

Minimum Documentation Fiche 2003
composed by national/regional working party of:



0.1 Picture of building/Site

Quito-Ecuador

Depicted item:

Ministry Of Foreign Affairs Building

Source:

Museum of Architecture- Quito

Date:

1970

1. Identity of building / group of buildings / urban scheme / landscape / garden

1.1 Current name of the building

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

1.2 Variant or former name

Chancellory

1.3 Number & name of street

10 de Agosto Avenue and Geronimo Carrión

1.4 Town

Quito

1.5 Province/State

Pichincha

1.6 Zip code:

Not Available

1.7 Country

Ecuador

1.8 National grid reference

1.9 Classification/typology

ADM

1.10 protection status and date:

2 History of building

Because of the XI Pan American Conference of Chancellors, the President of the Republic at that time, Dr. Camilo Ponce Enríquez, appointed as the Secretary of the conference one of his brothers, Mr. Luis Ponce Enríquez, who along with the direction of the Ministry of Public Affairs, architect Sixto Durán Ballén, assembled a working team whose objective was providing the capital city with the facilities enough as to carry out such event, being the person in charge of the works architect Alfredo León who performed as the Chief of the Department of Planning.

This is how they decided to construct, among others, the building for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The firm responsible for the project was ARQUIN (Architects and Engineer Associated), which was under the tutelage of architect Alfredo León. The aforementioned company was formed by several architects like Milton Barragán Dumet and Oswaldo Viteri, who were in charge of the architectonic and sanitary design, respectively, which would be located next to the building of the "Palacio of Najas" since the owner of the aforementioned property belonged to family Najas.

As they supposed that the building would demand an important sum of money; for the awarding of accountable items they carried out bids for unit prices for the supply of materials, not only for the construction of the Chancellory building, but also, for other ones that were being built alongside, such as, the Congress Palace and the Presidential Palace buildings.

Of such bids we have been able to collect information only of the supply of paintings according to the official document 000151 of the General Secretariat of the Eleventh Pan American Conference, with a press article published on June 20, 1959 in "El Comercio" daily.

The aforementioned documents for such competitive bidding had detailed technical specifications of the paint for exteriors and interior, related with: the basic ingredients, drying time, performance and unalterable color. In this competitive bidding took part companies of different locations, such as Denmark, London, U.S. and Ecuador.

Based on the documents issued by the Secretary General of the Eleventh Pan American Conference, we obtained information of several of the materials used for the construction of the building, that is how, for the electric and or sanitary installations they used materials like curved unions, pipes, T pipes in galvanized iron, additionally iron Y shaped and angled in molten iron, aluminum rods for the division in the floor of the terrace at the main hall, 2m height structural glass for the window frameworks, the company in charge of providing with this material was AlSCO Malugani.

For the interior divisions as it was not possible to acquire the imported panels that were supposed to be used, brick dividers of 10cm were built.

ABOUT THE PALACE OF NAJAS

In 1943, during the government of the President of the Republic Mr. Carlos Alberto Arroyo del Río, the need to acquire a real estate property for the Chancellory appears since in prior years it had functioned at several facilities.

The President authorized the Chancellor Mr. Francisco Guarderas and the Secretary of the Treasury, Sr. Alberto Wright Vallarino the purchase of a property; the executive disposition explains that it is «indispensable to endow the Ministry Of Foreign Affairs with a facility that will fulfill the inherent needs of

national decorum of that service and that it should provide the required comfort for the correct functioning of its dependences» 8 and that «the payment of the rent amount of the facilities that at present are occupied by the aforementioned Department demands from the Treasury Department a high expenditure » 9 therefore, the President of the Republic Mr. Carlos Alberto Arroyo authorizes the acquisition of the real estate property on 18 de Septiembre, (present-day 10 de Agosto Avenue). The aforementioned property dates back to the decade of 1930 and it belonged to Mr. Jose Constantino Najas, important merchant that stood out for being the pioneer of the foreign trade in the country and his wife Mrs. Susane De Lavelle, who would be in charge of the interior decoration in 1943, that Mr. Najas sell it to the State, «including it uses, easement and servants» and transferring « constructions, facilities and gardens, the decoration lamps of the park, garages and more constructions » 10

In 1994, the National Cultural Heritage Institute decided to include this good as part of the heritage. In the year 2003 the restoration of the building is carried out, and it included furniture, lamps, floors and ceiling, the work was made with a special team of the Salvation Fund (FONSAL). With the formal declaration of Cultural Heritage of the building they have been able to rescue furniture, porcelains, and approximately 20 portraits enhanced by the master of painting Salas of the illustrious heroes from Quito in August 10, 1809.

There are testimonies that inform that the only restoration of this building was accomplished by architect Alfonso Calderón, whereas in the years of 2003 and 2004 the Salvation Fund was in charge of the last restoration that included the amendment of floors, ceilings, furniture, lamps and art pieces.

