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DES382

March 15, 2023

I. Introduction

- Santiago Calatrava, an architect, engineer, and artist, was born in Benimamet, Spain, on July 28, 1951. Calatrava launched the firm Calatrava Valls S.A. in Zurich in 1981. Today it is a global firm with offices in New York City, Paris, Valencia, Dubai, and Zürich.

II. Expanded Biography (the background of the designer)

- Calatrava graduated from the Polytechnic University of Valencia, Spain, in 1974 where he studied architecture. He then began a course in structural engineering at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zürich, receiving a Ph.D. in technical science in 1979. Calatrava established his own architecture and engineering firm in Zürich in 1981, later opening firms in Paris, Valencia, and New York. He earned a reputation for his talent to combine advanced engineering solutions with extraordinary visual statements, in both bridges and buildings.

III. Inspirations (what inspires this designer?)

- Calatrava's inspiring architecture is drawn from his talent to incorporate both engineering and aesthetics into astonishing iconic structures. He believes that the practice of architecture gathers all fields of art and brings them together in one creation. Calatrava is fascinated and inspired by the complexities of nature and zoomorphic forms. Common natural elements such as waves, shapes, rhythms, and wings are seen in his post-modern structures. He is also influenced by the work of an engineer, Swiss Robert Maillart, which inspired his philosophy to seek simple forms that could produce an emotional response.

IV. Design Philosophy (what is his or her design philosophy)

- “For me, architecture is an art...the same as painting is an art or sculpture is an art. Yet, architecture moves a step beyond painting and sculpture because it is more than using materials. Architecture responds to functional outputs and environmental factors. Yet, fundamentally, it is important for me to stress the art in architecture to bring harmony.” (Calatrava, 2012)

V. Examples of Work (images of significant works)

- World Trade Center Transportation Hub (Oculus), New York City, NY



- Turning Torso, Malmö, Sweden



- Reggio Mediapadana, Reggio Emilia, Italy



- Palau de les Arts, Valencia, Spain



VI. Influence on the field of design (or architecture)

- Calatrava has impacted architecture by representing symbolic meanings in buildings, focusing on the aesthetical impact rather than the structural. For example, the Oculus was designed after a winged dove, a symbol that represents peace and is most fitting to the tragedy that took place there on 9/11. He has also influenced architecture from his design method called 'biomimicry', which is the reproduction of natural biological designs that are incorporated into both engineering and architectural processes.

VII. How this designer influences you

- Many of Calatrava's buildings, inspire me because it rejects the idea of "form follows function". Calatrava once stated that "architecture cannot achieve greatness without projecting an emotional effect", and I couldn't agree more. I love his approach to architecture, as it starts with sculpture as exercises in structure, many of which he goes on to develop into architectural icons. Calatrava's idea to focus more on aesthetical aspects rather than structural ones encourages me and my design process.

VIII. Summary

- Overall Calatrava's philosophy, design process, and structures truly inspire me. He has defined the modern urban experience and brought a whole new meaning to architecture and its impact on society. He believes creating art is crucial to the evolution of his architecture, which I agree with and relate to, as working with art and sculpture my whole life.

IX. Works Cited (minimum 6)

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