

University of Lleida  
Completion Date 2002  
Contract Value £6m  
Client University of Lleida, Spain

ArchitecturePLB was appointed to design this new 8800m<sup>2</sup> faculty building for the University of Catalonia, following an international design competition. The building has been designed to accommodate Lleida's wide climatic range while minimising energy demand.

Taking many of its themes from the Basque sculptor Chillida, the building can be considered an eroded cube, where volume is carved out to create lungs of light and air. These pockets of light slots and courtyards bring daylight deep into the plan, acting as cool respite from the harsh summer sun and protection from the opposite extremes of the climate in winter.

The north and south façades also respond to the climate with deep layered façades on the south elevation and flush north faces to maximise daylight penetration.

The University has a reputation for an innovative approach to curriculum and ArchitecturePLB translated these teaching methods into an equally innovative design solution, where flexible lecture theatres and teaching spaces are organised around a four storey atrium. Central administration suites, dining halls and student services complete the upper and lower ground floor areas.



01 The 'eroded cube' façade  
02 Flexible spaces overlook atrium  
03 Central four storey atrium