a natural environmental restoration of agro-industrial territories and improvement of social conditions for the region's inhabitants.

## Project 2: Temporary spaces for public engagement

A system of easily mountable and removable light structures enables the infiltration of public space and provision of real rather than virtual public programs. Conceived as an economic stimulus proposal in Madrid, Spain, the project is an attempt to resolve the economic, social and environmental situation of our planet by installing a platform promoting ethical and social responsibility, sensitive to the emotional needs of each person, and strengthening collective identity and its ability to change reality.

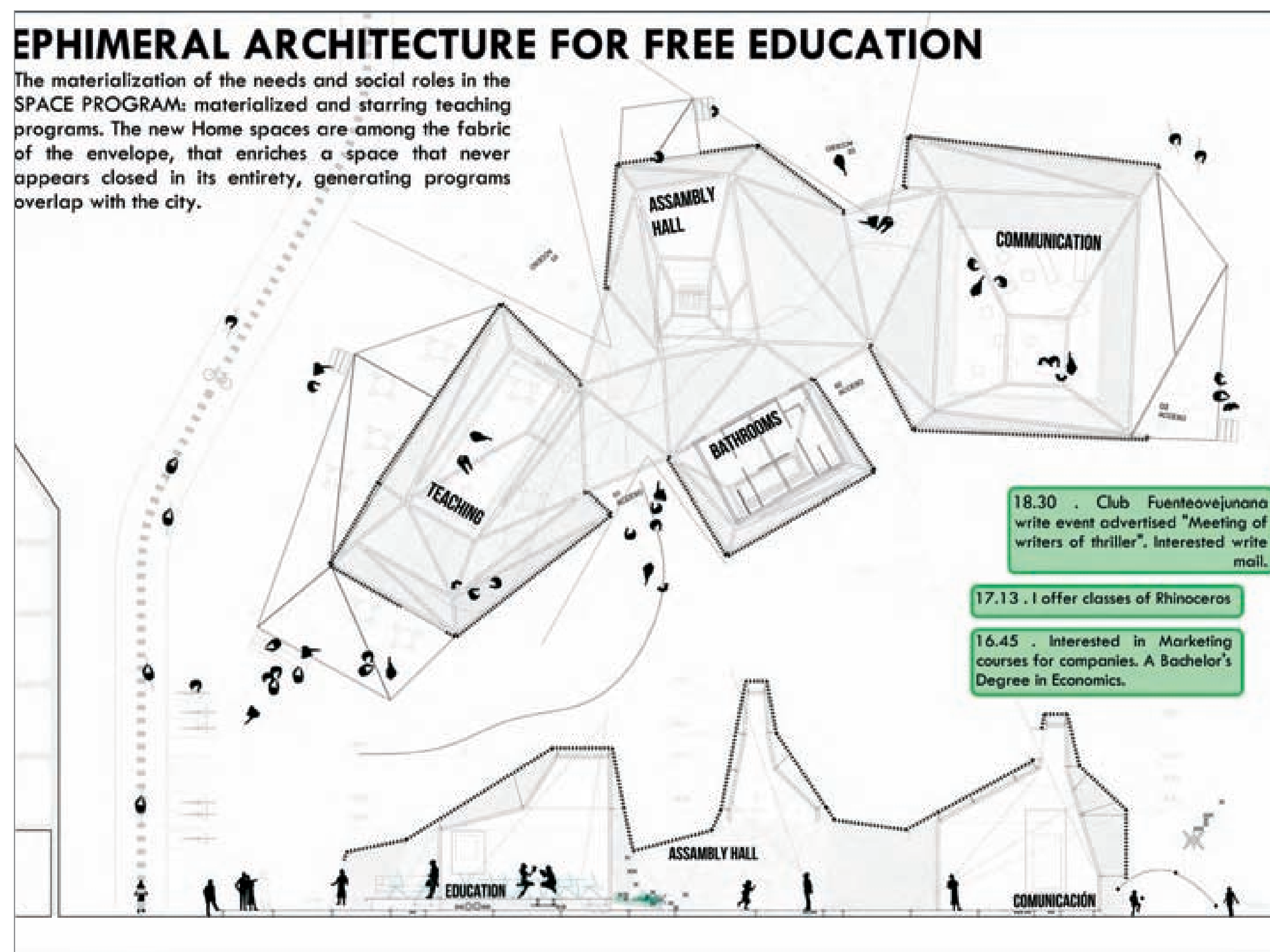
### Project 3: Productive urban garden

The concept revitalizes a degraded area in Roquetas de Mar in the region of Almería, Spain, and creates a park for public use. The plan envisages the construction of a utilitarian park – a leisure area which collects rainwater and re-charges groundwater but also produces energy; a park that meets the needs of inhabitants. Existing installations will serve as raw materials for the creation of a new topography, and a participative effort will contribute to the improvement of conditions in adjacent spaces.

