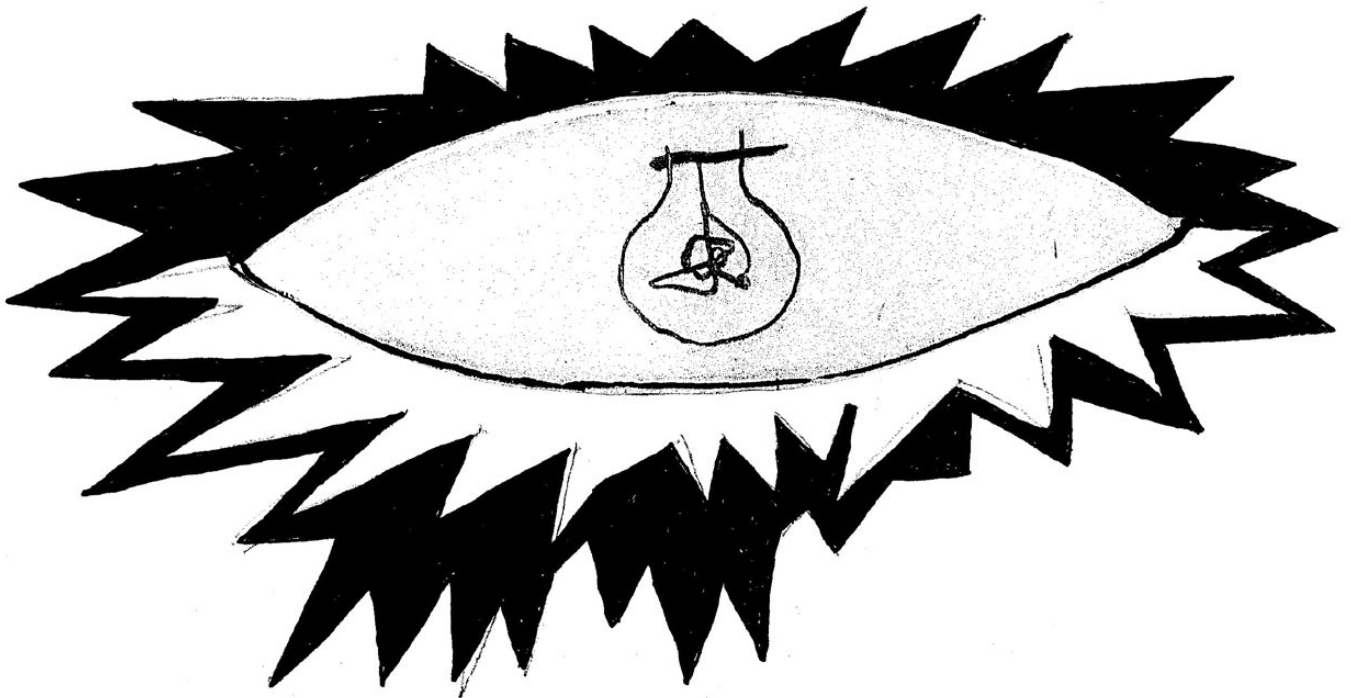


SPAINLAB

Innovation and investigation in architecture





Selgascano ©Roland Halbe

SPAINLAB: the Spanish Pavillion at the 13th Biennale of Architecture in Venice

Innovation and research are the themes that define the work of the seven teams and the seven installations that articulate SPAINLAB, an exhibition curated by the architects Anton Garcia-Abril and Débora Mesa (Ensamble estudio).

Each of the seven participants will display his or her unique take on scientific processes used in achieving a certain balance between abstract concepts and their actual implementation, **transcending the finished product so as to open a new window to the reasons and emotions that made them possible in the first place.**

SPAINLAB stems out of a clear strategy: proving that the true value of Spanish architecture does not lie as much in the final image it materializes, but showing instead that its real future demands support and attention to personal investigative processes. **None of the seven installations tries to display certainties; on the contrary, all of them are but an excuse for each team to keep investigating,** test its ideas, build prototypes of their work in progress and share their liveliest body of work.

The images, works and sketches resulting from this research will be displayed in the pavilion at their rawest, as if they were set in an unfinished space or in an architects' studio. This atmosphere of constant creativity will enable several different, sometimes conflicting, approaches to architecture. They all share a Common Ground –the theme of this year's Biennale-, which is their commitment to our time and culture.

Despite their seemingly disparate careers, there are several defining characteristics to them all: All of them are working internationally and their attitude towards their discipline operates beyond styles and trends, which is often risky. They transcend the mere construction of buildings towards the creation of private but tangible universes to best serve the society they live in.



