



BIO Carmelo Zappulla

Carmelo Zappulla is an Italian architect graduated with honors and special mention at the University of Palermo. He obtained a Doctorate with honors (European Mention) at the Polytechnic University of Catalonia.

Zappulla is the founder and executive director of the award-winning international studio External Reference, based in Barcelona, specialized in urban design, architectural and interior design, and exhibition design.

The studio, always interested in linked research to new technologies and materials, has adopted a "cradle to cradle" approach, where the architecture is made up of elements compatible with a circular economy and allowing its complete reuse.

External Reference, thanks to the dedication of the architect Zappulla, has built, over the years, an extensive network of collaboration with international professionals, which allows him to promote the integration of crafts and advanced digital technologies, throughout the world.

Among the numerous international projects carried out and built by the studio we highlight the exhibition design of the Spain Pavilion "Spain Explores" for the 2012 Yeosu Expo in South Korea, managed by Spanish Cultural Action (AC/E), retail projects for brands like "24Kilates" in Bangkok, Thailand, or for "Presented by" in Doha, London and Manchester, which won international awards, and the building for "Jané Winestore" in El Vendrell, Tarragona.

Recently he has curated the exhibition of "Young Mona Lisa" by Leonardo Da Vinci at the Palazzo Bastogi in Florence.

Among the future projects: the exhibition design, in a joint venture with Onionlab, of the Pavilion of Spain in the Expo of Dubai 2020 coordinated by Spanish Cultural Action (AC/E); and the itinerancy of the "Young Mona Lisa" exhibition in Beijing. In addition, the studio has been involved in an altruistic collaboration project of a new private primary school in Comarruga (Tarragona), for which funds are being raised, and a new project on the promenade of Barceloneta, in Barcelona.

With External Reference he received at the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, the Architecture Master Prize Award for small companies in the category of Multidisciplinary Interior Design (2019) and was awarded in 2011 by New Italian Blood as "best Italian architect under 36 years". He has also received: 1st Prize in 2A Europe Architecture Award (Interior Architecture category,



2018), 1st Prize InArch Best Author Restaurant Award (2017), 1st Prize SBID Award (Society of British International Design) International Design Award (Restaurant Design, 2017), 1st Prize Exhibit Design Awards of Exhibitor magazine (2014), and the 2nd Prize for European 8 (2006).

Zappulla is currently director of the Master in Experiential Interior Design at LCI Barcelona and professor of Ecological Experimental Project at the IAAC in Barcelona (Institute for Advanced Architecture of Catalunya); For 7 years he was director of the Master of Interior Architecture at the IED (Istituto Europeo di Design). He collaborates with international architecture schools and institutions, including Strathclyde University, the WSA (The Welsh School of Architecture), the Department of Architecture at the University of Cardiff, Wales, United Kingdom. In addition, he is a member of Giras-Tec, an international research group in architecture and society of the Polytechnic University of Catalonia.

His works have been exhibited at the Venice Biennale, during the XII International Architecture Exhibition, at the National Museum of Arts of the XXI Century-MAXXI in Rome, at the EME3 International Architecture Festival in Barcelona and at the prestigious EUROPAN 8 contest in Oslo.

His publications include scientific articles published by Routledge and projects published in journals such as "Future", "Blueprint", "Materia", "Frame", "Dezeen", "Domus", in well-known Italian and Spanish newspapers such as "Il Sole 24 ore" and "La Vanguardia", in the books "Architect's Notebook" and "Architectural process 2014" by Damdi Publishing.

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