Convened by the Ministry of Transport, Mobility and Urban Agenda, through the General Directorate of Urban Agenda and Architecture, in collaboration with the Higher Council of the Colleges of Architects of Spain (CSCAE) and the Arquia Foundation, the Spanish Architecture Biennial and Urban Planning (BEAU), is a biennial event that has been held since 1991.

Among its main objectives is to recognize and reward a set of high-quality works, which may represent the most outstanding and diverse panorama of Spanish architecture and urban planning in the years covered by the call.

The XV BEAU has the vocation to bring architecture and urban planning closer to society through a great cultural event in which the public will be able to enjoy the most relevant proposals of Spanish architecture and urban planning between 2018 and 2020.

The Biennial is held in parallel in a double physical venue: From June 28 to September 16 in the Barcelona Pavilion, by Mies Van der Rohe and Lilly Reich, and from July 2 to October 10 in the Patio Herreriano Museum in Valladolid, by Juan Ribera Rada.

The curators of this edition are the architects Oscar Miguel Ares (Valladolid), Anna Bach and Eugeni Bach (Barcelona), appointed after winning the public announcement of this XVBEAU, held by MITMA and CSCAE, with the proposal: Empty Spain, Spain full. Conciliation strategies.

The XV BEAU is developed in a single exhibition and activities program divided and structured around the theme exposed by the curators in both Valladolid and Barcelona; complementing with the virtual website www.labienal.es as well as with multiple parallel programs and cycles of debates and conferences that will take place throughout 2021 and 2022 in different Spanish locations and, in their roaming, international locations.

CONCILIATION STRATEGIES

Spain is a unique country. Geographically, statistically and from the perspective of population density in the same geographical framework, two different territorial realities coexist, as if it were a country within another in which, if we exclude the provincial capitals, 99% of the population lives in 53% of the territory and the remaining 47% is shared by 84.4% of the Spanish people.

This differentiation, particularly within the European context, poses different challenges for architecture and urban planning since common concepts such as housing, nursing home, civic center or hotel, being nominally the same, must be planned, developed or projected in different ways according to the geographical reality in which they are based.

The exhibitions of the Biennial allow us to have an x-ray of the architectural panorama in Spain of the last 3 years and give us the possibility to ask ourselves questions from the most generic to the most concrete questions. Should an old-age residence be considered in the same way in Empty Spain as in Full Spain? How should we raise the challenges around housing in both contexts? What should our response be when it comes to public space? All these questions could be summarized in one: How should architecture approach concepts that have different meanings in both territories?
The Barcelona exhibition is divided into two parts:

The first, exterior, is made up of ten metal structures in the form of large zigzagging posters that show two photographs of each of the awarded works in the Panorama of Obra.

These photographs have been made expressly by the artist Jordi Bernadó with the intention of linking the exhibition of these works with the theme of the Biennial. In this sense, the two photographs of each project are a vision of "field" and another of "counter field" of each work, so that work and context are merged into a single image and tell us both about the awarded projects and the territory and context in which they settle. Placing the photographs in a fragmented way in the zigzag structures allows us to see the two images at the same time and, at the same time, and depending on the point of view, allows us to see one or the other as we move around the images, pieces, establishing a personal and corporeal relationship with each of the visitors.

The second part of the exhibition, inside the pavilion, completes the information of the first through twenty videos made by the same artist, one for each awarded work, which offer us a panoramic view of the context of each of the works, and allow us to finish closing the questions that the photographs of the outside have raised us.

The exhibition includes the selection made by the juries of the XV Spanish Biennial of Architecture and Urbanism in its different categories: Panorama of Works, Research, Final Degree Projects and Photography, organized around three themes that show the dichotomy and the way in which certain concepts in Empty Spain and Full Spain are approached, from architecture and urban planning, with the aim of drawing similarities and differences that allow us to define meeting points:

- Territory: Environment and Demography

- Society: Sharing and Living

- Economy: Society and Resources

The exhibition installation shows the selected works in a zigzagging structure that makes it possible to distinguish the different areas of reflection on the theme of the Biennial while relating works and proposals of different formats and enables a double vision: that of Empty Spain, from one end, and that of Full Spain, from the other.

Inside the cloister, the twenty winning proposals in the Biennial’s works panorama are exhibited through a series of videos made for the occasion by Jordi Bernadó, in which the relationship of the winning works with their context is highlighted.

