

LIKE A BURST OF STARS

On the work of Alejandro Muñoz Miranda

2025

LIKE A BURST OF STARS

On the work of Alejandro Muñoz Miranda

“The sea says the Mexican poet Jaime Sabines, is measured by its waves. And architects by their works. This sea of our younger hell-bent architects is currently a choppy sea of great waves, rising and falling, with all the vigor that is typical of their status and their age. It is only to be hoped that these fierce young architects will, in time, gradually succeed in caressing the sands of the new millennium with the calmer waves of their more mature architecture”.

These were the concluding words of a text *“Resistid Malditos”* (Resist, Damn It!) that I wrote 25 years ago for the 2000 Venice Biennale which I had curated. In it I was referring to the young Spanish architects of the time, including Alejandro Muñoz Miranda. And God knows these 25 years have been more than good ones for this still young architect.

I would like to highlight some very particular characteristics shared by this group of architects of the new millennium: they possess a solid foundation with a deep cultural background. They still believe in architecture as an act of creation. They demonstrate consistency between their finished works and the theories on which they are based. They are idealists, with ideas capable of being built. They are free, with the difficult freedom befitting the creative architect.

And if I were to come up with just the right words of encouragement for these young, highly cultured, consistent, idealistic, free artists urging them not to give up, I would say in these three words: RESIST, DAMN IT!

TEACHING

Alejandro Muñoz Miranda is now 50 years old and a tenured professor of projects at the School of Architecture in Granada, where he is one of the university’s most highly regarded and popular teachers. Not surprisingly, he has served as deputy director of international relations at his school, where he has brought in guest architects of the caliber of Steven Holl. One can easily see him becoming a full professor of projects in the near future

WORKS

Of his already extensive body of work, I would like to highlight a few examples.

Malaga. Housing. Buildings of impeccable design with GRC facades in glass fiber made of lightweight prefabricated concrete, demonstrating the architect's clear interest in their structural aspects, the *“firmitas”*. The result is so good that he was awarded the Andalusia Architecture Prize in 2024 by the Regional Government for his innovative, sustainable residential project.

Granada. The building of the Granada Business Confederation is a brilliant exercise in light. Its use of light trihedrals in the corners of the cubic volumes is truly beautiful.

Granada. His most recent work is the Alborada building in Granada, where his artistic mastery is evident throughout.

Madrid. The image alone of the project for the Las Tablas Municipal Library in Madrid is so beautiful that it has touched me deeply. That rooftop, conceived as a landscaped, cultivable space, is presented in such a convincing way that it makes one want to start building it right away, even though it is as yet only a competition proposal. I would very much like to start planting roses there.

FINALE

“The Alhambra is the most modern building in Granada; it never goes out of fashion”.

These are the words of Alejandro Muñoz Miranda, and I believe that this statement applies in part to his own work, to his desire to stand the test of time. To resist, to serve as a reference point and to endure: desirable qualities indeed for the very best in architecture, which is precisely what we find in the work of this architect.

Alejandro Muñoz Miranda belongs to that group of lunatics who insist on giving society their very best. He is one of those who, as T.S. Eliot suggested, *“aspire to invent the past of a tradition from its present”*.

In a beautiful text, Santiago Insunza, writes of a certain remarkable individual, whose *“company is like a burst of stars caressing our hearts and minds”*. The same could be said of our architect and his architecture.