

# THESIS PROJECT ECOTURIST CENTER MIL CASCADAS

## Introduction video and aerial shots.

\*Can be found by scanning the QR code or searched from YouTube as: Rodrigo Espitia Mil Cascadas Análisis



(Activate the subtitles)

The las Granadas River (also called Mil Cascadas) is a place that, due to its physical characteristics, is a perfect space to function as a tourist attraction at a local level, however, due to its recent popularity it has grown exponentially, without having a guideline for tourists.

One of the objectives is to make the Río de las Granadas a social setting, in which educational intentions are made evident, thru environmental values; which are the positive acts, actions and behaviors of man with the environment, valuing and making conscious use of all its natural resources.

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Taking into account the imminent tourism, the great historical value and real significance of the building in question; it is worth reconsidering the use that is provided, to convert the space that was initially intended to house certain functions towards new uses, which will be in accordance with current needs.

The purpose of the project is to raise visitor awareness of the natural environment, in addition to generating a relationship between the natural environment and the people, contributing to the effective management of the environment, promoting experiential and training spaces.

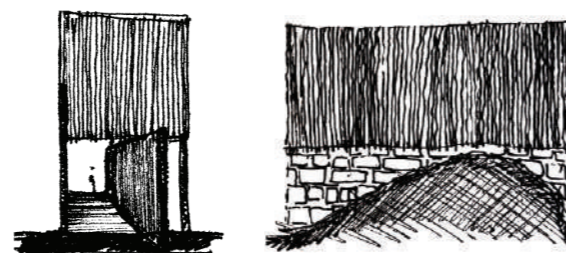


Image 3.2 (Self made, Main Access. Image 3.1 (Self made, Main Building Exterior elevation. February 2019.)

In accordance with the analysis, the approach to the problem and the theoretical framework, elements of reconciliation with nature were established. They are not only linked to it because of its aesthetics, but also because they are multidimensional spaces in which new things are discovered as they are traveled.

The passage articulates the individual with nature; initially he makes an introspective connection and as he progresses he modifies his behavior (psychological and bodily sensibilization). So that nature is experienced from another perspective.

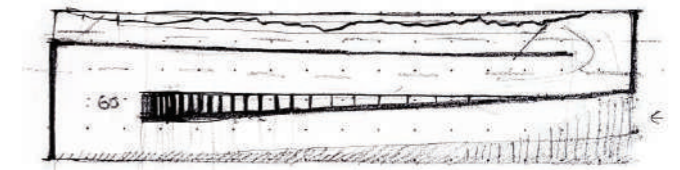


Image 3.3 (Self made, access building plan view. February 2019.)

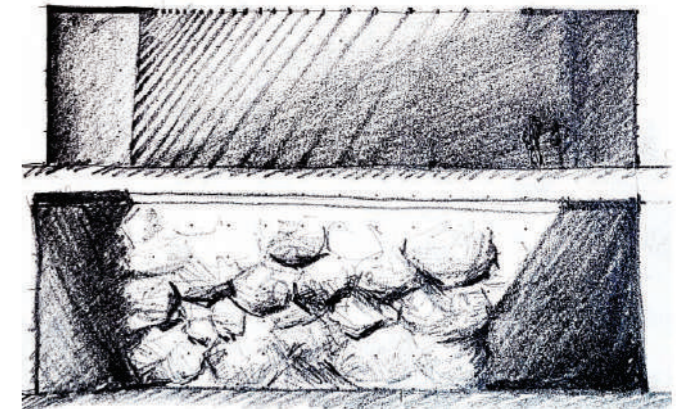


Image 3.4 (Self made, access building sections. February 2019.)

The design premises are:

- Spaces dedicated to reflection. A new way of experiencing the terrain is proposed in which awareness is generated from the beginning, through natural appearance.
- Architectural Design from the senses. Behavior is modified through sensory spaces.
- Nature as bonding. Integrate plant masses that limit public access to private spaces.



Imagen 3.5 (Self made, site plan. February 2019.)

## Initial tour

The access building to the park is developed through the road that is currently eroded, the access works as a control space for visitors, while the rest of the complex provokes unique experiences in each of the tourists, causing an awareness towards the natural space.

The site arises from the need to control tourists, the use of existing spaces such as the administrative area and the biotic recovery center. (image 3.5)

Within the access building are developed: the restaurant, the restrooms, the dressing rooms, the guardhouse and the awareness modules.

At the same time, the access building is separated into 3 modules, the first responds strictly to the access and exit of visitors and staff (image 4.2), as well as the ticket office with a guardhouse.

The second module of the building is connected to the first through a reflecting pool, which functions as a transition space to access the first corridor, which accentuates the texture of the hillside with a light bath of light (image 5.1); during the second corridor (image 5.2) the sense of sight and touch is intensified with a beam of light that falls on the pergola, as you walk it gets darker, which generates a sweeping effect on the wicker partitions that separate the halls.

