**Special mention in the architecture category**

**Edificio Tívoli.**

**Refurbishment of a building for 22 apartments, 1 commercial premises and parking areas.**

Cartagena

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Photo by David Frutos

The project sought to refurbish the building while conserving its underlying historical and architectural appeal. The necessary strategy was taken to highlight its unique features and to revitalize the building and, by extension, the surrounding urban area.

The architectural solution was to carry out work on two different complementary levels.

The original materials of the old façade were restored to bring out textures and colours echoed by the city’s urban landscape, drawing attention to the listed façade.

On top of the building, a new volume was added with a different appearance, sparking off interplay between the building’s historical legacies and today’s realities. The new volume emulates the intrinsic characteristics of the existing building, with floors of the same height, windows of the same proportion in the façade, the same ratio of windows to the wall surface, and structural axes with a strong visual appeal. Through a sinuous use of design, the new upper section was adapted to fit in with these conditions, contrasting with the geometrical military rigor of the old building which overlooks the city’s naval base.

The contrast between both levels is further highlighted by the modular blue ceramic materials that make up the ventilated façade of the new dwellings, lending it an instantly recognizable continuous appearance. The new volume is set back from the old façade so that the exterior space can be used for terraces and swimming pools for the homes.

Inside, the layout of the homes has been adapted to the positioning of the windows in the original building, leading to living spaces of differing sizes and types.

The design of the communal indoor areas contrasts with the existing building, due to the predominance of curved lines and blue ceramic finish, giving these living spaces a fluid uniformity also evident outdoors.

In conjunction, Edificio Tívoli is a building conceived to bring to life the surrounding area through a carefully conceived project that respects the original building while lending it a distinctive contemporary air. Although the intrinsic characteristics of the early 20th century building have been conserved, it has been given a new optimized design.