

LVA

luis vidal + architects

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Contact: Sarah Boynton

Janet Kafka & Associates

214.373.1200

sarah@janetkafka.com

**ENCOUNTERS architecture exhibition to open in Washington, DC and
New York City this spring**

*Interactive technology transports viewers inside the world of
international Spanish firm luis vidal + architects*

With the support of SPAIN arts & culture, the official Spanish cultural program in the U.S., Madrid-based architecture firm luis vidal + architects (LVA) will bring its innovative architectural exhibition, ENCOUNTERS, to the American Institute of Architect's (AIA) District Architecture Center in Washington, DC from April 10-May 3 during AIA National Architecture Week, and to the AIA New York Center for Architecture where it will be featured from May 9-20 during NYC x Design. An interactive exhibition with a surprising touch of augmented reality, ENCOUNTERS is an architectural installation created to discover, explore, and present the work of LVA—a celebration of their vision and major projects over the last ten years, including the soon-to-be-inaugurated Terminal 2 at London's Heathrow Airport, scheduled to open in June 2014. The exhibition was conceived to create a meditational space in which one may experience the architectural queries and needs of the 21st century through the critical eye of unconventional architect Luis Vidal.

Featuring a "vertical garden" planted by hand (6,000 "flowers," 80 projects and 18 cities), ENCOUNTERS will take the viewer through a personal journey along the conceptual map of Luis Vidal and his collaborators. A downloadable application created specifically for the exhibit was designed by a research team at The Polytechnic University of Valencia in Spain based on the technology of optical and augmented reality. A camera on the mobile device or tablet and the inference of the 3D position will enable the display of audiovisual content and will elevate the exhibition experience by allowing visitors to interact and discover additional content, both informative and fun.

"This is not an architectural exhibition like any you have ever seen before," says Luis Vidal, founder of LVA. "My hope is that by combining interactive technology with unanticipated augmented reality, viewers will not only have fun exploring the world of LVA, but above all, leave inspired."

To demonstrate the firm's ongoing commitment to mentoring young architects, LVA has created a Student Ambassador's Program which will enable students from local architecture schools to gain valuable experience by being involved in the exhibition. LVA architects will train the students as docents and dedicate time to tour them through the exhibition.

A reception, hosted by the Embassy of Spain, will take place on April 30 in Washington, DC at the AIA District Architect Center as a cornerstone of AIA National Architecture Week. The evening's events will include a book signing and presentation by Vidal. In New York City, there will also be a reception, book signing and presentation by Vidal on May 9 at the AIA's New York Center for Architecture.

About Luis Vidal:

Vidal studied architecture at the University of Greenwich (London, UK) where he specialized mainly in airports and transport infrastructures and graduated with honors in 1994. Since 1995, he has been a member of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) and additionally is a certified AIA architect in the state of New York.

Vidal was Project Director for Terminal 4 at Madrid Barajas Airport, and Co-Author and Director of the new Warsaw International Airport. He has also worked on over a dozen airport projects. Vidal is the concept and lead architect of the new Terminal 2: The Queen's Terminal at London Heathrow Airport, which is the world's first airport terminal to be awarded BREEAM rating for its sustainable building design. He is co-designer of Abengoa's headquarter offices in Seville, Spain, and the building received the first LEED Platinum certification in Europe.

Developed through his experience in airport design, Vidal created the concept "Airport Hospitals" in which he applies "curative architecture" in order to reduce patient anxiety and promote faster recovery through design.

About LVA:

In 2004, Vidal founded LVA in Madrid, and has since opened offices in London, England and Santiago de Chile, Chile. In 2005, LVA was awarded first prize in the International Competition for the new Zaragoza International Airport, which was shortlisted for the 2009 Mies Van der Rohe Award and was a prizewinner at the International Tourist Fair 2012 (Fitur) for the airport's AENOR Energy Efficiency Certification. LVA practices responsible architecture and demonstrates this core value by providing economic, social and environmental sustainability in all their projects.

LVA has received international recognition for airport designs that embrace flexibility, cutting-edge technology, environmental responsibility and efficiency. From urban planning to architecture and industrial design, LVA has developed more than 80 projects of different scales, many of which have also been recognized with prestigious awards, including the interior design of the Restaurant at Madrid's Reina Sofia Museum (Winner of the Architecture Prize of the City of Madrid for the Best Commercial Establishment, 2005), Can Misses Hospital in Ibiza, Spain and Vigo's New Hospital in Galicia, Spain (Winner of the Design & Health International Awards 2012 Future Health Project category).

Please click on https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ttfv4s5zfafuvbt/DvHAR6_oja to view images of projects designed by LVA.

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