©Roland Halbe

SPAINLAB, beyond Venice: a digital platform and a book

The whole SPAINLAB concept does not stop at the exhibition. SPAINLAB will also be available through a digital platform (www.spain-lab.net) designed by architects Daniel Ibáñez and Pablo Rey, whose main aim will be to extend SPAINLAB's legacy to a wider audience and create a significant impact in society. This platform will showcase a number of interviews with the participating architects, related texts, and all the contents of both the catalogue and the exhibition, which will thus be made available to any interested virtual visitor. SPAINLAB can also be followed in Twitter (at @SpainLab and through the hashtag #SpainLab).

A book, SPAINLAB, will review the work of the architects through essays and critical debates. Edited by Inma Maluenda and Enrique Encabo and designed by Juan Roldán, it will contain two important texts written by two members of the scientific committee: one written by Nader Tehrani, Head of the Architecture Department at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), offering a critical review of research in architecture in Spain; and the other, a dialogue between Hans Ulbrich Obrist and Spain's innovative master Miguel Fisac.

A documentary video on the work of each team, directed by architect Artemio Fochs will be shown during the exhibition and available on the digital platform after the opening.

Award winning graphic designer Alberto Corazón is the creator of SPAINLAB's graphic identity.

The entire exhibition site has been set up under the coordination of architect Javier Cuesta.

Roland Halbe, Luis Asín and Hisao Suzuki, well-known photographers of Spanish architecture, will be in charge of documenting the exhibition.



On the curators, Débora Mesa and Antón García-Abril

Débora Mesa and Antón García-Abril are architects and partners at Ensemble Studio, a multidisciplinary team with a solid research background on the lookout for new approaches to architectural space and building technologies.

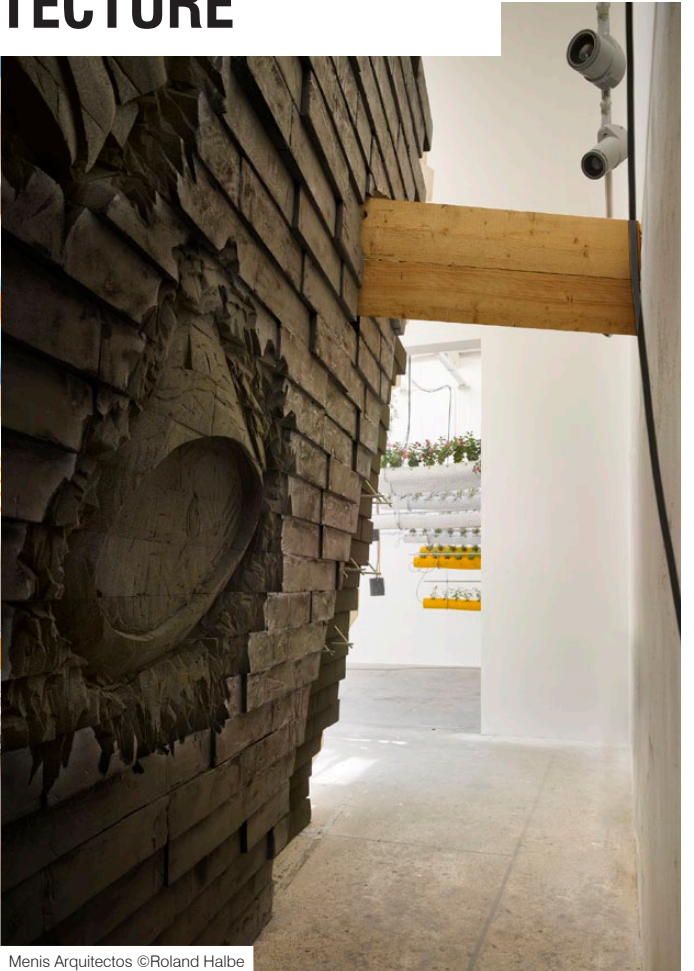
Beside their professional career, both architects keep a strong involvement in the teaching community through their lectures and their research. They founded Fundación Ciudad Positiva (Positive City Foundation) in 2009, with the aim of forwarding their views on urban development. They are in the process of setting up a POPLab (Prototypes of Prefabrication Laboratory) at MIT, where Antón has just been appointed full professor.



