

CHRIST & GANTENBEIN

PRESS RELEASE, APRIL 16 2021. FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE.

The Extension of the MACBA by Christ & Gantenbein + H Arquitectes will transform Barcelona's preeminent cultural institution into a permeable and participative cultural campus.



Presently housed in a building opened in 1995, the Barcelona Museum of Contemporary Art (MACBA) requires a significant increase of its exhibition space. Addressing this need, the design for the new MACBA was developed in partnership between Christ & Gantenbein and Barcelona-based H Arquitectes as a new volume opposite the current venue. Positioned around one of Barcelona's most vibrant public spaces, the Plaza des Angels, the extension is shaped as a terraced, open building housing new galleries, shops, and public places. An existing chapel from the 15th century and a convent are also part of the scheme and will be transformed to house the museum's entrance hall with many public-facing uses, open to all. The chapel's cross-figure will be activated as a new portal, linking two squares and symbolically acting as the MACBA's new center of gravity.

The extension is a human-scale and permeable addition that interfaces between the squares and the chapel. Reformulating the institution's image into a new whole with sustainable brick construction, a gallery increases accessibility and brings the museum closer to the public. On its roof, a terrace for displaying sculptures will provide views of the surroundings, becoming part of the Plaza. Behind this gallery next to the chapel, a higher volume in communication with the apse creates several large and flexible exhibition rooms on three floors.

Establishing a dialogue between new and old, the use of brick fuses the museum's various elements together. Inheriting constructive, compositional, and volumetric cues from a heterogeneous context, the new MACBA will become a union of several parts from different periods with a continuous architectural logic that sensitively expands the existing. With its human scale, the extension and transformation will redefine the institution's image, making it more accessible and bringing it closer to the public. In becoming an urban campus and a transformable cultural infrastructure for the city, the leading contemporary art institution aims to be a participative and interactive museum for the 21st century and beyond.

For hi-res imagery, interview requests, and further info please contact Christ & Gantenbein.
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MACBA Extension - Frontal View

MACBA Extension by Christ & Gantenbein + H Arquitectes
Image © Filippo Bolognese



MACBA Extension - Plaza View

MACBA Extension by Christ & Gantenbein + H Arquitectes
Image © Filippo Bolognese



MACBA Extension - Apse View

MACBA Extension by Christ & Gantenbein + H Arquitectes
Image © Filippo Bolognese



MACBA Extension - Gallery View

MACBA Extension by Christ & Gantenbein + H Arquitectes
Image © Filippo Bolognese



MACBA Extension - Exhibition Space View

MACBA Extension by Christ & Gantenbein + H Arquitectes
Image © Filippo Bolognese

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FACTS

LOCATION

Barcelona, Spain

CLIENT

MACBA, Contemporary Art Museum of Barcelona

YEAR

Competition, 2021, 1st Prize

PROGRAM

Cultural, Museum

SIZE

Net Area: 3.814 m2 (2.054 m2 of transformation, 1.760 m2 extension)

TEAM

Partners

Emanuel Christ, Christoph Gantenbein
David Lorente, Josep Ricart, Xavier Ros, Roger Tudó (H Arquitectes)

Project Leaders

Moisés García (Christ & Gantenbein)
Maya Torres, Anna Burgaya (H Arquitectes)

Architects

Jonas Loland, Kilian Schellenberger, Jeffrey Cheng,
Guillem Canudas, Miquel Arias, Cynthia Rabanal, Itziar González

PLANNING

Carles Bou, Societat Orgànica, DSM, M7, Chroma

IMAGES

Filippo Bolognese Images

CHRIST & GANTENBEIN

ABOUT CHRIST & GANTENBEIN

Christ & Gantenbein is an international practice dedicated to the broad realm of architecture. Founded in 1998 by Emanuel Christ and Christoph Gantenbein, and headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, the office employs a team of over 80 architects from 20 countries.

The firm's most prominent completed projects include the expansion and transformation of the Swiss National Museum in Zurich and the extension of the Kunstmuseum Basel, both cultural landmarks with a global reach.

In 2020, the office completed the multifunctional Lindt Home of Chocolate, a monumental yet versatile space for Lindt & Sprüngli in Zurich. Furthermore, C&G is working on a diverse range of projects across Europe. Among them are a social housing development in Paris, a versatile office building for Roche in Germany, the extension of the Wallraf-Richartz Museum in Cologne, and most recently, a housing and office building in the historic center of Hamburg. Underscoring the diversity of scale and program the office operates in, the Zurich University Hospital project, which is currently in development, will transform an entire district of Switzerland's most populous city, giving healthcare and medical research an unrivalled new home.

