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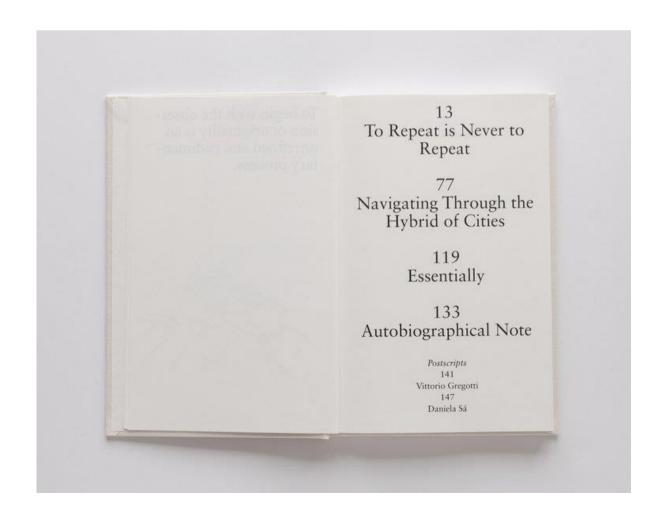
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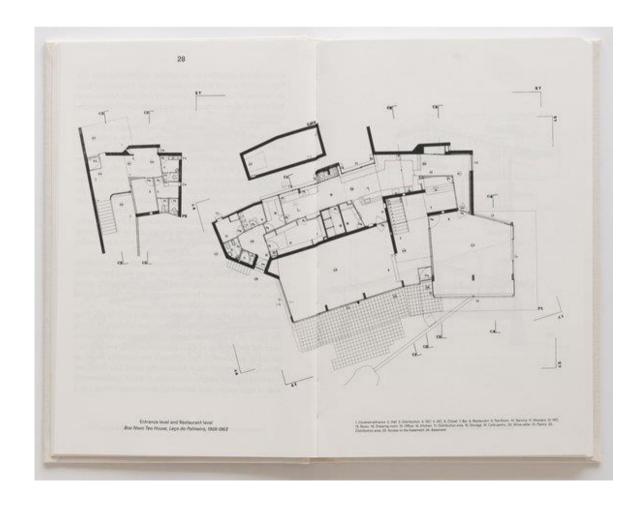
Two Museums

When I was commissioned to build a museum in Santiago de Compostela, I was expressly asked to position it far away from the road. Once again, this generalized fear of architecture was evident, and understandably so, it would be unfair to suggest otherwise. When something is built a few metres away from a building that has been classified as a national monument, as is the case of the convent of Santo Domingo de Bonaval, there are fears that all will be ruined: that is why I was asked to "hide" the museum. I argued that a cultural centre is such a significant building in the life of a city that it could not be an annex of the convent, which itself has since been transformed into an exhibition gallery. This important connection with the road was finally accepted, as I was also able to demonstrate that the convent had never been entirely visible, due to a high granite wall that delimited the agricultural property. Once the position of the new building had been defined, it was necessary to become immediately acquainted with the convent.

There are two volumes in the museum which, in concurrence with the entrance, define a small outdoor space that establishes a dialogue with the platform enclosed by the two façades of the convent. Facing each other, these two urban spaces mark out access to the garden, which thereby becomes the central feature upon which all the other buildings depend, as was also the case at the time of the construction of the convent. Immediately after this "gate" of entry to the garden, there is a modest building I did not demolish that communicates with the paths along the various platforms. The actual plan of the building opens out



Body on the angle solution between the auditorium (on the left) and the amum (on the right) distinct Center of Contemporary Art, Sorrings de Compostets, 1985 1995





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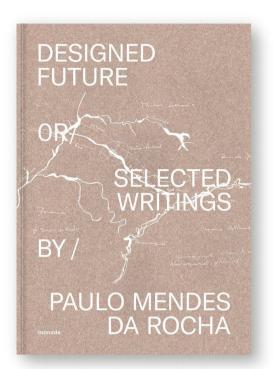
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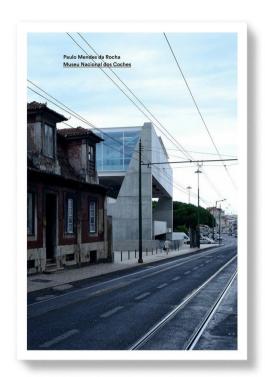
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Celebrating the English edition of "Imagining the Evident" a silkscreen is launched of a drawing specially selected by Álvaro Siza to accompany this book.

O r d e r



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