

Anatomy of the UPV/EHU Auditorium (Bizkaia Aretoa), an emblematic building of the architect Alvaro Siza in Bilbao; urbanistic, architectonic and constructive aspects

The building "BBK Paraninfo" (Bizkaia Aretoa), designed by portuguese architect Alvaro Siza and located in Abandoibarra, is a milestone in the regeneration of the city of Bilbao, as well as a wish of a better approximation of the UPV/EHU to society and, more particularly, to the city.

The city of Bilbao that in the past was a commercial meeting point and later an important knot of communication through its port and its industrial activity, shows from the beginning of the 21st century a deep regeneration of its urban structure and his transformation towards city of services. This renovation generates a new urban development where the old port's spaces are transformed to residential buildings and other infrastructures, fruit of work of prestigious architects and engineers.

One of these buildings is the "BBK Paraninfo" (Bizkaia Aretoa), designed by Siza, awarded with the Prize Pritzker and together with the Library of Deusto's University (designed by Rafael Moneo), shows a new entrance from the "Ensanche" to the Nervion's estuary and the creation of the Park of the "Campa de los Ingleses".

The building contains the Paraninfo and different places that allow realize public acts (congresses) and exhibitions, promoted or not by the University, showing to the city the cultural activity of the university.

The building is designed on a platform that supports a construction in "L", recreates the natural landscape (estuary and surrounding mountains) with the urbanized zone (Abandoibarra), reinforcing the visual relation with the museum Guggenheim (architect Frank Gehry).

The building is emphasized through its architectural simple features, the combination of the natural and artificial light, as well as the dynamism of his plant close to the functionality of his implantation. The treatment of hollows in front, the indispensable ones, they arise like a building sculpture, where the absence of mass facilitates the entry of light.