



MATERIA Y FORMA

X International Conference
on White Architecture

RIPOLLTIZON
UNAMUNIZVIEGAS
KARAMUK KUO

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Universitat Politècnica de València

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VALENCIA



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ÇIMSA
DANDO FORMA AL FUTURO

The Cátedra Blanca Valencia welcomes back one of its most beloved professional dissemination activities, the Tenth International Conference on White Architecture, **Materia y Forma**. In this year 2023 the conference has been condensed into a single day, **9th March**, in order to facilitate the organisational capacity of the attendees. Moreover, the fact that they are being held on a Thursday - a day reserved for culture at the ETSA-UPV and with less teaching workload - makes it easier for students, the main target audience of these conferences, to take part.

Three studios have been selected and three locations have been featured in this journey through fair-faced concrete architecture: Spain, Brazil and Switzerland. The studios are not only connected by the use of concrete as the relevant material for their projects, but also by a shared commitment to contemporary architecture based on local resources and knowledge, sensitive to the site and sustainably designed.

The architecture studio **RIPOLL-TIZÓN** from Mallorca works with space and materials with the Mediterranean climate, light and breeze in mind. With extraordinary formal sensitivity and awareness of scale, they combine the ceramic tradition and whitewashed surfaces with fair-faced concrete elements that reinforce the composition and structure of their buildings. The São Paulo-based Brazilian studio **UNAMUNIZVIEGAS**

approaches teaching and practice, architecture and urbanism, as a continuous investigation of each situation, method, geography and culture. It understands the working process as a reaction to a changing context that adapts to people's lives. For this reason, the formal solutions are varied, but in almost all of them, fair-faced concrete is used, executed with technical criteria and precision. The Swiss studio **KARAMUK KUO**, based in Zurich, also combines teaching and professional practice, designing and building with exquisite elegance. They work on architectures of very different scales, shapes, compositions, materialities, where fair-faced concrete, used both in exteriors and interiors, interacts with the void and configures an ethereal atmosphere detached from its solid character.

Three cutting-edge, contemporary and committed studios, from whom we can continue to learn about great architecture. So I hope we can all enjoy projects that are committed to sustainable materiality and spatial definition rooted in a given context; architectures that combine tradition and modernity and contribute to environmental, economic, cultural and social sustainability.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all of those who have collaborated in this edition -the School of Architecture of Valencia, students, technicians, publishers, designers-, with a special mention to the role of Çimsa Cementos España SAU as a sponsor of "our" Cátedra Blanca Valencia.

Laura Lizondo Sevilla

Director of Cátedra Blanca Valencia

Valencia, March 2023

The Cátedra Blanca of the School of Architecture of the Universitat Politècnica de València, in collaboration with Çimsa, is organising the Tenth International Conference on White Architecture **Materia y Forma**; an event that has been repeated every two years to fulfil the successful programme of the Cátedra Blanca. A collaboration of which we are particularly proud and which has made it possible for us to have this monographic book in our hands today.

Thanks to all of us who participate in its activities, the Cátedra Blanca, with its programme of activities, workshops, publications and seminars, has become a national and international reference for outstanding architecture in concrete. What began as a forum aimed at students –to introduce them to their future profession, put them in contact with the best architects who build with concrete and open their eyes to the infinite world of possibilities offered by this material– is now an international meeting point, bringing together experts from the sector, architects, professionals, developers and builders, under the auspices of the Universitat Politècnica de Valencia and the School of Architecture.

Therefore, thanks to the outstanding work carried out, once again, by the director of the Cátedra Blanca, Dr. Laura Lizondo Sevilla and all the members of her team, this Tenth Conference on **Materia y Forma**, once again surprises us with the projects carried out by the architectural studios of **RIPOLL-TIZÓN** from Spain, **UNAMUNIZVIEGAS** from Brazil and **KARAMUK KUO** from Switzerland, in keeping with the spirit in which the longest-standing chair of this university was born: architecture, fair-faced concrete, white concrete, and in any part of the world.

The publication brings together some of the magnificent work brought to life by these three studios, and highlights the properties of concrete to disseminate its applications, designs, possibilities, opportunities and uses in this changing world. Concrete, and white concrete, is no longer just a durable, robust, strong, flexible material that adapts to any medium, environment or budget. Today it is not only an indispensable product for construction, but also a material for life, due to its influence on the energy consumption of built elements and its CO₂ absorption qualities, thereby contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gases.

This publication, which adds to the extensive library published by the Cátedra Blanca over the years, aims to demonstrate these arguments and to inspire today's architecture students, the future architects of tomorrow, to build in concrete and white concrete, with a durable and long-lasting material.

