

BUILDING WITH AIR

The offices of the Castilla León Junta in Zamora

In collaboration with Pablo Fernández Lorenzo, Pablo Redondo Díez, Alfonso González Gaisán and Francisco Blanco Velasco

To build with air, the abiding dream of every architect:

Facing the cathedral and following the outline of the former convent's kitchen garden, we erect a strong stone wall box open to the sky. Its walls and floors entirely made of stone. The very same stone as the Cathedral. A real *Hortus Conclusus*. In the corner facing the cathedral, a massive stone measuring 250x150x50 cm, a veritable *Cornerstone*. And chiselled on that stone:

HIC LAPIS ANGULARIS MAIO MMXII POSITO

Within the stone box, a glass box, only glass. Like a greenhouse. With a double facade similar to a *Trombe wall*. The external skin of the facade is made of glass, each single sheet measuring 600x300x2,4 cm and all joined together simply with structural silicone and hardly anything else. As if entirely made of air.

The trihedral upper angles of the box are made completely with glass, thus even further accentuating the effect of transparency. Precisely what Mies was looking for in his Friedrichstrasse tower. The trihedron built with air, a true *Glass Corner*. And engraved in acid on the glass:

HOC VITRUM ANGULARIS MAIO MMXII POSITO

The stone box made from Memory. With its *Cornerstone* deeply rooted in the soil. The glass box made for the Future. With its *Glass Corner* blending into the sky.

To build with air, the abiding dream of every architect.