

ON-SITE: NEW ARCHITECTURE IN SPAIN HIGHLIGHTS SPAIN'S RECENT EMERGENCE AS A CENTER FOR IMPORTANT ARCHITECTURAL PROJECTS

Exhibition Comprises 53 Building Projects Currently under Construction or Recently Built

On-Site: New Architecture in Spain

February 12–May 1, 2006

The International Council Gallery (sixth floor)

New York, January 30, 2006—The Museum of Modern Art presents ***On-Site: New Architecture in Spain***, an exhibition focusing on the most recent architectural developments in a country that is increasingly being recognized as an important center of international design, experimentation, and excellence. The exhibition features 53 architectural projects that are either currently under construction or have been completed in the past eight years. The focus of the exhibition is on current projects that define this particular moment in Spanish architecture, as opposed to a retrospective look at Spain's architectural history. Shown together, the projects demonstrate the strength and vitality of new architecture that is transforming the Spanish landscape. New architecture in Spain is distinguished by the international composition of its architects, as well as its generational diversity and the variety in scale of projects across the country. The exhibition shows how profound economic and political changes have generated an unprecedented flowering of architecture in the areas of tourism, transportation, civil infrastructure, and cultural life. Spain's new sense of self-definition, resulting from the establishment of a democratic government, the expansion of its civil culture, and a steadily growing economy, is directly reflected in its recent wave of construction. The exhibition is organized by Terence Riley, Philip Johnson Chief Curator of Architecture and Design, The Museum of Modern Art, and is on view from February 12 through May 1, 2006, in The International Council Gallery on the sixth floor.

The majority of the architects in the exhibition are from Spain, such as Abalos&Herrerros of Madrid, Josep Lluís Mateo - MAP Arquitectos of Barcelona, and MGM Morales+Giles+Mariscal of Sevilla. Others hail from Europe, Asia, and the United States, including Jürgen Mayer H. of Germany, Toyo Ito of Japan, and Gehry Partners of the United States. Both established architects and younger professionals are represented by important commissions in Spain.

"These projects range from the single-family house—the universal crucible for radical experimentation—to what was until recently the largest construction site in Europe, the new Barajas Airport Terminals in Madrid," says Mr. Riley.

Of the 53 projects in the exhibition, 35 that are currently under construction are represented by models, and MoMA has commissioned Roland Halbe to photograph 18 that have recently been completed.

Historic Context

Between 1960 and 1975, the number of annual tourists grew from four million to 32 million, and on average nine new hotels and hostels opened per week, reflecting the rapid development of the tourist industry as one of the mainstays of the Spanish economy. In 1975, Spain's 35 years of authoritarian rule under Francisco Franco ended. Spain joined the European Union in 1986, becoming eligible for EU funding that amounted to \$110 billion over the next 20 years toward the construction of new highways, bridges, railroads, train stations, and other civil infrastructure projects. While these projects reflect, in part, the ongoing importance of the tourist industry, they also mirror Spain's new sense of national self-definition within the European Union. Equally important, Spain's political and economic transformations have allowed the country to address its cultural infrastructure as well, by building museums, auditoriums, congress centers, and stadiums across the country. Hosting the World's Fair in Sevilla and the 25th Olympiad in Barcelona, both in 1992, was an important catalyst in Spain's emergence as a laboratory for contemporary architecture. The Guggenheim Bilbao, designed by American architect Frank Gehry, brought its own wave of cultural tourism and economic growth in 1997.

New legislation has had a positive influence in making Spain a fertile environment for contemporary architecture. A recent government ordinance requires that a competition be held to determine which projects merit public financing, opening doors for younger and less established architects to gain experience. Two projects featured in *On-Site* are winners of the European competition, which was started in 1989 and is open to European architects under 40 years of age: **SE-30 Social Housing**, completed in 2002 in Sevilla by Fuensanta Nieto and Enrique Sobejano, and a **Soccer Stadium**, completed in 2003 outside Bilbao by Eduardo Arroyo.

Housing, Hotels, and Tourism

The construction of hotels and housing has been a source of major building projects in Spain for the past 40 years. *On-Site* includes the **Bioclimatic Towers** (completion date to be determined), a housing complex in Vitoria-Gastéiz by Iñaki Ábalos, Juan Herreros, and Renata Sentkiewicz, comprising four towers, each rotated at a different angle to best absorb sunlight, positioned next to a manmade lake. The towers use solar panels to heat and cool the building's water supply, and the facades store thermal energy to use as heat in the winter and to ventilate in the summer.