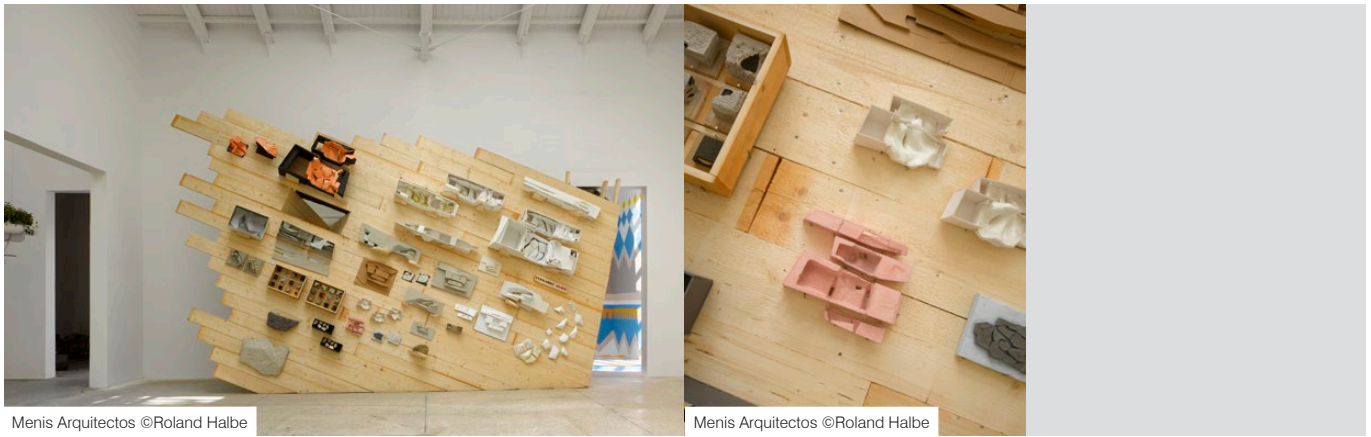
SEVEN APPROACHES TO INNOVATION IN ARCHITECTURE



Ecosistema Urbano ©Roland Halbe



Menis Arquitectos ©Roland Halbe



INTO THE WALL by Menis Arquitectos

www.menis.es

Menis Arquitectos' proposal for the Venice Biennale 2012 allows the visitor to get inside a recently-formed concrete wall, an act made possible by the installation's geometry.

Outside, the wooden formwork is the first warning sign that something is still in the process of setting on the other side. The installation's geometry makes an already existing pavilion wall 'disappear' with a single gesture, as if dematerializing the geometric rigidity of the whole.

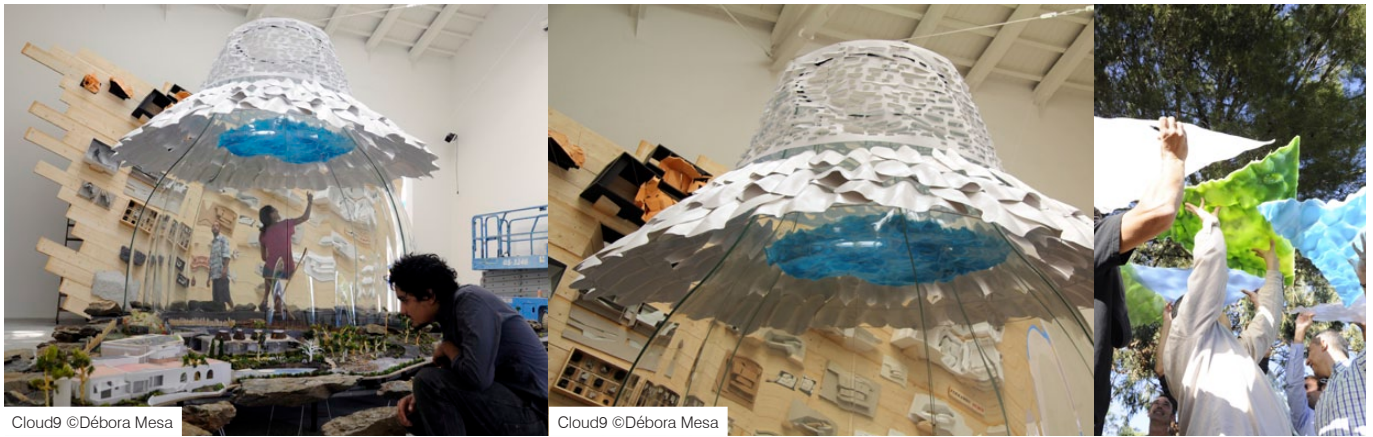
At the ends, visitors are able to get inside this wall and to experience, through the forms of the concrete, an insight into the architectural philosophy of Menis Arquitectos. The texture of this material is emphasized through the artisanal craftsmanship of mass and void, which encourages the visitor in this journey through timeless architecture. The installation shows the new construction system of Menis Arquitectos, Foamglas, Lafarge and Shöeck in the Nowa Sala Koncertowa na Jordankach. This new combination of materials allows a double-skinned construction of reinforced concrete, structural on the inside and suspended on the outside. It is an innovation in architecture.

