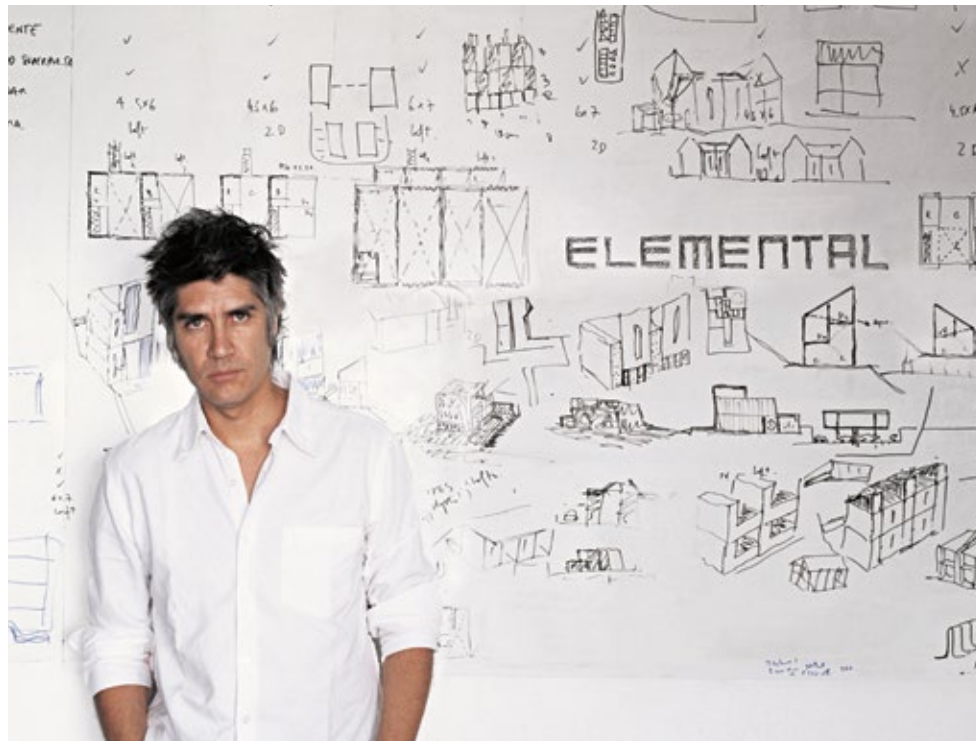


The Pritzker Architecture Prize

2016 Laureate
Alejandro Aravena
Chile

Image Book



Alejandro Aravena
Photo by Cristobal Palma

The following pages contain images of and text about the architecture of Alejandro Aravena and ELEMENTAL. On the pritzkerprize.com website, these photos are linked to high resolution images that may be used for printing or broadcast in relation to the announcement of Alejandro Aravena being named the 2016 Pritzker Architecture Prize Laureate.

The photographer/photo libraries/artists must be credited if noted.

All captions by Alejandro Aravena. Use of the captions is optional.

All images are copyright and courtesy of ELEMENTAL.

For more information and videos, please visit pritzkerprize.com.

Use #pritzkerprize for social media

**Mathematics
School**
1999

Universidad
Católica de
Chile
Santiago, Chile



Photos by Tadeuz Jalocho

1+2=1

"A mathematician is a machine of transforming coffee into equations." We thought that joke, expressed one of the dimensions by which knowledge is produced: the casual encounter of people. Besides the coffee room, we identified the corridor as a design opportunity, as the moment where you see other people before they disappear into the isolated retreat of the individual working unit. We decided to add the new building to two existing ones, so that after the operation we had fewer elements than at the beginning.

**Medical
School**
2004

Universidad
Católica de
Chile
Santiago, Chile



Photos by Roland Halbe

We were asked to do all kinds of classrooms, from seminars to auditoriums, in a very dense context. The only way out, was to go high. Given that massive student occupancy in higher floors has always been hard to solve, we decided to bring the courtyard closer to each upper floor. This building is a vertical cloister.

**Architecture
School**
2004

Universidad
Católica de
Chile
Santiago, Chile



Photo by Martín Bravo

We were asked to remodel a building from the 1990's. We wrapped a building that had too many lines with a rather tense and straight envelope that meliorated the energy performance, offered a more neutral volume towards the historical building in front and added review spaces in between the two skins.

Having a problem of money and time we decided to investigate the Chilean fruit packing industry for doing the skin: there we discovered some zinc plates that if injected with expanded Styrofoam were able to acquire resistance and smoothness. Besides being cheap, they proved to be extremely light (so easy and quick to build) and finished once installed. The absence of time was in the end the way to meet the costs.

