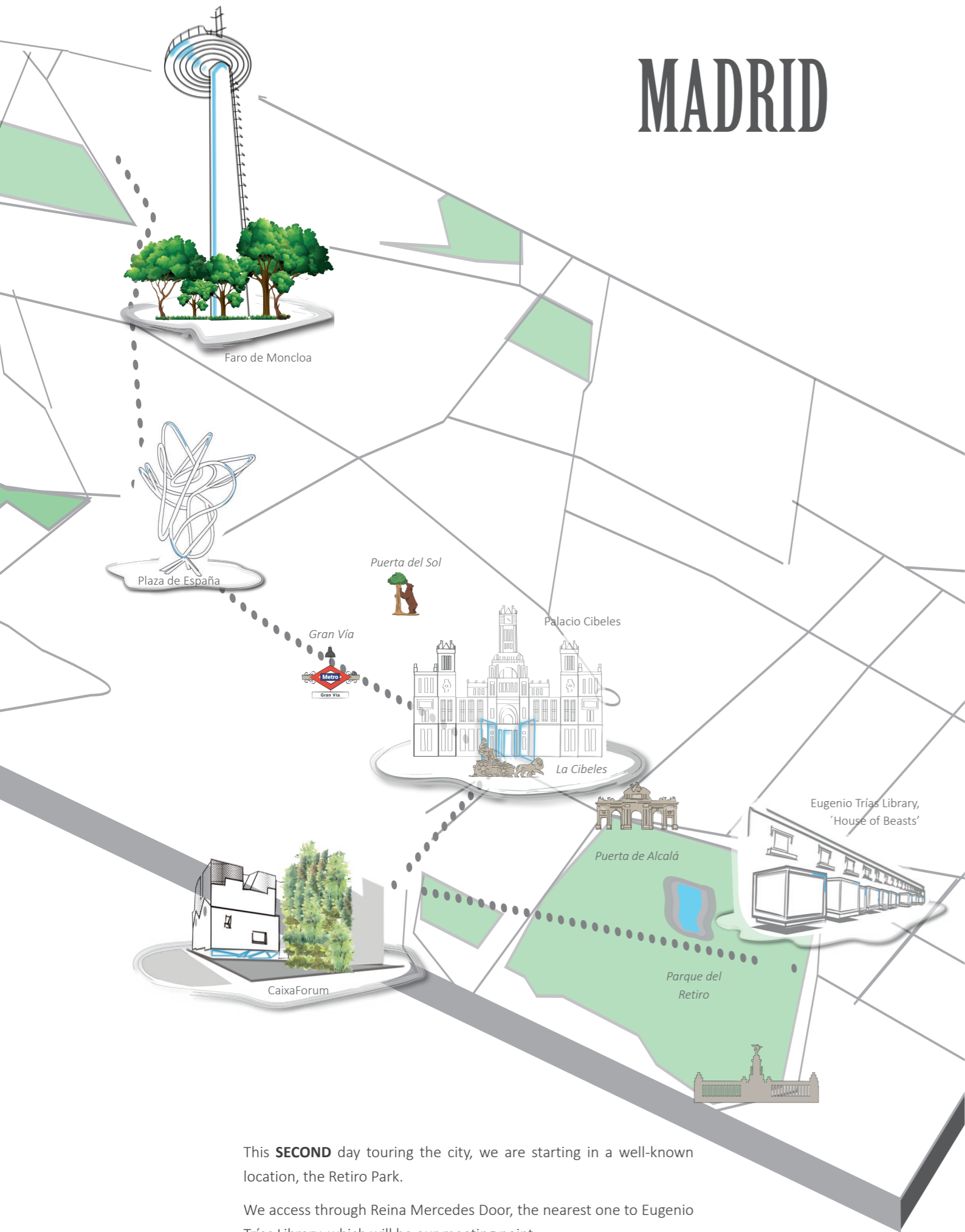


MADRID

Retiro to Moncloa



This **SECOND** day touring the city, we are starting in a well-known location, the Retiro Park.

We access through Reina Mercedes Door, the nearest one to Eugenio Trías Library, which will be our meeting point.

