

BEYOND THE SACRED BUILDING: ARCHITECTURE AND EVANGELIZATION

3rd International Conference on Contemporary Religious Architecture

San Juan Foundation · University of Seville · Archdiocese of Seville

Seville, 14-16 November 2013

1. Introduction

Architecture and evangelization have often been intimately related in a way that we could describe as «not very orthodox». In fact, in all passed periods of time, Christian architecture has evolved taking as a starting point the missionary boost and answering the expectations of the institution it serves and represents as well as its specific programme: preach the Gospel and baptize every creature (Mc 16:15). Father **Capellades**, director of the L'Art Sacré Magazine, remembered it more than one hundred years ago with these words: «This is a war, and it does not matter whether the churches are nice or ugly, as long as they can evangelize the world» (Conversaciones de Arquitectura Religiosa, 1965).

Benedict XVI recently claimed that the Catholic Church will only be progressive if it is missionary. During the XVI century, the Mexican massive evangelization drove the Spanish missionaries to suggest, more or less consciously, new praying spaces called *indian chapels* or *open chapels*. Circumstances -and not theoretical reflection- managed to fix the model, making it survive in time until it became, for many, the most original architectural contribution of the American culture until the arrival of the skyscrapers.

Likewise, Pope **John Paul II**'s traveling around the world, coming from his deep preaching activity, gave rise to new architectural spaces, themselves unexpected, derived from the missionary breath that characterized his long pontificate.

That is why we could wonder: What shapes does the ultramodern religious architecture adopt, the one found in the front line of the mission? What the expectations are from the Christian worship spaces regarding the new pastoral trends? Does the architecture as discipline have resources to fulfill these expectations? What new architectural innovations are being launched?

In the realm of religious architecture, because of the dramatic technological and social changes in the last few years, the controversy created by applying the liturgical reforms promoted by the Vatican II Council was in certain way overwhelmed by the events. «After all –concludes **Marc Fumaroli**- it is easier to attend a big mass in front of a giant screen installed outside St. Peter in Rome or Notre-Dame in Paris than inside the nave» (Paris-New York-Paris, 2010).

In the context of the Year of Faith in which the Catholic Church is immersed right now, the 3rd International Conference on Contemporary Religious Architecture, held in

Seville, on 14th, 15th and 16th of November 2013, aims at becoming a meeting point for all the researchers interested in these topics.

2. Topics

- Open air altars for events attended by a large number of people.
- Large liturgical containers for mass meetings.
- Official pavilions of The Holy See or of religious institutions in thematic or world's fairs.
- Permanent worship spaces in universities, ships, military bases, airports, sports centers, international fairs, exhibitions, etc.
- Temporary worship spaces in parks, beaches, shopping centers, seasonal tourist resorts, etc.
- Worship spaces and new ecclesiastical shades.
- Worship spaces for emergency situations.
- Churches in countries with Christian minority.

Further reflection

Referring to the *Global-Art-Fusion* action, carried out on the 12th of January, 1985, by Joseph Beuys (Düsseldorf), Andy Warhol (New York) and Kaii Higashiyama (Tokyo), Maribel Alba Dorado recently commented:

«Nowadays, we observe how the media culture starts to draw new virtual sceneries inhabited only by men, where distances become shorter, to a point of turning into instants, and the images are played in such way that they are no longer anchored to a precise place, but wandering randomly around the world.

The new communication media have altered the spatial relations with the territory that cities held for centuries. The contemporary city has split up in multiple fragments of time and space that makes such urban nucleus coincide not only with one with physical presence, but also with the one shaped by the information streams (...), parallel to the evolution of the contemporary individual and his influential virtual presence.

However, in spite of living in a more and more diverse society, ubiquitous due to the media culture, able to foster multiple presences and simultaneous experiences, we developed, at the same time, deep feelings of isolation and loneliness. Today, more than ever before, people long to belong to a place, a group»
(<http://eltiempodellobo.blogspot.com>, 28/10/2010).

3. Organization

Organizing Committee

- Esteban Fernández-Cobián · University of A Coruña · *Chair*

PhD in Architecture (2001, CSIC Prize). Professor at the Architecture University of A Coruña, Visiting Professor at Università di Bologna (2008) and member of the Scientific Committee of Fondazione Frate Sole (Pavia). He is author of the monographs *Architectures of the Holiness. Final report and Project.* (2009), *The holy space in the contemporary Spanish architecture* (2005), *Fray Coello of Portugal, Dominican and architect* (2001) and *A Coruña. Architectural Guide* (1998), plus several articles and papers presented at International Conferences. He is the editor of *Academic Bulletin. Research and Contemporary Architecture Journal* (www.boletinacademico.com).

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- Pablo Millán Millán · University of Seville

Master degree in Social Environment Management. Master degree in Historical Architecture and Heritage. Architect Association Foundation Prize for the best academic record. Collaborator in Alberto Campo Baeza's architecture office. Nowadays, freelance, working with Felipe Palomino González. Correspondent in a wide range of architecture journals (*Scalae*, *A&V*, *Arqvipa*, etc.) Honorary Assistant Professor in the Projects Department of the Architecture University of Seville. Member of the research group IN-GENTES.

