

ALBERTO CAMPO BAEZA

Alberto Campo Baeza, one of the most gifted architects who have contributed to the success of Spanish architecture after the Franco regime, was born in Valladolid in 1946. He took his degree in 1971 from the Architecture School of Madrid where he continues his teaching activities as Chairman of Design.

In the early 70's he collaborated with Julio Cano Lasso and then began his independent work, soon attracting the attention of the most specialized international critics. Since his Fene Town Hall (1980) and the School of San Fermín (1985), Campo Baeza has developed a very personal line of architecture based on the use of a material taken both from his own professional experience as well as from other contemporary works, each time refining a language which seeks the maximum simplicity and the systematic reduction of the number of means of the language uses.

The Garcia Marcos House in Valdemoro (Madrid, 1991) and the Gaspar House in Zahora (Cadiz, 1992) represent two essential pieces in the process of Campo Baeza's evolution and probably the height of his investigation during that period of greatest simplicity, with results of tremendous delicacy and elegance. From the formal minimalism of these works, Campo Baeza has moved on in recent years to more complex experiences and to the creation of clearly evocative spaces with the use of more varied materials as compared to those used in the previously mentioned works. These belong to a second phase in this architect's career: his Miesian Research Centre, the Centro Balear de Innovación Tecnológica de Inca (Mallorca, 1995) and above all his headquarters for the Granada Savings and Loan, Caja General de Ahorros de Granada, (2000). In his design and construction of this second building, the architect has proposed a subtle but coherently articulated debate with the lessons of Le Corbusier and has erected his most mature work.

Outside of the professional and academic world in Madrid, Campo Baeza has the virtue of being widely recognized both in his country and abroad, as his intense teaching and lecturing activity shows, as do the numerous exhibitions devoted to his work in Europe and in the United States, despite his youth ("young" naturally, not in the usual sense, given the slow maturation of architects...).

Francesco Dal Co

Note by Francesco Dal Co for the inauguration of the Campo Baeza exhibition at the Basilica de Palladio in Vicenza.