



For immediate release | March 2017

Contact: Berta Corredor – Cultural Office, Embassy of Spain
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SPAIN arts & culture presents

ALTERNATIVAS/ALTERNATIVES:

THE THIRTEENTH SPANISH BIENNIAL OF ARCHITECTURE AND URBANISM (XII BEAU)



CHAO HOUSE by CREUSECARRASCOarquitectos (juan Creus + Covadonga Carrasco) (A Coruña, España)

© Photo by Santos-Diez

WHERE AND WHEN

Former Residence of the Ambassadors of Spain, 2801 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20009

EXHIBITION ON VIEW: April 06–June 4, 2017

Gallery Hours: Thursday to Sunday from 11am to 6pm.

Monday–Wednesday by appointment only at: contact@spainculture.us

Free and open to the public.

PHOTOS: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/wyj6t23wtfi5b55/AADD-p0iV1colxyngHSQJqBla?dl=0>



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Washington D.C.- SPAIN arts & culture presents at the Former Residence of the Ambassadors of Spain " **ALTERNATIVAS/ALTERNATIVES: THE THIRTEENTH SPANISH BIENNIAL OF ARCHITECTURE AND URBANISM (XII BEAU)**, an exhibit that features 22 jury-selected projects completed between January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2015 by contemporary Spanish architects.

The installation, which also includes an additional 20 shortlisted works, presents large-scale image displays and audiovisual commentary about the winning projects, as well as drawing reproductions and architectural models. Many of the works presented, under the categories of Heritage, Planning and Innovation, employ sustainable practices and rely on local materials. The projects – which vary from small-scale works, such as residential homes, to mid-size interventions, such as schools and public parks – showcase the ability of Spain's architects to formulate innovative solutions with both a limited budget and modest resources.

"The economic crisis was a critical time for our country's architecture and we saw a halt in new construction but enormous growth for restoration work," says **Francisco Mangado**, Spain's General Coordinator of Biennals, who oversaw the curation of *Alternativas / Alternatives* and is a practicing architect. *"Our goal of bringing the Biennial to The Cooper Union and eventually these other countries is to make Spanish architecture – with its humble yet sensitive forms and ingenious design – open to the world."* *Alternativas / Alternatives* was exhibited for the first time in the United States in Cooper Union's Arthur A. Houghton Jr. Gallery from 27 to December 2016.

The XIII BEAU's selection showcases a breadth of talent from across Spain, not just its biggest cities. It also highlights some of the country's practices on the rise. In addition to projects by studios such as **Arquitectura-G** and **H Arquitectes**, much of the work included in *Alternativas / Alternatives* represents Spain's up-and-coming architects and studios such as **Abalo Alonso Arquitectos**, **Victor López Coteló**, and **Olalquiaga Arquitectos**.

"The current generation of Spanish architects are full of optimism for the discipline and although recent austerity and frugality has affected the work, every project has become an opportunity for creative architecture," says **Begoña Díaz-Urgorri**, BEAU Co-Director.

And that creativity is being noticed internationally. Recently the Spanish Pavilion at the 2016 Venice Biennale won the Golden Lion Prize, the highest honor given at the Biennale. Seventy percent of that award-winning exhibition will be on view as part of *Alternativas / Alternatives*.

The XIII BEAU originally opened in July 2016 at the Palace of Charles V of the Alhambra in Granada, Spain before traveling to New York City (Cooper Union) and then to Washington DC.

The exhibition is curated by BEAU Co-Directors and jury members **Begoña Díaz-Urgorri**, **Juan Domingo Santos** and **Carmen Moreno Álvarez**, and overseen by Francisco Mangado, Spain's General Coordinator of Biennales.



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Public Programs of these exhibits include:

April 26, 2017 6:45 pm @ Former Residence of the Ambassadors of Spain

RETHINKING MUSEUM ARCHITECTURE (lecture)

Founder and President of Dovetail Design Strategists **Susanna Sirefman**, Spanish architect **Juan Herreros** (Columbia University) and urban designer **Daniel Lobo** (Urban Land Institute) will discuss the challenges faced by institutions and architects in new museum design while looking at some of the most ambitious projects in museum architecture.

May 9, 2017 6:45 pm @ Former Residence of the Ambassadors of Spain

TRANSFORMING SPACES (lecture)

Spanish architect **Iñaki Alday** (University of Virginia) and **Kelly Shannon** (University of Southern California) will talk about the singularity of Spanish architecture in the integration of architecture, public space, urban planning and landscape architecture.

May 24, 2017 6:30pm @ Former Residence of the Ambassadors of Spain

THE NEW RIJKSMUSEUM (film screening)

Screening of the documentary *The New Rijksmuseum* about the ambitious renovation of the Dutch national art & history museum by Cruz y Ortiz Arquitectos. In collaboration with the Embassy of the Netherlands. In various languages with English subtitles.

May 31, 2017 6:30pm @ Former Residence of the Ambassadors of Spain

SIDEWALLS (MEDIANERAS) (film screening)

Screening of the Argentinean-Spanish feature film *Sidewalls (Medianeras)* as the closing event of EXPORT and ALTERNATIVAS/ES. In collaboration with the Embas About SPAIN arts & culture

SPAIN arts & culture features the most cutting-edge works of international renowned Spanish artists in fields such as design, urban culture, architecture, visual arts, film, performing arts, literature and music. A series of exhibitions, conferences, showcases, and performances take place every year at the most prestigious American cultural institutions bringing a taste of all the creativity, history, and talent of Spanish artists to the American public. This program is organized by the Embassy of Spain's Cultural Office in Washington DC and its network of General Consulates and Cervantes Institutes in the United States together with the Spain-USA Foundation. More info: www.spainculture.us