

CATANIA JUSTICE COURT BUILDING

location:	Catania (Italy)
client:	Sicily Regional Authority - Department of Infrastructures and Mobility
in partnership with:	Architect Enrico Robazza
gross surface:	11 200sqm
cost:	26,0M € excl. VAT
phase:	international competition
timetable:	02.2020-07.2020

The singular orographic condition and the physical limits which mark the size of the site have oriented the choice of location towards the design of an urban space in which the sea becomes the privileged opening point towards which to orient. The construction of a new storytelling finds a strong analogy in the spatial sequence typical of Italian theaters: *foyer-platea-scena-quinta*.

The sequence esplanade-square-building connects the city to the sea. The volume of the new building, becomes so far the node of the new relationship between Catania and the Ionic coast.

The presence of the railway line between the site and the coast does not represent a visual limit, but just a physical one. Going beyond this limit has been possible thanks to the design of a series of footbridges referred to the building layout that allow to reach the coast.

The office building for the Catania Justice Court want to symbolize the ambition of the state to improve and strengthen the institutional and constitutional role of Italian justice system. A monolithic vertical volume in which light, transparency and clarity prevail has been contraposed to the low and introverted ones, covered with bricks, that characterize the context.

Through some circumscribed soil remodeling operations and a refined formal abstraction, the project carefully adapts to site conditions: topography, solar thermal orientation, views (what is seen and how it is seen) and, furthermore, accessibility conditions.