The new skin's capacity to reflect ended up being the best way to respect the old adobe house, because it has made the building capable of disappearing in the corner of the eye.

**Siamese
Towers**
2005

San Joaquín
Campus,
Universidad
Católica de Chile
Santiago, Chile

University
classrooms
and offices



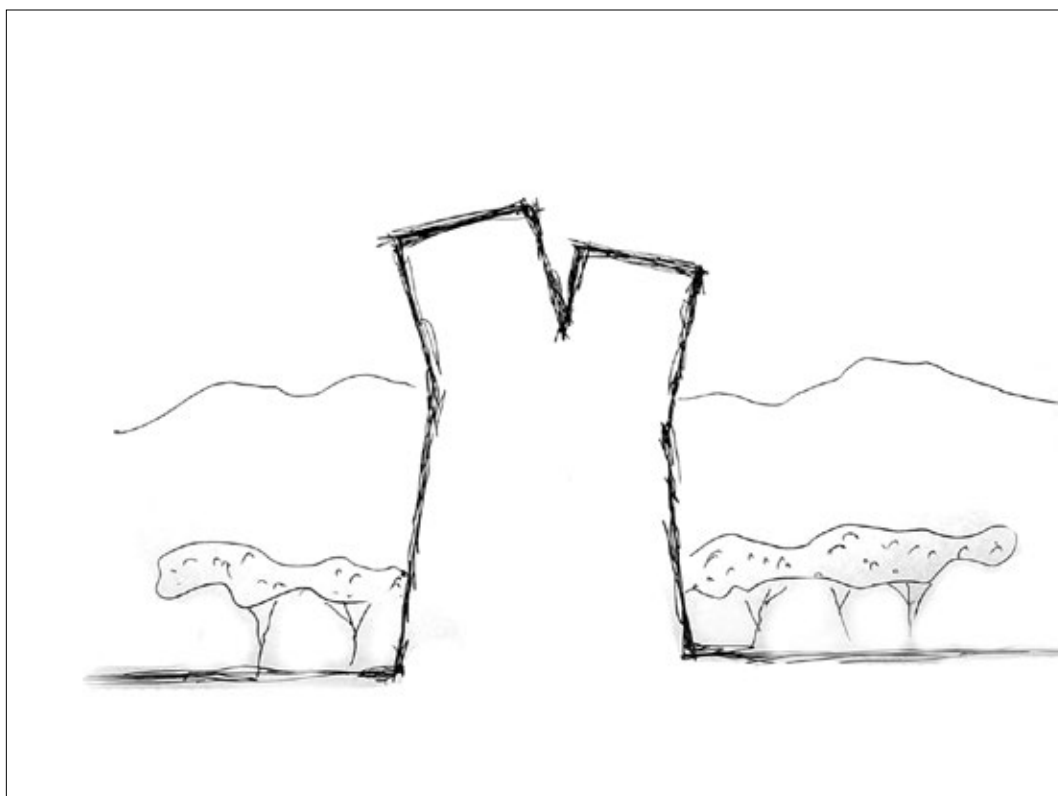
Photos by Cristobal Palma

We were asked to do a glass tower. Glass is very inappropriate for Santiago's climate, because it generates green house effect, even though it's a nice material to resist rain, pollution and aging. So we thought of using glass for what it's good, on the outside, then do another building inside with efficient energy performance and allow air to flow in between the two. Convection of hot air creates a vertical wind which is accelerated by the "waists" of the building by Venturi effect, eliminating undesired heat gains before they reach the second building inside.

**Siamese
Towers**
2005

San Joaquín
Campus,
Universidad
Católica de Chile
Santiago, Chile

University
classrooms
and offices



Sketch by Alejandro Aravena

**UC Innovation
Center –
Anacleto
Angelini
2014**

San Joaquín
Campus,
Universidad
Católica de Chile
Santiago, Chile



Photos by Nina Vidic

Innovation and knowledge creation requires on the one hand, to increase the encounters among people, so openness is a desired attribute for its architecture; on the other hand, developments and inventions have to be protected, so security and ability to close and segregate are appreciated architectural conditions as well. We proposed a rather opaque construction towards the outside, which is also efficient for the Santiago weather and then have a very permeable architecture inside. Having the structure and the shafts on the perimeter of the building reverts the typical curtain wall building layout and concentrates openings in a very specific points in the form of elevated squares.

