

LESS IS MORE - THE WORK OF ALBERTO CAMPO BAEZA

A GREETING

To host the work of Alberto Campo Baeza in S.R. Crown Hall, Mies' iconic structure for architectural education, is to reaffirm the sensibilities Mies gave to architecture without acquiescing to any particular prescriptions assumed by history. The open plan and widened perspectives of Crown's universal space--that transcendent drafting atelier - offer the appropriate analogue to Campo Baeza's iteration of the Miesian themes.

These buildings demonstrate that an architect's affinity for Mies need not lead to slavish idolatry, but instead optimally becomes a dialogue across decades concerning stringent combinations of space, structure and light. The title of the exhibit, Light is More, indicates the centrifugal force of Mies' dictums, turned towards alternative emphasis by Campo Baeza, with unique resultant forms.

It is a great pleasure to host this important body of work imported, like Mies was, from another shore. This collection offers a contemporary alternative re-establishing Mies' affinities for less, crafted to "almost nothing" so as to contain a building's essence and a compelling message for architecture's potential. This work accompanies the teaching this semester of Campo Baeza as the Morgenstern Visiting Critic, an honorary faculty appointment promoting design excellence and innovation within our Architecture curriculum. Chicago and the IIT College of Architecture welcome with sincere gratitude this visit from Alberto Campo Baeza.

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