



Nuno Gonçalves Fontarra

Associate Partner

With Mecanoo since 2002

Professional qualifications MArch Faculdade de Arquitectura da Universidade do Porto (FAUP); Registered with the Bureau Architecten Register (NL)

“A site-based approach to design aims to enhance the context of its intervention, it strives to be inherently understanding, responding and relating to subtle contextual qualities - its people and its place”

Nuno actively contributes to the scope and quality of Mecanoo’s portfolio of work having engaged on numerous award-winning cultural projects and competition entries. Highly creative, innovative and flexible, Nuno has propelled the conceptualisation and design development of many of Mecanoo’s most innovative and sculptural projects including the National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Wei-Wu-Ying), Taiwan, Three Cultural Centres and One Book Mall, China and La Llotja Theater and Conference Center, Spain, amongst others.

He has also led multiple competition designs including the Nobel Qur’an Oasis, Saudi Arabia; Xiqu Theatre, Hong Kong; Urban Waterfront Development/Mediaspace Library, Aarhus, Denmark; and an urban campus for the European Space Agency, Germany. Nuno aims to enhance the context of an intervention by relating each project firmly to the landscape. Maintaining an active role in academia, Nuno has not only taught at the Delft University of Technology and the Piet Zwart Institute in Rotterdam, but he also taught a spring semester design studio at Soongsil University in Seoul.

Selected projects



Tainan Public Library, Taiwan
Size: 35,000 m²
Year: 2016 - 2019



National Kaohsiung Centre for the Arts, Taiwan
Size: 141,000 m²
Year: 2006 - 2016



Namdaemun Heungluk Insurance Building, Seoul, South Korea
Size: 5,900 m²
Year: 2014 - 2017



Palace of Justice, Cordoba, Spain
Size: 48,000 m²
Year: 2006 - 2017



Three Cultural Centers & One Book Mall, Shenzhen, China
Size: 99,000 m²
Year: 2011 - 2018



Taekwang Country Club House Gyeonggi-do, South Korea
Size: 300 m²
Year: 2014 - 2015



La Llotja Theatre and Conference Centre, Lleida, Spain
Size: 37,500 m²
Year: 2004 - 2010



Noble Qur'an Oasis, Al Madinah, Saudi Arabia
Size: 90,000 m²
Year: 2014