Hotel Habitat, projected for completion in 2007 in L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, Barcelona, by Enric Ruiz-Geli in collaboration with Cloud 9 Acconci Studio and Ruy Ohtake, also uses a solar element. The four-star hotel, which includes a restaurant, roof terrace, and gym, is covered with a web of 5,000 LEDs powered by solar cells that create a luminous glow in a range of colors at night.

In Madrid, **Edificio Mirador**, built in 2005 in Sanchinarro by Winy Maas, Jacob van Rijs, and Nathalie de Vries (MVRDV) with Blanca Lleó Estudio de Arquitectura is a residential building with an elevated public space midway up the facade. The local community is invited to use this open-air platform for viewing the city.

A lower- to middle-income housing development called the **Sharing Tower**, projected for completion in 2007 in Valencia by Vicente Guallart, shares a plot with 15 residential buildings by 15 architects, all presenting creative social-spatial solutions. The Sharing Tower consists of 16 round, striated floors with communal space in the core where televisions, laundry facilities, and computers are shared among residents. The stairways and elevators climb the perimeter of the building, and areas for sleeping, showering, and dressing are tucked into the remaining spaces.

With transportation improvements and new hotel accommodations making more cities accessible to tourists, cities are responding with new attractions and cultural additions. The **Centro de Talasoterapia**, projected for completion in 2007 in Gijón by Francisco Leiva Ivorra and grupo aranea, is a luxury spa, a five-star hotel, and a public plaza situated on the coast. Leading from the spa and hotel to the beach are public footpaths, ramps, and stairs that are open to the local community. The **Hotel at Marqués de Riscal Winery**, projected for completion in September 2006 in Elciego, La Rioja, by Frank Gehry and Edwin Chan, is canopied with Gehry's signature ribbons of titanium, a contrast to its rural setting at the oldest winery in the Basque country. The first two floors house a restaurant, wine-tasting room, and an exhibition space, offering an airy central space with panoramic views of the surrounding countryside.

Transportation and Accessibility

When Spain joined the EU in 1986, it began updating its rail systems to conform to European standards, and cities created new airports to serve a greater volume of travelers. *On-Site* includes a major international airport, the **Barajas Airport Terminals** in Madrid by Richard Rogers Partnership and Estudio Lamela, which was the largest construction project in Europe until it was completed in early 2006. The building was constructed in just six years from basic prefabricated parts, making it an example of efficient use of labor, materials, and design.

Other architectural projects improve pedestrian access to frequently used urban spaces. For example, the **Access to the Paseo del Ovalo**, completed in 2004 in Teruel, by David Chipperfield Architects and b720 Arquitectos, provides a dramatic new way to access the raised promenade that runs along the top of the historic city walls. It consists of a wide stairway that stretches out in front of the walls, offering one point of entry, and a modern elevator offering another. The access invites visitors and residents to enjoy an attractive and practical entrance to the city.

Civil Infrastructure and Local Community

In the past 20 years, Spain has undertaken extensive rebuilding of its civil infrastructure. Among

the current architectural projects that offer urban solutions and public spaces that build community is a new **Congress Center**, projected for completion in 2008 in Córdoba by Rem Koolhaas and Ellen van Loon. The long, low building provides a public walkway across its roof, and houses government offices, meeting areas, a hotel, and a major auditorium.

A long-standing commitment toward decentralization of public buildings for housing, social services, medicine, and sports attractions in favor of smaller, local facilities is evident in Barcelona, which is divided into 41 separate districts (barrios). A **Health Center** built in 2003 by Mario Corea and Lluís Morán exemplifies the concept of offering a neighborhood venue to stabilize and enliven the local community, as opposed to a big, central hospital that serves the entire city.

Reflecting local color and culture is another prominent trend in new architecture. **Santa Caterina Market** in Barcelona, completed in 2005 and designed by Benedetta Tagliabue and the late Enric Miralles, features an undulating canopy of shimmering tiles in a rainbow of colors that drapes over one of the city's squares.

A cluster of experimental projects in the tropical Canary Islands blends with its lush natural environment. For example, a **Performing Arts School**, built in 2003 in Santa Cruz de Tenerife, by Juan Antonio González and Urbano Yanes Tuña, emphasizes its Atlantic Ocean backdrop. An **Athletics Stadium**, projected for completion in December 2006 in Santa Cruz de Tenerife by AMP Arquitectos uses local stone and looks like an earthwork. The high-rise **Woermann Complex** in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria by Iñaki Ábalos, Juan Herreros, Renata Sentkiewicz, Joaquin Casariego, and Elsa Guerra, has panels that reflect local flora and geology.

In Barcelona, **Torre Agbar**, built in 2005 by Ateliers Jean Nouvel with b720 Arquitectos, is an office tower with a rounded exterior of corrugated aluminum in 25 vibrant shades of color, covered in frosted glass. The reflective glass deflects heat, keeping the building's interior cool.

