

PROJECT FOCUS: 27th November:

Museum Building | University of Navarra by Rafael Moneo

ISSUE 19

ARCHITECT: Rafael Moneo

SCOPE: 692 auditorium chairs

COMPLETION: October 2014

Link to the video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d0rU4J2PxNk&feature=youtu.be>

01 THE PROJECT

The **University of Navarra** is a private pontifical university based at the southeast border of Pamplona, Spain. It was founded in 1952 by St. Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer, the founder of Opus Dei, as a corporate work of the apostolate of Opus Dei.

At the present time, they have 9 research facilities in the University of Navarra. University Clinic of Navarra, Center for Applied Medical research, applied Pharmacobiology, Modern and Contemporary History, Technical investigations of Guipúzcoa, Biomedical investigation and Development, Nutrition and Bioengineering, Institute of Topical Medicine, Institute for Culture and Society.

Now, in 2014, a new museum has been built and its opening will be in January 2015. The museum will, apart from housing an art and photography collection, also incorporate its performing arts activities. The art collection, considered as one of the greatest regarding contemporary Art of Spain, includes works of Pablo Picasso, Mark Rothko and Wassily Kandinsky, among other authors, has been donated to the University by María Josefa Huarte Beaumont.

The architect in charge of the project is Pritzker prize winner (1996), **Rafael Moneo**. The museum has been designed as the common grounds between the different Faculties, Departments and Schools, and it will represent a new centre of reference for the University.

Poltrona Frau Contract has proudly supplied the auditorium chairs for the 692 seat auditorium for this extraordinary project. The chair has been designed personally by Rafael Moneo and was given the name "Circa" by Moneo.

The precious collaboration between the Spanish architect and Poltrona Frau goes back many years now: the first joint project was the **Prado Museum** extension. Subsequently

Poltrona Frau has worked side-by-side with Moneo in many other extraordinary projects such as the **Toledo Congress Center** and recently the **Princeton University** in New Jersey.

02 THE AUDITORIUM

The auditorium covers a very important part from the museum's scenic programme. Concerts, theatre, dance performances, conferences from companies and academic events will be held inside.

The 195 m² stage has an orchestra pit with a band shell, a rehearsal room and technical such as 4k cinema projection for 3D, led lighting and streaming audio recorder possibilities.

The **chair model**, that has been chosen for the auditorium, combines a sophisticated design with function that appeals to those with high aesthetic standards. The seat and backrest are differently structured, whilst the seat back is in painted moulded aluminium, the backrest is made from moulded curved solid wood. This auditorium chair is another example of the unique craftsmanship and specific know-how of Poltrona Frau Contract in the development of fixed seating, providing tailor-made and highly personalized solutions meeting the highest acoustic requirements.

The **museum building** is divided into three floors covering a total of 11,000 m². It has 12 exhibition rooms, with an exhibition space of around 3,000 m², an auditorium with 692 seats, 3 workshops, a restaurant, a library, a classroom, two projection rooms, offices and warehouses, as well as the hall, the foyer, the lobbies and other amenities.

The design of the museum takes into account the entire context of the university. The museum is characterized by its multidisciplinary approach to art. As it will be constructed at the heart of the University, it will be surrounded by a variety of types of knowledge and learning, which will help to bring about research based on synergies. The Museum plans to participate and implement learning programs in order to foment the university community and service the Navarre community.

03 THE ARCHITECT

José Rafael Moneo Vallés (born May 9. Tudela, Navarra, 1937) is a Spanish architect. He won the Pritzker Prize for architecture in 1996. He studied at the ETSAM, Technical University of Madrid (UPM) from which he received his architectural degree in 1961. From 1958 to 1961 he worked in the office in Madrid of the architect Francisco Javier Sáenz de Oíza. He has taught architecture at various locations around the world and from 1985 to 1990 was the chairman of Harvard Graduate School of Design, where he is the first Josep Lluís Sert Professor of Architecture. He became Academic Numerary in the Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando in Madrid in May 1997.

Spanish constructions of his design include the renovation of the Villahermosa Palace (Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum) in Madrid, the National Museum of Roman Art in Mérida, an expansion of the Madrid Atocha railway station, the Diestre Factory in Zaragoza, Pilar and Joan Miró Foundation in Majorca the headquarters of the Bankinter (again, in Madrid), Town Hall in Logroño. He also designed the annex to the Murcia Town Hall, which was

completed in 1998. His latest works are the enlargement of the Prado Museum, the extension of the Bank of Spain, an almost totally mimetic reproduction of the existing building and the extension of the Madrid Atocha railway station 2011.

Some of Moneo's prominent works in the US include the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles, the Davis Art Museum at Wellesley College in Massachusetts and the Audrey Jones Beck Building (an expansion of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston). Moneo also designed the Chace Center, a new building for the Rhode Island School of Design. Moneo's most recent work is the Northwest Corner Building (formerly the Interdepartmental Science Building) at Columbia University in New York City, which first opened in December 2010.

Moneo is in possession of prestigious international awards including the Prize of architecture Arnold W. Brunner Memorial (1993) of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Schock Prize in Visual Arts (1993) in Stockholm, the Pritzker Prize (1996), the Antonio Feltrinelli (1998) of the National Academy of Lincei in Rome and Mies van der Rohe (2001) of Barcelona.

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