**UC Innovation
Center –
Anacleto
Angelini
2014**

San Joaquín
Campus,
Universidad
Católica de Chile
Santiago, Chile

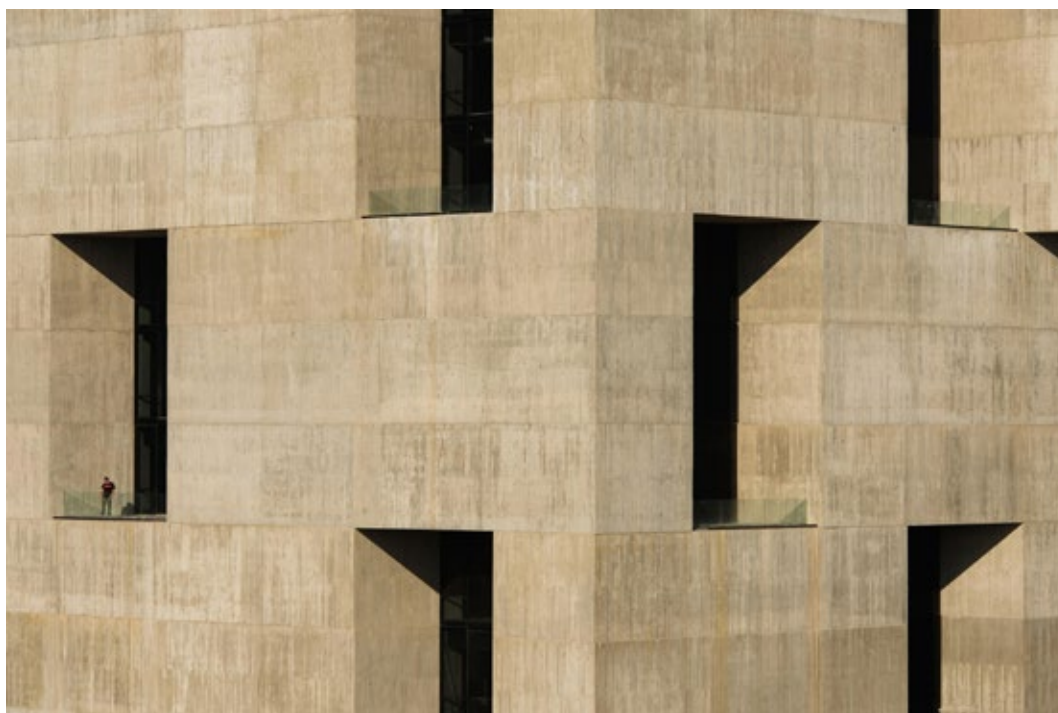


Photo by Felipe Diaz

**UC Innovation
Center –
Anacleto
Angelini
2014**

San Joaquín
Campus,
Universidad
Católica de Chile
Santiago, Chile



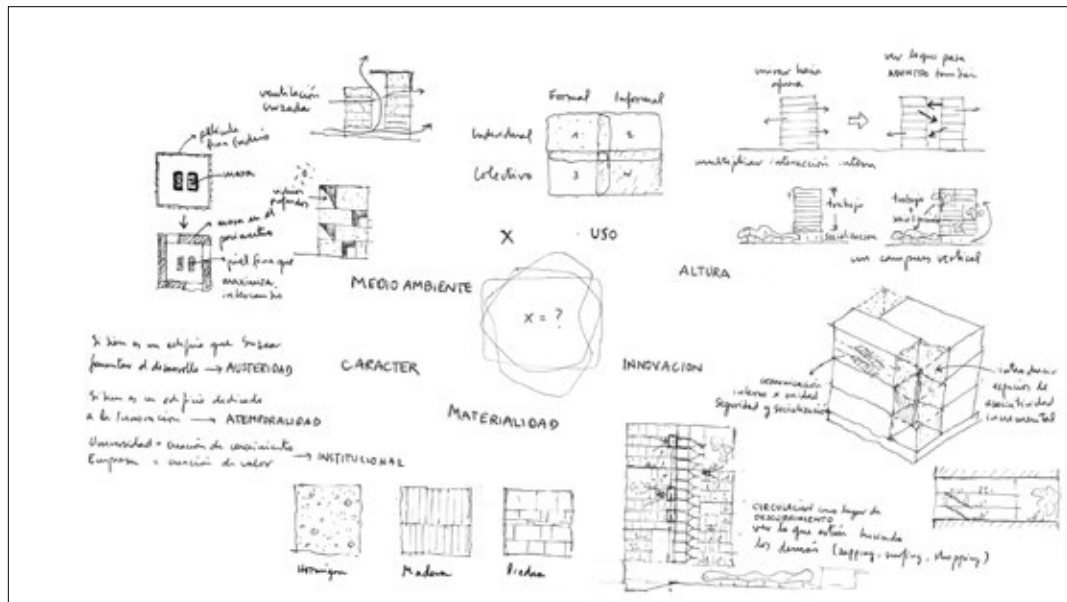
Photo by Cristobal Palma

San Joaquín
Campus,
Universidad
Católica de Chile
Santiago, Chile



Photo by James Florio

The Atrium



Sketch by ELEMENTAL (Alejandro Aravena)

