

THANK YOU

About Víctor Martínez Segovia, Civil Engineer

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About Víctor Martínez Segovia, Civil Engineer

Víctor Martínez Segovia, has been one of the great civil engineers of our country. My relationship with him was short but intense. I owe him the Torroja Prize that we were awarded in 2003 for the building of the headquarters of Caja Granada in Granada. The Torroja Prize is awarded to a building in which, together with the architect, a civil engineer has collaborated. Because Eduardo Torroja was a civil engineer.

After winning in 1992 the competition to build the new Caja Granada building, to which more than 2,000 architects applied, I had the patience to wait 7 years until 1999 when Julio Rodríguez, as the new president of the institution after leaving the presidency of the Banco Hipotecario in Madrid, decided against all odds that it should be built for the good of the Caja and Granada. And with him the ship came to port. Thank you.

In the project, light and gravity, natural light and structure, were everything. For that structural crossing I once again called Andrés Rubio, who is an exceptional architect who always collaborates on my structures. After designing the vertical structure with columns as large as those of the cathedral of Granada itself, we called Víctor Martínez Segovia to refine the large structure of the roof, a framework with 6x6 meter cassettes 3 meters deep that rested on those 4 large reinforced concrete columns. Like a large table with four large legs. And helped by Víctor Martínez Segovia, we won the battle of gravity and the battle of light. It is very exciting to see the dance of the sunlight as it crosses that beautiful and powerful structure every day. Queen Sofia, Gorbachev and even Felipe Gonzalez have been there. And Kenneth Frampton who came all the way from Columbia University in New York, and Steven Holl. And they were all very generous in their praise. Thank you.

The impressive image of our building has filled the covers of the most important architectural magazines in the world. And then the covers of books. And in 2003, we were awarded the Torroja Prize. What more could we ask for? My fate and my luck is that I have always been surrounded by people much better than me. In the Caja Granada building, by Víctor Martínez Segovia, a gift. Thank you.