

Simon Smithson



Qualifications

B.Arch, Dipl. Arch, M.Arch, (Urban Design), ARB

Registered Architect in Madrid, Spain, (COAM), and in the state of Pennsylvania

Education

1980 - 82 MA in Urban Design, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University, USA

1977 - 79 Dipl. Arch, Cambridge University, UK

1973 - 76 B.Arch, Cambridge University, UK

Practice

2022 - Director, RSHP

1990 - 22 Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners LLP

1988 - 89 Nicholas Hare Architects, UK

1985 - 88 Civitas Inc. Denver, Colorado, USA

1982 - 85 Cambridge Seven Associates, Cambridge, USA

1979 - 80 Foster Associates, UK

Summary of Experience

Simon has been with RSHP for over 30 years and has played a leading role in many of the practice's most significant international projects. His experience spans transport infrastructure, mixed-use development, urban regeneration and masterplanning, with projects including Taoyuan International Airport Terminal 3 in Taiwan, the ParcBit sustainable masterplan in Palma de Mallorca, the redevelopment of London's South Bank Centre, the Senedd (Welsh Parliament), Antwerp Law Courts, and the Valladolid AVE and Nivalis masterplans in Spain.

In 2004, Simon established and led RSHP's Madrid office, delivering a wide range of architecture, urban design and industrial design projects. He was Project Architect for Terminal 4 at Madrid-Barajas Airport, winner of the 2006 RIBA Stirling Prize, and returned to the project in 2023 to support its expansion. He also led the design of Campus Palmas Altas, Abengoa's headquarters near Seville, recognised as a model for sustainable workplace design.

Since returning to London in 2011, Simon has led the development of RSHP's work across Latin America. He currently heads a multilingual team delivering a major mixed-use scheme in central Bogotá, the practice's first project in South America. Tower North was completed in 2020, while the 74-storey Tower South and a new cultural venue are now under construction.

Simon also led the 270-hectare Madrid Nuevo Norte masterplan, creating a new mixed-use district centred on Chamartín Station, with an extended Paseo de la Castellana forming a major green corridor through the development. He continues to play a key role in Valencia Central Station, reimagining the railway station as a state-of-the-art multimodal transport hub and civic destination.

Alongside his architectural and urban design work, Simon oversees RSHP's graphic design and visualisation team, helping to shape the practice's design communication across projects worldwide.

Key Projects

2026 -	Valencia Central Station, Transport and Infrastructure, Valencia, Spain		
2023 -	Expansion of T4 Madrid Barajas Airport, Transport and Infrastructure, Madrid, Spain	2009	Huelva station, Transport and Infrastructure, Competition, Spain Noken bathroom fixtures, Product Design, Porcelanosa Group, Spain
2022 - 26	Sąvaržėlė, Office, Vilnius, Lithuania		Vega Baja Museum, Cultural, Competition, Toledo, Spain
2020 -	Qianhai Financial Holding Tower, Office, Shenzhen, China	2009	La Cartuja Business Park, Office, Seville, Spain
	Bao'an Airport, Terminal 2, Transport and Infrastructure, Shenzhen, China	2009 - 2006	La Marina, Masterplan, Competition, San Sebastián de los Reyes, Madrid, Spain
2019 -	Chamartín Station, Masterplan, Madrid, Spain		Garellano, Masterplan, Bilbao, Spain
	Atrio Centro de Convenciones, Cultural, Bogota, Colombia	2005 - 14	El Cañaveral, Masterplan, Madrid, Spain
2018 -	Las Rozas, Mixed-Use, Competition, Madrid, Spain	2005 - 09	Valladolid Este, Masterplan, Valladolid, Spain
	Catalinas North, Office, Competition, Buenos Aires, Argentina	2005	Valladolid Alta Velocidad, Masterplan, Valladolid, Spain
	Tencent HQ Campus, Mixed-Use, Competition, Shenzhen, China		Campus Palmas Altas business park, Office, Seville, Spain
2016	Andhra Pradesh, Masterplan, Competition, India	2004	P7 – Parking & Retail in the Campus of Justice, Transport and Infrastructure, Madrid, Spain
	Cupertino Square Masterplan, San Jose, USA		Health Campus for the University of Granada, Health, Competition, Granada, Spain
2015 -	Taoyuan Airport Terminal 3, Transport and Infrastructure, Taiwan	1998 - 05	New clinic for Dr. López-Ibor, Health, Competition, Madrid, Spain
2014 -	DCN - Madrid, Masterplan, Madrid, Spain		Coto de Macairena, Masterplan, Granada, Spain
2014	Mexico City International Airport, Transport and Infrastructure, Competition, Mexico	1997 - 05	Antwerp Law Courts, Civic/Public, Antwerp, Belgium
2013 -	Estadio Nacional Football Stadium, Sport, Caracas, Venezuela		National Assembly for Wales, Civic/Public, Cardiff, Wales, UK
2013	Estacion de Autobuses y Intercambiador, Transport and Infrastructure, Caracas, Venezuela	1996	T4 Madrid Barajas Airport, Transport and Infrastructure, Madrid, Spain
	La Rinconada, Masterplan, Caracas, Venezuela	1995 - 05	Dortmund “U” Tower, Transport and Infrastructure, Dortmund, Germany
2012 -	Atrio, Mixed-Use, Bogota, Colombia	1995	Pavillion of State, Madrid Barajas Airport, Transport and Infrastructure, Madrid, Spain
2011	Ourense Station, Transport and Infrastructure, Competition, Spain		SmithKline Beecham, Office, Brentford, London, UK
	Metro Station entrances, Transport and Infrastructure, Competition, San Sebastian, Spain	1994 - 99	ParcBIT, Masterplan, Palma de Mallorca, Spain
	La Coruña Station, Transport and Infrastructure, Competition, Galicia, Spain	1994	South Bank Centre, Masterplan, London, UK
2010	Valencia Urban Park, Civic/Public, Competition, Spain	1991	Heathrow Airport Masterplan, Transport and Infrastructure, London, UK
		1988 - 08	Terminal 5 Heathrow Airport, Transport and Infrastructure, London, UK