

**JAVIER CARVAJAL RETURNS HOME**

**Pantheon of the Spaniards. Cimitero Campo di Verano, Rome**

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Javier Carvajal would never think that he would return to Rome to stay there forever. Javier Carvajal died in Madrid on June 14, 2013. And now his remains have been moved to Rome, to the Pantheon of the Spanish in the Campo Verano Cemetery of the Eternal City that he made in 1957.

Javier Carvajal went to Rome with the Rome Prize of the Royal Academy of Fine Arts of Spain in 1957. And there he designed and built, with José María García de Paredes, the Pantheon of the Spaniards in the Campo Verano Cemetery. A marvelous work, out of time, exquisite, that seems to have been made today.

When Javier Carvajal was awarded the Gold Medal of Architecture last year, in the Laudatio at the ceremony that took place in the Assembly Hall of the Royal Academy of San Fernando in Madrid, I told the story of Velázquez's appointment as a Knight of the Order of Santiago and how the appointment came to the genius only six months before his death. Javier Carvajal, like Velázquez, died six months after receiving the Gold Medal of Architecture.

Javier Carvajal, one of the best architects of Spanish Modern Architecture, a deep believer, now rests, since September 14, in the Eternal City. I imagine Javier Carvajal pensive and silent, contemplating from that Roman hill the beautiful sunsets, smiling.

"What matters is to want, to know what you want and why you want it."