Eugenio Trías Library, 'House of Beasts'

It is a building, part of the old house of beasts complex, located at the garden of the Retiro. It was built in 1830, as part of the numerous interventions along the years, and it has been working until 1972, when the zoo moved to Casa de Campo. In 2013, Dirección General de Patrimonio (the Directorate General for Historical Heritage) promoted its restoration following Jaime Nadal and Sebastian Araujo's design. They tried to rescue this emblematic building from abandonment, and at the same time to offer the neighbourhood one new public facility, with a specific use of a library. One of the most remarkable elements is the impressive curtain

wall, with stainless steel T-shape profiles as mullions and transoms. Stainless steel was also selected for the first floor windows. In both cases, with the aim of reducing the profiles section.

Just across Retiro Park, we find another icon of the city, although maybe you have not actually noticed the stainless steel presence from outside. To arrive there we will have to cross the park and pass by the botanic garden. We refer to CaixaForum.

Eugenio Trías Library, 'House of Beasts'



CaixaForum

CaixaForum

An attractive Herzog & de Meuron's design of 2003, defies the law of gravity in a privileged location. It stands beside Paseo del Prado and just in front of the botanic garden, with which it interacts through the vertical garden created at the front square.

In the area formerly occupied by a power plant, no longer operational, a cultural facility is integrated. The industrial character is maintained by keeping the original brick façade, however the basement is removed to generate a spacious public place that resolves most of the problems of the location. This square underneath the building creates all the connections with surrounding streets, and is where the entrance is placed.

The access is through a sculptural spiral staircase, which is fully covered by stainless steel sandwich panels, continuing in the pavement of the first floor and simulating a dug into the rock. They used 4 mm thickness, AISI 304, stainless steel sheets. The finish is non-directional polished, obtained by vibration.

Now we go up the Paseo del Prado towards Gran Vía, we cannot avoid to stop when we arrive at Plaza de Cibeles, just in front of the Palace.

Palacio Cibeles

This Palace was built at the beginning of the twentieth century, and it was designed to be the headquarter Post Office, by Antonio Palacios and Joaquín Otamendi. The old telecommunications palace of Madrid had suffered numerous refurbishments and rehabilitations to adapt the spaces to the new needs and to the course of time, but always keeping its essence. Great architects have worked on this building over the years.

We would like to highlight the intervention planned by Héctor Fernández Elorza in 2018 because of its reversible and portable character. This masterplan's main purpose was to adapt the courtyard to its new needs as a space for the outreach. The proposal

included a new access to solve the loss of climatic comfort without modifying significantly the exterior image of the Palace. The new entrance is composed of three sections of perforated stainless steel sheets with glass doors inside. A small action that contributes to the user's comfort.

To arrive at the next point, we will walk along Gran Vía street. Leaving Plaza Callao behind, our destination will be Plaza de España.



Plaza de España

Plaza de España

An intervention with a strong urban nature, focused on improving the space quality and the pedestrian mobility in the area. A greener, more sustainable, and more accessible environment, integrating all the forms of mobility. It generates an urban connection between the Palacio Real, Plaza de España and Gran Vía. The winning design was selected from an international ideas competition, by popular vote. It was the proposal developed by Lorenzo Fernández-Ordóñez, Aránzazu La Casta Muñoa, Fernando Porrás-Isla, and Estudio Guadiana S.L. It has two separated areas, the

nearest to Gran Vía one –with a large open space to celebrate events (civic square)– and a second more wooded one where the playground is. The idea is conceived from the largest urban scale possible, with the creation of paths and routes, down to the smallest detail, with the selection of the urban furniture or the reutilization of the pre existing pavement.

Three stainless steel sculptures, designed by Blanca Muñoz, stand out flanking the civic square. Once again,

stainless steel is the chosen material for an intervention where sustainability and interaction with the environment is the key.

We walk up Princesa street to finish this second day in the West of Madrid, at the Faro de Moncloa.

Faro Moncloa



MADRID

STAINLESS AND THE CITY



Faro Moncloa

It is a Salvador Pérez Arroyo architect from Madrid, carried out in 1992 to celebrate that Madrid had been chosen European Capital of Culture. The building follows the purpose to be a lightning and communications tower, and it is 110 m high. It has a big viewpoint where you can gaze at the skyline of Madrid from 92 m high.

The material used to clad the basement and the viewpoint is AISI 304 stainless steel 2B finish with different thickness.

Here we finish this second stage of our touristic route after almost 7 km in the most centric area of the city. However there are some high architectural level constructions, still worth mentioning, and that is the reason why we suggest an additional day touring Madrid. In order to make the route affordable, we kindly recommend taking any transport, as we will be saving some long distances.

Palacio de La Cibeles

