

ON SITE: NEW ARCHITECTURE IN SPAIN

(Catalogue introduction)

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In recent years Spain has witnessed an extraordinary expansion of its built environment. *On-Site: New Architecture in Spain* highlights thirty-five projects that are or soon will be in construction throughout the country, presented against a backdrop of eighteen recently completed buildings. This surge of creativity stretches from the Canary Islands to the Mediterranean to the Pyrenees, and can be seen in designs ranging from a single-family house — the universal crucible for radical experimentation — to what was until recently the largest construction site in Europe, Madrid's Barajas Airport Terminals. Such diversity is also evident in those designing this new landscape, from Spanish masters Rafael Moneo, Enric Miralles, and Alberto Campo Baeza to architects from abroad, including Zaha Hadid, Toyo Ito, and Jean Nouvel, as well as a number of emerging practitioners.

Spain continues to redefine itself with a wave of new museums, hospitals, libraries, train stations, housing, stadiums, and more. Francisco Mangado's Congress and Exhibition Center in Ávila, whose sober silhouette echoes the geometry of the city's medieval walls, embodies a compositional and material elegance characteristic of classic modernism. Emilio Tuñón and Luis Mansilla's Museum of Cantabria boasts soaring galleries that take inspiration from their mountainous surroundings. Jürgen Mayer H.'s Metropol Parasol comprises towering organic forms that create public space above Roman ruins in Sevilla, deftly merging old and new. These and other projects illustrate why Spain is increasingly known as the home of some of architecture's most innovative voices who are creating new works of the highest design ambition — many unfolding right before our eyes.