

## ENGLISH ABSTRACTS

### THE NEW SEAT OF THE PARLIAMENT OF NAVARRA: REGARDING CRITERIA FOR THE OPERATION

Mariano González Presencio

The construction of a permanent seat for the Parliament of Navarra has been on the list of unresolved matters for the autonomous institutions of the region since the advent of democracy. Several possible locations were considered, yet the extent of social consensus required to make such a decision was never reached. The construction of a new building in the San Juan district to house the transfer of the Provincial Court of Pamplona opened up a new candidacy to speculation regarding possible parliamentary seats for the Magistrate's Court of Pamplona: the old factory, built at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in the first area of urban expansion, facing the Paseo de Sarasate. The reasons which finally led to endorsement of using the former Provincial Court as the new seat of the Parliament of Navarra are, doubtless, manifold and complex. It is clear however that the location of this building, opposite the Palacio de Navarra, seat of the regional Government located at the opposite end of the Paseo de Sarasate, must have been one of the strongest arguments in its favour, given the possibility of transforming an urban area as important as the Paseo de Sarasate into a type of institutional axis, with the two powers which embody the most significant aspects of the regional government of Navarra, the legislature and the executive, at its core.

### THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PARLIAMENT OF NAVARRA

Manuel Blasco

Architecture is constructed matter; it is always built following the geometry defined in the blueprints. The geometry of Arteaga is derived primarily from the constructive system. On the one hand, the wall, incorporating metal slabs (the centreline), both aligned according to a classic composition of axes and worked with the geometric deformation of [one floor/a new construction] derived from the alignment of the city block, at the hinge of the first area of urban expansion, with the historic city, at the end of the esplanade of the Paseo de Sarasate. The function was organized within the spaces generated under the stated premises. The final result is a building which, constructed at the threshold of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, has shared, together with the seat of the regional Government -the Palacio de Navarra- the two institutional fronts of the Paseo.

### THE OBLIGATORY CONTINUITY OF ENGINEERING AS A FOLLOW-UP TO THE ARCHITECTONIC CONCEPT

César Martín Gómez

In July 1998 a Project was drawn up for the "Refurbishing and Restoration of the Provincial Court building for its use as the new seat of the Parliament of Navarra" in the heart of Pamplona. In addition to the technical complexities and possible complications related to the construction and execution of the project, there existed a series of social circumstances and issues of historical memory which made it all the more difficult to reach an appropriate solution for such a unique building. Keeping these assumptions in mind, the architecture proposed was motivated by a clear and strong conceptual idea, while still observing pre-existing ideas. It is clear, however, that a building of this nature is not solely Architecture. An institution such as the Parliament is the heart which pumps the blood of action in today's complex society. And this heart cannot allow itself faults or failures which stop it or slow it down. The facilities described below must contribute to this reality.

The architectonic solution was not easy, nor was that of its facilities, which in addition to their own functions must also faithfully accompany the surrounding Construction and Design. In this case, tact and discretion represent the added value of the design of these facilities.

### STRUCTURE OF THE PARLIAMENT OF NAVARRA

Jesús Aldariz

The course of action has as its objective the restoration of the existing building, with the fundamental premise being that of maintaining the outer facade after the manner of its original appearance, developing an internal structure which makes it possible to adapt the spaces to the new uses of the building.

The complexity of this type of action lies in the need to combine existing elements requiring renovation with newly incorporated structural elements. This action thus implies a structural dilemma which sets it apart from conventional building actions of new construction primarily in the following aspects: In the need to first consolidate and strengthen the original structure to be renovated; during the project phase, in determining the design of the structure, a result of the need to introduce intermediate elements of transition and synthesis between the original structure and the new construction; and for the duration of the work, in the increasing complexity of the building process as a result of the need to support existing load-bearing walls and their function in keeping the building standing and unyielding.

## JOÃO ALVARO ROCHA HOUSES

José Manuel Pozo

I'm certain that for many decades now, it has been extremely unusual to find truly interesting contributions in the field of public housing, both in terms of the distribution of useful space in them and the territorial placement of housing blocks or complexes, and the resulting creation of exterior spaces and visual and living strategies. I must even acknowledge that I find housing projects from several decades ago to be much better than present ones; and even in terms of our own present standards of comfort, many of the former should be held in lower consideration than present ones, yet this is not the case if we judge them mainly for their spatial distribution and richness, both interior and exterior.

## KIOSK IN BARAÑAIN

Luis Tena

The team of architects formed by Luis Tena and Soledad Castiella have been awarded the Kiosk project as a result of having won the Tender for ideas called by the Town Council of Barañain in January 2001. The unanimous decision was pronounced as follows: "1<sup>st</sup> Prize, for the KOFFIA proposal: For the resounding simplicity and formal clarity of the proposal, a compact scale design, which due to its abstraction and transparency can represent a perfectly integrated element within the park" (taken from the Tender Agreement, 8/II/2001).

The characteristics of the building and the objectives to be reached were specified in the syllabus of the tender. The candidates would act freely in the centre area of the Park, specifically in the middle of the landscaped pedestrian rotunda. The design would consist of a ground floor plus one, using the basement for storage or service premises. The ground floor would include a bar and open air terrace, with equipped public restrooms. The first floor would include a stage for summer performances and a bar-lounge to be connected during winter months. The total estimated constructed surface area for each floor was approximately 100 square metres.

## WEATHER-GOVERNED CLIMATE CONTROL

Bruno stagno

This report makes reference to the case study of a recently constructed office building which was bioclimatically designed for the tropical weather conditions present in the Central Valley of Costa Rica. The report analyses the use of natural climatic elements and bioclimatic concepts and mechanisms as resources for the design and adaptation of Constructions located in tropical zones. In a renewed effort, humanity must again find a balance in the relationship between Architectural Design and Nature. Weather-governed climate control can thus be considered an architectural challenge in pursuit of sustainability in tropical latitudes. The erection of the HOLCIM building represents the combined efforts of an industrial company concerned with encouraging sustainable development and a group of architects and ecologists who advocate these same objectives in their work.

Included are blueprints, photographs and bioclimatic performance models employed during the design phase. Microclimatic measurements taken in the HOLCIM building are likewise described and analysed, representing a tropical area with moderate weather conditions strongly marked by two seasons. Comparisons made of the atmosphere inside the building with the microclimatic measurements taken outside and with the results obtained from a model show that well-being complies with ISO Norms.

## REFLECTIONS ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE KYOTO PROTOCOL

Josep Solé. Technical Director of URSA Ibérica Aislantes, S.A.

It is frequently held among the general public that compliance with the Kyoto protocol is no more than an industrial issue, not involving other sectors. Nothing could be further from the truth. The main thrust of the Kyoto Protocol is to limit the greenhouse effect, which is caused primarily by CO<sub>2</sub> emissions into the atmosphere; such emissions are directly related to energy consumption.

It is estimated that the consumption of energy in Western countries is more or less equally distributed among the industrial sector, the transportation sector and the building sector.

While the amount of pollution caused by industry and transport is clearly perceived, this same concept as regards the building sector is far from understood. It can be deduced that the building sector is equally as responsible for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions as are the industry and transport sectors, thus justifying measures aimed at minimizing them.