8.- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Integration of Ecuador, 2007

9.- IBID

10.- IBID

2.1 Original brief/purpose

The reason for the construction of the Building of the Chancellory together with the Building of the Palace of the Parliament and the Presidential Palace was the XI Pan American Conference of Chancellors. Upon decision of the executive it the city was provided with administrative buildings for such event.

2.2 Dates: commission/completion:

Beginning of the construction was approximately in 1959, completion of the construction was approximately the year 1965.

2.3 Architectural and other designers:

Architect Milton Barragán Dumet

2.4 Others associated with building:

ARQUIN (Architects and Engineers Associated)

2.5 Significant alterations with dates:

2.6 Current use:

Office building, where the Ministry Of Foreign affairs functions.

2.7 Current condition:

Office building, where the Ministry Of Foreign affairs functions.

3 Description

The use of the building is specifically for offices and is supplied with the following spaces:

At the ground floor:

Information

Hall

Office

Library

Janitor Room

Vertical circulation

In Pattern Plants:

Halls

Office

Janitor Room

Vertical circulation

3.1 General description

At the ground floor is the office, in the center of the structure is located the vertical circulation and a hall of access that leads to the transitional block.

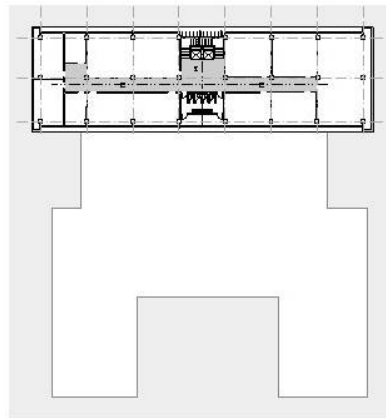
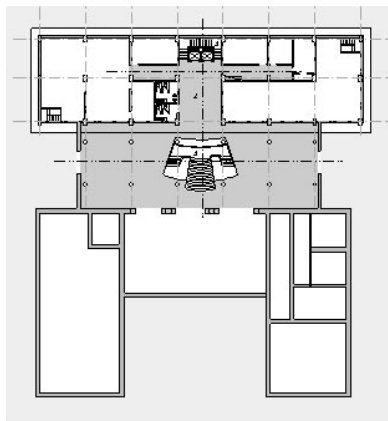
It is upon this that the rest of the dependences of the building are arranged. At the two corners the stairways that lead to the basement are placed diagonally.

The central block of vertical circulation enables that in the pattern plants circulation be reduced, from these it goes to a corridor that leads to the different dependences of the Chancellory.

The corridor is not in the central part of the modulation of the structure, which makes it possible for the offices to be different in dimension.

The distribution of the spaces is well organized, with a block or corridor for horizontal circulation that leads to the offices, the vertical circulation and janitor room form another zone placed in the middle part of the building dividing the block of deliveries to reduce the time for commuting.

Therefore, we can say that the building is made of three zones that arrange the space linked by a central corridor: two for offices toward the corners and a central one that contains the janitor room and the vertical circulation.



2 Vestibulo
3 Circulación Vertical

3.2 construction

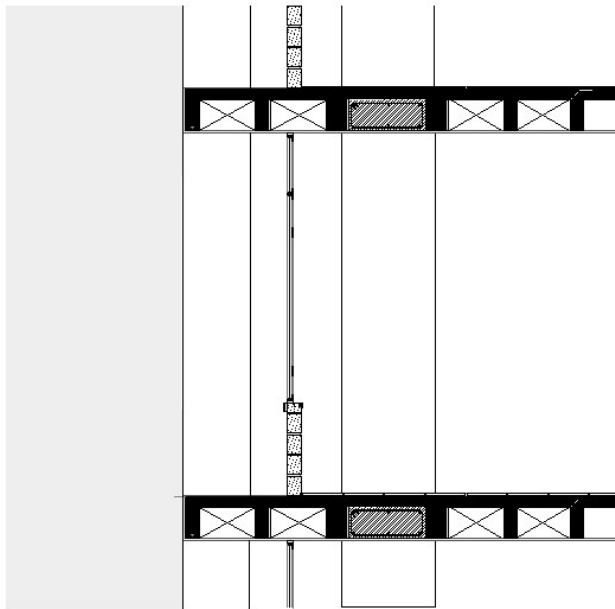
The construction system is composed by beams, columns and slabs made lighter with reinforced concrete.

The section of the columns is decreasing as soon as the building acquires height.

The distance between columns is 6.5m and it remains in the course of its development, whereas, in the other direction it is from 5.5m and 6.1m

Slabs do not end up in the encounter with the columns, they rather continue to the exterior as an eave that protects from the rain and from direct sunlight controlling thus the temperature in the interior of the building.

These in addition to solving a functional problem provide horizontality to the façade. The brick walls that give contain the window framework made of metal angled and edge plates.



3.3 context

In the plan made for the works of the First National Census, in November 1921, the sector corresponding to the Park El Ejido between 18 de Septiembre St. present-day 10 de Agosto Avenue and Colombia Avenue did not have a block survey work.

