



## **Espaço Cultural AEU**

Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais

It was Usiminas's Headquarters, a beautiful building of the 70's and a milestone in Brazilian architecture that guided the project decisions of the new cultural space to be built in a neighboring area.

In contrast to the closed appearance of the head office building, the Cultural Space AEU consists of multiple spaces and different volumes defined by its use, that accommodate a widespread program in an accentuated sloping lot, and finishes in a complex composition with a surprising spacious wealthiest.

Regarding to the color and finishing of the apparent concrete of the head office building, the Cultural Space AEU will be still covered with Usi-R-color galvanized metal sheet that time will enrich with patina similar to that one which ennobles the original building nowadays. With the same metallic coating, in the north façade, the plates will be drained in a pleasing present recovery of the porches comfort in trestles and wooden gratings of the 1700's farms of Minas Gerais.

This porch of the north façade defines the longitudinal axis of the composition and is the gregarious space par excellence that gives sense to the chosen composition of volumetric and spacious juxtaposition and congregates all the functions and accesses to the building and to the sport activities.

The complexity and contradiction of the Cultural Space AEU building do not limit itself to explicit citations for the head office building, but also to the "gauche" way in the dialogue with it, register of a profound reverence for its architectural quality as well as to the company culture.

The building imposes itself to the sloping lot and in that way defines a great sport area. Although the proximity to the working area of the company's employees, their ludicrous and cultural activities keep the desirable independence, without prejudice to the intention for a enriching dialogue between two historical moments in the creation of a social contact area.

### **Credits**

**partner in charge:** Paulo Pontes

**team:**

Ana Maria Queiroz, Alessandro L. Marques, Rita Lopes, Renata Lobato, Michele Lage, Luiz Carlos Moreira, Cynthia Rodrigues de Magalhães, Liliana van Doornik

**collaborators:**

structure: USIMINAS

### **Project sheet**

**client:** Associação dos Empregados da Usiminas

**status:** in progress 1997

**site:** 28.911,48 sqm beside Usiminas headquarters – Av. Presidente Carlos Luz s/n

**program:**

10.022 sqm including cultural and sport facilities and 7.905,63 sqm of environmental protection area

**structural system:** steel frame

**type:** recreation