Contrasted with the immediacy that usually characterizes architecture at world exhibitions, the pavilion that represented Spain at Hannover Expo 2000, aimed to demand some time and a certain effort from the visitor in order to understand the building in full.

The first impression caused by the Spanish pavilion is that of a large block of cork, whose façades are disrupted by deep clefts; it is hermetic and introverted. The fragile and uncertain geometry of its exterior contrasts with the precision that rules the interior space. The ground floor, veiled from the exterior on three sides by numerous uneven and irregularly positioned pillars, acts as a public square. Having passed through these pillars, which support a low lintel, the visitor enters a wide-open space crowned by a generous skylight. Sheltered from weather conditions, the natural lighting and good acoustics will create an atmosphere of well-being, withdrawn from the hectic environment of a world fair.

This new space, unexpected and full of discovery, is meant to cause a lasting impression on the visitor’s memory. On the exhibition level, those deep clefts through which it receives its natural lighting will remind the visitor of his first impression of the building.

From a different point of view, a building environmental-friendly architecture was chosen as a voluntary option that fitted in the spirit of the Expo 2000, both through the election of materials and the building process: a building that after representing the country during the Exhibition, could be rebuilt at a different location, or be dismantled without leaving non-recyclable wastes.
General Interior Views
MAIN DATA
Client: State Corporation Expo Hannover 2000
Address: Boulevard der Eu, 15. 30539 Hannover, Germany
Type: Museums and Galleries, Education and Culture
Status: Built

DATAS
Competition: 1999
Design of project: 1999
Construction: 1999-2000
Implementation: 2000

SURFACES
Site: 4.000 m²
Main building: 10.774 m²
Other buildings: -
TOTAL: 10.774 m²

PROJECT TEAM
Main Architect: Cruz y Ortiz Arquitectos
Collaborators: Joaquin Pérez-Goicoechea, Sancho Igual, Blanca Sanchez
Local Architect: OHM mit Carmina Schmick, Hamburg
Interior design: -
Lighting design: CH Design AG, St.Gallen, Charles Keller
Landscape architect: Arquitectura del Paisatge, Barcelona
Restoration architect: -
Digital imaging: -
Model: Luis Montiel
Photography: Duccio Malagamba
Structural engineering: CESMA Ingenieros
Climate engineer: JG Ingenieros
Building physics advisor: -
Fire safety specialist: -
Health and Safety: -
Urban planning: -
Survey: Análisis de la Edificación, Seville, OHM, Hamburg
Site control: Análisis de la Edificación, Seville, OHM, Hamburg
Contractors: OHL, S.A., Madrid
Hochtief Aktiengesellschaft, Dirk Rehaag, Hannover

AWARDS
- First Prize in the Competition for the Spain Pavilion at the Hannover Expo 2000, organized by the State Society 2000 Hanover in October 1998