Menis Arquitectos

Menis Arquitectos was born in 2005, following the decision of Fernando Menis to dissociate himself from Artengo Menis Pastrana. Since then, the studio has received different national and international recognitions after winning numerous competitions, such as those for the Island Auditorium of La Palma, the Urban Plan of Puerto de la Cruz, the Auditorium of Morro Jable, the Aurum House of Taiwan and the Music Palace of Torun, and after receiving notable distinctions such as the Prize for Innovation in Concrete, from the Foundation Ambuja Knowledge of India, the Manuel de Oraá Prize for Architecture, the Prize for the best Cultural Future plan at the World Architectural Festival (WAF), and after twice being a finalist for the European Prize for Urban Public Space.

Menis Arquitectos has for several years been devoting a large proportion of its time and effort to the investigation of different themes connected with architecture in the hope of widening the limits of the profession of architect, reflecting on subjects such as the phenomenon of tourism, bioclimatism, research into new materials and the organization of workshops in which students, teachers and specialists from different fields all participate, with the objective of reflecting on these and other issues. Fernando Menis has lectured in centres all over the world, and has been a teacher in different Schools. Since 2011 he has been a Final Year Project teacher at the Universidad Europea de Madrid's School of Architecture.

Team: Fernando Menis (architect) Victor Lledó, Moritz Krefter, Dulce Xerach



IT'S ALL ABOUT PARTICLES: ELBULLIFOUNDATION by Cloud 9 (Enric Ruiz-Geli)

www.e-cloud9.com

Particle Architecture Thesis

1. Particle theory impregnates Cloud9's architecture from the very inception of each project to its final construction
2. This theory apprehends reality from the particle level. Said particles give out information that enables the interpretation on both material and unmaterial levels.
3. We don't simply register the landscape as a geometric map or through numerical data. 3D laser scan (Tecmolde), PointCloud files, and location weather sensors (Tecnalia) document the landscape in particle form.
4. Particles are an abstract representation of a certain landscape condition over time. Therefore, this representation must be understood as in direct emergence from the landscape itself.
5. Particle work transcends proprietary software. We work with open platforms.
6. Particle work doesn't limit itself to formal development, but, through rapid prototyping and numeric control, it reaches out from the project onto the building phase.
7. Cloud 9's Particle Architecture doesn't distinguish between object and product, building and landscape, sea and mountain. Instead, it conceives reality as performative particles in an empathic understanding between people and nature.

Enric Ruiz-Geli

Enric Ruiz-Geli (Cloud 9) is the architect of VillaNurbs, Media-ICT, el Bulli Foundation, The Millennium Project, VillaBio, among others. His Project Hotel Forest is part of the MoMA collections and his New York Aquarium Project belongs to the FRAC Centre Collection (Fonds Régionaux d'Art Contemporain). The Media-ICT has been awarded "The Best Building of the Year 2011", by WAF (World Architecture Festival 2011). Media-ICT is a Net Zero Building, built at a construction market cost of 1.300 euros / m². Enric Ruiz-Geli has created 6 patents, around the living lab VillaNurbs, from 2002 until 2011, as a masterpiece of Digital Fabrication.

Enric Ruiz-Geli has lectured and works with labs such as Angewandte, AA, UCLA, Art Center in Pasadena, CITA, RMIT, MIT, Bartlett, ETHZ, and the IE School of Architecture among others. Cloud 9's agenda is to look at PILOT Projects in global warming scenarios. Enric Ruiz-Geli is master unit at the AA, where he focuses on this global warming scenarios research towards a green agenda. Cloud 9 has signed "knowledge contracts" to transfer the Media-ICT knowledge in Taipei, Kuwait, Moscow and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States. He belongs to the Advisory Committee of Tecnalia, Inspiring Business. He is also a member of the design team led by Jeremy Rifkin to develop the TIR (Third Industrial Revolution) in cities.

Team: Enric Ruiz-Geli (architect) Mireia Luzárraga, Edouard Cabay, Pablo Ros (head office); Víctor Llanos, Joan Escanelles, Albert Cuesta, Víctor Molina, Mila Moskalenko, Marga Ruiz, Aurelio Dorransoro, Konrad Hofmann, Nora Graw, SamerYamani (project architects); Carla Bach, Víctor Comeche, Marcos Zaragoza, Marta Arranz, Alberto Delgado (collaborating architects); Mireia Pallarés, Juan Ávila, Elena Herbas, Pep Bou



DREAM YOUR CITY a global creative set of new tools to rethink and transform local urban life

by Ecosistema Urbano

www.ecosistemaurbano.org

Dream your city attempts to recreate Hamar's dreamhamar urban building process, and to suggest its participative processes as methodology to be applied to other contexts.

As architects and urban designers who approach the city as a complex and multi-layered phenomenon, we realised that in recent years a deep transformation had occurred in the very way architects interact with city-related issues. We believe that in this new context citizens should somehow be incorporated as active agents.

Ecosistema Urbano is working on the research and development of tools that provide new opportunities for interaction and participation, enhancing creativity and incorporating the new technologies so that different groups can participate in different ways.