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Scientific Committee

- Andrea Longhi · Polytechnic of Turin
- Eduardo Delgado Orusco · Polytechnic University of Madrid
- Giorgio della Longa · Alma Mater Studiorum-University of Bologna
- Mercé Gambús Saiz · University of the Balearic Islands
- Victoriano Saiz Gutiérrez · University of Seville
- Walter Zahner · Curator at the Bishops Conference of Germany
- Zorán Vukoszávlyev · University of Technology and Economics Budapest

Secretariat

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4. Registration

Registration Fees

- Regular registration: 150 €
- Early Registration Discount (Before the 1st of July 2013): 120 €.
- Student Discount (with accreditation): 90 €. There are 10 grants worth 50 € each for students.
- Additional visits modules: 20 €

Registrations will be made via e-mail to the Conference Secretariat, attaching the bank receipt of the transfer.

The price includes lunch for the days of 14th and 15th, as well as the closing ceremony dinner, on Friday, 15th of November.

We made a request to The University of Seville to award two free credits to those attendants to the Conference who apply for them.

Attendance / participation certificates will be issued.

Accommodation

There are plenty hotels in Seville; nevertheless it exists the option of cheap accommodation in a Hall of Residence of the University of Seville, situated close to the Conference site.

- Colegio Mayor Hernando Colón (c/ Sor Gregoria de Santa Teresa, 0 - 41012 Sevilla). Telephone number: +34-954 296 799

Where is the Conference Hall

Assembly Room of the Metropolitan Seminary of Seville. (c/ Tarfia s/n. - 41012 Sevilla).

5. Programme

The detailed programme of the event will be published soon.

The 14th y 15th of November will be dedicated to presentations of papers and panel boards. Two more plenary conferences are programmed for those days, as well as a lunch session.

The 16th of November will be fully dedicated to additional visits.

Additional visits

Coordinator: Pablo Millán Millán

Maximum number of participants: 25

Thursday, 15th of November, 2013 (*lunch session*)

- Metropolitan Seminary of Seville, José Antonio Carbajal Navarro 1992/99.

Saturday, 16th of November, 2013

- Spiritual Retreat Home. El Garrobo (Seville), Emilio Ambasz 1974/2006.
- Santa María de la Sede Cathedral, Juan del Castillo 1401-1507; visit to the roofs.

6. How to participate

You may participate to the conference with Papers or Board Panels.

Papers

Those interested in participating with a paper must send an abstract (300 words) and a summarised CV (150 words) to the Conference Secretariat.

- Deadline: 30st of June, 2013

The papers will have a máximum length of 2000 words, written in Word (doc or rtf) format. NOTE: docx format is EXCLUDED.

A maximum of 20 images in independent jpg files, referred to at the end of the text, (Fig. 01) may be included.

All the bibliographical references will be adjusted to the criteria established in The Chicago Style (Notes and Bibliography). A list of selected papers will be published in this web on the 15th of July, 2013. Once the Conference has finished all the accepted papers will be published in a digital journal with a specifically assigned ISSN.

Board Panels

The second modality to take part in the Conference will be the Panel – Board format.

A PRAYER AND SILENCE SPACE will be planned, adaptable to diverse urban circumstances, where one can attend individually or in group, to retreat in silence and

worship the Eucharist. The site must provide the possibility to celebrate Catholic worshipping events. Versatility, portability and iconic capacity will be valued.

The project will be submitted in a single DIN A1 vertical panel, which will include maps, images and a small text (250 words maximum).

- Deadline: 15th of October, 2013.

The Project will be sent to the Conference Secretariat in two formats: digital pdf format (via e-mail) and physical-rigid format (by post).

All the Conference participants will be able to vote the best design, which will be registered as such in the records.

Languages

Spanish and English.

During the Conference, there will be simultaneous translation.

Key dates

- 30 June 2013 · Presentation of the papers.
- 15 July 2013 · Publication of the selected papers (reading and proceedings).
- 15 October 2013 · Reception of the full papers and panel boards.
- 14-16 November 2013 · Conference is held.

7. Previous Conferences

The papers, communications and round-table debates of the two previous Conferences are available in pdf format both in Spanish and English (www.arquitecturareligiosa.com).

1st International Conference on Contemporary Religious Architecture

Sacred Architecture: Memory and Project · Ourense, 27-29 September 2007.

Also available: Esteban Fernández-Cobián (coord.), *Arquitecturas de lo sagrado. Memoria y proyecto*, 2009, ISBN 978-84-9745-405-6

2nd International Conference on Contemporary Religious Architecture

Between Concept and Identity · Ourense, 12-14 November 2009

8. Promoters

Patrons

- Archdiocese of Seville · www.archisevilla.org
- San Juan Foundation · www.fundacionsanjuan.es
- University of Seville

Sponsors

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- Foundation for the Architectural Research and Development, Seville.FIDAS) · www.fidas.es
- SARUS (Religious Assistance Service of the University of Seville) · <http://servicio.us.es/sarus/>