AS / Vol 44 / N° 70 / 2026
ISSN Impresa 0716-2677
ISSN Digital 0719-6466

EDITORIAL

Pablo Ramón Fuentes-Hernández
Director Arquitecturas del Sur,
Departamento de Diseño y Teoría de la Arquitectura, Facultad de Arquitectura, Construcción y Diseño
Universidad del Bío-Bío
Concepción, Chile
https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6628-6724
pfuentes@ubiobio.cl

Gonzalo Andrés Cerda-Brintrup
Editor Arquitecturas del Sur,
Departamento de Diseño y Teoría de la Arquitectura, Facultad de Arquitectura, Construcción y Diseño
Universidad del Bío-Bío
Concepción, Chile
https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4174-7421
gcerda@ubiobio.cl

RAMÓN GUTIÉRREZ FROM LATIN AMERICA

On this occasion, we will speak with our students and the community of young Latin American architects to share news about the Argentine architect Ramón Gutiérrez, who recently passed away and was a pivotal figure in the architecture of our continent.

In the 1980s, Ramón Gutiérrez founded the Latin American Architecture Seminars (SAL), an organization with no board of directors, no dues, and no membership fees that would revolutionize the prevailing view of architecture, until then focused primarily on Europe and the United States. He turned his attention to Latin America, inspiring many architects to join what would become a powerful current of architectural thought and action centered on Latin American culture and identity. The SALs thus became a meeting place and a forum for critical reflection on what it means to practice architecture in these cultural regions of Latin America, putting the continent on the global architectural map. Surprisingly, that flame lit 40 years ago continues to burn today: the penultimate SAL, held in Chiloé, Chile, in 2024, drew an impressive turnout, and the most recent, the XIX SAL, held in October 2026 in Lima, Peru, saw a massive participation of architects from across Latin America.

Where did Ramón Gutiérrez's gaze turn through the SALs? Toward the Latin American architectural and cultural world, toward its distinctive features, toward its materialities, toward its diverse climates, toward its humidity and aridity, toward its colors, toward its communities, both ancestral and contemporary. His work and his reflections opened our eyes to the fascinating architectural and cultural landscape that lay before us, one we often failed to see or appreciate.

Even outside the SALs, Ramón was a figure who joined us on countless occasions, at meetings, seminars, and conferences, always offering clear and encouraging words. He held the belief that research is never truly finished, that there is always the possibility of delving further into the history of the city and its architecture, a philosophy we have made our own and that continues to inspire us.

His relationship with books and architecture journals was a story unto itself. In the 1970s, he founded the journal **Documentos de Arquitectura Nacional y Americana** (DANA). From there, he researched and promoted Latin American heritage. His written output and its impact are immeasurable, continuing to shape and guide thousands of us even from afar. It was commonplace to see Ramón arrive with his journals, part of a constant flow of publications that facilitated the circulation and dissemination of architectural thought in an era before the internet or today's media existed. Hundreds of published books, his own and others', attest to the fact that publications were at the heart of his intellectual life. He became a role model for hundreds of us, inspiring and encouraging us to write books, edit journals, and channel our intellectual efforts into publications, whether in print or, now, in digital form.

AS / Vol 44 / N° 70 / 2026
ISSN Impresa 0716-2677
ISSN Digital 0719-6466

This passion for documentation and the publishing world led Ramón Gutiérrez and Graciela María Viñuales, along with a dedicated group of collaborators, to establish the Center for Documentation of Latin American Architecture (CEDODAL) in Buenos Aires in 1995. It would go on to become one of the largest documentation centers on the continent, now housing more than 26,000 books and 15,000 journals. CEDODAL has achieved such recognition that, since 2015, it has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. For all of us, any visit to Argentina included a mandatory stop at CEDODAL; it was part of the ritual of exchanging journals and publications that Ramón and Graciela had gotten us used to. There, they would be waiting for us, always attentive and warm, to share with us the latest journal published in Mexico City, the first book by a new researcher from Colombia, or a photo of Lota, Chile, that even we had never seen before. For years, Graciela, Ramón, and their CEDODAL team systematically published the CEDODAL Bulletin, keeping us informed about the visitors they received, the latest news in the world of architecture and urban planning, and, most importantly, the list of books and journals they had sourced and made available to the Latin American community.

May these words serve as a tribute to an indispensable figure in Latin American culture and architecture, a mentor and inspiration to generations of architects. We will always remember Ramón Gutiérrez as a friend who will always be with us.