BIOBÍO REGIONAL THEATER

SMILJAN RADIĆ

Arquitecto, Pontificia Universidad
Católica de Chile,
Santiago, Chile

EDUARDO CASTILLO (†)

Arquitecto, Pontificia Universidad
Católica de Chile,
Santiago, Chile

GABRIELA MEDRANO

Profesora, Facultad de
Arquitectura, Arte y Diseño
Universidad San Sebastián,
Santiago, Chile

Concepción, Chile
2018

Keywords

Culture
Spectacle
Infrastructure
Concepción
Wrapping

In recent years, it has become common to talk about cultural infrastructure as if physical spaces were only a helpful supplement to the manifestations that take place in them. But, as this project shows, architecture is much more than a framework. It is, rather, a cultural manifestation in itself: an object that not only contributes to material culture, but also structures an idea of urban culture.

My packaging was an attempt to “anticipate” the object’s nature. Hiding it, wrapping it.
Tadeusz Kantor, *Wielopole*, *Wielopole* (1990)

Our project for the Biobío Regional Theater is the possible skeleton of a wrapped theater. Inside, the viewer will move/climb in a spatial grid that stubbornly appears to be measuring/occupying each of its corners. It is in the auditoriums where the grid loses saturation bringing back the air necessary for the performance; a black air, a gloom of diffuse limits.

© Cristóbal Palma

All the 'paraphernalia' around the auditoriums – understood as open fields within this 3.90 m structural grid – is simply scaffolding, as if it were the backside of a stage set, the low-range support that is usually hidden and remains unnoticed.

Thus, the viewer should not expect to go through the lobby and access the darkness of the auditorium to 'open' the theater: the mystery appears before entering. It is enough for the walker/spectator to see the cloak that falls over the building, veiling it, to sense – or 'anticipate' as Kantor says – that something is hidden inside, or at least to believe for a moment that to circulate inside it is part of an experimental process.

The performer, on the other hand, has a flexible air at his/her disposal. The auditoriums have acquired contemporary dimensions and, with some basic mechanical instruments, the optimal technical qualities required by the versatility of the place are served. **ARQ**

Bibliografia / Bibliography

KANTOR, Tadeusz. *Wielopole, Wielopole: an exercise in theatre* New York: M. Boyars, 1990.

© Cristóbal Palma

Isométrica estructura
de fachada / Façade
structure isometric
S. E. / N. S.

Corte transversal /
Cross section
E. / S. 1:250

Planta nivel ± 0.00 m /
 Plan level ± 0.00 m
 E. / S. 1:500

Planta nivel +4.80 m /
 Plan level +4.80 m
 E. / S. 1:500

Planta nivel +12,60 m /
Plan level +12,60 m
E. / S. 1:500

Planta nivel +20,40 m /
Plan level +20,40 m
E. / S. 1:500

Corte longitudinal /
Longitudinal section
E. / S. 1:500

Planta nivel +8,70 m /
Plan level +8,70 m
E. / S. 1:500

© Gabriela Medrano

TEATRO REGIONAL DEL BIOBÍO BIOBÍO REGIONAL THEATER

Arquitecto / *Architect*: Smiljan Radić
 Arquitectos asociados / *Partners*: Eduardo Castillo,
 Gabriela Medrano
 Colaborador / *Contributor*: Danilo Lazcano
 Ubicación / *Location*: Concepción, Chile
 Cliente / *Client*: Ministerio de Obras Públicas,
 Ministerio de Cultura y las Artes
 Cálculo Estructural / *Structural design*: ByB ingeniería
 Instalación eléctrica / *Electrical system*: Propalar
 Instalación sanitaria / *Mechanical engineering*: Patricio Moya
 Iluminación / *Lightning*: Antonia Peón-Veiga
 Materiales / *Materials*: Hormigón armado, estructura
 metálica, membrana PTFE / *Reinforced concrete, metal structure,*
PTFE membrane

Materialidad de terminaciones / *Finishing materials*: Madera,
 revestimiento alfombra vegetal de coco / *Wood, coconut*
vegetable floor covering
 Presupuesto / *Budget*: 3.440 USD/m²
 Superficie de terreno / *Plot area*: 20.052 m²
 Superficie construida / *Built area*: 9.650 m²
 Año de proyecto / *Project year*: 2011
 Año de construcción / *Construction year*: 2015-2018
 Fotografías / *Photographs*: Gonzalo Puga
 Maquetas / *Models*: Alejandro Luer

Smiljan Radić

Architect, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, 1989. Studies in Architectural History at the Istituto Universitario Di Architettura di Venezia and in Design at the Istituto Andrea Palladio, Vicenza. His work has been widely published and exhibited internationally; has lectured in Mexico, Spain, Norway, Austria, Japan and the USA. In 2001 was elected best Chilean architect under 35 years by the Colegio de Arquitectos de Chile. In 2008 obtained the Architectural Record's Design Vanguard Award and in 2009 was named honorary member of the American Institute of Architects. In 2013 was appointed to design the 2014 Serpentine Gallery pavilion in London. Currently works with the sculptor Marcela Correa.

Eduardo Castillo

Architect, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, 2000. His works have been published and exhibited in Germany, China, Spain, England, Italy, Japan and Mexico, among other. Has been invited to international events and conferences.

Gabriela Medrano

Architect, 2007 and Master in Architecture, Universidad Andrés Bello, 2009. Diploma in Sustainable Architecture, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, 2009. In 2014 was awarded first prize at the Torre Antena Santiago competition, with Smiljan Radić and Ricardo Serpell. Currently is a studio professor at Universidad San Sebastián in Santiago and works with Smiljan Radić.