In 1922 they had a possible distribution of the block that would have the following limits: to the north Carrión street, to the south Robles Street, to the east the Ulpiano Páez Street, and to the west with avenue 18 de Septiembre , present-day 10 de Agosto Avenue.

In 1960 the block acquires a new geometry, since in 1957, according to decree issued on March 12 of the same year, the Municipality of Quito plans the prolongation of Roca Street up to its intersection with avenue 10 de Agosto.

This modification would imply the loss of the building lots belonging to the Ministry, for this reason, architect Alfredo León proposed that the affectation of the lots would not correspond to the lots of property of the Chancellory, petition that was accepted by the municipal authorities.

The new building was delimited by Carrión street on the north, Roca street on the South, Ulpiano Páez street on the east, and 10 de Agosto avenue on the west. It is important to state that in the lot where the building is located there is another building that in 1994 was declared to be of patrimonial value, the Palace of Najas.

This building had a large withdrawal from 10 de Agosto Avenue, where years later Ministry Of Foreign Affairs new building would be placed.

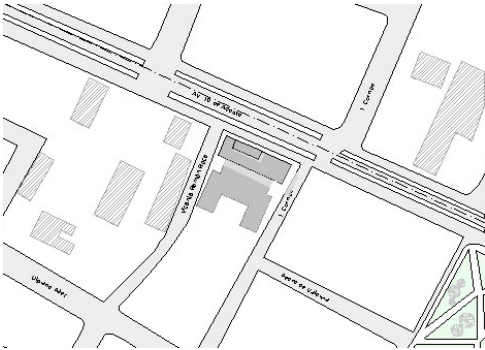
Three zones inside the building lot can be identified: a new one corresponding to the new building where the offices of the Ministry are laid out, another one of "transition" | and finally the Palace of Najas.

At this point, it is relevant to highlight the importance of referring to the intervention at a patrimonial building as a relational set that confers it quality, rather than considering it as a simple exponent of the architecture of that time.

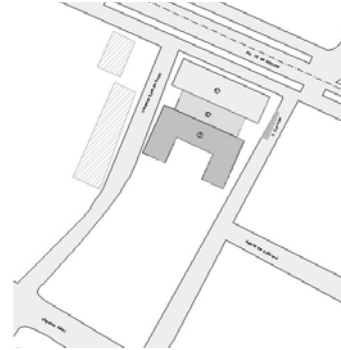
The quality of the Palace of Najas is not the objective of this analysis neither it is determining if its Intervention is relevant.

The new building is located at the front part of the palace covering its façade toward 10 de Agosto Avenue and it has an area of 990 m², the area of the building lot is 7890 m².

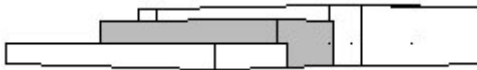
The façades corresponding to the streets Carrión and Vicente Ramón Roca get sunlight, whereas those 10 de Agosto Avenue and Ulpiano Páez Street are on the shade.



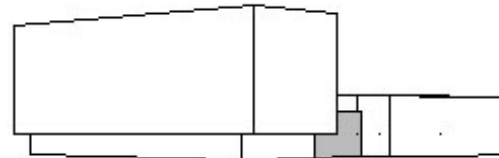
Palacio of Najas



Transition Block



Base of the new building



Offices

4 Evaluation

4.1 Technical

- Central core that organizes the space
- Optimal horizontal circulation
- Offices lay out according to the central block of circulation and janitor area.
- There is no waste of space either on horizontal or vertical circulation.
- Balanced distribution of the offices with one central circulation block and janitor area.
- The order of element constituting the structure balance the building in regards with its formal concretion.
- Classification of the cores that form the façade.

4.2 Social

4.3. Cultural & aesthetic

4.4 Historical

4.5 general assessment

5 Documentation

5.1 main references

BENAVIDES SOLÍS; Jorge, La Arquitectura del Siglo XX en Quito, Ediciones Banco Central del Ecuador, Quito Ecuador, 1995.

FONSAL, Un Siglo de imágenes, El Quito que se Fue II/1860-1960, Quito-Ecuador, 2004
Guía de Arquitectura de Quito, Quito –Ecuador, 1997.

Moreira Rubén, ÁLVAREZ Yadhira, Arquitectura de Quito, Quito-Ecuador, 2004
ORTIZ Alfonso; Damero, Quito-Ecuador, 2007.

Quito 30 Años de Arquitectura Moderna 1950-1980, Ed. Trama, Quito Ecuador, 2001-2003.

Diario el Comercio 1950-1970, Biblioteca Casa de la Cultura Ecuatoriana Quito-Ecuador.

5.2 visual material attached

Library of the Central Bank of Ecuador Quito-Ecuador

Museum of Modern Architecture, Quito- Ecuador

Daily newspaper El Comercio 1950-1970, Library Casa de la Cultura, Quito-Ecuador

Photographic file Architect Milton Barragán Dumét

5.3 rapporteur/date

Arq. Verónica Martínez M. / october 2007.

6 Fiche report examination by ISC/R

name of examining ISC member: date of examination:

approval:

working party/ref. n°: NAI ref. n°:

comments: