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modern architectures in history

David Cohn

#### To Amelia

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# Note on Translations

Whenever possible, the accepted local versions of place names and personal names are used, in Spanish, Catalan and other regional languages: Catalunya instead of Catalonia; Sevilla instead of Seville; Felipe II instead of Philip II; Josep Lluís Sert instead of José Luis Sert. In the case of Basque place names, I use their Spanish alternatives for the sake of clarity (few will recognize Donastia as San Sebastián, for example). Unless noted, all original texts in Spanish are translated by me and edited for succinctness.

#### Glossary of basic place-marking terms

SPANISH	CATALAN	ENGLISH
Avenida	Avinguda	Avenue
Calle	Carrer	Street
Casa	Casa	House / Apartment Building
Ciudad	Ciutat	City
Edificio	Edifici	Building
Ensanche	Eixample	Urban Extension
Palacio	Palau	Palace
Plaza	Plaça	Plaza
Plaza Mayor	Plaça Major	Main Square
Torre	Torre	Tower

# modern architectures in history

'A phenomenal achievement. Informative, balanced and critical, David Cohn's narrative places the architects and works of Spanish modernity in their political and social contexts, skilfully combining the big picture with revealing detail.'

- Luis Fernández-Galiano, Editor, Arquitectura Viva magazine

'David Cohn's engaging text examines the profound impact of national politics, regional cultures and ethical schools of thought on Spanish architecture. It also provides concise and evocative structural, spatial and experiential descriptions of key buildings exemplifying the consistently high-quality spaces and places that have been constructed in Spain over the last one hundred years.'

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Spain's remarkable twentieth-century architecture evolved against a turbulent background of revolution, civil war, dictatorship and transition to democracy. Architecture played a key role in Spain's struggle out of poverty and isolation and its search for identity in the modern world. This new account examines Spanish architecture from the roots of modernism in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries to the present, analysing significant figures and their works in relation to their political, social and cultural contexts. From Madrid's early, austere local modernism and Barcelona's internationally influenced works to the 'Organicist' modernism of the 1960s and the flourishing public architecture of the late twentieth century and beyond, this book provides a penetrating account of the country's rich and varied built environment.

David Cohn is an American architecture critic based in Madrid and a long-time international correspondent for *Architectural Record*. His books include *Young Spanish Architects* (2000) and monographs on the Spanish architects Manuel Gallego and Francisco Mangado.

With 189 illustrations

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