

PROJECT TEXTS

Ecoparque Ciénaga de Mallorquín

1. Technical Sheet

Location: Barranquilla, Colombia

Area: 61,834 m²

Year: 2022

Design: DEB ARCHITECTURE and EL EQUIPO MAZZANTI

Project Director: Francisco Ricardo Marino

Client: Puerta de Oro Barranquilla

President and Project Structurer: Ricardo Vives

Team:

Luis Guillermo Barrera

Jorge Robledo Manco

Natalia Gamez

Jose Daniel Rosado

Juan Sebastian Perez

Consultants:

Topography and Bathymetry – SINTH Ingeniería

Structural Engineering – Estructuras Sostenibles

HVAC Design – Ing. José Solano Pérez Design and HVAC Consulting

Electrical Design – RPB

Telecommunications Design – AP Ingeniería

Hydrosanitary Design – SINTH Ingeniería

Traffic Study – M Ingeniería y Planeación

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) – PIMAS

Life Safety – AGR

Road Geometry – M Ingeniería y Planeación

Cost Estimation – MB Ingeniería Vial

Bioclimatic Study – Oleb Arquitectura Bioclimática & Sostenibilidad

2. Short Description

The Ecoparque Ciénaga de Mallorquín is framed as an environmental and urban regeneration project in the contemporary Colombian Caribbean context. Conceived as a system of pathways and public spaces, the project establishes an active boundary between

the wetland ecosystem and the urban expansion of Barranquilla, creating an interface capable of articulating natural and social dynamics.

Located in a strategic enclave where the Atlantic Ocean meets the Magdalena River, this lagoon system is one of the most biodiverse ecosystems in the region, hosting more than 200 bird species and a complex mangrove network. The ecopark acknowledges this condition and proposes an intervention based on minimal territorial occupation, through elevated walkways, observation platforms, and resting areas that allow controlled access without disrupting ecological processes.

The project acts as a transitional layer between the city and the wetland, integrating civic, recreational, and educational activities with existing practices such as artisanal fishing. Through a flexible and adaptive structure, the ecopark promotes a sustainable relationship between the built environment and the natural landscape, consolidating a living edge that protects the ecosystem while making it accessible to citizens.

3. Extended Description

The Ecoparque Ciénaga de Mallorquín is part of contemporary processes of environmental regeneration and urban edge reconfiguration in coastal contexts. Located in Barranquilla, Colombia, the project addresses the historical relationship between the city and one of its most significant ecosystems: the Ciénaga de Mallorquín, a lagoon system located at the meeting point between the Atlantic Ocean and the Magdalena River. This geographical condition has defined not only the ecological richness of the site but also the urban and cultural development of the city.

Over the past century, large-scale interventions such as the construction of Bocas de Ceniza significantly transformed the territory's morphology, altering hydrological flows and affecting the ecological balance of the wetland. As a result, the lagoon experienced processes of degradation, pollution, and progressive isolation from urban life. However, the ecosystem has demonstrated remarkable resilience, evidenced by the persistence of its biodiversity, including more than 200 resident and migratory bird species, as well as extensive mangrove areas.

In this context, the ecopark is conceived as a territorial infrastructure that does not seek to impose a new form on the landscape, but rather to establish a system of mediation between urban and natural dynamics. The project is materialized through a network of pathways, platforms, and open spaces that configure a "living edge": an active strip that regulates the relationship between urban expansion and the ecosystem, acting simultaneously as a protective barrier and an access threshold.

Far from being a rigid boundary, this interface adapts to the changing conditions of the territory, acknowledging the dynamic nature of the wetland. Elevated walkways allow movement through the landscape without interfering with hydrological and biological cycles, while observation platforms enable contemplation and learning. In this way, the ecopark transforms the mangrove into a space of knowledge, where scientific, educational, and cultural practices converge.

The program is structured through districts that organize different forms of use and appropriation. The current development focuses on two main built areas: the Contemplation District, oriented toward ecosystem observation and environmental education, and the Family District, conceived as a space for gathering and recreation. Both districts activate the park and generate a direct relationship between the community and the landscape without compromising the ecological integrity of the site.

The ecopark also recognizes and integrates existing practices such as artisanal fishing, embedding them within its spatial and programmatic logic. Transitions between city and nature are resolved through the continuity of public space and vegetation strategies, gradually extending urban systems into the landscape.

More than an architectural object, the Ecoparque Ciénaga de Mallorquín is an open, flexible system in constant transformation. Its goal is not only to restore a degraded ecosystem, but also to propose a new way of relating the city to its natural environment, based on balance, respect, and coexistence.

By understanding landscape as living infrastructure and public space as an active mediator between urban and ecological systems, the project establishes a replicable intervention model for vulnerable coastal territories. Its approach demonstrates how architecture, urbanism, and ecology can work together to regenerate strategic ecosystems while creating new opportunities for encounter, education, and civic appropriation.

4. DEB Architecture + El Equipo Mazzanti Statement

DEB Architecture and El Equipo Mazzanti are two architectural practices collaborating on high-impact urban, social, and environmental projects. Their approach combines territorial research, architectural design, and urban regeneration strategies to develop context-sensitive interventions focused on cultural and ecological value. Their work explores new relationships between city, landscape, and community, integrating architecture, urbanism, and sustainability as tools for transformation.

5. Awards and Recognitions

AIA International Honor Award for Urban Design 2025 – Ecoparque Ciénaga de Mallorcaín

AIA International Sustainable Future Award for Urban Design 2025 – Ecoparque Ciénaga de Mallorcaín

Dedalo Minosse OCCAM UNDER 40 Award 2025 – Ecoparque Ciénaga de Mallorcaín

Winner Jury Award 2026 Architizer A+Awards - Ecoparque Ciénaga de Mallorcaín

6. Press Contact

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