



Jean Nouvel's University building in Cyprus is an 'earthwork' clad with colored fabric

having previously completed a mixed-use tower in the city of Nicosia, French architect Jean Nouvel has returned to the cyriot capital to design a vast university building. envisioned as an 'object', the learning resource center — which contains a brand new library — has been conceived as an 'earthwork' whose form mimics the region's undulating terrain. The project was inaugurated in December 2018, and has now been captured in new images by architectural photographer **danica o. kus**.



image © [danica o. kus](#) (also main image)

the project was made possible thanks to a donation of €8 million from Elli St. Ioannou, with the building named in memory of her late husband — Stelios Ioannou. Conceived as a hybrid between the natural and the man-made, **Jean Nouvel** clad the structure with layers of overlapping colored fabric in green and blue tones. Meanwhile, on the plateau of the hill, a cupola surrounded by a planted terrace covers the library's main reading room.



image © danica o. kus

Internally, the design team divided the program between spaces which required normal' light and those which needed more subdued illumination. this and the orientation of the building led to a distribution of spaces where naturally lit areas are oriented to the north, while the remaining rooms offer fewer and more carefully oriented views. The architects say that their primary concern was the building's thermal comfort as well as its energy efficiency.



image © danica o. kus

According to the [university of cyprus](#), the new building will house 1 million printed volumes, over 30,000 electronic journal titles, and 150 databases. Importantly, all information will be accessible throughout the island country's scientific community. The project will also provide approximately 900 study seats that will be equipped with modern technology. See other architectural projects in Cyprus on designboom [here](#).



