

ES_ ARQ

Curatorship:

Pau M. Just

Exhibition design:

AMA architectural office

Graphic design:

FFraca (design office)

Audiovisual:

David Alesina

Room:

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Arquitectura en fiesta

This exhibition presents architectures that can only exist through celebration.

Celebrations are that pause in routine which allows us to resume our life while preserving order. Because of its playful and ephemeral nature, it is rarely included in architectural history, yet precisely because it is born to disappear, it takes risks and enjoys a freedom denied to other forms of architecture, whether traditional or contemporary. Siegfried Giedion identified world's fairs as laboratories for anticipating solutions, such as glass in the Crystal Palace or iron in the Eiffel Tower. Festive architecture, just as vernacular architecture without pedigree, stands out for its communal character and its capacity for experimentation.

Each of the festive verbs that structure this exhibition contains examples of how ephemeral architecture activates the city and its population, generating culture with social value and creating meeting places where a broad and diverse community can identify with, engage with, and take part in.

Eight verbs typical of popular festivals organize a range of projects: ephemeral cities, furniture, human constructions, urban occupation, the transport of buildings, satire, destruction, and economy. Dancing, eating, raising, smelling, roaming, disguising, burning, and covering give structure to a display of technical patterns, typologies, systems, and materials that recur across festivals and celebrations.

The main exhibition element is fabric, which, like a festival tent, hangs from the ceiling linking the different verbs. The festive feeling is also conveyed through colour: red, typical of popular festivals, accompanied by pink, yellow, blue, and green in more playful pastel tones.

To reinforce this idea, a family of objects has been designed in wood, built using simple construction systems of square and round timber sections. Linked to each of the verbs, these pieces are scattered throughout the room: partitions, tables, chairs, platforms, and stands for costumes and televisions, along with the centerpiece object that houses the giant's head at the entrance.