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Micaela Portilla Research Center for Social Sciences and Humanities Vitoria, Spain



Built as early as 2014, the Micaela Portilla Research Center for Social Sciences and Humanities is an excellent early example of how mass timber construction is both structurally sound and fosters creativity and sustainable thinking. This project highlights the application of a Sylva kit in creating a research environment that inspires academic excellence and low-carbon practices.

Project Overview

The Micaela Portilla Ikergunea Research Centre is located in the Alava Campus of the UPV/EHU and serves as a university research centre in Vitoria, Spain.

The building is located next to the Lascaray Ikergunea Research Centre and has an underground car park, on the ground floor, with a surface area of 3,194 m². The rest of the building, with a total surface area of 5,814 m², is divided into four levels with four different spaces.

The development of the project regarding this building has been carried out under the eco design regulations UNE-EN 14006, through traditional and innovative building systems.

Design and construction

The project utilised both traditional systems and modern construction techniques. Cross-laminated timber (CLT) panels were used as the outer enclosure of the façade, while the structure itself is made of reinforced concrete. The wavy polymer concrete panels are fixed to the top of the ventilated façade, enhancing the building's aesthetic and functional qualities.

Exposed wood and natural Lighting

The interior spaces were designed to showcase the warmth of timber, creating a welcoming environment. Natural lighting plays a crucial role in this design, thanks to the interior courtyards and the curtain wall of the back façade, which allow light to permeate the building.

Sylva™ CLT Floors, Roofs, and Walls

The construction utilised 150 m³ of Sylva™ CLT Floors and Roofs, as well as Sylva™ CLT Walls. These elements contributed to the building's structural integrity, energy efficiency, and overall sustainability. The prefabricated nature of these components also expedited the construction process, ensuring high quality and precision.

Location

Located in Vitoria, Spain, the research centre benefits from the city's rich cultural heritage and vibrant atmosphere. Vitoria is known for its commitment to sustainability and innovation, making it an ideal location for this cutting-edge project.

Collaboration with Madergia

The renewable materials company



StoraEnso

Our local partner, Madergia, played a crucial role in realising the project. Their expertise in timber construction ensured the highest standards of quality and sustainability.

General

Delivery year

2014

Building type

Education

Area (m²)

9,000

Storeys

4



Photo credit: Madergia

Products

Products and Services

Sylva™ CLT Floors and Roofs,
Sylva™ CLT Walls

Product quality

Non visible quality (NVI)

Product volume (m³)

150

Number of deliveries

3



Photo credit: Madergia

Team

Partner of Stora Enso

Madergia

Developer

Universidad del Pais Vasco

Architect

Estudio K

Main contractor

Eraikuntza Birgaikuntza
Artapena



Photo credit: Madergia



StoraEnso

**Specialist Timber
Subcontractor**

Madergia



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