

Congress Centre “El Greco”

Toledo, Spain, 2005-2012

The [Congress Centre “El Greco”](#) is a project of Rafael Moneo in which Oliver Bieniussa collaborated as Project Architect and Site Director. It was born from the remodelling of an old parking lot that occupied the actual site. The building that houses a complex program also serves as a public escalator that allows access from the lower parts of Toledo to the upper level of the historic city centre, saving a drop of 30m. The façade of the new building substitutes the city wall over its own track and gives place to an area that holds an Auditorium for 1.000 people, 5 convention rooms, a restaurant and a parking lot, in an optimum position with respect to Toledo’s historic city centre. All of this is achieved without altering the city skyline.

The natural conditions of the site –the topography- allows for the parking lot to be designed with entrances and exits from the lower level, while the congress centre accesses are made available from the historic city centre level. An automatic escalator system situated at the north facing façade takes people from the lower levels of the city to the elevated levels of the old quarter, in such way that it can be considered as a new entrance to the city of Toledo.

The roof of the building has been converted into a landscaped garden square, giving back to the public the antique space called “Paseo del Miradero”.