At Ecosistema Urbano we learned – by doing – that knowledge and creation are becoming hybrid and widespread phenomena which are transforming traditional closed and fixed structures into open and extremely flexible networked configurations.

It also creates a new field of research and study that we name 'network thinking' and define as a network approach to the creation, design and development of projects, ideas, strategies.

We really believe in people, their inner creativity and the power of collectivity.

Ecosistema Urbano

Ecosistema Urbano is an innovative agency focused on the understanding of the city as a complex phenomenon, from a point of view that lies between architecture, urbanism, engineering and sociology. The team's field of interest is defined by something they call 'creative urban sustainability', from where to react to the present situation of cities through innovation, creativity and particularly action.

Its principal members have been giving workshops and lectures at the most prestigious institutions worldwide (Harvard, Yale, UCLA, Cornell, Iberoamericana, RIBA, Copenhagen, Bergen, Munich, Paris, Milan, Shanghai, Madrid, Buenos Aires, Santiago...) and their work has been nationally and internationally awarded in more than 40 occasions.

In 2005 Ecosistema Urbano received the European Acknowledgement Award from the Holcim Foundation for Sustainable Construction (Geneva, 2005). In 2006, they were awarded the prize of the Architectural Association and the Environments, Ecology and Sustainability Research Cluster (London, 2006). In 2007 they were nominated for the European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture Mies van der Rohe Award "Emerging European Architect" and received the AR AWARD for emerging architecture in London. In 2008 Ecosistema Urbano received the first prize NEXT GENERATION AWARD from the Arquia Próxima Foundation, and in 2009 the Silver Award Europe from the Holcim Foundation for Sustainable Construction.

Team: Ecosistema Urbano (architects) Boamistura + Lugadero (collaborators)



UNTITLED by Sancho-Madrideo Architecture Office

www.sancho-madrideo.com

Our exhibition/installation revolves around two main ideas

- The body of research at the studio, shown in the exhaustive development of working models. The models help visualize how each concept turn into a field in itself
- Final construction, and the intermediate steps to be taken, from concept on paper towards total materialization.

Our exhibition moves through each phase of the work process, from what is purely abstract and theoretical to finished building, through the careful examination of materiality, which is not only a part of the development of each project but an object of research onto itself. This system, by definition, cannot work in a linear way, but it is instead a point of convergence between references and subject matters that appear and reappear, and where the relationship between elements is never univocal, but multiple and they mark the territory for a new field of action.

Sancho-Madrideo Architecture Office (SMAO)

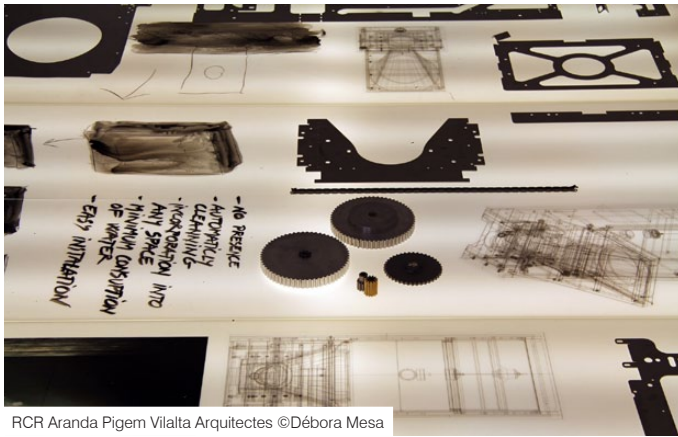
Sol Madrideo and J. C. Sancho began their professional activity as SANCHO-MADRIDEO ARCHITECTURE OFFICE in 1982.

J.C. Sancho is a PhD architect and Full Professor at the Madrid School of Architecture (E.T.S.A.M), Projects Department.

Sol Madrideo is an architect and Projects Lecturer at the School of Architecture of the UEM (Universidad Europea de Madrid).

Their professional activity has been developed from a framework of interests –many times on the sidelines of the prevailing cultural flow– coming as much from the plastic and visual arts as from the realm of thinking and theory. All of this has led them through a working process –in the way of a laboratory– along the last 20 years. A process sustained by a wide map of ideas-themes-projects, on which they focus their interests involving space and its perception. This map –named The Train of Thought– describes the drifts and connections between their themes-architectural projects and finally materializes in their works, where all their research culminates. Their work has been published in Spain and abroad, and has been exhibited, among other venues, at the VII, VIII and XI Biennale di Architettura di Venezia, the Biennial Exhibition of Architecture of Quingpu, the Bienal de Arquitectura de Buenos Aires, the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the National Building Museum in Washington, the National Museum of Shanghai, the Palais the Tokio in Paris, and at different architecture exhibitions in London, Paris, Shanghai, Bogotá, Tokyo, Verona and Madrid. Their works have been awarded the Anthological Prize of Contemporary Architecture of Castilla-La Mancha and many of them have been nominated for several editions of the Mies Van der Rohe Award. Recently the Museum of Contemporary Art of Alicante has been awarded with the “Medalla al Mérito de las Bellas Artes 2011”.

