

The Work of Machado & Silvetti Associates

La Obra de Machado y Silvetti Asociados

Javier Cenicacelaya



The Work of Machado and Silvetti presents the projects designed in the last four decades by these two architects. As active participants in the architectural scene of the '70s and '80s, they were intensely engaged in the origins of the debate that changed the course of architectural thinking, and of its pedagogical and professional practice implications. At the emergence of postmodernism, being considered as “outsiders,” they escaped from the reductionist attitudes that either took historical forms for legitimizing architectural practice, or renounced to accept that a *tabula rasa* as unthinkable.

They confront the practice of architecture with realism and from a cultural perspective that engages the multiple social and technical practices that bear on the creative process of making architecture: they consider typologies as indifferent to function or to iconographic definition, and defend the potential of architectural language and of architecture as a discipline. Machado and Silvetti have coined the idea of *unprecedented realism* to describe their distinctive



design strategies and techniques of assemblage, personal interpretation, the production of meaning and the creation of emerging typologies. Their work pays attention to the culture, site, market, material detailing and architectural composition.

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