

MATCOAM arises from the need to merge knowledge, research and experimentation with materials. It is a gallery oriented to the fields of architecture, design and building, a multidisciplinary space where elements common to complementary professions as architecture, engineering, building engineering and interior architecture come together. Architecture studios don't have the space or means to keep samples and structural details, updated and classified. And the manufacturers don't have the chance to access all of them at once. MATCOAM was born to satisfy those needs.

MATCOAM Gallery of Materials: six different areas

At the present, composed materials and nano-materials are part of the day to day. Given this, it didn't make sense to classify them by their origin. But choosing a classification according to the building phases brings clarity to the organization and allows for finding the materials in a fast and efficient way. Therefore, they are distributed into 6 different areas: Structural work, Solutions, Refurbishment, Finishes and Wet Areas, and Specialized Means. As technicians, experimenting with materials, touching and checking their texture, colour, behaving and thickness, and comparing different brands and qualities, give us endless options to raise our projects in value. Maybe this is the materials archive's added value. The digital world doesn't allow us to feel. Perception stimulates the interpretation of the materials.

Consultancy, technical documentation and samples

Because manufacturers can't get to every professional, the Gallery, besides providing an exhibition area of more than 700 sqm and with room for 10,000 samples, also provides personal consultancy services, supplying with technical documentation, samples and the link between companies and advisors.

Contacts and outreach

Besides the exhibition of materials, MATCOAM has the strategic alliances with specialized media and manufacturers associations with which the user is liable to come into contact through the services of the Gallery of Materials. All this is complemented with an exposure work by technicians, building companies, manufacturers, associations and technological institutes, each one of them giving their opinion about the different materials or building systems for a solution, finding the pros and cons for each individual solution. This is a way for keeping up to date about the subject and saving time while offering the opportunity to be in direct contact with the partakers.

Training and upgrading

The MATCOAM Gallery of Materials is an important reference and research centre for universities.

Students have the opportunity to attend master classes inside the exhibition space, helping them to discover from the more basic and traditional materials to the more technological ones, as well as the construction systems used at present.

Who can be a user and how?

The Gallery has agreements with architecture and design schools, as well as with other professional associations and online professional portals, becoming a service for those collectives. In short, the MATCOAM Gallery of Materials is a place for visiting, watching, touching and learning.

arquitecto de la casa

Norberto Beirak

5 El COAM ha querido por primera vez hablar directamente
V al público. Ya era hora, dicen algunos.

Ante la catástrofe de la profesión – falta de encargos, derrumbe de los precios, emigración, abandono de la actividad – nos preguntamos cómo debíamos volver a explicar que un arquitecto es alguien necesario. Puesto que por un tiempo pareció lo contrario.

Y encontramos que el camino más simple pasaba por lo más simple: la conservación de los edificios en unas ciudades que ya están hechas en su mayor parte. En las que edificio no quiere decir edificio nuevo sino edificio existente.

Una conservación amorosa hecha por quien sabe que cada edificio es singular porque expresa la manera de hacer de un arquitecto y para un cliente particular; que cada edificio es histórico porque expresa las formas de hacer en un momento determinado; y que conoce ambas o está preparado para conocerlas.

Que sabe intervenir en los edificios porque sabe proyectarlos. Que puede conservarlos a la vez que renovarlos. Que puede aportar nuevas lecturas que abren a nuevos aprovechamientos. Que puede hacer que la conservación sea la consecuencia de una conversación con su cliente, de una escucha atenta.

Y encontramos también que esto que servía para volver a presentarnos ante la sociedad, de una forma más cercana, también servía para que ella tomara conciencia de que el cuidado de los edificios no solo es una

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obligación sino una ocasión y una ventaja y que es en realidad el cuidado de la ciudad. Así el Colegio cumple también su función de servicio al interés general. Así nació *arquitectodelacasa* y sus dos lemas: "los edificios no se conservan solos y conservar tu casa mejora tu calidad de vida", que esperamos que os parezcan bien y que ayudéis a difundir.

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Imágen de la campaña

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Translation

-----The COAM has wanted to speak to the public for the first time. It was high time, some people say.

Given the profession's decline - lack of assignments, price collapse, emigration, abandonment of the activity- we asked ourselves how to explain that an architect is someone indispensable, although the opposite has appeared for a while.

So we believed that the easiest path started by the simplest thing: the conservation of buildings in cities already built for the most part - cities in which "building" doesn't mean "new building", but "existing building".

A loving upkeep made by someone who knows that every building is unique, because it reflects the manners of an architect for a particular client, someone who knows that every building is historical because it reflects the ways of doing things in a particular moment, someone who knows about both things or is prepared to learn them. Someone who knows how to intervene on an existing building because he knows how to design a new one. Someone who is able to preserve and renovate it at the same time. Someone who provides new readings opening up the door to new uses. Someone who is able to turn the conservation in the consequence of a conversation with the client, of an active listening.

And we believed as well that this would be useful to show ourselves to the society in a closer way and for the society to become aware that taking care of the buildings is not an obligation, but an opportunity and an advantage that actually means taking care of the city. This way, the association is fulfilling its purpose of serving the general interest.

That is how *arquitectodelacasa* and its two mottos were born - buildings don't conserve by themselves and conserving your house improves your life quality. We hope you agree and help with the spreading.

Comentarios . Actualizado a 15/05/2018

5.1 > Diana Taboada 22 de Marzo

Como bien se refleja en el texto de Noberto Beirak, sería una negligencia pasar por alto nuestras obligaciones como ciudadanos, además de como arquitectos y olvidar que debemos conservar, en el sentido más amplio de la palabra, la arquitectura de las ciudades para seguir avanzando.

Para las ciudades ya consolidadas el tiempo no se para, avanza inexorablemente, transformando un organismo vivo que se constituye por diferentes sistemas: el urbanismo, la arquitectura, las infraestructuras... e incluso una extensa demografía cambiante.

A la posibilidad de mantener el legado histórico se suma la oportunidad adaptar los edificios a las nuevas necesidades demandadas por los usuarios, por lo que, con cada trabajo de conservación, de rehabilitación o incluso de reforma, tenemos la posibilidad de demostrar la valiosa y necesaria herramienta que podemos llegar a ser para la ciudad.