

Botín Art Center in Santander, Spain

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Abstract

Botín Art Center is a remarkable work of Engineering and Architecture design in the north of Spain, in the beautiful front seaside of Santander bay.

This multipurpose building, signed by Renzo Piano, will be open to the public in 2017.

The building is a real challenge from a structural point of view. Minimizing the number of supports on the ground floor and flying over the sea, the structure is designed in order to accommodate all the architectural requirements.

Botín Art Center is composed by two building with a common underground basement and elevated footbridge connections. The West Building is conceived as a Gallery Exhibition Center with external dimensions of 80,0m*30,0m. The East Building is a multipurpose building of 48,0m*27,5m, with Educational areas and a Auditorium for conferences or music concerts.

Keywords: Botín Art Center, singular structure, slenderness, steel trusses, Santander, Renzo Piano, Architecturally Exposed Structural Steel (AESS), Fundación Botín.

1 Introduction

Botín Art Center is a new exhibition and educational Art Center in the north coast of Spain. In the last years, a high concentration of exhibition and art centers have been designed and constructed in this area. Centro Botín in Santander will joins to Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao by Frank Gehry, Kursaal in San Sebastian by Moneo, Niemeyer Center in Avilés and Ciudad de la Cultura in Santiago de Compostela by Peter Eisenman (Figure 3).

This building is the first work in Spain by Renzo Piano, supported and funded by Fundación Botín, a cultural organization with a close relation with Bank of Santander.

From the point of view of the structure, the design is a real challenge. Architectural design dictates the necessity to minimize the number of supports on ground floor to create an open communication between Santander city and beautiful Pereda

garden on one side, and Cantabrico seashore in the other side.



Figure 1. An opportunity for the city to recover the sea sight (source Fundacion Botin)

The project includes an urban and landscape development. The previous situation was based on a lack of continuity of the city toward the sea, because a busy roadway and an industrial use of the seashore was keeping away the city inhabitants from the beautiful view of the sea.