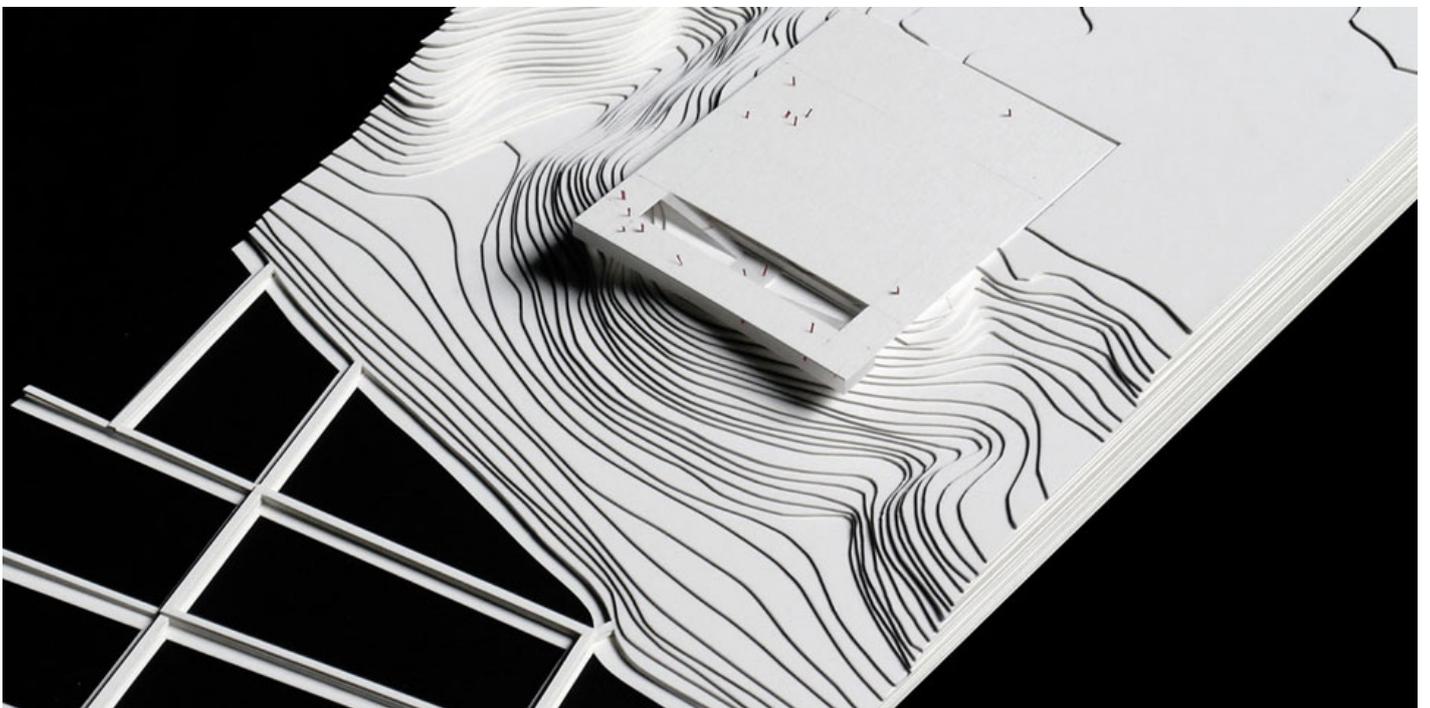


**CENTER FOR NATURE INTERPRETATION,
LANZAROTE (2009)**







A black plane

The place is an extraordinary landscape, black due to the ash of this volcanic island, the distant horizon and sea in the background to the west. A natural ring of hills surrounds a flat area that reaches to the sea, with a saltwater lake in the center, where the white salt mines were formed in the past century.

Given this landscape of the Salinas de Janubio in Lanzarote, a black, radical and emphatic plane is proposed over the hills, in the center.

Black. A black plane of concrete made out of the island's volcanic ash.

Radical. Completely horizontal. Its western edge marking a parallel line to the distant western horizon of the sea where the sun sets. A place from which to contemplate that lunar landscape.

Emphatic. As if it had emerged from the same flattened out ground. A large slab of concrete, 90 x 90 meters, without any contrasting element rising from it that to diminish its strength. As a result, to reach the Centro de Interpretacion del Paisaje we must go down, "plunge" through portals that serve as entrances to the Center. As if through a horizontal door.

This powerful plane, located at the highest point in the landscape, in it's the center, cantilevers out. Under it, the needed program is located in a glass box parallel to the line of the horizon, as if it were a bird's nest: the Center for Nature Interpretation, the store and the restaurant.

Above, from the transparent box facing the sea and with the saltpans at its feet, everything that goes on there becomes clear: the extraordinary landscape of the saltpans. Nothing more and nothing less.

From the road, as both a point of reference and at the same time to hide visitors' cars and buses, a large black wall of volcanic stone is proposed, as if it were a windbreaker like those raised around salt mines. A gap in the center will be the only entrance to the compound. Trees will shade the parking area. And only when one goes through that gate will the impressive