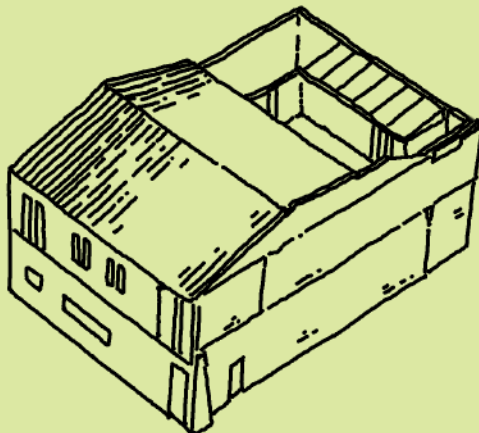


# Ateneo Laico Stanbrook

The house of secular youth associations  
from 2015



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Spain

🌐 [centrodeformacionlanave.com](http://centrodeformacionlanave.com)

🌐 [edu.unizar.es](http://edu.unizar.es)

📘 Ateneo Laico Stanbrook

Ateneo Laico Stanbrook is a socio-cultural community space created and managed by the associations forming part of MJALP - (Movimiento Juvenil Aragonés Laico y Progresista - Aragonese Secular and Progressive Youth Movement). Created in 1997, the movement initially occupied an old mine on the outskirts of Zaragoza, then moved to an old farm, which subsequently became the La Nave training center. Today, Stanbrook is an inclusive space for young people, migrants and members of theLGBTQ+ community whose headquarters are in the city center of Zaragoza that organizes and hosts social and cultural activities promoted by the different entities forming part of the movement. The organization took its name from the British ship that sailed from the Spanish coasts on March 28, 1939, allowing the last evacuation of Republican refugees before the end of the Spanish civil war.



Credits: Ateneo Laico Stanbrook

## WHERE

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Even though the headquarters of Ateneo Laico Stanbrook is located in the city center, inside an old workshop for aluminum processing, during summer most of the activities take place at the La Nave training center, a youth center located in the city of Torrellas, outside Zaragoza. The center was created by renovating an old poultry farm, thanks to the volunteer efforts of the young students and workers who made use of the space.

La Nave consists of a hostel that can accommodate over one hundred people, and all the structures needed to organize dozens of youth meetings every year: a café, a computer room, classrooms, laboratories, a recreation area, a living room, and a kitchen. The underlying principles of this space are: self-management; diversity and the fight against discrimination; environment and sustainability.

### LOCATION

Urban

### TYPE OF SPACE

Building

### ORIGINAL FUNCTION

Industrial (metal processing workshop)

### YEAR OF CONSTRUCTION

1938

### SURFACE AREA

300 sqm

### OWNERSHIP

Private

### CONCESSION

Owned by the managing organization

### CONDITION BEFORE ACTIVATION

Abandoned

## COMPOSITION OF THE SPACE

Main floor: a hall, a lounge for community activities, a kitchen, a dining room, two washrooms, a small courtyard  
First floor: a hall, a coworking space with 5 computer stations, two offices, a small storage room

## WHEN

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### TIME OF DAU USED

Morning ..... 7am - 1pm 60%

Afternoon ... 1pm - 7pm 30%

Evening ..... 7pm - 1am 10%

Night ..... 1am - 7am 0%

Workdays: open everyday

Weekends: open two weekends per month

### OPENING HOURS

Open every day for people working in the associations

Open to public only during specific events

### AVERAGE USERS PER DAY

Around 10-12

## WHAT

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The Movimiento Juvenil Laico y Progresista de Aragón has many functions: on a social level, it creates opportunities for personal growth of young people with their peers, generating spaces for relationships and participation. It acts as a citizenship school, offering young people training and information to make them aware of their role in society and their responsibilities towards it.

