

**AGAINST MODESTY**

**Manifiesto against modesty in architecture**

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## **AGAINST MODESTY**

### Manifesto against modesty in architecture

I am asked to write a text on Architecture and Modesty for the French magazine Cosa Mentale. A modest Architecture? Talking about a modest architecture would be like talking about an ugly flower. All flowers are beautiful. Even the simplest ones. "Look at the flowers of the field. Not even Solomon in all his glory was dressed like one of them".

The term modesty has always bothered me, even though it is considered a virtue. For me, it has always had a certain pejorative sense. Modest is said of someone who is unassuming, demure and gray. Of someone who is a little sad, a little strange and a little old-fashioned.

I prefer the simple term. And even more if we refer to architecture. A simple, logical and rational architecture. What I have often called essential architecture.

A simple architecture that is not modest. It can contain well resolved complex operations, and it is never minimalist.

A logical architecture that is neither hard nor implacable. That has reason as the main instrument with which it is created.

A rational architecture that is neither rationalist, nor cruel nor rigid. But it is reasonable, it has reasons for which it stands.

The works of architectural history that interest me most are those that, far from being modest, are impressive for their simplicity, logic and rationality.

The Pantheon in Rome, the Acropolis in Athens or Palladio's Villa Rotonda are simple. They are essential.

Mies' Barcelona Pavilion or Chareau's Maison de Verre or Melnikov's House in Moscow are enormously logical. Raised by the hand of reason.

Barragan's house or Siza's Serralbes Museum or Eduardo Souto's Torre de Porto, are works of great rationality. We can give reasons for them.

My architecture is not and does not want to be modest. My architecture tries to be simple, logical and rational. In one word, essential. My architecture does not want to be minimalist or hard or rationalist. Nor is it whimsical or superficial or formalistic.

I try to make an essential architecture, radically beautiful, with the deep beauty comes from the truth. And thus remain in the memory of men.

The search for Truth and Beauty, that is my intent.