

Liceo Frances

Puerto del Buceo, Montevideo 1999

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BARRETT PINET ARCHITECTURE

A limited invited competition (11 entrants) for the new French School in the Buceo district of Montevideo. The school design is based on a complex brief on a constrained site in a residential area near the river Plata. The school for 1050 students integrates Uruguayan and French educational systems in a 15 year program ranging from kindergarden to high school. In the design, memory of school has been considered to be important, with the lasting impression of external courts and building form to be subjects of design priority. The school has been organized around a series of courts separated by buildings. Progression through the school over the years is accompanied by movement both around the site and up in level. A future French embassy adjacent to the site has been considered in the planning. The school libraries, considered to be the centre of the school's intellectual connection to France, have been located around the central courtyard.