Team: SMAO (Sol Madrideo – Juan Carlos Sancho, architects) Paula del Río, Félix Bellido, Bárbara García, Ana Vinagre, Ascensión Gutiérrez, Beatriz Ramo, Daniel García



RCR Aranda Pigem Vilalta Arquitectes ©Débora Mesa



RCR ARQUITECTES' UNIVERSE, POETICAL SEARCH AND CREATIVITY by RCR Aranda Pigem Vilalta arquitectes

www.rcrarquitectes.es

From the actual to the broad

Our starting premise is showing RCR's creative process, describing it in a universal way, so as to extrapolate it and apply it to any other creative activities.

The gist of the matter is: details change, but attitude remains, and therefore, all finished work shares the same signature and a common background.

We understand the creative process as continuous input flux that takes place in several stages. Each stage shall be demonstrated through one or all the disciplines we work in: architecture, landscape, urbanism, consulting/orientation, industrial design, graphic design, broadcasting, teaching...

Also, during the creative process several instruments will be used, as each one of them is defined by its own unique characteristics: Watercolours (the power of the idea), models (volumetric control), blueprints (linear control), 3D image (atmosphere)...

The stages of our creative process will be reflected through the aforementioned disciplines and instruments.

RCR Aranda Pigem Vilalta arquitectes

Architects Rafael Aranda, Carme Pigem and Ramón Vilalta began their own studio RCR ARQUITECTES in 1987 in Olot. They received the National Award in Architecture in Catalonia in 2005 and are Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres of the République Française since 2008, Honorary Fellows of the American Institute of Architecture (AIA) since 2010, and most recently they earned the International Award 2011 "Belgian Building Awards".

Since 1989 they have been architectural consultants to the Natural Park of National Interest, in the Volcanic Zone of La Garrotxa. During their careers they have tutored in Urbanism (1989-2001, Vilalta) and Studio Projects (1992-2004, Pigem).

They have won several international competitions (the most recent, the Condal linear park in Barcelona, the Waalsekrook mediathèque in Belgium, the Soulages Museum in France, the crematorium of Hofheide in Belgium and The Edge Business Bay in Dubai). They have received various distinctions for their work (most notably in the European Union Mies Van der Rohe awards, in which they were three times finalists). Several of their works have been exhibited at galleries such as Toto Gallery.Ma (Global Ends). Furthermore their works have been published in noteworthy architectural journals such as "AV" no. 137, "El Croquis" no. 138 (V), RCR Arquitectes 2003-2007 Los atributos de la naturaleza, and "RCR" by C3 Design, Korea.

Team: RCR Aranda Pigem Vilalta (architects), Lagares, Artec3 Studio (collaborators)



AL AIRE (BETWEENAIR) by Selgascano

www.selgascano.net

Betweenair is a long imagined living installation that has finally been built thanks to our attendance at Biennale de Venezia. It's conceived as an architectural and biological lab that will process data in that will work with the goal and in the hope we are able to redefine our inbred preconceptions on what is natural and to develop new ways of gaining back terrain for nature.

Maybe because nature seems to be often the matter least altered by technology, the relationship between both has always been unidirectional: technology has always been used as a way of detracting from nature. And in turn this has changed both concepts into opposites.

By using technology Al Aire attempts to re-use existing technology so that nature can sprawl. We are using technologies coming from the world of agriculture as architecture tends to be, out of its own nature, a slow field in terms of innovation. We are using new containers that allow the growth of plants in a very small surface of substrata. We are also working with hydroponics as to investigate the idea of earthless cultivation. Out of all this, a new movable agriculture emerges, and we will draw conclusions both in the botanical and architectural fields, by using a wide variety of plants and by working on a new paradigm of elastic, adaptative architecture.

