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Sala de athletic? grea [Athletics Hall]

Romania

Strada Perchiului
Bac?u County 601048 Onesti

Commission

1966

Completion

1968

Original name

Sala de athletic? grea [Athletics Hall]

Other denominations

Onexi Boxing Hall

Original use

Sports/sports pavilion

Current use

Sports/sports pavilion

Architects

Mircea Mihailescu

Concrete by reinforcement

Reinforced concrete

Construction method

Cast-in-place concrete, in-situ concrete

Architectural concrete

Architectural concrete

Structural types

Two-dimensional/folded plate structure, Two-dimensional/shell structure

Description

Boxing and weightlifting both have a long tradition in Romania. This unique gymnasium building in the city of Onesti was specially built by the engineer Mircea Mihailescu for the practice of those two sports.

Mircea Mihailescu was an engineer specialised in structural calculation, who was also very diligent in questions related to the design and construction of the projects he built. He is considered a master and pioneer of concrete shells in Eastern European countries.

This building was constructed using a single concrete structure with an undulating form, based on the repetition of a ruled surface: a hyperbolic paraboloid. On the façades, the structure appears as a series of arches that are closed with glass curtain walls. Despite the apparent formal relationship with some designs by Felix Candela, Mihailescu had no knowledge of them at the time this gymnasium was built. The fine wave-like structure of the gym was a calculation challenge for the engineer. The form provides remarkable stability, without the need for any additional support, which meant it was possible to minimise the thickness of the concrete.

An adjoining building, with a circular floor plan, contains all the services that would have been out of place in the main building's unitary open space. This small building also has a wave-shaped roof, which lends formal consistency to the whole.

Links

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