

Lluís Comerón

the new president of the Superior Council of Associations of Spanish Architects

Interview by Lola Gómez

The inauguration of the new president for the period 2018-2021 took place on the 24th of January. Lluís Comerón was born in Mataró in 1960 and completed his education at the Superior Technical School of Architecture of Barcelona in 1989. As an architect, he has carried out diverse professional practice both for public administrations and the private sector.

At the public sector level, he has undertaken school, sanitary, penitentiary, cultural and public spaces projects. He has combined his professional career with teaching at university level, first as a teacher who taught mathematics and projects, and afterwards, at the Vallès School of Architecture, as a co-director for project workshops. In 2006 he became president of the Architects' Association of Catalonia and from 2010 to 2017 he served as the Dean of this institution.

You are now at the beginning of your four-year term of office as president of Spanish architects. What challenges have you set out for yourself?

My greatest challenge as president of the Superior Council of Associations of Architects is to encourage the transition of our profession from its current status, shattered by an extremely tough and prolonged crisis that has restricted our professional activity and worsened the conditions in which we carry it out, to a setting where architecture assumes its due leadership in the processes of reformation of our cities thus regaining an important professional role that would also allow improving the conditions in which we perform it.

For that purpose, our intention is to create a collective project that can be headed in each territory by the Associations of Architects, with the boost and coordination from the Board and Assembly of the SCASA and the involvement and mutual understanding of our group, as it's an opportunity we must seize and make the most of, with responsibility, preparedness and diversification, in a systematic and ordered way, with regard to society and social welfare.

To give you a clearer idea of the significance of the process we're going through, it suffices to say that one of the current challenges architecture is facing is to fight against the climate change since nearly one-third of both electricity consumption and CO2 emissions is attributable to buildings. It is necessary to modify already built buildings in order to achieve the goals we are focusing on. Besides, to this, we must add various requirements for health, comfort, technology implementation, etc., and the need to restructure our cities so they can be involved in the circular economy and increase their recycling rates. This is the main challenge for these four years: identify that here is the mission of architecture, line up the architects in that direction and facilitate cooperation of the associations so they can help in this respect.

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What can you tell us about the Plan of communication and collective marketing for the public promotion of architects and their work?

Apart from carrying out a project, there's a certain attitude and general priority for this term of office, focused on improving the image of our profession within society and aimed at placing value on immaterial values that we, architects, contribute to public welfare. In order to move ahead with this project, it is necessary to analyse the situation by concentrating on various preliminary points that can help us identify what exactly we have to implement; we're going to carry out a general survey on the state of the profession in our country, in which we're going to analyse different factors, and after that we're planning two professional studies: one on social perception of architects and architecture, and the other to analyse new professional opportunities for architects. Finally, we're intending to hold an architecture conference in 2019.

Do you think that Spain now dominates the world architectural culture?

Spanish architecture and its quality are going through a very good time. In spite of the difficult situation already mentioned and thanks to the extraordinary effort made by many architects, our architecture boasts international recognition. As you know, RCR Arquitectos received the Pritzker Award 2017, and we can add to this the success of the Spanish pavilion at the Venice Biennale two years ago. This architectural quality was validated at the XIII Biennial of Spanish Architecture where a display of works by young architects offered a very good representation of a general panorama of architectural and urban production.



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