

Madrid, ciudad en destrucción

Por: MIGUEL BRIEVA

01>My first memories are those that tie me most strongly to this city. Not only because they take me back to my childhood, which is often the stronghold of true happiness, but also because of Madrid back then, now deeply deteriorated by misadventure development. 02>... a certain untamed and genuinely native lifestyle "Come on, tiki! Stay still!"... could still be relished. 03>I grew up in Peñagrande, a neighbourhood in the northwest of the capital, at a time when the limits of the metropolis... were watered-down by the countryside, not unpleasantly so. 04>Isolated tower blocks were interspersed with little, low houses - rural style and very Madrid - in im-provised, cheerful urban planning with very little traffic. "Ricardito! Go and take the bottles back to the shop..." But mum... we're playing... 05>There were vegetable plots with water tanks, areas of open field with flocks of sheep grazing... 06> "Dad... we're taking the sofa bed ter cousin!"... some parts like shanty towns... 07>...and even a brook called Las Veguillas, whose bends we were exploring when "on expedition". "Look, a snake..."



MIS PRIMEROS RECUERDOS SON LOS QUE MÁS INTENSAMENTE ME UNEN A ESTA CIUDAD. NO SÓLO PORQUE ME REMITAN A LA INFANCIA, QUE A MENUDO ES EL REDUCTO DE LA VERDADERA FELICIDAD, SINO PORQUE EN AQUEL MADRID, YA PROFUNDAMENTE DEGRADADO POR EL DESARROLLO MAL ENTENDIDO...



...AÚN PODÍA PALADEARSE CIERTA VIDA PAUSADA...

¡Pero chiquiillo!
¡Para quieto un rato!

...Y GENUINAMENTE AUTÓCTONA.



CRECÍ EN PEÑAGRANDE, UN BARRIO AL NOROESTE DE LA CAPITAL, EN UN TIEMPO EN EL QUE LOS LÍMITES DE LA URBE...

...AÚN SE DILUÍAN CON EL CAMPO DE UN MODO MÁS O MENOS AMABLE.



BLOQUES DE PISOS AISLADOS SE ALTERNABAN CON CASITAS BAJAS, DE TIPOLOGÍA RURAL Y MUY MADRILEÑA, EN UN TRAZADO URBANÍSTICO IMPROVISADO, ALEGRE Y CON MUY POCO TRÁFICO.

¡Ricardito!
Vete a llevar los cascos a la bodega...

Pero, mamá... estamos jugando.



HABÍA HUERTAS CON ALBERCAS, ZONAS DE CAMPO ABIERTO CON REBAÑOS DE OVEJAS PASTANDO...



...ALGÚN QUE OTRO ASENTAMIENTO DE CHABOLAS...



...E INCLUSO UN ARROYUELO, EL DE LAS VEGUILLAS, POR CUYO CURSO NOS ÍBAMOS LOS NIÑOS "DE EXPEDICIÓN".

¡Mira, una culebra...

Madrid - City in Destruction



08->It's true that memories are subjective, but it's undeniable that the city back then still behaved like a cell... permeable to its surroundings... breathing, "Kniff-grinder!" "Tomatoes!" "Here, soon, Absolutely. Whichever 10->Ghastly real-estate business ventures... 11->endless swaths of industrial estates... 12->Highways and junctions that lead to nothing. "From Madrid to the stars!" 13->As if it were a stroke caused by the fall. 14->... of a colossal bomb of neutrons, Euros and concrete. 15->And so, these days, that brook from our childhood has been turned into the course for another current, infinitely more dismal and swift... Madrid - City in Destruction ...the M-30

01> Condemned to turn its back on the territory that hosts it, Madrid, like all cities of our time, has been uprooted from its substrate, its past, of its welcoming and native qualities... "Farewell, real world!" "Woo-hoo! Now we're really going somewhere!" 02> Unrelentingly entering that doubt-filled limbo of blind growth and speculation. "Wait for me!" Peking - Tokyo - NY - London - Paris... 03> At the mercy of this false logic, the modern city is relegated to being a merely functional storage space... 04> To stand out, Madrid faces a sad diatribe... being the window display to something that no longer exists... 05> ...or rather being another provincial copy of the sprawling metropolises of note. "What shall we watch then?" "The Lion King or Blas Piñar. The Musical?" 06> The Olympic bid or the Eurovegas project are nothing more than rather hysterical and delirious drifts of a lack of imagination, and a Madrid heading somewhere... "This is the VIP Torture Chamber, Mr. Anderson. Of course, that'll be legal soon too..." 07> ...beyond the personal, fanatic and mean-spirited gain of its dominant elite.



LOS SUCESIVOS ESLOGANES QUE HA IDO TENIENDO LA CIUDAD NOS PERMITEN ATISBAR CUÁL SERÁ SU MÁS QUE PROBABLE DESTINO...



SIN EMBARGO, COMO ADMIRADOR DE LA ARQUITECTURA Y TODO SU POTENCIAL, ALGO ME PREOCUPA TODAVÍA MÁS...



08

BASTA TRANSITAR POR EL MADRID MÁS RECIENTE PARA CONSTATAR HASTA QUÉ PUNTO SUS NUEVOS BARRIOS Y SUBURBIOS SON IDÉNTICOS A LOS DE CUALQUIER OTRA CIUDAD...



09

EN LAS REVISTAS DE ARQUITECTURA, ES CIERTO, AÚN PODEMOS VER HONROSAS MUESTRAS DE BUEN HACER. PERO, ¿QUÉ SUPONE ESO DE TODO LO CONSTRUIDO?



10

HABRÁ QUIEN PIENSE QUE ASÍ SON LAS COSAS, QUE ASÍ COMO LA PUBLICIDAD, NOS GUSTE O NO, ES EL VERDADERO ARTE DE NUESTRA ÉPOCA...



11

NO OBSTANTE, TAL VEZ LA MAYORÍA DE LOS ARQUITECTOS Y URBANISTAS QUE AMAN SU OFICIO SOSPECHEN YA QUE LA INTENSIFICACIÓN DEL CAPITALISMO SUPONDRÁ, EN DEFINITIVA, EL FIN DE SUS DISCIPLINAS...



12



13

08- Nonetheless, as an admirer of architecture and its potential, something worries me even more... "I refer to that troubling feeling that all construction post- let's say, the 60's, is a formal and habitable abomination." 09- It only takes a trip round recently-built Madrid to confirm just how much its new neighbourhoods and suburbs are identical to those of any other city... "I'm the man!" Identically horrible... Hee hee... 10- It's true that in architecture magazines we can still see honourable examples of good work. But, how much is that in comparison with everything that is built? "I surround myself with sophistication to avoid thinking about what I really am..." Is it even 1%? 11- There will be people who think things are like that, like advertising, whether you like it or not, being the true art of our times... Look, notice the plasterboard ashlars... what PVC plumbing? What aluminium carpentry! ... they really knew how to build back then! "Sure... nowadays we live in cardboard boxes!" ...future generations will also know how to appreciate the wonder intrinsic to places such as Seseña, Moratalaz or San Chinarro... 12- Nonetheless, perhaps most architects and urban planners who love their trade suspect that the intensification of capitalism will suppose, without doubt, the death of their disciplines... ...taking advantage of the solar energy we get here and the air currents. In the communal areas there'll be a nursery, common room, green spaces and access to... "Nice... really nice, truly nice. Now get back to the studio and make me a "real" project that'll get me big bucks real fast... and then, if necessary, we'll talk..." 13- "Because... What sense is left to medicine when the doctor's professional frame prevents him from healing or saving lives?"

