

RED AND CUBIC GEODE

About COAM's pavilion at SIMA 04 by Raúl del Valle in Madrid

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Accurate and precise. And beautiful. Closed and red on the outside, like a red cubic geode. Full of air and light inside, like the inside of an illuminated cloud. And all arranged according to the rules of the right angle. This is the small red pavilion that the architect Raúl del Valle has built for the COAM (Colegio Oficial de Arquitectos de Madrid) in the recent SIMA 04 (Madrid Real Estate Exhibition 2004).

The architecture that Mies van der Rohe erected, also inside a large covered enclosure, also at a trade fair, in 1927 in Berlin for the Silk Exhibition, was no larger in size. And the echoes of that little prodigy still resound today.

Or, in contemporary Spanish architecture, the pavilions that represented Spain at the Milan Triennale: in 1951 that of Coderch y Valls and in 1957 that of Carvajal y García de Paredes. Brilliant works of the masters in their youth.

Raúl del Valle's red box contained inside, displayed on luminous translucent panels, a collection of the best contemporary homes that Madrid's best architects have just built.

Raúl del Valle is one of Madrid's most promising young architects. He won first prize in the 2001 European with some radical and beautiful seafront housing towers in Tenerife, which I hope to see built soon. Professor of Projects at the ETSAM since 2000, the same year he represented Spain at the Venice Biennale. His red and cubic geode would well deserve to remain in the memory of these small great works of Architecture.