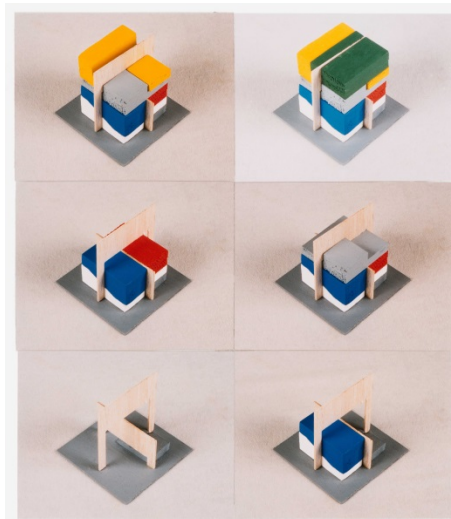


**press release / communiqué****For immediate release****THE CCA PRESENTS THE EXHIBITION *JAI TECH: ÁBALOS & HERREROS*  
SELECTED BY JUAN JOSÉ CASTELLÓN****Until 12 July, the CCA showcases the second in a series of three consecutive exhibitions exploring the newly acquired archive of the Spanish architecture studio *Ábalos & Herreros***

Photographic sequence of a study model showing the program and structure of the Self-Sufficient Hybrid Towers, Madrid, 1993–1994. Abalos & Herreros fonds. Canadian Centre for Architecture, Montréal. Gift of Iñaki Ábalos and Juan Herreros. © Iñaki Ábalos and Juan Herreros.



PLAZA Y TORRE WOERMANN, LAS PALMAS DE GRAN CANARIA

Rendering of Woermann Plaza and Tower, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, 2001–2005. Abalos & Herreros fonds. Canadian Centre for Architecture, Montréal. Gift of Iñaki Ábalos and Juan Herreros. © Iñaki Ábalos and Juan Herreros.

Montreal, 25 May 2015 – Previewed on the occasion of Montreal Museums Day 2015, the Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA) presents ***Jai Tech: Ábalos & Herreros selected by Juan José Castellón*** until to 12 July 2015. It is the second in the series of three *Out of the Box: Ábalos & Herreros* exhibitions. Conceived as an innovative, ongoing investigation of an architectural archive, the three exhibitions explore the legacy of the Spanish architecture studio Ábalos & Herreros through the research and interpretations of different guest curators. *Industrial Architecture, selected by OFFICE Kersten Geers David Van Severen* (Brussels), was on view from 12 March until 17 May 2015 and the final exhibition will be selected by **SO-IL** (New York), opening on July 23 2015.

*Out of the Box* is a research and exhibition project created by the CCA to increase access and dissemination of its acquisitions by making materials available for research, discovery, and public presentation while the archive is still in the process of being catalogued. The archive of Iñaki Ábalos and Juan Herreros was donated to the CCA by the architects in 2012 and represents their built works, alongside other activities such as curatorial projects, teaching, and extensive writings. Collectively, these three *Out of the Box* exhibitions will introduce new readings of the work of Iñaki Ábalos and Juan Herreros, revealing their significance within the field of architecture today.

## JAI TECH

*Jai tech* explores the concept of lightness in the work of Ábalos & Herreros, not simply as a physical quality related to weight and materials, but as an attitude. The title is a play on the common architectural term *high tech*, replacing “high” with the Basque “jai,” meaning festivity. This alternative definition, outlined by Ábalos & Herreros in *Áreas de impunidad | Areas of Impunity* (Barcelona: Actar, 1997), describes an architecture that uses minimal resources, accepts imperfection and draws inspiration from traditional and contemporary building techniques and strategic thinking. Castellón describes the “jai tech” approach as “common sense in architecture ... where the high-rise building becomes a laboratory and the mixed-use program a catalyst for design strategies.”

The exhibition displays archival material related to three Ábalos & Herreros high-rise projects: the Zephyr Competition for Self-Sufficient Hybrid Towers (Madrid, 1993–1994), the Woermann Plaza and Tower (Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, 2001–2005) and the Environmental Mixed-Use Towers in the Salburúa Wetlands (Vitoria-Gasteiz, 2001–2006). Objects on display include architectural models, photomontages, programmatic studies, energy diagrams and technical construction drawings. Castellón groups the material according to five thematic strategies that were central to the thinking of Ábalos & Herreros: contextual, programmatic, structural, thermodynamic and superficial. This precise reading of the archival material documents the strategic and innovative approach to the development of each of the three projects in the studio of Ábalos & Herreros. The display is complemented by a selection of music that was played in the studio during the time these projects were conceived, providing further insight into the working atmosphere created by these two influential architects.

