

of the city, with high architectural and urban value. We will start going all over Paseo de la Castellana from North to South where we will discover numerous icons.

The star point has to be necessarily CTBA (Cuatro Torres Business Area), and specifically, Cepsa Tower, former Caja Madrid Tower, and previously known as Repsol Tower.

MADRID Northern Node to Plaza de Colón

Cepsa Tower

It is a Foster + Partners' design, and one of the tallest buildings in Spain with 250 m tall. Its construction started in 2004.

From the building's composition perspective, it is understood as an enormous arch framing the metallic offices' glazed spaces. The vertical communications cores are located at the both sides of the arch, allowing the adaptability of the work spaces. The metallic cladding is made of sandwich panels whose visible faces are stainless steel, AISI 316 BA finish, followed by a stamping process.

Cepsa Tower

Axis Buildir

First floor is 20 m above the floor level, resulting in an open, transparent and luminous lobby. The top of the building is the most representative part of the design, with a big hole framed by the powerful stainless steel structure.

For our next step, it will be necessary to go back 15 years in time, and move to 1989's Madrid, when Puerta de Europa, known as KIO Towers, started to be constructed.



Kio Towers (Puerta de Europa)

Conceived to be the door to Madrid city, they are located at Plaza de Castilla. It is one of the last Philip Johnson's constructions. He was Mies Van Der Rohe pupil, and the first architect awarded with the Pritzker Prize. He faced this project at old age, together with his partner John Burgee.

The towers' height is 114 m tall, and they exhibit an inclination of near 15°. They are considered the first leaning towers worldwide, as Pisa Tower is not taken into account because its inclination is accidental. The two towers

reaffirm their character with the stainless steel cladding of their edges, horizontal, vertical and diagonal strips.

We continue walking straight down Paseo de la Castellana to arrive at one of the most emblematic spots of the city, the triangle between The Congress Palace, Europa Tower and Santiago Bernabéu Stadium. We will have to wait until 2016 for stainless steel to come alive at this location.

Kio Tower

Europa Tower

It is a 121 m high tower, designed by Miguel Oriol e Ybarra, constructed in 1985. The original design showed a strong image by transferring the resistant structure to the façade, with concrete pillars that go from the top to the bottom of the building. In 2016, the owner took the decision to refurbish it to turn it into more sustainable and more technological.

The project was carried out by Callison RTKL as designer, and the Spanish LKS Krean, responsible for the construction. The intervention included the creation of a new lobby to connect the building with the street, common spaces refurbishment and the renewal of the façade.

The massive concrete pillars were cladded with AISI 304L linen finish, fitting its original shape to avoid changing its proportion or reducing the vision from the inside.



ENAR, Envolventes Arquitectónicas, was the engineering company responsible for the façade design.

This intervention has been awarded with the Renewal Award of the CTBHU (Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat) in 2018. In the same year, it was awarded by AEO (Asociación Española de Oficinas) in the category of "Refurbishment".

At the same spot, we will turn around 180°, and observe the next icon of the city.

Santiago Bernabéu Stadium

An intervention over an existing building, again. The original stadium was born in 1947, in the exact place where years before, Real Madrid had already started to play, called Campo de Chamartín. However, over these more than 75 years, multiple extensions and refurbishments have been carried out to adapt the building to the needs overtime.

The first expansion was in 1954, then an update for the 1982 World Cup, creation of the third and fourth tier between 1990 and 1992, and the reorganisation of the East side in 2002.

The last intervention has been planned with the intention of the building to become an avant-garde and universal icon. It is a design of GMP Architekten, L35 and Ribas & Ribas. One key element of the design is the manufacturing and assembly of 60,000 m² of stainless steel pieces to form the whole envelope.

The linen finished stainless steel is manufactured by Acerinox Europa, and afterwards, the different workshops involved in the project, transform it into the finished pieces.

Axis Building

It is a complete renewal of a four storey 1971 building.

The refurbishment accomplished in 2020, is a Foster + Partners' design in collaboration with Ortiz-León. We will focus on the new façade, which replaces the original one, made in cast aluminium and glass for a new stainless steel and glass framework.

The structural optimization is transferred to the façade with its stainless steel diagrid geometry. This system is a grid formed by diagonal beams and it is much more efficient in load transmission than a conventional structure. It results in a sustainable and avant-garde solution.

For its construction, AISI 304L stainless steel strips and sheets of different thickness were needed.



Axis Building, CaixaBank headquarters

We end this **FIRST** day exploring Madrid and its more singular architecture, after almost a 6 km walk.





STAINLESS AND THE CITY NADRID

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