

NOTA DE PRENSA

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The exhibition, organized in partnership with the Norman Foster Foundation, opens its doors at Espacio Fundación Telefónica on 6 October

“NORMAN FOSTER. COMMON FUTURES”

A DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE PAST AND THE FUTURE OF THE ARCHITECT’S SOCIAL LEGACY

- By means of more than 30 models, 160 sketches and different audiovisual works, the exhibition on Foster explores the British architect’s more social side and less protest-driven aspects of his buildings, such as sustainability, well-being and social awareness.
- The exhibition displays models such as Apple’s new headquarters in Cupertino, the extension of the Prado Museum and a project for living spaces on the Moon. All of them are examples which seek to reconcile tradition and modernity by means of inspiration from past projects, giving continuity to his career.

Madrid, 6 October 2017.- Norman Foster’s architecture has broken down barriers and achieved worldwide repercussion and recognition by using technical knowledge to prefigure the future and to overcome physical and social obstacles, from his first works more than half a century ago until the present day. To mark the public presentation of his foundation in Madrid (www.normanfosterfoundation.org/es/) just two months ago, Espacio Fundación Telefónica, in partnership with its foundation, is organizing “Norman Foster. Common futures”, an exhibition curated by Luis Fernández-Galiano, Senior Professor of Projects at the School of Architecture of the Polytechnic University of Madrid (ETSAM) and Director of

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future to the general public,
while showing his sources of inspiration.

The exhibition, which can be seen on floor 3 from 6 October 2017 to 4 February 2018, documents twelve recent projects that enter into dialogue with similar proposals from previous decades to underline the continuity of his concerns and to bring to light the variety of his interests.

Beyond the fascinating technical and aesthetic excellence of the buildings designed by Foster, this exhibition, by means of more than 30 models, 160 sketches and different audiovisual works, explores less protest-driven but equally transcendental aspects of his career: the social awareness which has guided many of his works, the dialogue between tradition and modernity, the reflection on sustainability and life in our cities, the role of innovation and technology, etc.

Made up of a dialogue between past, present and future projects, the exhibition on Foster will provide a unique collective vision. In the words of Foster himself, the exhibition *“is a view of the future, without ceasing to look into the remote past, a vision which gives us continuity. It shows the other side of the projects which motivate me, the smaller ones which can make a big difference, in which technology and the social imperative contribute to social purposes such as addressing climate change, improving equality and social welfare, etc. These are recurrent themes throughout my career which continue today”*.

Inspired by both historical constructions and scientific progress, his projects reconcile tradition and modernity, urban intelligence and transformative capacity, aesthetic excellence and technological innovation. From involvement in heritage buildings to projects for living spaces on the Moon, Foster’s work recovers the memory of the past and anticipates the needs of the future while remaining firmly anchored among the demands and urgencies of the present. Whether it be new work and culture spaces, care for cancer patients, populations lacking infrastructures, sustainable urban development or raised paths for cyclists and pedestrians, Foster’s proposals stimulate the endeavour to make our cities more habitable, with the dominant themes of social awareness, openness to change and innovation.

The dialogues: 24 projects related to the past and the future

The exhibition will take place in Telefónica’s emblematic building, a skyscraper built in 1929 which was a paradigm of innovation in its day, and whose impressive structure is highlighted by the montage of the display. The exhibition is divided into

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Norman Foster Foundation

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twelve sections with a central aisle, which is occupied by a

set of machines at the service of movement - from a glider to a space capsule - which are, in turn, an inspiration for these lightweight architectures and a symbol of a fast-paced world undergoing constant change.



The future of the past and heritage is illustrated by relating his painstaking extension of the legendary Château Margaux wineries to his first drawings of vernacular architecture when he was still a student, and comparing his current project for the expansion of the Prado Museum with the Carré d'Art, which he completed a quarter of a century ago in Nîmes. As for the futures of the architectural form and function, they link the modern offices of the Bloomberg company in London to the ones he built for Willis Faber & Dumas forty years ago, and the new Government House in Buenos Aires to the reformist Sainsbury Centre which, in its day, transformed the perception of art spaces.

Both the future of work and the future of well-being give rise to the parallel display of the iconic headquarters built for Apple in California and the pioneering project for Olsen in the London docklands, together with the welcoming Maggie's Centre for cancer patients and the Hackney School for children requiring special care. For Foster, the desire to meet contemporary needs is combined with technical refinement, and the futures of both construction and technology are explored by linking the titanic project for Mexico's airport with the Climatroffice - the visionary proposal he made with Buckminster Fuller - and the sustainable Droneport with the geodesic elementality of its autonomous house.

The city and the territory require us to rethink the future of mobility and sustainability, a task demonstrated here by relating the stimulating urban SkyCycle project and the popular Bilbao Metro, as well as the carbon-neutral city of Masdar and the pioneering ecological territorial plan for La Gomera. Finally, the future of the networks crossing the planet, and even the expansion of humanity beyond it, give rise to the dual display of the colossal Thames Hub project and the Collserola Tower in Barcelona, and the lunar base for the European Space Agency, built with robots and 3D technology, and the first project by the architect, a tiny shelter in the shape of an aircraft cabin, the Cockpit.

Parallel activities and guided tours

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The exhibition titled "Norman Foster. Common futures" will be accompanied by the scheduling of workshops and free educational activities for all visitors, from schoolchildren to adults. In addition, throughout the exhibition, every Thursday (10:30 am, 12:30 pm and 5:00 pm) and Sunday (10:30 am) there will be free visits to the exhibition, without prior booking. For further information and registration: espacio.fundaciontelefonica.com



Biography: Lord Norman Foster

President, Norman Foster Foundation

After graduating from the University of Manchester School of Architecture and City Planning in 1961, Norman Foster won a Henry Fellowship to attend Yale University, where he was a student at Jonathan Edwards College, obtaining a master's degree in Architecture.

In 1967, he created Foster Associates, which later became Foster + Partners, where he continues to serve as Executive President. In 1999, he became the 21st recipient of the Pritzker Architecture Prize and, in 2002, he was awarded the Praemium Imperiale for Architecture in Tokyo. In 2009, he won the 29th Prince of

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Asturias Award for the Arts and obtained the Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany.

In 1997, he was awarded the Order of Merit by the Queen of the United Kingdom and, in 1995, he received the title of Baron Foster of Thames Bank.

Norman Foster Foundation

The Norman Foster Foundation encourages inter-disciplinary thinking and research to help new generations of architects, designers and urban planners to anticipate the future. The Foundation believes in the importance of linking architecture, design, technology and art to provide a better service to society and in the value of a holistic education that promotes experimentation by means of research and built projects.

For further information and to download the press material, click [here](#)

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