



2005 AIA GOLD MEDALIST



“It’s important to me to make very clear statements that can also be poetic. On one level the project can be completely rational. On another, it can stimulate emotion. A bridge or a building can be very steady and yet be kept right on the edge of the possible.”

Santiago Calatrava

During his childhood in Spain, Santiago Calatrava learned that utilitarian structures (such as Valencia’s mercantile exchange, La Lonja) could be as grand and inspiring as cathedrals; that certain buildings (again, La Lonja) could be vital as gathering places, even in a dictatorship; and that by nature he was an artist, impelled to draw and paint. But Calatrava proved to be an artist with a love for mathematical rigor and a practical bent. After he had studied architecture and urbanism in Valencia, a doctorate at Zurich’s Federal Institute of Technology made him a formidable combination of artist, architect and engineer. His first winning competition entry, for Stadelhofen Railway Station in Zurich (1983), launched a career concentrated on large-scale public projects. With his Bach de Roda Bridge, completed in 1987 for the Barcelona Olympics, he became world-famous as the poet of bridge-builders, creating structures that were at once functional, symbolic, innovative, daring and breathtakingly beautiful. His renowned expansion of the Milwaukee Art Museum (2001) revealed these qualities for the first time in the United States, where now, to great acclaim, he has designed a project of the highest civic importance: the new World Trade Center Transportation Hub. Dedicating his inexhaustible creativity to the service of profoundly democratic ideals, Santiago Calatrava is a Renaissance artist of the 21st century.

Recent Awards

2004	Doctor Scientiarum Honoris Causa, Technion, Haifa
2004	Gold Plate Award, Academy of Achievement, Chicago
2003	Medal of Merit in the Fine Arts, Royal Academy of San Carlos de Valencia
2003	Gold Medal, Academy of Architecture, Paris
2003	European Steel Design Award for Zurich University Law School
2002	“Best of 2001” citation for the Milwaukee Art Museum, Time Magazine
2002	Sir Misha Black Medal, Royal College of Arts, London
2002	“The Prince and the Architect” Prize for the Quarto Ponte sul Canal Grande in Venice, Architecture and Design for the City, Bologna
2002	Prize for Best Large Structural Project for the Milwaukee Art Museum, Structural Engineers Association of Illinois
2002	Leonardo da Vinci Medal, SEFIRENZE, Florence
2001	European Award for Steel Structures for the Europe Bridge, Orléans
2000	Doctor Honoris Causa of Architecture, University of Ferrara
2000	Gold Medal, Circle of Fine Arts, Valencia
2000	Algur H. Meadows Award for Excellence in the Arts, Dallas
1999	Prince of Asturias Prize for Art, Spain

Case Study: Athens Olympic Sports Complex, 2004

When the hosts of the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens asked Calatrava to provide much-needed coverings for two existing buildings—the Olympic Stadium and Velodrome—he instead proposed a dramatic reorganization of the entire 250-acre complex. He established entrance plazas and a clear new pedestrian axis for what had been a loose and confused cluster of buildings. On either side of that route he created new structures—a classically inspired Agora, and a monumental kinetic sculpture known as the Nations Wall—to help define a landscaped central plaza, where tens of thousands can gather. For the two main buildings, he designed soaring, spectacular coverings that were prefabricated off-site for the most part, to ease the hosts’ difficulties with schedules and contractors. Hailed as an unqualified success during the 2004 Games, Calatrava’s environmentally sensitive, park-like complex remains a permanent civic and cultural legacy for the people of Greece.

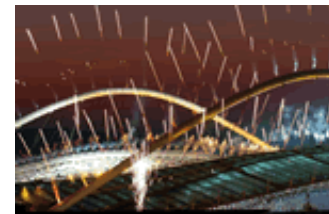


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