**Quinta Monroy
Housing**
2004

Iquique, Chile



Photos by Cristobal Palma

Top: Middle-class standard achieved by the residents themselves

Bottom: “Half of a good house” financed with public money

The challenge of this project was to accommodate 100 families living in a 30-year old slum, using a subsidy of USD \$7,500 that in the best of the cases allowed for 36 m² of built space in a 5,000 m² site, the cost of which was three times what social housing could normally afford. The aim was to keep the families’ social and economic networks, which they had created close to the center city, instead of evicting the families to the periphery. And we wanted the families to live in houses able to achieve a middle-class standard instead of condemning them to an everlasting social housing one. None of the solutions in the market solved the equation. So we thought of a typology that, as buildings — could make a very efficient use of land and as houses — allowed for expansion. We provided the families with the “half a house” that would be difficult for them to build for themselves and we gave them space to “complete the house” as their means allowed. After a year, property values tripled and yet, all the families have preferred to stay and keep on improving their homes.

**Quinta Monroy
Housing**
2004

Iquique, Chile



Photos by Cristobal Palma

Left: "Half of a good house" financed with public money

Right: Middle-class standard achieved by the residents themselves

**Quinta Monroy
Housing**
2004

Iquique, Chile



Photo by Ludovic Dusuzean

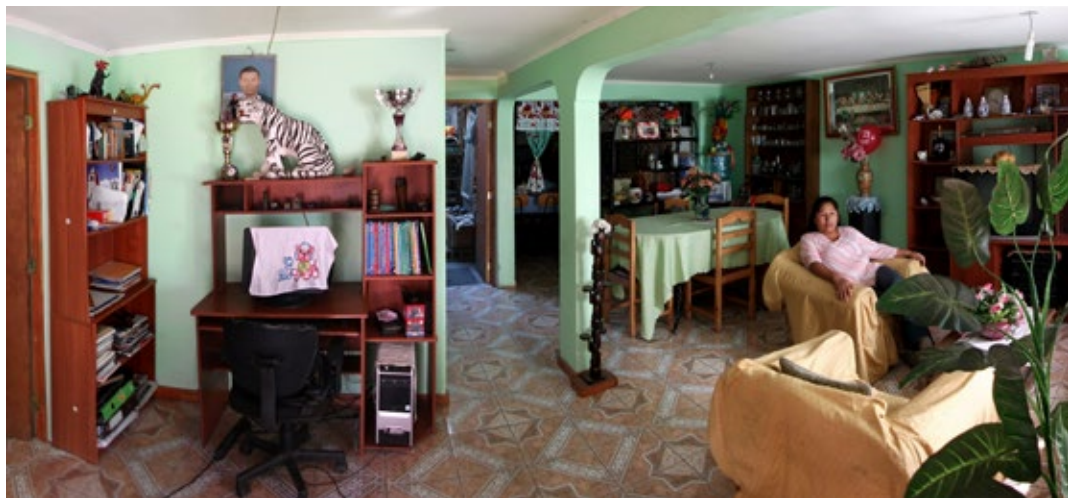


Photo by Tadeuz Jalocha

Top: Interior of a "good house" financed with public money
Bottom: Middle-class standard achieved by the residents themselves

**Monterrey
Housing
2010**

Monterrey,
Mexico



Photos by Ramiro Ramirez

Top: "Half of a good house" development financed with public money

Bottom: An example of middle-class standard achieved by the residents themselves

In the Mexican housing market, the cheapest solution that is offered is about \$30,000 dollars. So the poor are not being reached. We developed an improved version of Iquique, Chile (pp. 12–14), where houses underneath and duplex apartments on top, have an initial cost of \$20,000 dollars, but can achieve a middle income standard of 72 m² after self built expansions. The efficiency in land use without overcrowding, allowed us to purchase land in a neighborhood where the average cost is \$50,000 dollars. We expect the families to benefit from that value gain, and from the fact that cost of land expresses close availability of services and opportunities.