Cultural Infrastructure and Museums

Modern updates to existing cultural structures increase their appeal for a more sophisticated generation of visitors and demonstrate Spain's eagerness to compete in the international cultural arena. The **Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía Expansion**, completed in 2005 in Madrid by Jean Nouvel with Alberto Medem, added a significant addition to what was formerly the site of an 18th-century hospital, doubling the museum's original size and making it one of the largest modern art museums in the world. Three new buildings, loosely connected around a central atrium, offer an auditorium, a library, a restaurant, and new exhibition spaces. The **IVAM Expansion** (completion date to be determined) in Valencia by Kazuyo Sejima + Ryue Nishizawa / SANAA greatly increases the building's exhibition space. A large shell made of a white metal scrim fits loosely over the top of the existing building to provide new space for offices, an auditorium, and a restaurant, while opening up the entire existing building for gallery space.

New museums are also indicative of Spain's vibrant cultural scene. The **National Museum of Marine Archaeology**, projected for completion in 2007 in Cartagena, Murcia, by

Guillermo Vázquez Consuegra, is part of a local wharf revitalization and combines a marine archaeology research center with an underwater exhibition space. **La Ciudad del Flamenco**, a flamenco dance center projected for completion in 2008 in Jerez de la Frontera, Cádiz, by Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron, incorporates an auditorium, a dance school, a research center, and a museum into several two-story buildings that form walls around a former public square. The **Museum of Cantabria**, projected for completion in 2009 in Santander by Emilio Tuñón and Luis M. Mansilla will offer exhibition space related to the history and art of the region. The building features a series of jagged concrete shafts that, on the outside, trace the mountain range behind the museum, and on the inside, hold large overhead windows that fill the space with natural light.

SPONSORSHIP:

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PUBLICATIONS:

The exhibition will be accompanied by an illustrated publication titled *On-Site: New Architecture in Spain* including an introductory essay by Mr. Riley. Each of the 35 projects currently under construction will have two to three spreads and introductory text. Paperback: 9 x 10 1/2 inches; 280 pages, 313 color and 201 b&w illustrations; \$45.00. It will be sold in the MoMA Stores, including momastore.org, in February, and will also be available to the trade in March, through Distributed Art Publishers (D.A.P.) in the United States and through Thames & Hudson internationally.

Spain Builds, published by AV/Arquitectura Viva, will provide an overview of Spanish architecture since 1975. It features 80 architectural projects, and includes essays by Peter Buchanan, François Chaslin, David Cohn, Luis Fernández-Galiano, Kenneth Frampton, Vittorio Magnago Lampugnani, and Alexander Tzonis & Liane Lefaivre. Paperback: 9 1/2 x 11 3/4 inches; 192 pages, 300 color and 150 b&w illustrations; \$35.00. It will be sold in the MoMA Stores, including momastore.org, in February.

PROGRAMS:

Accompanying programs include a symposium cosponsored by MoMA and Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (GSAPP) on Friday, February 10, and Saturday, February 11. There is a colloquium on Thursday, March 9, and a lecture titled *Emerging Architecture in Latin America* on Monday, April 3, both cosponsored by MoMA and The King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center (KJC). The panel discussion titled *In Process: The Culture of Architecture in Spain*, cosponsored by MoMA and the American Institute of Architects (AIA) New York Chapter, is on Saturday, April 22. In addition, regularly scheduled Gallery Talks take place daily, and two Brown Bag Lunch Lectures about *On-Site* are offered on Monday, April 17 and Thursday, April 20.

MoMA Audio:

A free MoMA Audio tour features Mr. Riley discussing a cross section of the projects in the exhibition. MoMA Audio is offered free of charge, courtesy of Bloomberg. MoMA Audio is also available for download at www.moma.org/audio.

RELATED EXHIBITIONS:

At MoMA, *In Depth: The House of Spiritual Retreat by Emilio Ambasz*, an exhibition of photographs and models focusing on a house near Sevilla, is on view through March 6.

At the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the exhibition *Santiago Calatrava: Sculpture into Architecture* is on view through March 5. For details, visit www.metmuseum.org.

At Harvard University's Graduate School of Design in Cambridge, MA, the exhibition *Mansilla+Tuñón: Playgrounds* is on view through March 19. For details, visit www.gsd.harvard.edu/events.

At the Center for Architecture at the American Institute of Architects (AIA) New York Chapter, the exhibition *Barcelona in Progress* is on view from March 17 to June 10. For details, visit www.aiany.org.

At the Queen Sofia Spanish Institute in New York, there is a lecture by Mr. Riley on the evening of April 20. For details, visit www.spanishinstitute.org.

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