



Alta Velocidad Masterplan

Valladolid

This green 'trelliswork' plan superimposes a new urban structure on a city that previously lacked any coherence



Place
Valladolid, Spain

Date
2005—2014

Client
Valladolid Alta Velocidad,
S.A.

Cost
€900m

Area
98 hectares

Co-architect
Vidal y Asociados
arquitectos (VAa)

**Economic and market
analysis**
Idom Engineers



Awards

2009
MIPIM Architectural Review Future Project Award,
Regeneration and Masterplanning category

Designed together with Vidal y Asociados arquitectos (VAa) and the engineers Idom, the aim of this masterplan for Valladolid, winner of an international competition, was to guide the growth of this city over the next 25 years, transforming it into a more sustainable city, one that could act as a model for other European cities.

The trigger for this 're-orientation' of the city was a major civil engineering project initiated by the Ministerio de Fomento (Ministry of Public Works) to bury 6 kms of railway tracks in a tunnel under the city that previously sliced through the city.

The arrival of the AVE (the high speed rail train) provided Valladolid with an exceptional opportunity for a radical rethink of the city form. Strictly speaking, the competition brief focused on the areas released by the burying of the railway tracks, however during the initial phases of work it became evident that it would require a more fundamental review of the urban structure of Valladolid in order to arrive at a satisfactory solution for the four sites included in the brief; the railway corridor itself, associated shunting yards and two maintenance depots.

The existing city structure was in fact fractured not only by the rail corridor but also by the River Pisuerga which passes on an almost parallel north-south alignment through the city

centre. The two in effect divided the city into three zones and severely restricted east-west circulation.

RSHP proposed a chain of parks which would, in time, create the armature for a gradual 'greening' of the entire city centre. Building on an existing and elegant pedestrian axis that connects the train station with the Plaza Mayor, these two axis establish a framework that, via multiple smaller scale improvements, permit the gradual weaving together of the parks and plazas that dot the city centre and link them with large open spaces at the city limits, resulting in a city wide network of open spaces, pedestrian routes, cycle routes and public transportation links. The byline adopted for the project was 'Connections and Re-connections'.

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A key component around which the plan hinged is a new transport interchange which brings together the new AVE station, local (wide gauge) trains, the regional bus station, local bus routes and the new segregated transport corridor that runs along the greenway in the centre portion of the corridor, fanning out to form a big 'X' and linking the four corners of the city with its centre.