

RESISTANCE, REFERENCE, PERMANENCE

Luis Fernández-Galiano and *Arquitectura Viva*

2025

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RESISTANCE

If we were to witness a war between architectural magazines I would place *Arquitectura Viva* in the resistance. Resistance to a war it has already won a long time ago.

In 2021, in a gesture of extraordinary generosity they published a special edition entirely devoted to my work, with a print-run of thousands of copies that sold out in such a short time that when I asked for more copies to give to friends, there were none left.

The cover portrayed the iconic image of the House of the Infinite in Tarifa. As for the contents of the issue, I could not have done as well myself. I know that the team involved –José Yuste, Cuca Flores, Raquel Vázquez, Laura Mulas, Gina Cariño and Miguel Fernández-Galiano, among others – threw their hearts and souls into it. I can never thank them enough.

Goodness knows we've seen our share of architectural magazines over the years! And what has become of them? *Arquitectura Viva* has not only stood the test of time, but has reached an unrivalled level of excellence. I can honestly say that it is the best publication that I have ever come across. Without a doubt, a battle well won in the war of architectural magazines.

REFERENCE

How many times, both in Spain and abroad, has *Arquitectura Viva* been mentioned to me as a key reference in the history of contemporary Spanish architecture, and of architecture outside Spain? A look at the back cover of the magazine, with its grid showing all the covers of its previous issues, is both revealing and, in pedagogical terms, highly instructive. Seeing Paredes-Pedrosa (AV 188) next to MVRDV (AV 189-190) is an example of this.

PERMANENCE

And alongside the qualities of resistance and serving as a reference point is its permanence, its durability. While always at the cutting edge, *Arquitectura Viva* has never fallen prey to defending the outlandish to boost its readership. Rigor and logic have always been guiding principles in terms of its editorial criteria. From Aires Mateus (AV 225) to David Chipperfield (AV 209-210). And Sir Norman Foster (AV 200), Le Corbusier (AV 176), Rafael Moneo (AV 249-250), Alvaro Siza (AV 186-187), Miguel Fisac (AV 101), to mention but a few.

Like the very best in architecture, *Arquitectura Viva*, is capable of enduring over time, regardless of passing fashions. Permanence is one of its core values and one that it seems intent on holding onto.

Arquitectura Viva is an outstanding publication from every point of view. It has that magic touch, and its print edition is of such high quality, both in terms of layout and content, that every architect ought to have a copy that they can return to and enjoy over and over again.

Congratulations to *Arquitectura Viva* on its 40 years in existence and to its director and founder Luis Fernández-Galiano who, in addition to being Professor at the School of Architecture of Madrid (ETSAM UPM) and Full Member of the Royal Academy of Fine Arts of San Fernando (RABASF), is a truly legendary figure: resistant, a reference point and a permanent presence in the world of Culture.