The third corridor (image 5.3) highlights the texture of the reed latticework that provides the tourist with an approach to what happens inside the park, ending with a visual finish towards the reflecting pool and the vegetation found at the end of the module.

The third module is connected, like the second by a water mirror, which also functions as a means of transition between one module and another. When accessing the space there is a significant decrease in light, so the user is forced to make use of the sense of touch, in which he feels the textures of both the stone and wicker walls. As you approach the end of the tunnel you will be able to perceive the sound of running water, as well as a sudden change in temperature.

During the last 5 meters inside the tunnel, he perceives a violent alteration in the lighting. A dark overwhelming space increases the use of the visitors senses, they can hear the water flow. Using their hands they are guided by the lattice walls thruout the building, during this period of visual adaptation in the user that allows an even more impressive visual finish on the visitor (image 5.4).

Under module 2 are the restrooms, while under the third module the restaurant is located. In this way, these two activities are carried out far from the flow of the river, activities that are currently carried out on the banks of the river.



Imagen 4.1 (Self made, site plan. May, 2019).



Image 4.2 (Self made, Main Access. May, 2019).

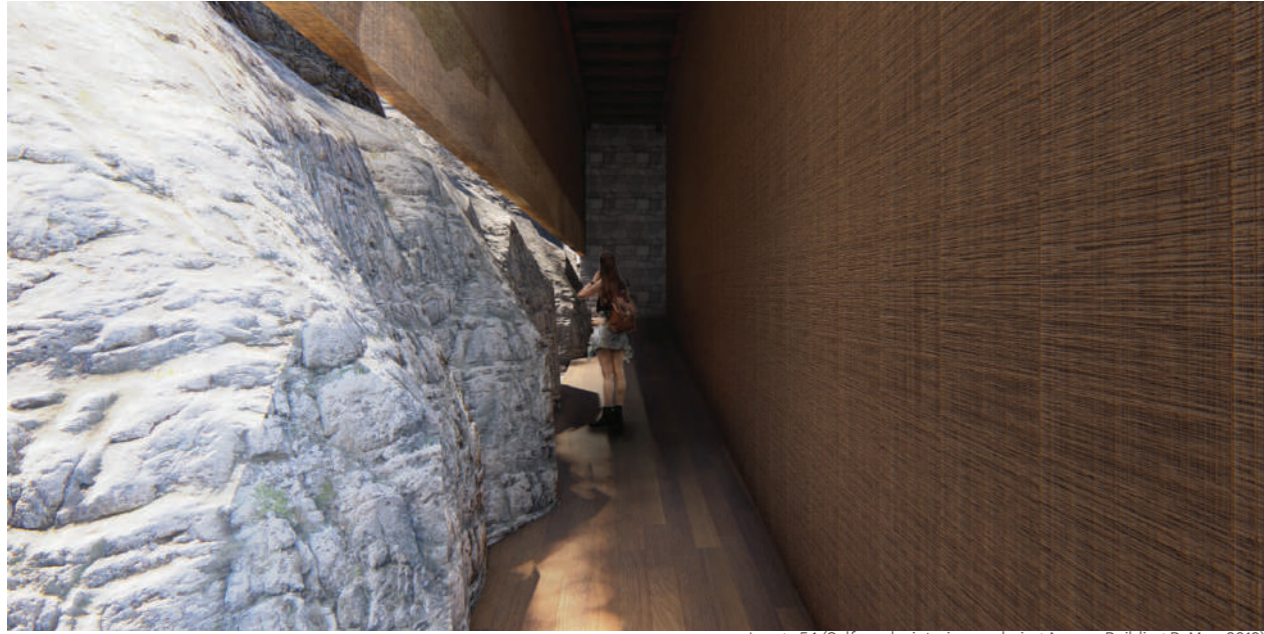


Image 5.1 (Self made, interior rendering Access Building B. May, 2019).



Image 5.4 (Self made, exterior rendering Access Building C. May, 2019).