**Metropolitan
Promenade**
1997 - ongoing
Santiago, Chile



Image by Guy Wenborne



Rendering by ELEMENTAL

Chile has seen great economic growth in the last decade, but the urban standards have not increased proportionally. Santiago for example, has no single place where to go for a long walk. These spaces tend to be associated to the geographical features of cities: rivers, sea strands, hills, but in Santiago, the river has already been used for a highway. The only place left is an old agricultural canal running at the base of the Metropolitan Park, the San Cristobal Hill. It's a 10 km horizontal, continuous path that could be transformed into a pedestrian Promenade. A 10 acre Children's Park on the hillside, besides being a program to celebrate the bicentennial of Chile, is also part of this project.

**Metropolitan
Promenade**
1997 - ongoing
Santiago, Chile



Photo by ELEMENTAL

**Bicentennial
Children's Park**
2012

Santiago, Chile



Photos by Cristobal Palma

A four-hectare Children's Park on a hillside, part of a program to celebrate the bicentennial of Chile.

**Bicentennial
Children's Park**
2012

Santiago, Chile



Photos by Cristobal Palma

**St. Edward's
University
Dorms**
2008

Austin, Texas,
USA



Photos by Cristobal Palma

We needed to accommodate 300 beds, some social areas and some services for the whole campus in a narrow lot. We thought of creating a plinth with the more public facilities to activate the ground floor, then the social areas carving the volume's core and finally articulate the perimeter of the building as much as possible, increasing the linear meters of façade in order to guarantee views and natural light to each room. To be able to resist a tough environment we opted for a sequence of skins that are hard and rough in the outer layer and become softer and more delicate while moving towards the core.

**St. Edward's
University
Dorms**
2008

Austin, Texas,
USA



Photos by Cristobal Palma

**Las Cruces
Pilgrim
Lookout Point
2010**

Jalisco, Mexico



Photo by Iwan Baan

We were one of several firms asked to re-imagine rest stops along a Mexican pilgrimage route. Building in such a remote place should generate an architecture able to age as if it were a natural element. So, we thought of a kind of hollowed stone, bent to rest calmly on the hill side, and whose only purpose is to offer pilgrims a resting place with dark shadows, cross-ventilation and two vantage points, one: a view over the path they walked for a hundred kilometers to arrive there, the other, the landscape ahead.

Chairless
2010

Design for Vitra



Photos by Nicole Bachmann

The Ayoreo Indians from Paraguay, developed a principle that was parallel from the western evolution of chairs. Instead of developing an object where the body could rest from the gravitational force, this device uses the force of the body getting tired as an impulse to hold it; the more tired we get, the more we tend to open our legs and the more that force pushes our back to a more comfortable position. The other brilliant thing: the use of the ground as part of the furniture. We just learned from those principles set in play and produced the industrial version of it.

**Post-Tsunami
Sustainable
Reconstruction
Plan of
Constitución**
2010 - ongoing

Constitución,
Chile



Image by ELEMENTAL

On February 27th 2010, Chile was hit by an 8,8 earthquake and a tsunami just afterwards. We responded to the disaster at 3 different time scales: 1 day, 10 days and 100 days.

Day 1 – Water Distribution: We wanted to guarantee water availability. Given that carrying water is difficult, we proposed to make it roll. The idea, transmitted by YouTube and text messages, was to place plastic bottles inside a tire, making it roll, and increasing the collecting capacity, doable even by children.

Day 10 – Elemental Shelter: Emergency requires us to act fast. But urgency tends to be wrongly associated with delivering disposable solutions. We proposed to frame the problem of emergency shelters as an advance of the definitive reconstruction. The shelters are seen as a kind of down payment for better quality temporary units, and also make definitive reconstruction easier, since parts of the materials to be delivered are already in use by the families.

Day 100 – Constitución, Plan for Sustainable Reconstruction: Chile resisted well the earthquake, but was not prepared for the tsunami. We were asked to do the master plan rebuild for the city of Constitución, and we were given a 100 days to do all the designs — from tsunami mitigation to housing, from public buildings to energy and economic reactivation. We started by asking people, through a process of participatory design, about their complaints and dreams for the city. They said: repair the historic lack of public space and provide democratic access to the river. Being a coastal country, we cannot afford to simply abandon risky areas. Evidence shows that infrastructure is useless to resist the energy of displaced water. So we proposed a threefold strategy: first, an alert and evacuation plan so within 15 minutes people can reach a safe zone on the hillsides. Second, a coastal forest able to produce enough friction to reduce the energy of the tsunami's waves, instead of trying to resist them. And third, a conditioned building zone with collapsible enclosures in the lower levels. By introducing a forest between the city and the sea we are responding to geographical threats with geographical answers.

