



MADRID: A MONOCLE CITY SURVEY

*A guide to the entrepreneurs, retailers, chefs and services
that define the Spanish capital*



Talent watch: *Mansilla & Tuñón Arquitectos*

M+T's proposed perpetual sun superstructure for the Madrid International Convention Centre (right), which was recently approved by the city council, will be a positive sustainable addition to the skyline. "We think the Madrid city council must be the most romantic and open-minded city council ever – they approved our project knowing that it consists of a huge sun for this city where the sun never sets," says Emilio Tuñón.

M+T have won numerous awards including an AD *Architectural Digest* award this year for their forward-thinking, best illustrated in the way they like to view the city. "The famous urbanism specialist Ignasi de Solà-Morales used to say 'you cannot totally love a city without having seen it from above' and we totally agree. We recommend visitors first go to the top terrace of the Círculo de Bellas Artes (see front cover) and admire," says Luis Mansilla.

Five more to watch:

- 01 **Arturo Franco Díaz:** An architect on Matadero Madrid arts centre and director of the *Arquitectura COAM* magazine. [arturofranco.es](#)
- 02 **Juan Herreros:** Designer of the Munch Museum in Oslo and a newly awarded international fellow at the Royal Institute of British Architects. [herrerosarquitectos.com](#)
- 03 **Antón García-Abril:** Winner of this year's Rice Design Alliance prize and architect of the gravity-defying Hemeroscopio house.
- 04 **Jorge Varela:** Interior architect and retail space designer for Loewe, Guerlain, Celine and Issey Miyake. [jorgevarelaesign.com](#)
- 05 **Picado de Blas:** Shortlisted at the X Spanish Architecture Biennale and interior architects for Sergi Arola's La Broche restaurant. [picadodeblas.com](#) — ST



- 01 M+T's proposal for the convention centre
- 02 Luis Mansilla (right) and Emilio Tuñón
- 03 Mansilla & Tuñón studio



Eco building: *Residential*

Madrid's industrial suburb Móstoles, southwest of the capital, finally has something to boast about. Earlier this year, Europe's first building with "lungs" opened the doors to 92 social housing flats (right). Designed by Ruiz-Larrea & Asociados (RLA), 10 openings on the building suck air, either cooled below ground or heated by summer temperatures, into the flats, keeping them at 18C year round. Rooftop vegetation and solar panels complete the green credentials. "I'm very proud of the quality of this project. Nowadays, all good architecture has to be thoroughly sustainable," says RLA director César Ruiz-Larrea. — BK



Practice: *Kawamura Ganjavian*

Half Spanish, half Japanese Key Portilla-Kawamura and Iranian Ali Ganjavian partnered in 2000 and went on to work at Herzog & de Meuron in Basel and SANAA in Tokyo before setting up their eponymous practice in Madrid three years ago.

Since 2006 the team has grown to 10 people and Kawamura-Ganjavian are the founding members of "Madrid's first multi-disciplinary creative platform" Studio Banana, which brings together 33 film-makers, graphic, product and fashion designers, photographers and advertising creatives. Banana makes documentaries and also offers educational courses. According to Portilla-Kawamura, "The Studio Banana Cultural Association [that offers the courses] is a cultural beacon and a meeting point in Madrid and we have been invited to participate in workshops on contemporary creativity in institutions such as the Guggenheim Bilbao and the Kunsthau Bregenz." — ST