"ARCHITECTURES ON THE WATERFRONT"

A dive into the Archive of the European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture – Mies van der Rohe Award that tackles the regeneration of European cities through their waterfronts
31/10/19 – 12/01/20
Barcelona Maritime Museum

Photo: Museum of Art, Architecture and Technology (MAAT), Lisbon, AL_A, 2016. © Hufton + Crow

Barcelona, 30 October 2019.

The Fundació Mies van der Rohe in collaboration with Arquitectes per l’Arquitectura (AxA) inaugurate today the exhibition "Architectures on the waterfront" at the Maritime Museum of Barcelona. The exhibition is dedicated to waterfronts and those architectures located in urban areas next to water, spaces that over the last thirty years have undergone important urban regeneration processes arising from the relocation of traditional activities such as ports and industry, redesigning in many cases the form and functions of the city on the waterfront.

The exhibition has been curated by Francesc Muñoz, PhD in Urban Geography and Director of the Observatory of Urbanization (UAB) who has contributed with his critical re-reading of the Archive of the Prize, as he also did with the Atlas of European Contemporary Architecture (2016) and his research on the transformation of waterfronts and the effect of urbanalization, a term coined by him; and Ivan Blasi and Anna Sala Giralt of the Fundació Mies van der Rohe.

The exhibition emanates from 68 works belonging to the archive of the European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture – Mies van der Rohe Award (EU Mies Award) and narrates through images, audiovisuals and models the particular stories of these architectures that
construct new areas of relationship with water in cities such as Paris, Copenhagen, Madrid, Lisbon, Oslo, Donostia/San Sebastian or Barcelona.

At present, the archive of the EU Mies Award has a selection of 3,618 works and more than 500 original models. It is a unique compilation that allows us to research, analyse and explain the main phenomena of change in European architecture through different readings, and generate publications such as the ATLAS or exhibitions such as the one presented now at the Maritime Museum, or “Spanish Architectures” which was presented last year in Madrid.

Among the 68 selected works of "Architectures on the waterfront" there are 4 winners of the EU Mies Award: The French National Library by Dominique Perrault architecte (1996 – Paris), the Kursaal by Rafael Moneo (2001 – Donostia/San Sebastian), the Norwegian National Opera and Ballet by Snohetta (2009 – Oslo) and the Harpa Auditorium and Congress Centre by Henning Larsen Architects, Studio Olafur Eliasson and Batteriid Architects (2013 – Reykjavik).

This selection bears witness to how the transformation of waterfronts has been fundamental both in large metropolises and in small urban centres. Beyond this selection of exhibited works, all the works that build up the archive can be critically read both online (www.eumiesaward.com), the ATLAS and the App. On the occasion of this exhibition, the "Architectures on the waterfront" section has been created in the App as a way to stimulate the visit to these works.

According to the curators:

“This exhibition is an opportunity to get to know a selection of architectures from the archive of the European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture – Mies van der Rohe Award, which are found on the waterfront. Each one develops a unique strategy to meet the challenges of building the city through the transformation of these spaces.”

Ivan Blasi and Anna Sala - Fundació Mies van der Rohe

“These urban spaces on the waterfront, fragments of the city on the boundary, and traditionally occupied by port, productive or industrial activities, have been the subject of urban regeneration. This has changed not only the form and functions of the waterfront, but, actually, the image and the physiognomy of the city itself.”

Francesc Muñoz

The exhibition is complemented by a catalogue that gathers different writings by experts from Barcelona, Paris, Oslo, Reykjavik, Lisbon, Rotterdam, Marseille, Copenhagen and Amsterdam, cities with important transformation developments where several high-quality architectural interventions have managed to reorient urban changes.

All these works are accessible through the Eumiesaward App, available free of charge for IOS and Android, a way to easily find all nominated works and their information.
The exhibition "Architectures on the waterfront" is organised by Fundació Mies van der Rohe and Arquitectes per l’Arquitectura (AxA) with the support of the Barcelona Maritime Museum, the Diputació de Barcelona and the Spanish Ministry of Public Works. Collaborators in the exhibition include USM, Viabizzuno and Cooperativa d’arquitectes Jordi Capell and the sponsorship of Calaf Constructora and Vbospagna.

**Fundació Mies van der Rohe**

The Fundació Mies van der Rohe was created in 1983 by the Barcelona City Council, with the initial aim of carrying out the reconstruction of the German pavilion, designed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and Lilly Reich for the 1929 Barcelona International Exhibition.

In addition to attending to the conservation and knowledge of the Mies van der Rohe Pavilion, the Foundation promotes debate, dissemination and awareness of contemporary architecture and urbanism. It also promotes the study of the work of Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and the Modern Movement. According to its purpose, the Foundation carries out different activities such as prizes, congresses, conferences, exhibitions, workshops and installations.

Outstanding among these activities is the organisation, jointly with the European Commission, of the European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture – Mies van der Rohe Award, one of the most prestigious of all European architecture prizes.

**Arquitectes per l’Arquitectura**

The association Arquitectes per l’Arquitectura was founded in 2011 under the initiative of a group of architects sharing a series of common concerns and interests and that believe in architecture as a tool for progress and as a faithful cultural reflection of the society that makes it possible.

The aim of the Association is to highlight the past, present and future values of architecture, valuing the interest it has historically aroused in Catalonia, and is constituted as a platform of opinion and action with the intention of embracing all those architects committed to the following foundational ideas: architecture understood as an asset of common interest; architecture understood as a cultural fact; architecture and its relationship with the world of knowledge and teaching; architecture and its professional problems.

**Barcelona Maritime Museum**

The Maritime Museum of Barcelona (MMB), created in 1936, is a public facility dedicated to the dissemination of maritime culture and, in particular, to the conservation, preservation and dissemination of the maritime cultural heritage of Catalonia. MMB is deeply rooted in the city of Barcelona, both because of its own history and for the building that houses it: the monumental ensemble of the Royal shipyards of Barcelona, which have a history of over seven centuries.

The museum offers temporary and permanent exhibitions, an educational program and activities dedicated to all audiences. Its collection includes more than 426,500 records.
dedicated to maritime culture, a library specializing in maritime culture and history (28,000 volumes, 150 publications and 250 ship models), a specialised store and a restaurant.

DOWNLOAD ALL THE MATERIAL OF THE EXHIBITION HERE: [https://Mies.link/PressKit](https://Mies.link/PressKit)

Exhibition:

**Dates: 31 October to 12 January 2020**
**Opening times:** From Monday to Sunday from 10:00 to 20:00h (access until 19:00h)
Closed on 25 and 26 December and 1 and 6 January. On 24 and 31 December, the Museum closes at 3pm
**Free admission**
**Headquarters:** Museu Marítim de Barcelona (see map)
**Address:** Avda. de les Drassanes, s/n 08001 Barcelona

Opening

Wednesday, 30 October:

18.30h – roundtable moderated by Anna Sala (Fundació Mies van der Rohe) with Francesc Muñoz, Director of the Observatory of Urbanisation (UAB), Francis Rambert, head of the Department of Architectural creation ag the Cité de l'architecture et du patrimoine and Elías Torres, architect co-author of the Forum 2004 esplanade and photovoltaic pergola, finalist of the EU Mies Award 2005.

19:30h – presentation and inauguration of the exhibition

More information about the project: [https://mies.link/Architectures_on_the_Waterfront](https://mies.link/Architectures_on_the_Waterfront)

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