**Post-Tsunami
Sustainable
Reconstruction
Plan of
Constitución**
2010 - ongoing

Constitución,
Chile

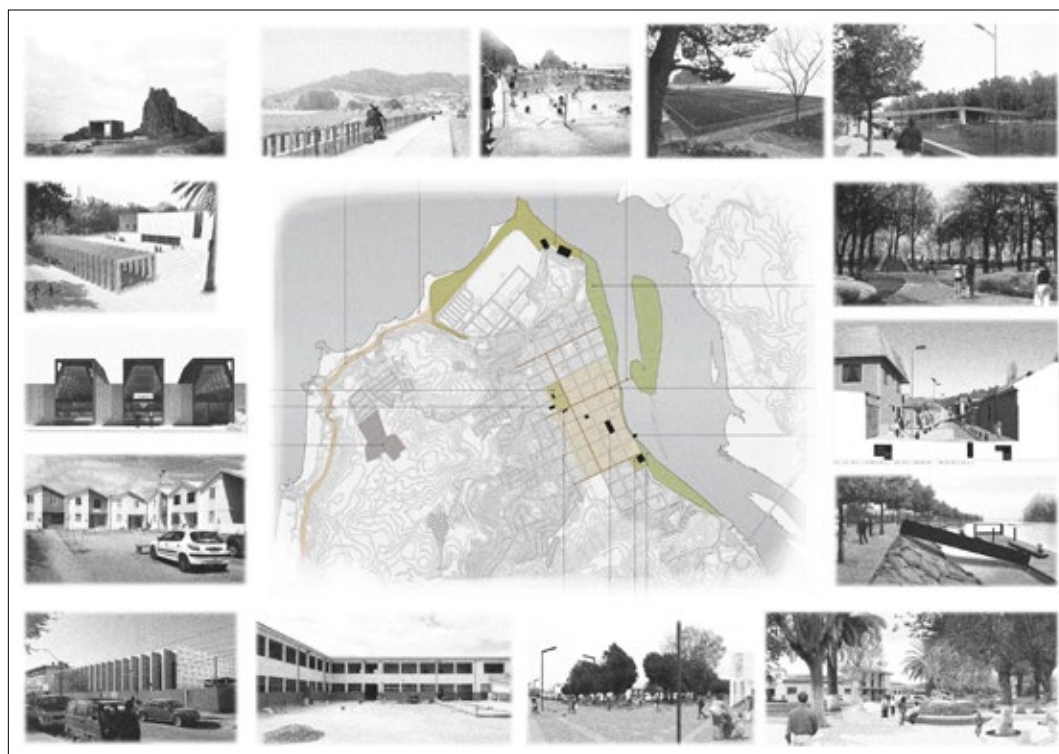


Image by ELEMENTAL

**Post-Tsunami
Sustainable
Reconstruction
Plan of
Constitución**
2010 - ongoing

Constitución,
Chile



Images by ELEMENTAL



Photo by Felipe Diaz

**Post-Tsunami
Sustainable
Reconstruction
Plan of
Constitución**
2010 - ongoing

Constitución,
Chile



Photos by ELEMENTAL

**Villa Verde
Housing**
2013

Constitución,
Chile



Photos by ELEMENTAL

Top: "Half of a good house" development, financed with public money

Bottom: Middle-class standard achieved by the residents themselves

Arauco Forest Company asked us to develop a plan to support their employees and contractors so they could have access to home ownership, in the context of Chilean housing policies. This allowed us to work for the first time with the high end of housing policy. Given the greater availability of resources, instead of taking one of our less expensive housing units and delivering it more finished, we applied again the same principle of incremental housing, but with an initial and final growth scenario of a higher standard: these houses begin with an initial area of 57 m² and can grow up to 85 m².

**Villa Verde
Housing**
2013

Constitución,
Chile



Photos by ELEMENTAL

Top: "Half of a good house" development, financed with public money

Bottom: Middle-class standard achieved by the residents themselves

**Constitución
Cultural Center**
2014

Constitución,
Chile



Photos by Felipe Diaz

**Constitución
Seaside
Promenade
2014**

Constitución,
Chile



Photos by Felipe Díaz

Developed in the context of the Post-Tsunami Sustainable Reconstruction Plan (PRES) of Constitución, Chile, the project consists of a series of coastal lookout points along the way from Maule River's mouth (downtown) to Maguellines Port, in order to reinforce and highlight the natural heritage embodied by the huge rocks of this landscape. The platforms are connected to a 4.5 km bicycle lane.

