



PEB

Compendium of exemplary
educational facilities 3rd Edition

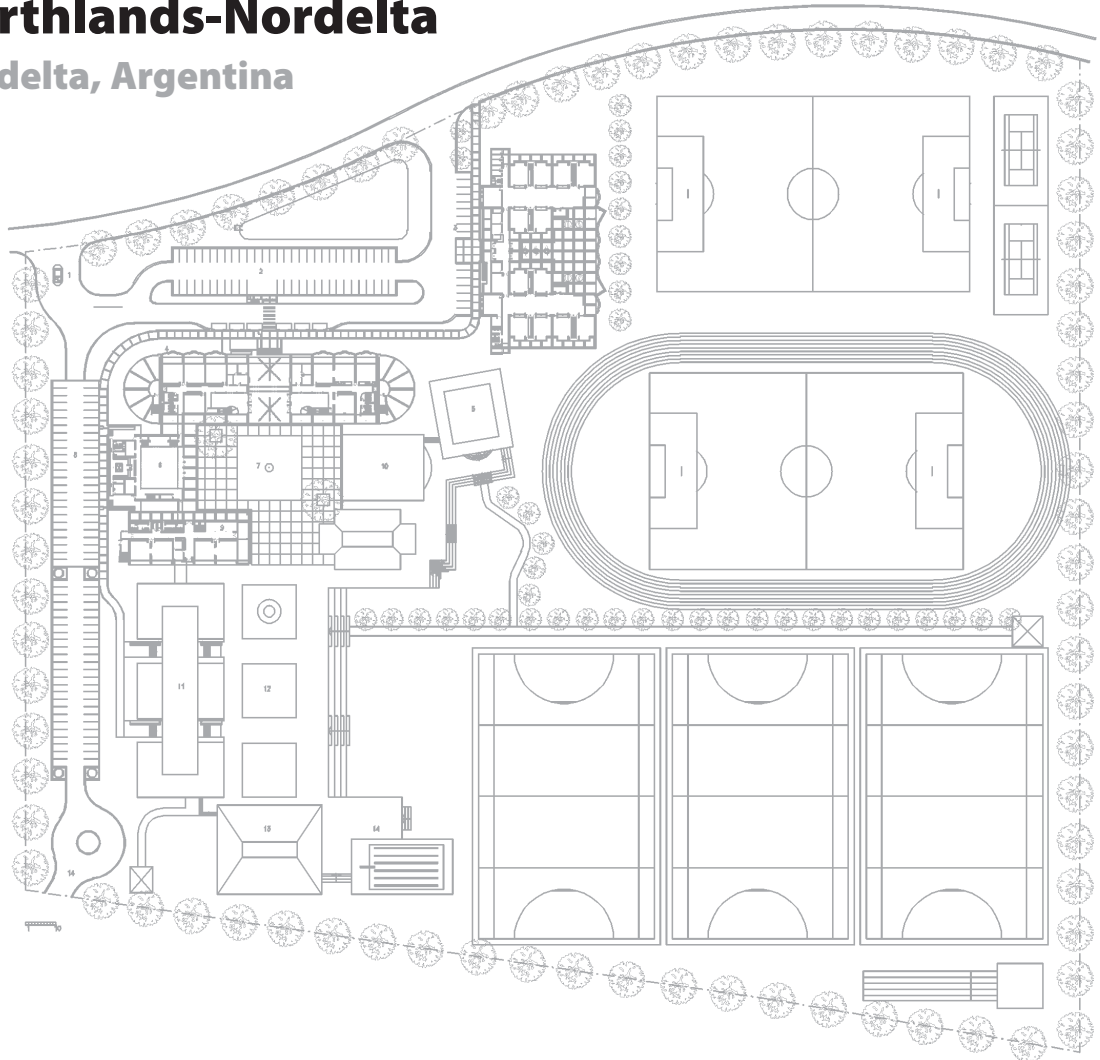


OECD



Northlands-Nordelta

Nordelta, Argentina



Northlands-Nordelta Nordelta, Argentina

Criteria

Flexibility / Community

Architect

Jeffrey Berk and Fernando Diez

Type of School

Primary and lower secondary

No. of Students

300

Type of Project

New building

Gross Surface Area

1 800 m²

Year of Completion

2001

Client

Asociación Civil de Beneficencia
Northlands

This school was initially designed in the context of creating a centre for a new town. It provides a community gathering place together with an educational facility that promotes growth and development inside and out.

The cloister

The main feature is a cloister, the structure of the primary school. The cloister includes a colonnade with a wide eave. Another important feature is the secondary school, organised in a long axis opening towards the sport fields.

As the master plan is being completed in stages, each independent building must be able to connect easily to the next. This happens at ground level or through bridges in the first floor. Each independent section of the school is joined to the others with a huge roof that also covers the common patio.

Windows inside and out

Each section is transparent in its interior. Classrooms are divided from the main corridor with furniture and glass showcases that allow the children to display their work and create intimacy, while letting outsiders see in without intruding. Glass is also used to expose the materials used within the structure. These displays highlight the nature, texture and colour of the building materials so that the children can easily recognise them and understand what function they have in the design of the structure.

Susan Magenta, Head of Northlands-Nordelta, explains the advantages. "The feeling of being in close contact with nature is brought about by large windows; with so much glass everywhere the outdoors are brought inside. At the same time, the classrooms are open to the inside, with glass windows forming a good proportion of the walls giving onto the inside corridors. This allows permanent observation of what is going on in each class. Another advantage of this openness is evident when one shows the school to new parents, as this can easily be done without disturbing the classes in progress. The glass throughout, including the offices, responds to the modern concept of people seeing each other and not being closed off. This promotes community spirit and a sense of belonging, both of which are important to the school."