Selgascano

José Selgas. Born in Madrid 1965
 Graduated Architect from ETSA Madrid 1992
 Worked with Francesco Venecia on Naples in 1994-95
 Rome Prize of the Spain Academy of Fine Arts in Rome 1997-98

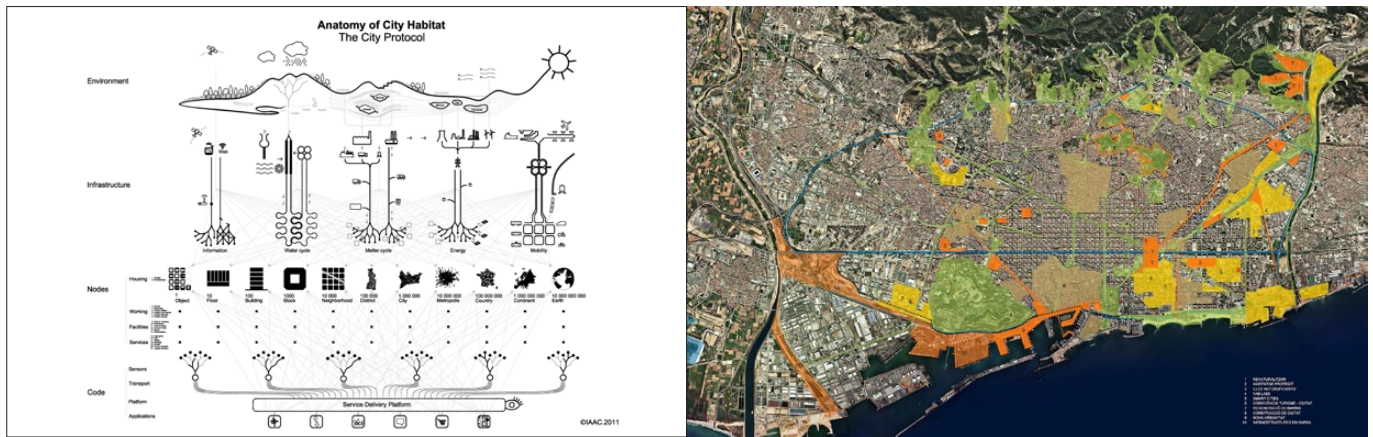
Lucía Cano. Born in Madrid 1965
 Graduated Architect from ETSA Madrid 1992
 Worked with Julio Cano Lasso until 1996
 Member of Cano Lasso Studio since 1997 until 2003

Selgascano works in Madrid. It is a small atelier and its intention is to remain so. They have never taught at any university and they tend not to give lectures in order to focus intensely on their projects. They center their work on the construction process and investigation, treating it as a continuous listening to the largest possible number of elements involved in it, from manufacture to installation. They have exhibited at the MoMA in NY, the Guggenheim in NY, the Venice Biennale, the GA Gallery in Tokyo, The MOT (Museum of Contemporary Art) of Tokyo and the Design Museum of London.

Their main finished projects are:

Badajoz Congress Center and Auditorium (1999-2006), Cartagena Auditorium and Congress Center (2001-2011), Plasencia Congress Center and Auditorium (2005-2012), Merida youth movement factory building (2008-2011), Silicon house. Madrid (2003-2007), Selgascano studio. Madrid (2006-2008)

Team: Selgascano (architects) Josep Selga (biologist); Juan Laureano;(agronomist); Toni Prats. (design and installation); Gilberto Ruiz. (models and installation); Mario Escudero y Alicia Cervera.



BARCELONA AS A COMMON GROUND

by Vicente Guallart, Chief Architect, City of Barcelona

www.guallart.com | is.gd/habitaturba

Barcelona is a Common Ground. It is the city where Cerdà coined the term ‘urbanism’ in 1859, and the city that in recent years has developed the celebrated ‘Barcelona model’, which enjoyed its period of greatest splendour during the Olympic years — a city in which every example of economic and social progress is embodied in the public space. Now, twenty years later, all over the world the urban condition is facing the new challenges of the information age. This being so, Barcelona is renewing its commitment to its continuing tradition of innovation at times of paradigm shift, and has developed two new mantras: “Barcelona wants to be a city of productive neighbourhoods at a human pace, making up a hyperconnected city of zero emissions.” “Many slow cities in a smart city.” With this in view, Barcelona is acting on two levels. On the one hand the city is continuing the projects initiated in recent years in order to generate urban innovation in neighbourhoods such as 22@, La Sagrera and Plaça de les Glòries, and is promoting initiatives that will transform the concrete reality of its citizens by means of projects such as Portes de Collserola, Els Tres Turons, Nou Barris or Can Batlló, in which the architecture will necessarily interact with a range of disciplines related to the transformation of the human habitat. On the other hand Barcelona is promoting the development of a City Protocol, in order to make understanding of the construction of the city common ground for cities, universities, companies and organizations. In the 21st century, our common ground is that people will be the cities in which we live and work, in which the real economy is produced. The City Protocol will therefore be a global, open platform, comprehensive and progressive, where cities will share knowledge, projects and policies, define indicators and common evaluation systems, and promote the transformation of our cities on the basis of ecological principles and collective progress.

Vicente Guallart, Chief Architect, City of Barcelona

Vicente Guallart is the Chief Architect of the city of Barcelona and director of the new Department of Urban Habitat.