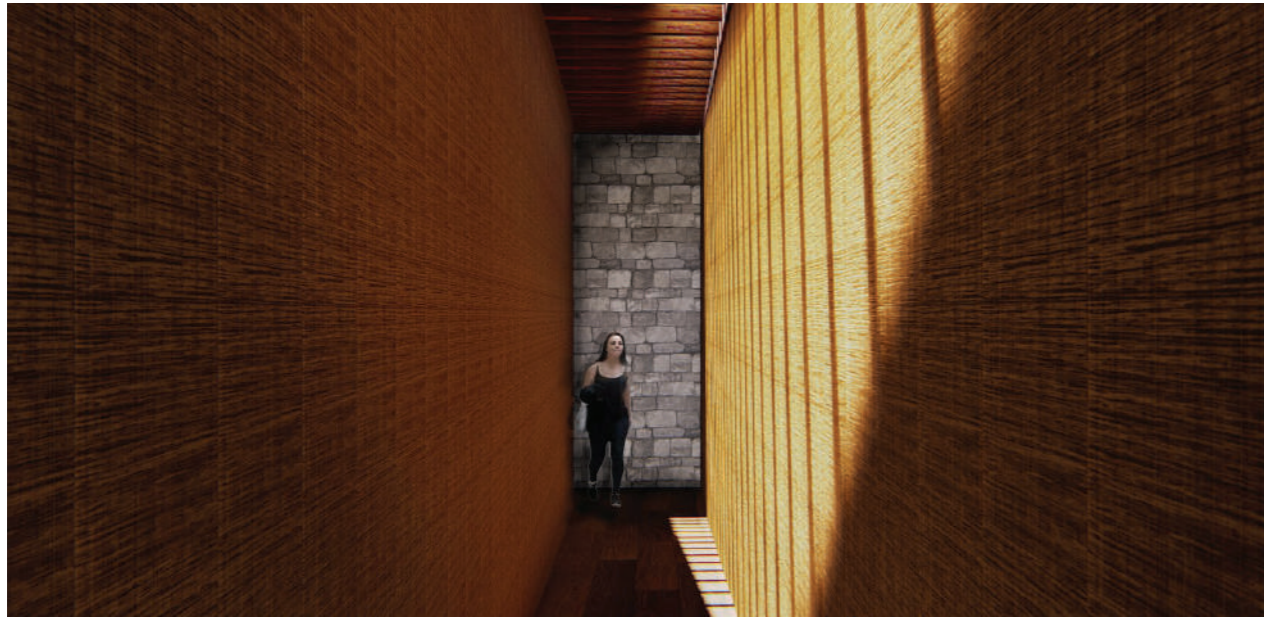


Image 5.2 (Self made, interior rendering Access Building B. May, 2019).



Image 5.5 (Self made, exterior rendering. May, 2019).

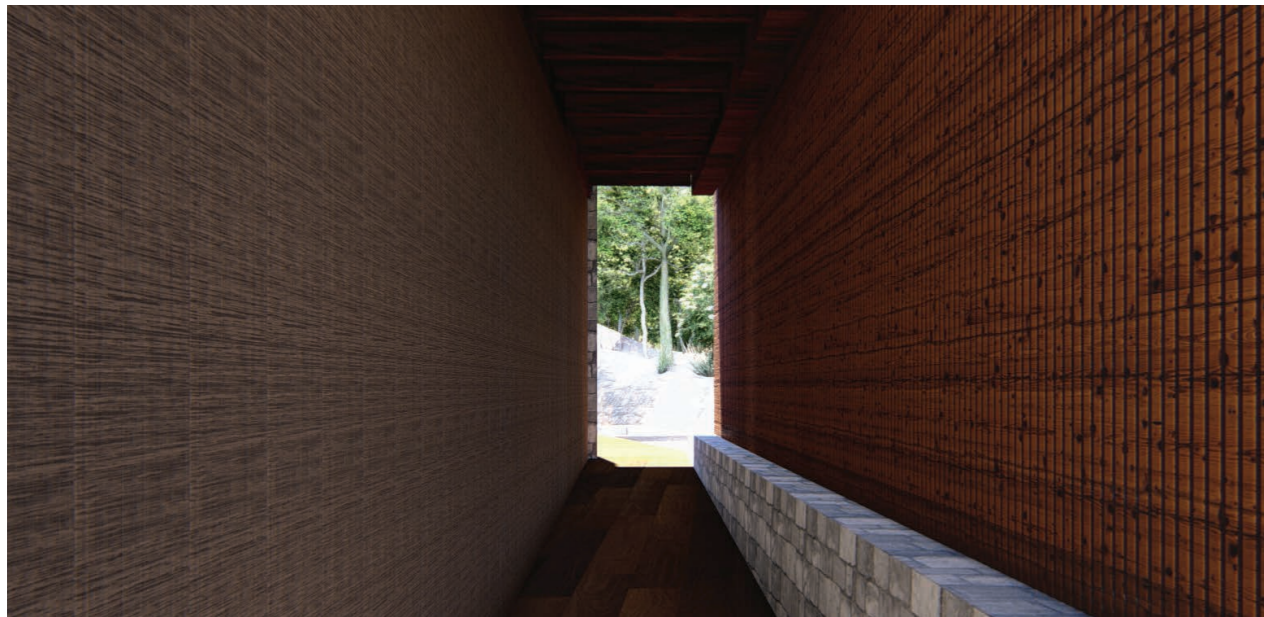


Image 5.3 (Self made, interior rendering Access Building B. May, 2019).



Image 5.6 (Self made, exterior rendering Biotic Recovery Center. May, 2019).