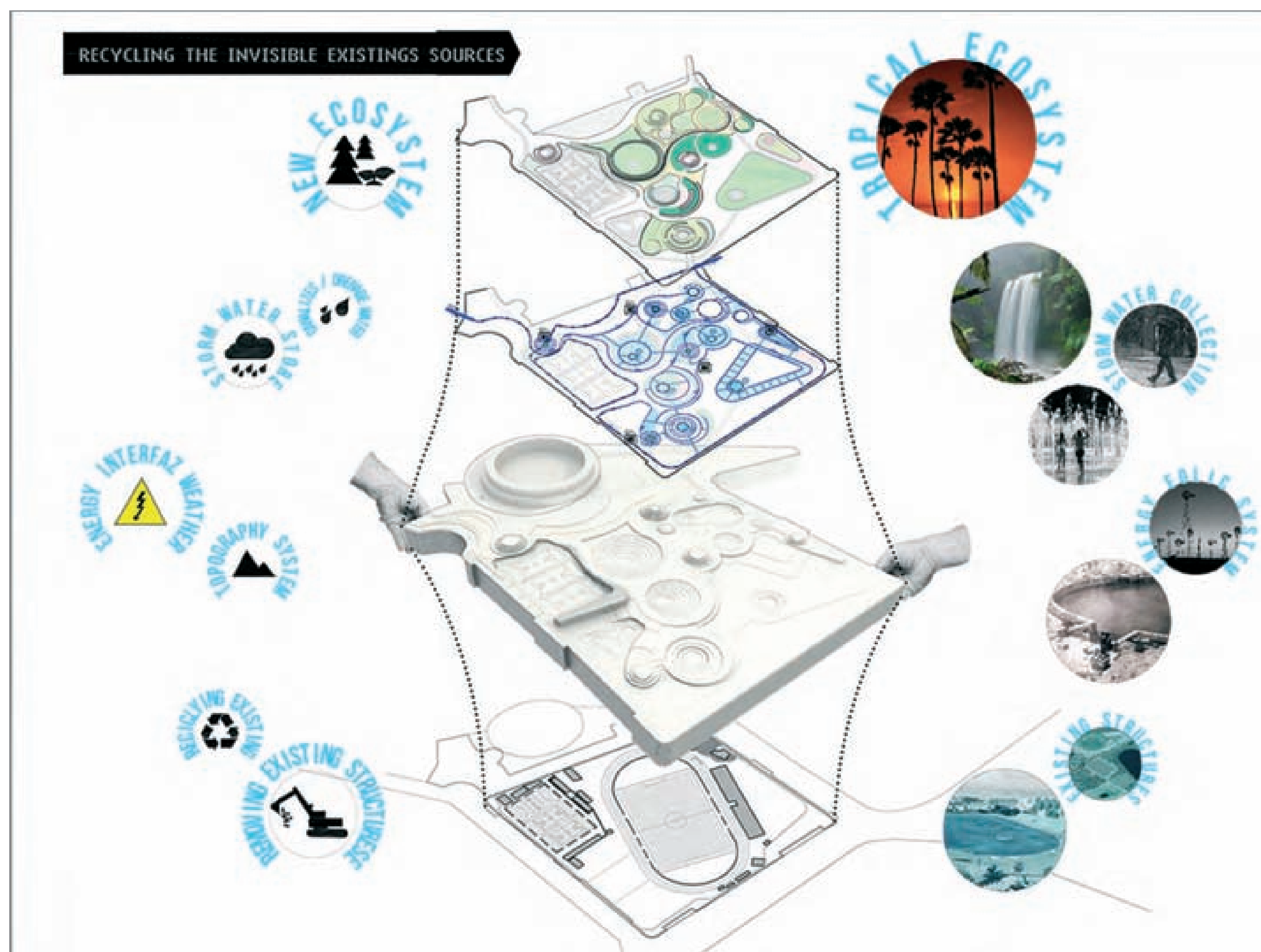


Project 1: Spatial plan and agricultural restructure: Greenhouse city plan detail: the benefits of coexistence. A natural land that grows, with greenhouses as nurseries, recovery centers of fauna and flora, and an increase in the water level of the aquifers. An agro-industrial land with a higher quality production, with better infrastructure, better pest control, better working conditions, health and safety. Communities with better quality of life, in contact with the natural environment and with an increase in their economy.

## Further authors



Project 2: Temporary spaces for public engagement: Ephemeral architecture for free education: one possible plan and section on some public space of someplace that the society would need. The program may be installed in any place due to low cost and allows regeneration and a customized approach according to the needs of the neighborhood, and promoting ethical and social responsibility.



Project 3: Productive urban garden: Creating a new ecosystem by recycling the invisible existing sources. The existing installations will serve as raw materials for the creation of a new topography. A new public space that makes use of native plant species and allows the collection, recirculation, and storage of water.