Calama PLUS
2012 - ongoing

Masterplan
Calama, Chile



Rendering by ELEMENTAL

Calama PLUS is a public and private initiative to compensate the inhabitants of the city, in response to the massive and constant complaints about the negative environmental impact of mining on the city. With a participatory design process, the master plan includes 23 projects to improve the city, ranging from urban parks, public spaces and schools to proposals on how to use scarce water resources more efficiently.

Writer's Cabin
2015

Jan Michalski
Foundation
Montricher,
Switzerland



Photos by +2 Architectes

This suspended cabin had to balance comfort and compactness. We opted for a linear volume so that we could place it with freedom within the existing column grid but also as a way to counterbalance the reduction of the living area; the length of the cabin compensates and decompresses the compactness allowing the writers to transit through different situations: cooking, eating, and sharing. Structurally the cabin is just a very efficient and simple slab that supports both the living space on top of it and the hanging system of the existing canopy. We introduced a pivot and a lateral force to stabilize the system, but also as the way to provide access to the cabin and allow all the services to reach the ground.

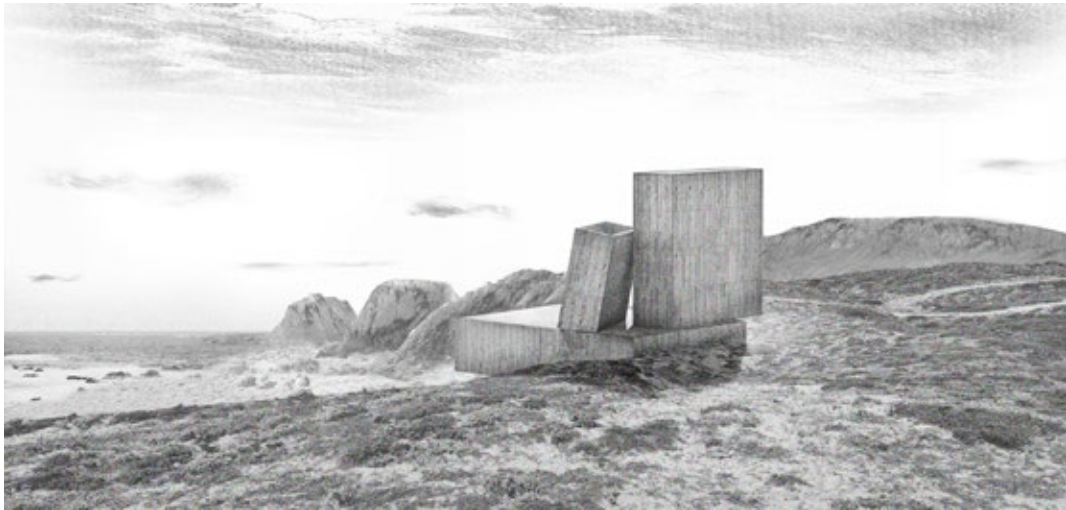
Ayelén School
2015

Rancagua, Chile



Photos by ELEMENTAL

**Ocho
Quebradas
House**
2013 - ongoing
Los Vilos, Chile



Renderings by ELEMENTAL

A weekend house is ultimately a kind of retreat where people allow themselves to suspend the conventions of life and go back to more essential living. ... As architects, we have been trying to be as primitive as possible lately; in an era where the hunger for novelty is threatening architecture to become immediately obsolete, we are looking for timelessness. ... We expect these pieces to age as a stone, acquiring some of the brutality of the place but still being gentle for people to enjoy nature and life in general.

**Ocho
Quebradas
House**
2013 - ongoing
Los Vilos, Chile



Rendering by ELEMENTAL

The core of the house is not a chimney (which is already something civilized), but a fire (which is one of the most revolutionary yet primitive achievements of mankind.)

**Parque Museo
"Humano"**
2014 - ongoing
Santiago, Chile



Rendering by ELEMENTAL

Arauco Vivero
2015

Nuevo Horcones,
Chile

Dining hall and
office building
for Arauco
Forest Company



Photos by ELEMENTAL

Novartis Office Building

2015 (under construction)

Shanghai, China



Photo by ELEMENTAL

The office building in the Novartis Campus Shanghai seeks to provide spaces that encourage knowledge creation. The office spaces are designed to accommodate the different modes of work — individual, collective, formal and informal — and foster interaction between the users. Around a forest of Metasequoias, the ground floor accommodates the Fitness and Be Healthy Center which are part of the campus public level where users from the different buildings meet. The outside of the building responds to the local climate with a solid facade of reclaimed brick facing south, east and west. On the north facade, the building is open to let indirect light get inside the open office spaces.