Along with the 2018 Deezen Architect of the Year Award in recognition of their „substantial body of work and mature portfolio,“ further distinctions include the 2018 Wieneberger Brick Award, the Design Miami/Panerai Visionary Award in 2017, the best architect 18 – Gold Prize (2017), the Essence Award – Gold Prize in 2016, and the Red Dot Award „Best of the Best“ prize (2016).

Practice and research are intertwined in the work of Christ & Gantenbein; an aspect which is reflected in Emanuel Christ and Christoph Gantenbein's ongoing academic teaching. Since 2018, they have been full professors of architecture and design at ETH Zurich. Before that, they taught at the ETH Studio Basel (2000–2005), the Accademia di Architettura in Mendrisio (2004, 2006, 2009), the Oslo School of Architecture and Design (2008), ETH Zurich (2010–2015), as well as at Harvard GSD (2015 – 2017).

Publications include *Pictures from Italy* (2011), *Christ & Gantenbein; Around the Corner* (2012); *Typology: Hong Kong, Rome, New York, Buenos Aires, Zürich* (2012) and *Typology: Paris, Delhi, São Paulo, Athens* (2015). Their work is also featured in monographs such as a+u and 2G.

In the spring of 2021, Christ & Gantenbein will be present at the 17th International Architecture Biennial. Curated by Emanuel Christ and Christoph Gantenbein as part of their research program at ETH Zurich, „MAHALLA: Urban Rural Living“ was commissioned by the Art and Culture Development Foundation under the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Drawing on this research, the exhibition offers a scientific investigation but also an artistic statement expressed through three different types of appropriation in a 1:1 scale: a model of a mahalla house occupying the whole space of the Quarta Tesa at the Tese Cinquecentesche in the Arsenale; an invisible appropriation of the space with sounds from the mahallas transmitted through ambisonic technology recorded by Spanish film-maker Carlos Casas; and extracts of mahalla houses as fragments of spaces represented by photographs by Dutch photographer Bas Princen. The exhibition will be completed by an app to experience the house structure suggested by the soundscapes and a catalogue.

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ABOUT H ARQUITECTES

H ARQUITECTES is an architecture practice founded in 2000, headquartered in Sabadell (Barcelona), and led by four partners: David Lorente Ibáñez (Granollers, 1972), Josep Ricart Ulldemolins (Cerdanyola del Vallès, 1973), Xavier Ros Majó (Sabadell, 1972) and Roger Tudó Galí (Terrassa, 1973). They all studied architecture in ETSA Vallès and graduated between 1998 and 2000.

They combine their professional practice together with an academic practice, currently teaching at ETSA Vallès and ETSA Barcelona (UPC) as well as at the Harvard GSD. Among others, they also have been guests at AA School of architecture in London, ETH Zurich, Porto Academy, Austin School of Architecture, Universidad Católica in Chile, ENSA Paris and Umea school of architecture. Their work has been published in recognised magazines such as El Croquis, 2G, AV, Domus, Detail and Casabella and exhibited at the Architecture Venice Biennale in 2016, the Architecture Triennial of Lisbon in 2019 and the Utzon Center in Aalborg in 2021. H Arquitectes has received numerous national and international awards, such as the Berlin Art Prize for Architecture 2021, European Award of Intervention in Architectural Heritage AADIPA 2019, Barcelona City Award 2017, shortlisted EU Mies Van der Rohe Award 2019 and 2017, Special Mention at Architecture Award CSCAE 2020, DETAIL Prize 2018, Hispalys Award of Brick Architecture 2018 and 2016, MAPEI Award for sustainable construction 2017, Biennial d'Arquitectura Iberoamericana Award 2016, Wienerberger Brick Award 2016, Ugo Rivolta Award 2015, Opinion Prize FAD 2015, Fritz Höger Prize 2014, Sacyr Prize 2012, Hise Award 2012, ENOR Young Architects Award 2011, SAIE Award 2011.

Among their most outstanding works we can name the refurbishment of the Cristalleries Planell and Lleialtat Santsenca, both in Barcelona, the ICTA-ICP Research Centre on the Bellaterra Campus of the UAB, the UPC student residence in Sant Cugat and the Clos-Pachem winery in Gratallops, as well as houses 712, 1101, 1014 and 1413. They are currently working on projects to recover the Arnau Theater and the old Bòbila de la Teixonera, also in Barcelona, among others.