## ÁBALOS AND HERREROS

**Iñaki Ábalos** and **Juan Herreros** established their office in Madrid in 1984, working together until 2008. As practicing architects, theorists and educators, they continuously opened up a new architectural discourse and defined a language that not only reflected the transformations in the political, social and economic structures of the modernising country in the post-Franco era, but that also demonstrated a growing interest in technological optimism. The eclectic nature of their work allowed them to develop a large vocabulary of references, building typologies and construction techniques as deployed in the Plaza Castilla Masterplan (1986-1987), the Usera Public Library (Madrid, 1994-2003), and the Recycling and Urban Waste and Recycling Plan of Valdemingómez (Madrid, 1996-1999). Their research and professional work overlapped in part with their teaching at ETSAM (Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura de Madrid) and their different appointments at American universities such as Princeton, the Illinois Institute of Technology, the Harvard Graduate School of Design and the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation at Columbia University. Research, publications, curatorial work and professional activities were all complementary aspects of their practice. Notable examples include the 1992 publication *Técnica y arquitectura en la ciudad contemporánea, 1950–1990* (translated into English in 2003 as *Tower and Office*) and the 2000 exhibition on Cedric Price’s Potteries Thinkbelt (Madrid, 2000), designed by Ábalos & Herreros and curated by Juan Herreros. Since 2008 both architects have continued their architectural practice independently, building from the legacy of their collaboration. Juan Herreros is currently Chair Professor of Architectural Design at Madrid School of Architecture, a Full Professor at the GSAPP of Columbia University and founding partner of estudio Herreros, a Madrid-based architecture practice operating worldwide. Iñaki Ábalos is Chaired Professor at ETSAM- Spain, and Chair of the Department of Architecture of the Harvard GSD and co-founder of Ábalos+Sentkiewicz, an international architecture office based in Madrid and Cambridge (US).

## CURATOR

Juan José Castellón worked at the office of Ábalos & Herreros in Madrid from 2003 to 2007. He is currently lecturer at the Chair of Structural Design of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETHZ), where he is also completing his doctoral thesis. His research focuses on the integration of structural and spatial parameters in contemporary design methods through the study and development of architectural experiments and prototypes. Castellón obtained his degree in Architecture at the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya in Barcelona (ETSAB UPC, 2003) and his Master in Emergent Technologies & Design at the Architectural Association in London (2011). He was Adjunct Professor of Digital Culture at the Barcelona Institute of Architecture (BIArch) and from 2001 worked as a professional architect with international architectural firms such as Cloud9 in Barcelona, Foreign Office Architects in London, SHoP Architects in New York and Herzog & de Meuron in Basel.

## SPECIAL PUBLIC PROGRAMS

On **Thursday 4 June**, the CCA will organize a **seminar** intended for people in the field of architecture research and design and led by guest curator Juan José Castellón and will unpack some of the research methodologies and curatorial strategies that informed his research residency in the Ábalos & Herreros fonds at the CCA. This seminar will also explore the notion of the archive in architecture.

*Out of the Box: Ábalos & Herreros* examines the work of contemporary architects still active in the field today. This allows for a different research strategy in which Iñaki Ábalos and Juan Herreros themselves, as subjects of study, can also play an important role as respondents to the different proposals. Furthermore, their participation in this research contributes to an ongoing oral history of their own archive. A **public symposium** introducing the two Spanish architects to their critics is scheduled for **Saturday 12 September 2015**.

## GRAPHIC AND EXHIBITION DESIGN

The design of the exhibition was developed by the CCA curatorial team in collaboration with Juan José Castellón. The graphic design was conceived by **Jonathan Hares**.

## INSTITUTIONAL MISSION

The '*Out of the Box*' initiative is part of the CCA's long-term objective to open its archives to critical investigations through exhibitions, publications and debates at the same time as the archive is in the process of being fully catalogued.

As CCA Director Mirko Zardini explained: "It reflects the institution's commitment to continuously approaching alternative methods of scholarly research and critical thinking for the practice of architecture while supporting the emergence of new voices in the field."

Zardini added: "The CCA aims to foster discussion and dialogue in an international research-oriented context. This intense research activity is fueled to a great extent by our growing Collection, one of the world's foremost holdings of publications and architectural design documentation whose guiding



purpose has always been to make comprehensive and integrated bodies of material available for advanced, interdisciplinary study." Since 2012, the CCA Collection has been enriched through several recent donations, including the **Álvaro Siza** fonds, the **Pierre Jeanneret** fonds, the **Victor Prus** fonds, and a major addition to the **Gordon-Matta Clark** archives and the **Cornelia Hahn Oberlander** fonds.

The CCA is an international research centre and museum founded in 1979 on the conviction that architecture is a public concern. Based on its extensive collection, the CCA is a leading voice in advancing knowledge, promoting public understanding, and widening thought and debate on architecture, its history, theory, practice and role in society today. The CCA offers a unique environment dedicated to the study and presentation of architectural thought and practice, where the work of **Ábalos & Herreros** can now be studied in the context of the other existing international archives of **Peter Eisenman**, **Arthur Erickson**, **John Hejduk**, **Gordon Matta-Clark**, **Cedric Price**, **Aldo Rossi**, **James Stirling**.

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Source:

Isabelle Huiban  
Head of Press Relations  
Canadian Centre for Architecture  
Tel: 514 939 7001 ext. 2607  
[media@cca.qc.ca](mailto:media@cca.qc.ca)