image © danica o. kus

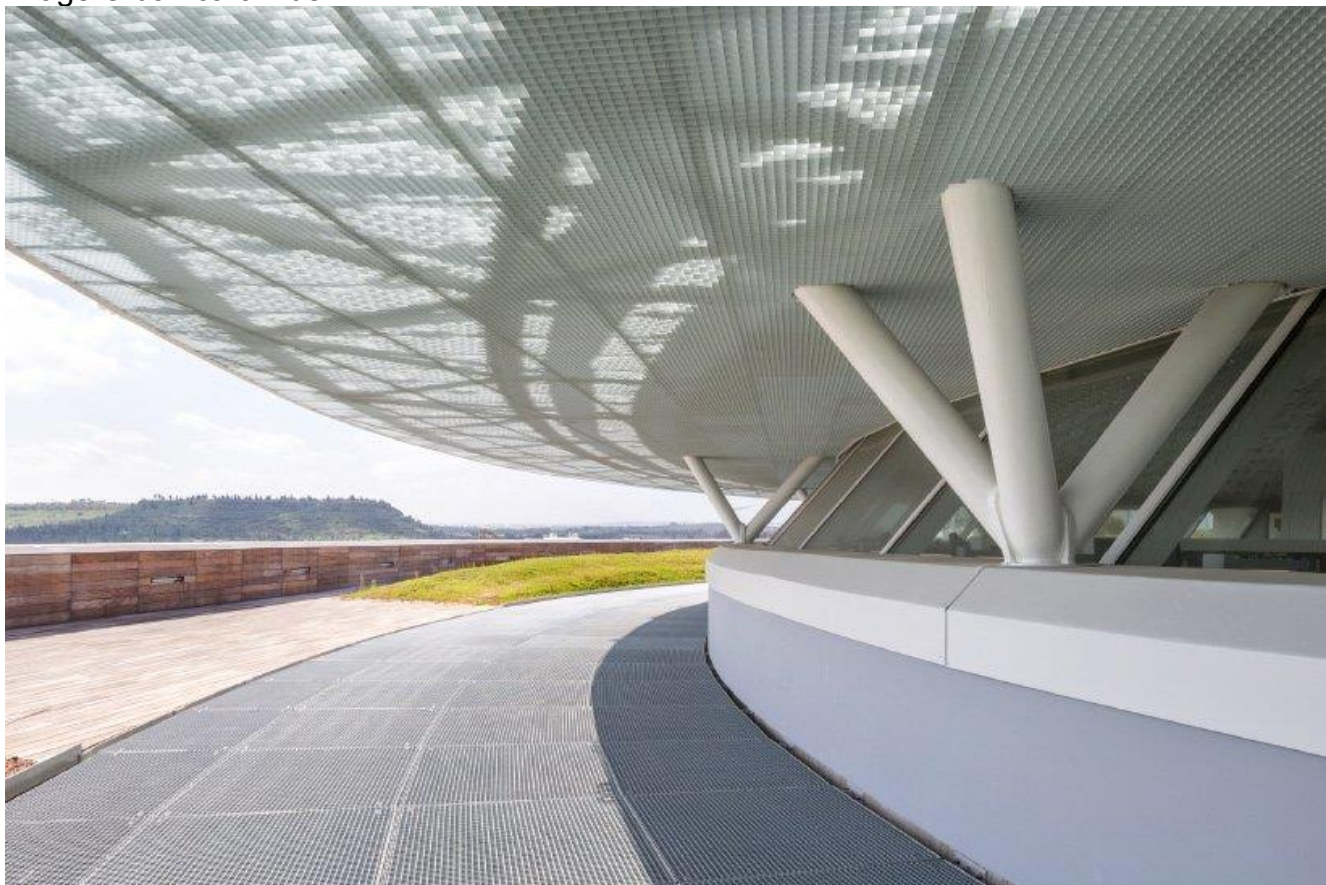


image © danica o. kus



image © danica o. kus



image © danica o. kus



image © danica o. kus



image © danica o. kus



image © danica o. kus

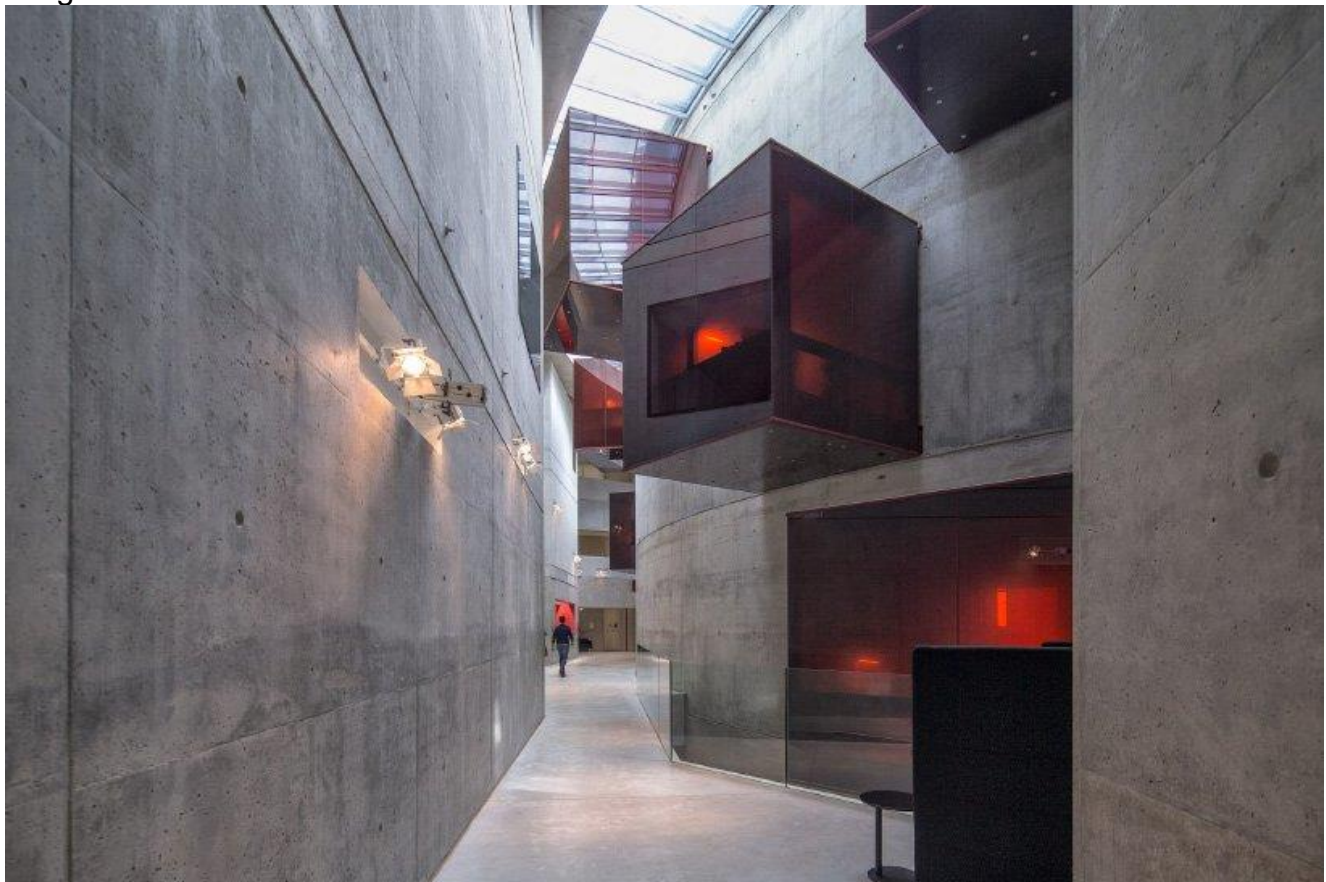


image © danica o. kus



image © danica o. kus



image © danica o. kus



image © danica o. kus



image © danica o. kus

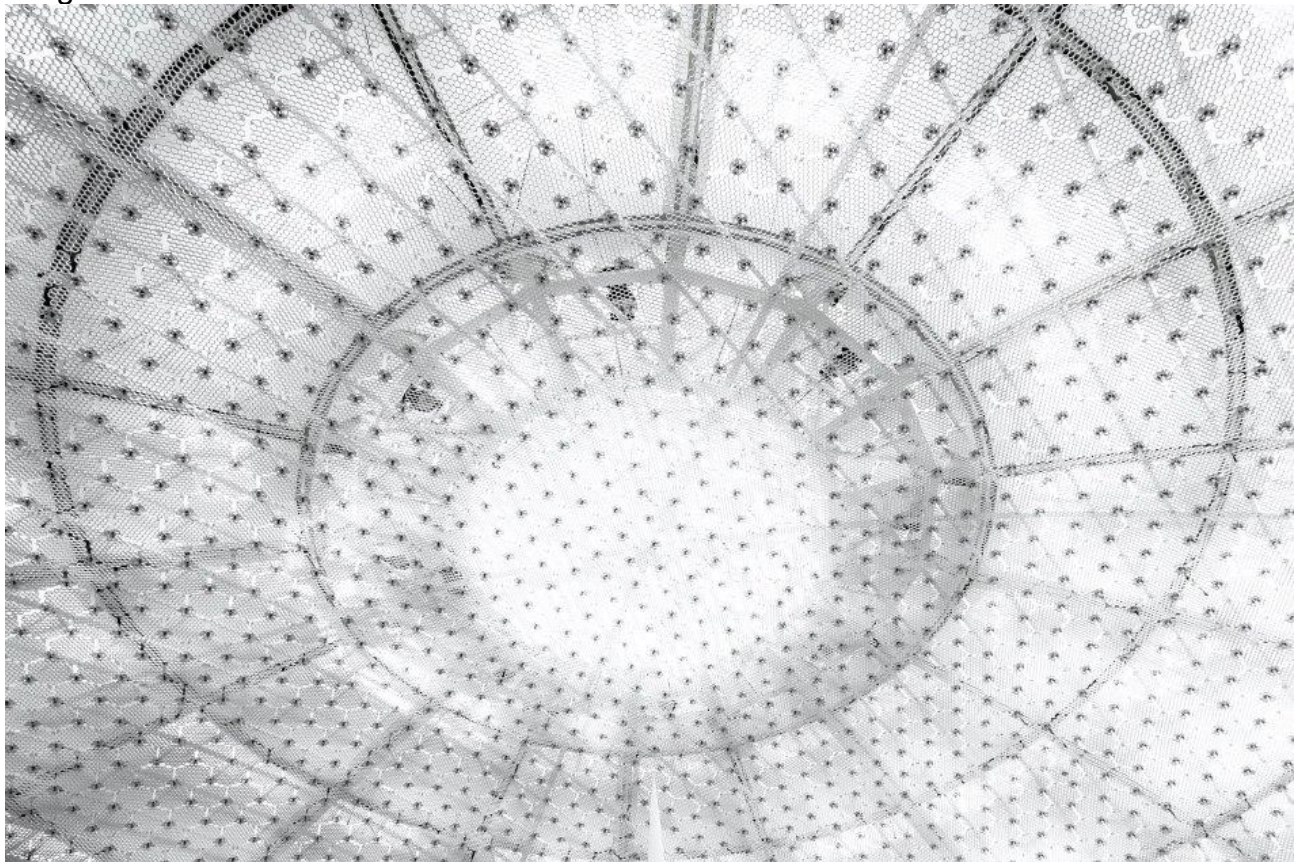


image © danica o. kus



image © danica o. kus



image © danica o. kus



image © danica o. kus

project info:

location: Nicosia, Cyprus

dates: 2003-2018

name: Stelios Ioannou' learning resource center

clients: university of Cyprus – Dakis Ioannou

habitable area: 14,800 sqm (159,306 sqf)

surface area: 17,200 sqm (185,139 sqf)

team:

ateliers Jean Nouvel – Jean Nouvel

advisors to Jean Nouvel: emmanuel blamont, aurélien coulanges, samuel nageotte

project leaders: philippe papy, athina lazaridou, damien faraut, elisabeth kather

architects: sébastien abribat, jean angelini, yves bachmann, thomas dieben, megan feeahan, michael herman, laurent pereira, miguel pomares, andres souza

interior design: julien cottier, jennifer kandel, jérémy lebarillec, sabrina

letourneur

landscape: emmanuelle blanc, rémy turquin

light design: l'observatoire – georges berne (studies), then odile soudant, mathieu gabry

computer generated images: artefactory – georges batzios, mizuho kishi

graphic design / signage: rafaëlle ishkinazi, eugénie robert, natalie saccu de franchi

local architects: J+A philippou

engineers: m. ioannis cannas (structure), avel acoustique – m. lamoureux (acoustic), m. kyriacos zinieris, m. ioannis mitsides (building services), ingelux, christophe marty (lighting design)

consultants: mandragore – lionel hodier (landscape – studies), MDA – peter zographos (cost consultant)