



Exhibition: **NATURAL LOGIC. VICENTE GUALLART**
IVAM Institut Valencià d'Art Modern
13 September – 11 November 2007

Organized by: IVAM Institut Valencià d'Art Modern

Curators: Aaron Betsky and Consuelo Císcar

Sponsored by:  

At the curators' suggestion, the Vicente Guallart exhibition has been installed in the IVAM's Sala de la Muralla, a space 80 metres long, situated below the entrance to the museum, where part of the Christian city wall of Valencia is still preserved.

The items exhibited appear suspended above the city wall, the architectural structure which articulates the entire exhibition. The show presents a selection of 22 scale models, 12 videos and prototypes of Guallart's most outstanding projects, such as the harbours of Fugee and Keelung in Taiwan, the Artificial Mountain in Wroclaw (Poland) and the Sharing Tower in Sociópolis, which was also shown at the MoMA during the recent exhibition of Spanish architecture.

The catalogue contains drawings and photographs of Guallart's projects, together with a series of references of scientific works used by the architect when he is working, such as Benoit Mandelbrot's fractals, Aristid Lindenmayer's cellular automata and Viollet-le-Duc's geological structures. It also includes essays by the curators, Aaron Betsky and Consuelo Císcar.

“If architecture is landscape, buildings are mountains,” the Barcelona-based Valencian architect Vicente Guallart declared aphoristically. Guallart’s way of working is innovative because it breaks away from the idea that architecture is the product of a building on an urban plane. Instead, he cuts across scales, connecting a cement or steel construction with the tectonic structure of a mountain, the microscopic geometries of a mineral, the structures of trees, or the complex formation from which he composes his buildings.

His field of research is not limited to biology and geology. He finds similar patterns in the rituals or habits of our everyday life and in the movements of people in urban landscapes, and he intersects them with his explorations of materials to construct a whole repertoire of forms that corresponds to the most fundamental kind of guide to the social and economic structure and physical geography of the modern city. The result is what he calls a “re-naturalization of land” in which buildings grow and respond to the world in which they are erected.

Vicente Guallart

Vicente Guallart (Valencia, 1963) is one of the young Spanish architects who has made the greatest international impact. After working with Josep Lluís Mateo for four years, in 1993 he started his own studio in Barcelona, taking part in numerous projects in Barcelona and abroad. Between 1994 and 2000 he has developed new projects, incorporating multimedia and architecture.

In 2000 he created Guallart Architects, a studio which designs projects on many different scales, especially involving housing and landscape, in master plans, urban development, housing projects and software design, working with experts in various disciplines – sociologists, anthropologists, engineers, urban designers and media and software designers.

His projects are developed at the point where architecture, nature and new technologies meet. His most important projects include the Dénia Mountain (the reconstruction of a quarry in a setting which includes a castle from the time of the Moors, selected for the *Biennale di Venezia* in 2004), three harbours in the northern part of Taiwan to boost tourism in the country, the master plan for Sociópolis in Valencia, and the Sharing Tower in the La Torre district (Valencia).

Vicente Guallart devotes part of his time to research and educational projects, as director of the new Institute of Advanced Architecture of Catalonia (IAAC) in Barcelona, which offers an international Master’s Degree based on architecture and urban design. In 2000, together with MIT’s Media Lab and other research centres, he co-directed the Media House Project, the prototype of an informational home based for the first time on distributed computerization.

Vicente Guallart is the architect of the master plan of the Sociópolis project, an innovative housing project in Valencia which combines urban development with protection of an agricultural environment. He is coordinating an international team of

architects who will construct equipment and housing in this neighbourhood. The project was presented in the *Bienal de Valencia* and at the Architektur Zentrum in Vienna and will be built during 2007.

He is co-author of the *Metapolis Dictionary of Advanced Architecture* (Actar), *HiperCatalunya* and *Media House Project*. He was one of the youngest Spanish architects to be selected for the exhibition *On-Site: New Architecture in Spain* at the MoMA in New York in 2006. He has given talks in universities and institutions throughout the world, including the Architectural Association, Princeton University, UPenn, UCLA, MIT, Space (Seoul) and Taipei. In 2006 and 2007 he has been a member of the External Review Board of the Architectural Association in London.

Further information about the exhibition is available in the specially created blog and in the architect's web page.

Blog: www.guallartblog.com

Web: www.guallart.com