

Enric ruiz-geli/cloud9_barcelona

Barcelona-based architect/stage designer Enric Ruiz-geli studied architecture at the Escola d'Arquitectura Superior de Barcelona and Mississippi state University: stage design at l'Institut del teatre de Barcelona; scenography and architecture at the Ecole de la Villette in Paris. In 1995, he founded cloud 9 and has since worked with artists from various disciplines, such as stage director Robert Wilson, painter Frederic Amat and multimedia artist/musician Zush. He has designed sets for Philip Glass and Yoko Ono ('stage 1', New York, 1996) and Laurie Anderson ('stage 2'; NY, 1997). An opera project, 'Gaudí' will be staged in 2002. He is a co-director of 'Metapolis', the Barcelona Architecture festival in 1998 and 2000, together with Xavier Costa, Manuel Gausa, Vicente Guallart and Ramon Prat. In 1998 Ruiz-Geli won the first prize of the 2G competition 'Mies van der Rohe Foundation Head Office' and the first prize for Ephemeral Architecture of the Aguirre-Newman Foundation.

His most recent work, Spek, is a macro play-station; a video game scale 1:1, where the players are actors. It is an international and interdisciplinary project that combines architecture and performance, together with scenography, multimedia, music interface and projections, and is being shown/performed in Berlín, Madrid (both 1999), Barcelona and New York (both 2000). Each gallery has its own individual stage set and atmosphere. At Spek Berlín the gallery has two spaces, two realities: one is real, one virtual: one shows architecture, the other stage design. The gallery spaces become three-dimensional, seen by passersby in the street. During two nights a performance takes place on the two stages, going from A to B with a tempo of three minutes per scene. One stage tells the tale of realistic, planned life, and the other of fantasy, virtual life, dreams and future. The performances come from Germany and Catalonia. After the performances stage and backstage become exhibition spaces that show the work of Enric Ruiz-Geli. Another project, the Lifescan House is 40m long, 4.5m wide and 4m high. Its single space has four subjects: city, hose, landscape and workshop: the four themes correspond to four colors: orange, blue, green and grey, wich are in turn related to temperature. In the space over 1.000 functions occur: walking, relaxing, cooking, cleaning, viewing, loving, printing, searching, thinking, faxing, reading... and every function is related to data. This house builds the data generated by the subjects and the people in the house into a chromatic data image that measures 4.5 by 40m. The image is printed by a plotter and placed in the false ceiling of the house. Thus, the project becomes the first plotted house.

Kristin Feireiss.