**Novartis Office
Building**

2015 (under
construction)

Shanghai, China

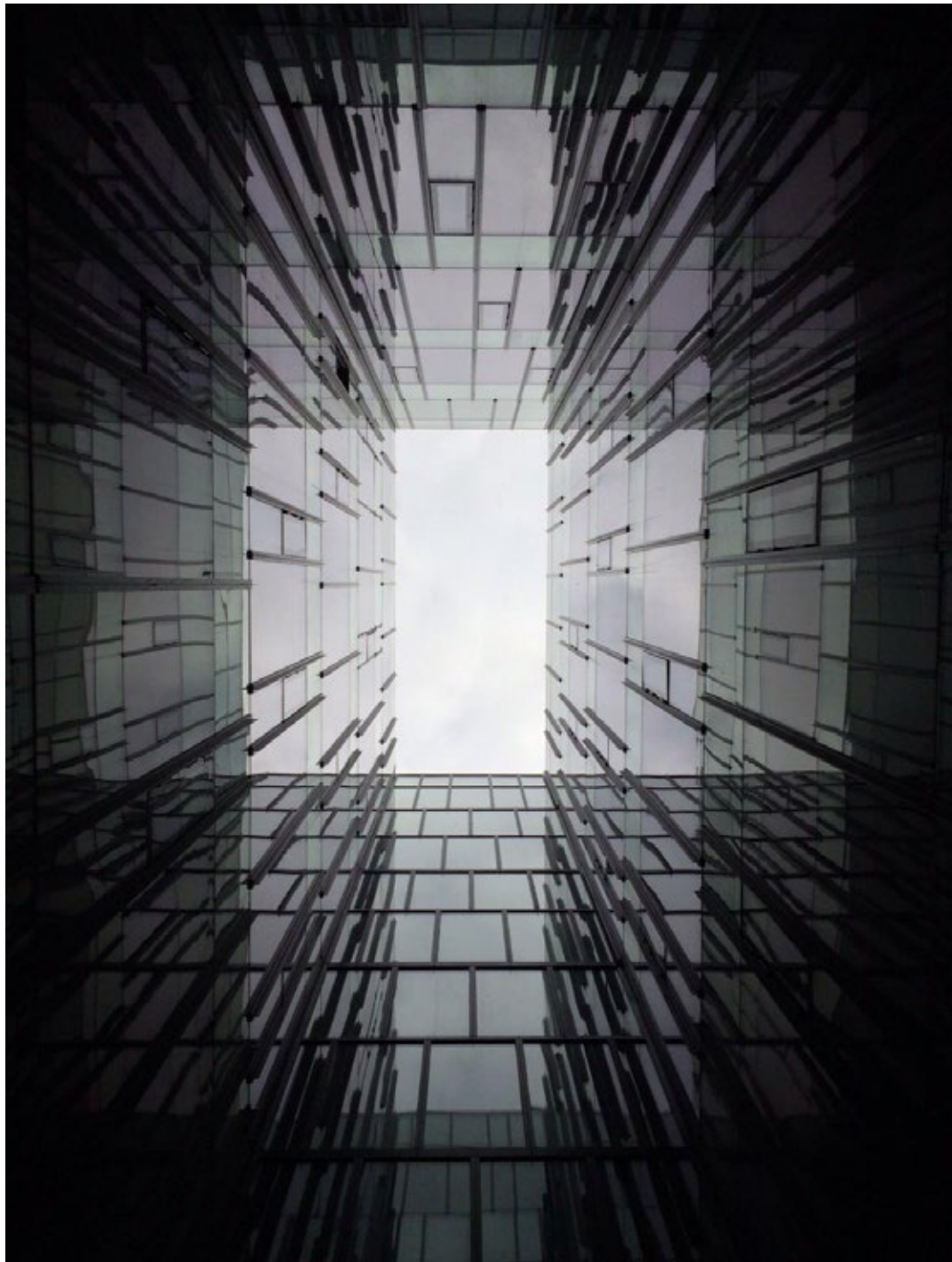


Photo by Samuel Born

The Lightwell

ELEMENTAL
2013

Santiago, Chile



Photo by ELEMENTAL

Left to right: Alejandro Aravena, Claudio Tapia, Gonzalo Arteaga (partner), Paula Livingstone working on the Calama Peri Urban Park (Chile) 2013

ELEMENTAL
2013

Santiago, Chile



Team ELEMENTAL in a common work space for senior and junior architects.

ELEMENTAL
2015

Santiago, Chile



Photos by ELEMENTAL

ELEMENTAL models of carved local pine, on blocks of wood from which the next models will be made.