Aldo Rossi in Galicia (1976). Presence and influence

The deep relationship between Aldo Rossi and Galicia, a historical region in the northwest of Spain, has its starting point in 1976, with the celebration of the first Seminario Internacional de Arquitectura en Compostela (Siac) held and organized by Colegio Oficial de Arquitectos de Galicia in Santiago de Compostela with Rossi as a director. The seminar, entitled *Project and Historic City*, is actively attended by leading architects both at international and local level, such as Cesar Portela, Salvador Tarrago, Manuel Gallego, Alvaro Siza, Peter Eisenman, James Stirling, and Carlo Aymonino.

Rossi states the meeting from his opening with an analytical research of the city, by considering its topographical, historical and formal implications, according to the ideas outlined in *The architecture of the city*. Hence the seminar becomes a milestone within the architectural debate in Spain.

Since this event, the relationship between Rossi and Galicia keeps on intensifying, as it is clearly expressed in his text *A scientific autobiography*. Santiago de Compostela becomes a paradigm because of the interventions within the historical city. But it is in the eighties and nineties that several galician architects incorporate elements from Rossi’s ideas into their works, seeking simultaneously the unity between vernacular and contemporary architecture. In addition, Galicia will have the only work built by the Italian architect in Spain: the Museum of the sea, in collaboration with Cesar Portela. The project which rehabilitates some old port facilities in Alcabre (Vigo) started in 1992 and was completed by Portela after Rossi’s death thus becoming the legacy built by the Italian master.

This paper aims to analyze the relationship established between Rossi and Galicia according to two complementary points of view: the first being his theoretical and practical presence in both the first Siac and in the Museum as an architect, and the second one the important influence of his ideas into the galician architecture of the last few decades.