



Figure 6.5 The Guggenheim Museum as a catalyst. (a) The Abandoibarra master plan, 2000 and (b) the proposed Plaza Euskadi featuring the government of Viscaya building, 2004; the Guggenheim Museum is on the left.

Guggenheim, being designed to integrate ‘into the city’s urban structure’. The spaces lack any human-scale detail and contain no activities that attract people to them. The blank walls of the Guggenheim, for instance, result in no eyes on the open space fronting it. This and such spaces have become havens for negative behaviour. An opportunity for good detailed urban design that enhances the life of the city has been lost. The space in front of the Guggenheim now houses Jeff Koon’s mammoth ‘Puppy’ that helps reduce its visual size. What we do have is a ‘cutting-edge’ building that many

critics see as being a precedent for signature buildings of the twenty-first century.

Major references

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