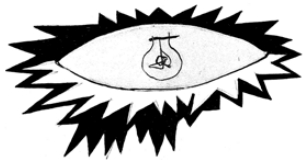
He works with the new mayor of Barcelona Xavier Trias, the deputy mayor of Urban Habitat Antoni Vives, and also with an important group of professionals from the fields of urbanism, housing, environment, infrastructures and information technologies on the development and regeneration of Barcelona.

He was co-founder of the Institute of Advanced Architecture of Catalonia (IAAC), which he directed during its first ten years.

Vicente Guallart is a pioneer of the interaction between architecture, nature, and technology, proposing new paradigms based on urban, social and cultural conditions emerging from the information society. He also created his own professional studio, Guallart Architects. Now directed by María Díaz, it is a widely recognized architectural practice that has achieved numerous international awards, as well as having participated in several monographic and collective exhibitions. He is the author of numerous books, including *La ciudad autosuficiente* (RBA 2012), *GeoLogics* (Actar 2010), *Sociópolis*, *Media House Project* and *Geocat*, and co-author of the *Metapolis Dictionary of Advanced Architecture* and the research study *HiperCatalunya*. He participated at the Venice Biennale in 2000, 2004 and 2008.

Team: Vicente Guallart (Chief architect, City of Barcelona) Equipo de Hàbitat Urbà. Ajuntament de Barcelona

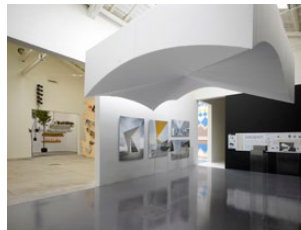
High resolution images may be downloaded free of charge from:
http://www.patinunezagency.com/venice_biennale_spainlab



SPAINLAB Logo de Alberto Corazón



SPAINLAB ©Roland Halbe



SPAINLAB ©Roland Halbe



SPAINLAB



SPAINLAB



Menis Arquitectos



Menis Arquitectos



Cloud9 (Enric Ruiz-Geli) ©Débora Mesa



Cloud9 (Enric Ruiz-Geli) ©Débora Mesa



Cloud9 (Enric Ruiz-Geli)



Cloud9 (Enric Ruiz-Geli)



Cloud9 (Enric Ruiz-Geli)



Ecosistema Urbano



Ecosistema Urbano



SMAO, Sancho-Madrirdejos Architecture Office ©Roland Halbe



SMAO, Sancho-Madrirdejos Architecture Office ©Roland Halbe



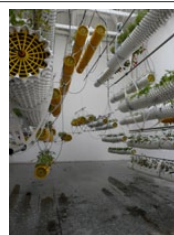
RCR Aranda Pigem Vilalta arquitectes



RCR Aranda Pigem Vilalta arquitectes ©Débora Mesa



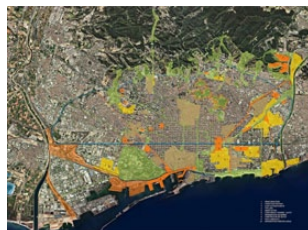
RCR Aranda Pigem Vilalta arquitectes ©Débora Mesa



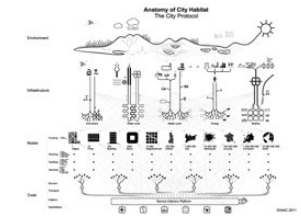
Selgascano



Selgascano

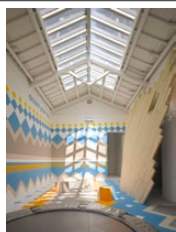


Vicente Guallart, Chief Architect, City of Barcelona

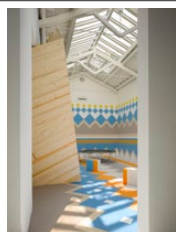


Vicente Guallart, Chief Architect, City of Barcelona

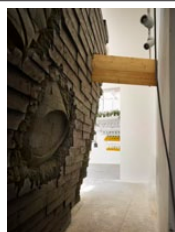
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Ecosistema Urbano
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Menis Arquitectos
Ref. RH2107-0013



Menis Arquitectos
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Menis Arquitectos
Ref. RH2107-0018



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Selgascano
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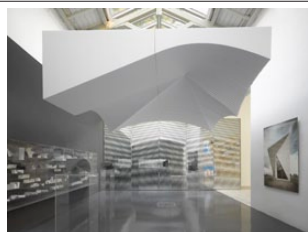
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SMAO, Sancho-Madrídejos Architecture
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SMAO, Sancho-Madrídejos Architecture
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Ref. RH2107-0031



SMAO, Sancho-Madrídejos Architecture
Office
Ref. RH2107-0036

If you would like a **guided visit to the pavillion** with the curators or the architects or wish to contact them for an **interview**, please get in touch with:

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