

## English Summary

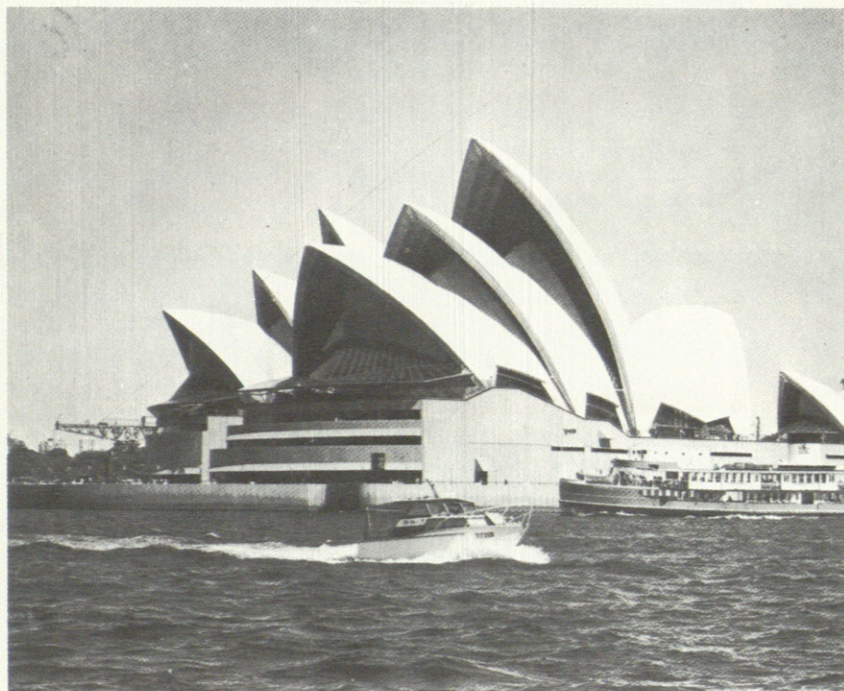
### NATIONAL PRIZES FOR RESTORATION

The central theme of this issue of *Arquitectura* is the recent competition for the National Restoration Prizes held by the Ministry of Culture. The four winning projects all represent concerted efforts to respect the original nature of the buildings in question while revitalizing them for current use. It is especially important to consider that this is the first year that the Ministry has granted awards for restoration instead of entirely new buildings. This reflects an attempt to grant more importance to the architectural heritage of Spain and the difficult task of restoration.

Dionisio Hernández Gil outlines the history of historical monuments in Spain which is reflected in legislation dating back to the Second Republic of 1933 and 1936. Unfortunately the directives outlined in these laws have not been uniformly followed. This coupled with uneven economic development, emigration, speculation and other trends has made the general panorama of the conservation of monuments difficult to say the least.

Currently in Spain there are 3000 declared monuments and some 300 historically classified areas which are eligible to receive funds from the Ministry of Culture. To date, the budget for projects in this field has been minimal.

Mr. Hernández speaks of the importance of critical analysis and a rigorous and scientific program of restoration, which must be supported by an overall coordinated program of restoration by the Ministry. No longer are isolated efforts possible if Spain hopes to conserve its important historical past.



### THE NARCISSIST PHASE IN ARCHITECTURE

Alex Tzonis y Liane Lefaivre

*The Narcissist Phase in Architecture* recently appeared in the *Harvard Architecture Review* and has been translated with the kind permission of the authors Professores Alex Tzonis and Liane Lefaivre. The article argues that Post-Modernism is little more than self-conscious posturing based on the economic necessity of architects to validate themselves, professionally and intellectually, to society at large. It presents a suspicion, widespread among practicing architects today, toward the somewhat impractical positions taken by contemporary «avant-garde» theorists.

The article parts from an economically based analysis of Post-Modernism strongly criticizing this recent movement which brings financial gain and publicity to its promoters. The authors look both at the profession and at architectural schools in tracing the 1960s movements of «scientism» and «populism» which in the 1970s gave way to a new *narcissistic* phase. The movements of the 60s were hardly a panacea, but, argues Tzonis, one must not forget the valuable ground gained by this period in architectural history, especially in terms of addressing moral and practical issues. The Post-Modern retreat to where the architect becomes the focal point of architecture and leaves aside a theoretical recognition of architecture's social and cultural setting is marked especially by an absence of human concern.

In looking to the future of architecture and the narcissistic phase the authors state that it «has had an undeniable impact on the world of architects, but its place in history promises to be a minor one. It is a development concerned with marginal aspects of architecture».