For Çimsa España it is a privilege to be able to participate in all the activities of the Cátedra Blanca and to make Valencia and its School of Architecture the nerve centre of the finest architecture and to introduce concrete to future architects in the best possible way: in the hands of those who have designed, worked with and embodied it in their projects, turning it into a reality that will last forever.

We would like to thank the entire team of the Cátedra Blanca, the Universitat Politècnica de Valencia, the School of Architecture, its professors, directors, students and the many professionals who always actively participate in all its activities, for their dedication and efforts in helping to present this Tenth Conference **Materia y Forma**.

Çimsa is honoured to continue collaborating in this project.

Javier Fuertes de Gilbert Franco de Espes
Commercial Director, Cimsa Cementos España
Valencia, March 2023

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RIPOLL·TIZON





ARQUIA'S MAIN OFFICE IN PALMA



SOCIAL HOUSING IN IBIZA



HOUSE IN SON PUIG

Pep Ripoll and Juan Miguel Tizón graduated in architecture from Barcelona School of Architecture. They share professional studio since 2002, combining the development of public and private projects with the participation in national and international architecture competitions.

They have received numerous awards in architecture competitions, among others, the first prizes for the refurbishment and extension of Sa Vinyeta building in Menorca, the refurbishment of the building for the Health & Consumers' Council in Mallorca and several social housing buildings in Mallorca and Ibiza.

Their built work has received numerous recognitions, among which stand out the Ciutat de Palma "Guillem Sagrera" Architecture Award 2019 and 2013, the Mallorca Architecture Awards to the best architecture work 2017-19 and 2011-13, the Gubbio Prize 2015 to the best intervention in historic cities of

Europe, the NAN Award 2013 to the best housing construction project, the APLUS Award 2013 to the best residential architecture project and the Menorca architecture Award 2005-2008 to the best architecture work. They have been finalists in the Ugo Rivolta European Architecture Award 2016 and 2013, in the XII Spanish Biennial of Architecture and Urbanism 2013, in the FAD Awards 2013, and the Barbara Cappochin International Architecture Biennial 2013 and they have recently been nominated to the 2022 European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture – Mies van der Rohe Awards.

Their work has been shortlisted and exhibited in the XV Spanish Biennial of Architecture and Urbanism 2020, in the International Biennial of Architecture-Argentina 2016, in the Venice Architecture Biennale 2012 and extensively featured in major national and international architecture publications.

ARQUIA'S MAIN OFFICE IN PALMA

RIPOLL·TIZON

Architects_ Pep Ripoll - Juan Miguel Tizón

Collaborators_ Pablo García, Erik Herrera, Carlos Antón (architects)

Quantity Surveyor_ Toni Arqué

Structural Engineer_ Hima estructuras

Building Services_ Media-Tec

Photography_ José Hevia

Client_ Caja de Arquitectos S.Coop. de Crédito

Contractors_ Movigrup

Gross Floor Area_ 343,36 m²

Start of Design_ 2016

Year of Completion_ 2018

Location_ C/ Cecilio Metelo 12. Palma de Mallorca

Awards_ Idea competition. 2016| 1ST PRIZE

Ciutat de Palma Award 2019| 1ST PRIZE

The commission is an integral renovation accommodating a reference office of the brand Arquia Banca in the city of Palma, Majorca. Located within a pre-existing corner building in residential use, it occupies ground floor and basement areas of comparable irregular geometry and square footage. Exposed front façade is long, has openings determined by structural components and interacts with broad tree-lined pavement functioning as a plaza.

This new office is perceived as an extension and enhancement of the public space. Open, accessible and with a direct interior-exterior relationship, it was intended as a large display exhibiting the banking experience itself. The exposed internal activity progresses within a single space composed of different zones related to each other according to their required degree of privacy and attention.

Structural modifications have been made to, among others, enable access at street level and introduce a void connecting

both storeys. Opening the space up articulates the different areas of the branch, invites natural light into the basement and accommodates a newly-added staircase between the levels.

Spatial arrangement takes advantage of the L-shape of the property and is determined by transitioning from public spaces, located towards the front, to private ones, further away both in plan and section. Finally, confidential and storage facilities are situated at the back against the enclosing wall.

A modest number of materials has been used, all sourced locally. The materiality of the project supplements the spatial proposal. A sequence of pine vaults covers the areas of interaction with the clients. This new ceiling smoothly incorporates the pre-existing pillar grid and aims to create a warm, welcoming atmosphere accompanying the banking experience. Vertical walls employ the use of pine timber as well, in addition to lacquered MDF boards. Lastly, the floor finishes are polished hydraulic tiles and cement, for the areas occupied by clients and remaining ones respectively.





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