This exhibition is part of a set of actions promoted by the XV BEAU to bring architecture and urban planning closer to society, and to support and disseminate the role of the architect as a social mediator. The exhibition in Valladolid is joined by the one in Barcelona, as well as the virtual headquarters (www.labienal.es). To show this connection, inside the Patio Herreriano cloister, a real-time screen allows a window to be open to the Barcelona Pavilion, and vice versa, in the Barcelona exhibition, a screen allows you to see what is happening in the Patio Herreriano.

The two representative offices of Empty Spain and Full Spain are thus united and complemented, and are explicitly established as a first collaboration strategy.

CAMPO / CONTRACAMPO: FLÂNEUR 360

Twenty works of architecture. Twenty authorships. A photogra-pher (turned flâneur) and a mobile phone. Without any pretense of technical virtuosity, but with the firm will to leave a testimony to the beauty of the twenty works that he visits and portrays, Bernadó captures the infinite environment of everything that surrounds him. In a continuous 360° turn, the artist makes a docu-mentary and poetic recording of the award-winning scenarios at the XV BEAU. He accepts the reality that conditions his action: his pulse trembles, rhythm changes, voices are heard, sporadic pas-sers-by, birds, nature enter the scene. There is no sublimation, no idealization, just a real, honest and respectful vindication of the unforeseen beauty that Architecture can create around it. And, in the end, unites them all, heaven. That immense daily life that surrounds us all.

Jordi Bernadó

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Contemporary Art Museum
Patio Herreriano. Valladolid
From July 2 to October 10

PAMI Amara Berri. Donostia - San Sebastián, Guipuzcoa
Amara Berri Public Space Improvement Action Plan
Pasaje Transversal

Fabra & Coats: social housing & industrial heritage. Barcelona, Barcelona
Roldán + Berenguer Arq. Miguel Roldán y Merce Berengué

Black 6X6. Girona, Girona
Bosch Caspeferró Arquitectura

Can Beu. Emergency scenography, Olot, Girona
UnparellArquitectes: Eduard Callís, Guillem Moliner / Quim Domènech, Artista Visual

Football Stadium at A Gandareira. Lugar de Bandeira, Concepcio de Silledo, A Coruña
Abraham Castro Neira - Carlos Alberto Pita Alad

BVM Andesés Nursery School. Sevilla, Sevilla
José Morales Sánchez, Sara De Giles Dubois, Rocío Casado Coca

Recovery of the Merola Tower. Puig-Reig, Barcelona
Carles Enrich Studio

Renovation of a single-family house in Miraflores. Concepcio de Muñoz, A Coruña
Fuertespenedo Arquitectos: Óscar Fuertes Dopeno, Iago Fernández Penedo

Senda Barrios-Río at Vega Baja of Toledo. Toledo
Ignacio Alvarez-Aheida, Javier Bernalte Patón, Josefa Blanco De Paz, José Ramón Gonzalez De La Gia, Maria Dolores Sánchez Moya

Office inside a courtyard. Córdoba, Córdoba
Sol919. Mario González y Iuan López De La Cruz

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Awarded

Architecture and Urban Planning Works

Can Jaime in Isabelle. An single-family house. Palma, Illes Balears
Jaume Mayol Amengual e Irene Pérez Piferrer

85 social housing at Cornellá. Cornellá, Barcelona
Peris+Toral Arquitectes. Marta Peris - José Toral

University Torcuato di Tella. Buenos Aires, Argentina

Winery Clas Pachem 1507. Gratallops, Torragossa
Harquitectes. David Lorente, Josep Ricart, Xavier Ros, Roger Tudó

Refurbishment and extension of Dorella building at Eskoriatza of Mondragon Urbanistatza
Eskoriatza, Guipuzkoa
IWN Salvadoria + Itziar Imaiz

Albeida Tourist Complex. Albeida, A Coruña
Salgado e Líñares Arquitectos

Tribuna Pública. A Coruña, A Coruña
FLU-OR Arquitectura + Alba González

O’Banco de Píñeiro. Castro de Cidade, A Coruña
Carlos Seoane

Mansilla Mayor New Square. Mansilla Mayor, León
Ocarina Tudanca Arquitectos

Art Contemporary Museum Helga de Alvear. Cáceres, Cáceres
Turion Arquitectos