

Si no lo digo me quemo...

Vengo observando, últimamente, la malísima calidad de los bordillos que se construyen en Madrid, la razón tal vez tenga que ver con la aparición, en la ciudad, de un nuevo oficio. Los trabajadores que lo ejercen se autodenominan "bordilleros", y su trabajo consiste, esencialmente, en colocar bordillos a golpetazos, con un gran mazo que portan y utilizan a discreción para cortar, dar forma y encajar las piezas de hormigón o granito. ¡El futuro ya está aquí!, lejos queda el fino oficio de la cantería.

Para otros el futuro es la Puerta de Europa, ex KIO, que sorteando la natural aplicación de las leyes de la gravedad se está convirtiendo, poco a poco, en la Puerta de África. Han tenido que venir del otro lado del Atlántico para enseñar a los arquitectos de la villa cómo no se debe hacer un muro cortina. Y es que lo importante, una vez decidida la estéril heroicidad de inclinar millones de toneladas, era recrear la imagen que explicara la magnitud de la hazaña. Para lo cual nada mejor que acudir al recurso, ya conocido, de la figuración tecnológica, y construir una piel independiente, superpuesta a la estructura, en la que representar, desmesuradamente, soportes y triangulaciones, por medio de una fina chapa plegada, de acero inolvidable.

Pero las desgracias nunca vienen solas. El feo bastión de las huestes ultra sur, el querido estadio Bernabéu, acosado por la retaguardia, tras la penúltima reforma, por uno de los centros comerciales más absurdos de Madrid, acosa a los paseantes con la desproporcionada altura de sus nuevos graderíos y torreones. El castillo de Mendoza, con sus metamorfosis sucesivas, se ha transformado en un alien merecedor del trofeo "pichichi".

Madrid no tiene suerte

Emilio Tuñón

Madrid Doesn't Get Lucky

If I don't say this I'm going to explode...

Relentlessly of late, I observe the terrible quality of the curbs built in Madrid; the reason, perhaps, has to do with the appearance in the city of a new craft. Those workers who exercise it call themselves "curbers", and their work essentially consists in placing curbstones by pounding them with a big mallet which they carry and use at their discretion in order to cut, shape and fit the pieces of concrete or granite. The future is already here! –far, far away is the fine craft of masonry.

For others, the future is the Puerta de Europa (Gateway of Europe), ex-KIO, which is defying the laws of gravity and slowly becoming the Puerta de África. They had to come from the other side of the Atlantic in order to show the town architects how not to make a curtain wall. The important thing, once the sterile heroism of making millions of tons lean over had been decided, was to re-create an image capable of explaining the magnitude of the feat. Nothing better, for this, than to resort to the already known recourse of technological figuration: the construction of an independent surface, super-imposed on the structure, on which to represent, excessively, supports and triangulations by means of a fine plate made of steel which neither stains nor can be forgotten.

Misfortunes, though, never

come singly. The ugly fortress of the ultra sur legions*, the much loved Bernabéu stadium, harassed to the rear, after the next to last reform, by one of the most absurd shopping malls of Madrid, now harasses passers-by with the disproportionate height of its new stands and turrets. Mendoza's

chi" al "más feo todavía". ¡Menos mal que el año pasado no ganamos la liga!. La realidad es que no es difícil disfrutar de sinsabores urbanísticos en cualquier barrio de nuestra ciudad. Ultimamente, Madrid no tiene suerte, y pronto, si alguien no lo remedia, veremos construido el aparcamiento de la plaza de Oriente. Y es que Madrid, tal vez no tenga suerte porque nos falte la cultura urbanística "de toda la vida" que tienen las grandes ciudades europeas. El Barça ha vuelto a ganar, y esta vez por goleada, Barcelona 92-Madrid 0.

Nos cuesta reconocer que en "la capital", con la cantidad de buenos técnicos que tenemos, la arquitectura y el urbanismo se hagan como los bordillos, con más alarde de fuerza que de pensamiento... pero lo cierto es que, mientras tanto, nuestro alcalde, a la búsqueda de una mayor consistencia intelectual en el desarrollo futuro de la ciudad, llama a consulta a Mingote y otras personalidades, para elaborar las bases con las que dar sustento teórico a la, ya inminente, modificación del plan general.

¡Que Dios nos pille confesados!

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castle, in its successive metamorphoses, has turned into an "alien" deserving of a special "pichichi" trophy, this time for "unrepentant ugliness". We're lucky we didn't win the League last year! The fact of the matter is that it is not difficult to behold urbanistic tastelessness in any neighbourhood of our city. Lately, Madrid has been unlucky, and soon, if somebody doesn't fix it, we will see the parking lot built at the Plaza de Oriente. Perhaps Madrid is unlucky because we don't have that urbanist culture of "forever" that the great European cities have. Barça has won again, and this time with scoring strikes: Barcelona 92 - Madrid 0.

It hurts to recognize that in "the capital", despite all our great engineers, architecture and city planning are done like the curbs, more a show of force than a display of thought... but what is clear is that, while all this goes on, our mayor, searching for greater intellectual consistency in the future development of the city, has called on Mingote as a consultant**, along with others, to elaborate the bases of theoretical content for the already imminent modification of the overall plan. Let us confess before God catches us!

Translator notes

* "Ultra sur" is the name of a semi-organized group of fans of the Real Madrid football club, not unknown for turbulent behaviour... Mendoza is the president of the Real Madrid football club, whose home field is Bernabéu. The "Pichichi" trophy is awarded to the player who scores the most goals in a season in the Spanish League. (Barça refers to the Barcelona club.)

** Mingote is a cartoonist for the right-wing newspaper ABC. He has in fact been named President of a commission established by the Mayor of Madrid to study a future plan for Madrid.