

**TADAO ANDO**

**Exhibition on Tadao Ando in Madrid**

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## MASTER OF PROPORTION

Meticulous and perfectionist, rather than recreating himself in the prolific combination of a multitude of materials, as almost everyone does today, he focuses on proportions. And to accentuate this position he almost always uses one and the same material: exposed concrete. But with a perfection that would be unthinkable in our latitudes. His trademark.

A master of proportions, impregnated with an oriental aroma, he manages to make his works, which are small in size, seem large. As did the Western masters Mies van der Rohe and Le Corbusier, whom he implicitly quotes so often.

## MAGICIAN OF LIGHT

It would seem that the light that bathes, almost soaking them, Tadao Ando's exposed concrete walls is a different light. It slides down them with such moroseness that one would say it has the golden consistency of honey.

The light roughness that he wisely gives to his concretes seems to be able to stop the sunlight on them. More than slipping, one would say that the light walks through them as if in procession, in an unhurried ceremony.

And this light without fuss, calm, makes his concretes expressive, as opposed to the coldness that the material shows on so many other occasions. More than tensing the spaces with light (as other architects try to do), one could say that he tenses with light the planes with which he shapes those spaces. In his architectures, light seems to want to show its corpuscular, material character. We can touch it in them. That light that rises with the sun every morning seems to be in a special way for this architect of the rising sun.

TADAO ANDO, architect

April 14 to May 22

MOPT Exhibition Hall (Arquerías de Nuevos Ministerios, Castellana 67)

Ministry of Public Works, Transport and the Environment

## THE CALM BEAUTY

Serenity, understood as an attribute of Classical Beauty, reaches a very special degree in the spaces created by the Japanese architect.

The emotion, the commotion produced by the enjoyment of architectural beauty, always leads us to a mode of suspension of time. In Tadao Ando's architecture, rather than suspension, we should speak of the stopping of time. And rather than emotion then, we should speak of ataraxia: that absolute stillness of the soul that, according to the Epicureans, is the quality of the gods and the ideal of the wise. A calm Beauty. The calm Beauty of Tadao Ando's architecture.

## UNIVERSAL ARCHITECT

In the catalog of that now distant Madrid exhibition, I dared to say that I was betting on Tadao Ando with the conviction that he would become a universal master. It seems that these words are being more than fulfilled. I hope that in a few years we can repeat the situation in the light of a series of new works, any in Spain? That confirm the universality of this stupendous master of the architecture of light. Subtle creator of calm beauty.

Alberto Campo Baeza

Madrid, spring 1994