### SURFACE IN USE

300 sqm

### THEMATIC AREAS

Activism and politics

Culture and arts

Ecology and environment

Education and training

Welfare

**USER DEMOGRAPHIC**

Associations and collectives

Senior citizens

Young people

Under-represented groups: disabled people, LGBTQ+ community, migrants, poor people, women

**COLLABORATIONS**

Associations and collectives

Citizens and local community

Universities and schools

**NETWORK**

Regional

National

**WHO**

The Movimiento Juvenil Aragón Laico y Progresista is a collective of associations that brings different non-religious/progressive groups and organizations together. The various associations are dedicated to youth, trade unions, politics and students in the autonomous community of Aragón.

These entities and associations share a common operating procedure called "Quintuple Estructura" (five fold structure), a model for informal youth engagement and education.

**MANAGING ORGANIZATION(S)**

1. FADEA, Federación de Asociaciones de Estudiantes de Aragón
2. FAPAE, Federación de Alumnos Plataforma de asociaciones de estudiantes
3. FAESA, Federación de Asociaciones de Estudiantes solidarios aragoneses.
4. MOVIDA, Movimiento por los Derechos del Alumnado
5. INTEGRÁ, Voluntariado Joven
6. Fundación de Acción Laica (FAL)
7. Colectivo Magenta LGTBI
8. Asociación Mujeres Libres, Manuela Blasco
9. Asociación Redes para la transformación social

10. Asociación Servicios Para la

Animación Sociocultural

11. Asociación Yo te lo Monto

**PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE MANAGEMENT**

7 people managing relations with the associations

25 collaborators

200 volunteers

**HOW****NATURE OF THE INITIATIVE**

Bottom-up

**TYPE OF MANAGEMENT**

Horizontal

**ECONOMIC RESOURCES**

Rental income

Self-funded

Public grants

**TYPE OF ACTIVITIES**

50% Free

50% Paid





## How did your story begin?

We are an association created in the framework of the youth movements of the '90s. Between 1994 and 1995, the government reduced funding for youth projects, so many activists founded new autonomous bottom-up movements, like youth groups, university groups, women's groups, etc. Throughout the 2000s, the different associations decided to create a common space to establish their headquarters and carry out their activities. So a non-profit association was born that brought together the individual organizations and allowed them, with their own savings, to buy a former chicken farm outside Zaragoza, which then became "La Nave" thanks to the work of volunteers. Through the projects and summer camps organized at La Nave, the association managed to raise the funds needed to buy the building in Zaragoza where its headquarters are currently located. Today Stanbrook hosts the offices of the various associations and their activities, while La Nave is used as the location for summer camps and as a hostel.

"We are an open and inclusive association that welcomes migrants, LGBTQ+ people, young people... We tend to diversify the offering a lot, in order to attract the greatest number of young people through different levels of participation. This structure allows us to coordinate activities among the many associations and people involved."

### **Is there a practice or value that represents you and you think may be an inspiration to others?**

Our association has a unique operational method: the "Quintuple Estructura" (five fold structure), a methodology for the active participation of young people, which we have developed within the association and passed on to other entities. The idea behind it is to

maximize the participation of young people according to their commitment.

The Quintuple Estructura is based on two premises. First, we identify the five structures that must be present in every organization: the participant structure, the activity structure, the functional structure, the organizational structure, and the resource structure. Secondly, the associations and working groups must have an organizational structure that is coherent with the activities offered and the level of participation and commitment required.

There are different levels of participation that depend on people's interests, background, availability, and commitment. Different levels of participation are also identified: leaders, activists, members of stable groups, users, beneficiaries, all youth. Once this structure is established, based on the participation interests of the youth, appropriate activities are identified for each level of interest: leadership activities, work activities, group activities, user activities, leisure activities, and host activities.

It is important to find a balance between the time dedicated to the activities and the time dedicated to the interests of the participants. We tend to diversify our selection of activities a lot, in order to attract the greatest number of young people through different levels of participation. This structure allows us to coordinate activities among the many associations and people involved.

## What is the secret ingredient that makes your story unique?

The ability to be an open and inclusive association that welcomes migrants, LGBTQ+ people, and young people. The constant work and effort of people dedicating their time to a movement that has just celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and counts on more than 1000 people. Also La Nave can be considered a secret tool, because it is a space that allows us to be independent.

*Interview with: José Antonio Gadea*



Discover the origin of  
the Stanbrook's name

