

The Bilbao Metro

The Metro system of Bilbao was one of the first acts of urban renovation in the city. Norman Foster, the well-known British architect, designed the system. The distinctive stations are predominantly constructed of glass, stainless steel and concrete, and project an image of modernity, innovation and excellence. The Metro was inaugurated in 1995, and offers an efficient public transport service in the metropolitan area of Bilbao, carrying more than 50 million passengers in 1999.

The Metro system is currently being extended, and a new line being added. The technology used in the tunnels that cross beneath the Nervión is being applied by Basque companies in other places around the world.

The Palacio Euskalduna Conference and Music Center

The Palacio Euskalduna is a huge complex containing a conference center and an auditorium; it is also the home of the symphony orchestra. The building was designed to symbolize a large ship, and is located in the opposite end of the Abandoibarra riverside area across from the Guggenheim Museum. This area, until very recently, was the location of one of the main shipyards in Bilbao.

The new Sondika airport

The Bilbao Sondika airport is being developed as the premier passenger gateway to the Basque Country, while the airport at Vitoria-Gasteiz has the complementary vocation as the cargo and logistics gateway.

The airport is completing an ambitious expansion to double its current capacity. The existing terminal handled 2.2 million passengers in 1999. The new airport complex has been designed by the well-known Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava, and is about to be officially opened. The distinctive designs for the new terminal building and the new control tower have become known as the “dove” and the “falcon” respectively.

6.3 The Palacio Euskalduna, Bilbao.

