

Press release - 27 November 2007

Gran Scala

International Architects Art & Build and architect Nicolas Devuyst are in charge of the master plan and concept design of what should become the largest European leisure complex designed with high sustainability requirements. The project was unveiled last week both in Orlando (IAAPA) and Las Vegas (G2E) conventions.



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Pictures & Interview on request



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ILD (International Leisure Development) group based in UK, integrating major actors and specialists issued from tourism and leisure world covering all required expertises, is at the origin of the project that will concentrate in one location, east of Zaragoza, (Aragon Autonomous Community, Spain), four main theme parks mixing education and entertainment, or “edutainment”(Spy land and Aquantica plus two others), hotels, 32 Casinos/hotels, arena, museums, concert halls, opera, theatres, themed retail centre, golf course, equestrian centre, sport and well being complexes, international conference centre, training centre dedicated to leisure and different themes, residences, HST station and lightweight transport system. The concept organises all functions on a time wheel of which each radiant represents an important historical period.

Art & Build, internationally reputed architectural firm based in Brussels, Paris and Luxemburg, is known for numerous buildings for European institutions in Brussels and Strasburg, it also was awarded the Passive and Low Energy Architecture Award 2000 for the Berlaymont building, EC Headquarters. Art & Build is involved in numerous large and sensitive urban regeneration projects in Belgium and France, including Montpellier, Strasbourg, Toulouse and Paris area, where sustainable development is the main drive, their line of work for years. Art & Build currently designing 8 casino projects in France for Casino Conseil, is a founder member of “Bluesky unlimited”, European-American consortium created 5 years ago in order to research and develop new major mixed use leisure orientated projects. This is the opportunity for Art & Build to conceive a complex capable of competing with Asian, American and Gulf projects.

The architects are currently establishing framework agreement with two Spanish based architectural firms providing both local base and further environmental expertise in its setting as a major demonstration. Steven Beckers, partner of Art & Build, develops, alongside Nicolas Devuyst, the urban master plan capable of integrating the wide range of means to make this project sustainable allowing for the development and the promotion of recent renewable energy production and storage as well as the biological water treatment and re-use of waste water . Those themes, already present in the frame of EXPO 2008 opening next June, are strongly supported by the Government of Aragon Autonomous Community. They will be designed throughout the 2025 hectares of the project.

Such will has been confirmed by Deputy and Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce Arturo Aliaga Lopez during the official visit in Orlando. **Gran Scala will be a demonstration of European know-how in sustainable urban development.**

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Architects Art & Build and Nicolas Devuyst are working on the specifications for buildings, infrastructure and landscaping in order to set the quality and energy performance, thermal insulation and building behaviour, as well in their site integration. Concepts include underground constructions, recyclability, flexibility in time are combined with fuel cell powered light weight transport systems, one of the result of Aragon continuous research program.

Sited in the Los Monegros region, (east of Zaragoza), the project aims at taking a strong role in the region's economic and social development. It will integrate traditional agriculture, (in decline up to now), in its landscape concept by using biologically treated waste water for irrigation, thus helping climate control while regulating the use of water trough the seasons without jeopardising water availability in the Ebro valley.

Renewable energies (already over 20% of Aragon's energy production today), both solar and wind generated, will be developed on a large scale and combined with geothermal techniques and fuel cells allowing for windmill produced hydrogen storage,. These techniques will be integrated to both infrastructure and architecture, with, for example, a high rise building has a double skin fabric façade increasing thermals for windmill activation and its base will cover a naturally climate controlled Rambla, (with P.V. cells providing shade and electricity). This "skirt "could also define different climate zones and botanical gardens. Solar cooling technologies, ideally efficient in Aragon's climate, will reduce dramatically the complex energy consumption.

Landscape concept combining traditional agriculture and indigenous vegetation chosen for their capacity to retain water, will re conquer territories subject to desertification and studies led by natural environment specialists will define the correct habitat for rare flora and fauna.

Natural areas will be part of carefully planned reserves for endangered species reintroduction, an attraction in its own right.

HST link (Madrid- Barcelona via Zaragoza to be opened shortly) and two nearby airports (Zaragoza and Huesca) connect the resort to Europe's main population and directly serve Madrid, Barcelona, Bilbao, Valencia, Toulouse and Zaragoza with just over an hour. The destination should regularly be visited by local population living within 300km. The complex should ultimately welcome over 25 million visitors per year. The creation of an estimated 60.000 employments completes the Autonomous Community's development logic following Expo 2008 and the city of Motor, Huesca new airport and the intercontinental logistic centre. The project is declared of regional and national interest.

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[Designer architects](#)

www.artbuild.com

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[Client](#)

www.ild-plc.com

Superficie

2025 hectares (4.5 Km. x 4.5 Km)

Main Leisure Infrastructures

32 Casinos

70 Hôtels

200 Restaurants/fast-food

4 Major theme parks

15 Medium theme parks and museums

26 Shows, Concerts, Circus shows...



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