

Innovation in Architecture, the focus of the 20th edition of the UIC Barcelona School of Architecture's FOROS lecture series

The series, entitled "Plural Innovation", will get under way on 26 February with Alejandro Haiek

Here, industry professionals will hone in on the concept of innovation as a crucial force for expanding Architecture beyond the discipline's traditional boundaries

Barcelona, 22 January 2018.- This year marks the 20th anniversary of the UIC Barcelona School of Architecture's Foros lecture series, a can't miss event for members of the architecture community, the new edition of which has been organised in cooperation with **BBC Construmat**. From 26 February to 7 May, six industry professionals and academics will pay the University's Aula Magna a visit and share their views on the concept of innovation in architecture.

Under the title "**Plural Innovations**", this new edition will underscore the need to expand the field of architecture. In this regard, innovation emerges as the first element in the expansion process, from an open, plural perspective, pushing the discipline to transcend its traditional limits. This year, Foros 2018 has been co-organised by School lecturer **Miquel Lacasta**, together with Marc Chalamanch and Carmen Santana, the three members of the studio Archikubik.

The series will begin on 26 February with a talk by Venezuelan architect **Alejandro Haiek**, co-founder of LABProFab. Haiek is one of biggest advocates among Latin American architects for working collaboratively to promote social, cultural and environmental development. His lecture will be entitled "Building Relationships".

The second talk, "The Social *Rambles*", will take place on 5 March and features Barcelona-based architect **Itziar González Virós**. González Virós has run her own studio in Barcelona since 1996, where she specialises in optimising public housing and restoring historic urban centres and rural structures. She is also actively engaged in social movements, serving as president of the advocacy group ParlaMent Ciutadà and director of the ReVolta Cartographic Institute.

On 19 March, we will hear from French architect **Franck Boutte**, who will deliver a talk entitled "Positive Externalities". Based in Paris, Boutte leads an interdisciplinary team of 25 professionals who work in an integrated manner in the fields of engineering and sustainable architecture. He is also an adjunct lecturer at no less than five French schools of architecture.

On 9 April, the School will welcome Catalan ceramist **Toni Cumella**, who will give the lecture "New Ceramics". Heir to a long tradition of ceramics workshops, Cumellas has successfully adapted the family business by introducing cutting-edge techniques. He is also an honorary member of the International Academy of Ceramics and has made crucial contributions to the restoration of heritage sites such as Hospital de Sant Pau, Palau de la Música and Parc Güell in Barcelona.

The fifth lecture, entitled "Circular and Lateral", will be given by French consultant **Eric Allodi**. Co-founder of the agency Integral Vision, Allodi is an expert in eco-innovation and the development of new strategies and products capable of meeting the great

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environmental challenges facing us in the 21st century. He has worked, in this capacity, for institutions such as NATO and the European Commission.

Foros 2018 will end with a lecture by Catalan engineer and architect **Jordi Pimàs**, member and founding partner of the studio 1984 Architectes. His talk will be called "Suburbia". In 2014, alongside the other three members of the team, Pimàs won the so-called Albums of Young Architects and Landscape Architects, a distinction awarded each year by the French Ministry of Culture and Communication. Pimàs teaches at the Academy of Architecture in Mendrisio (Switzerland).

About Foros

Foros is an annual lecture series organised by the UIC Barcelona School of Architecture, in which prestigious domestic and international architects use their work to share their views on architecture. These conferences are open to students, industry professionals and anyone interested in attending.

About the UIC Barcelona School of Architecture

The UIC Barcelona School of Architecture is a school of architecture committed to the intellectual, professional and personal growth of all those who form part of it. It implements a teaching model based on individual attention, practical learning in all areas of knowledge, cutting-edge technology and a teaching staff with international experience. The UIC Barcelona School of Architecture creates architects capable of facing the challenges of today's society.

About BBConstrumat

Barcelona Building Construmat is the International Building Expo that Fira de Barcelona has been organising since 1979. Held biennially, it has become the sector's leading event throughout Spain, the Mediterranean arch and Latin America. 2019 will mark the 21st edition of the event, though preparations have already begun in 2018 with support for the UIC Barcelona Foros lecture series and the organisation of diverse activities.

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