



## **The Focus-Abengoa Foundation awards the 2012 Prize for the best doctoral thesis on a theme related to Seville**

- The author, Concepción Rodríguez Moreno, has made a study of palatine architecture in medieval Seville.
- The thesis entitled, “The Palace of Pedro I in the Royal Alcazars of Seville. Study and analysis”, offers an innovative perspective in the field of architectural research and highlights the relationship between the Muslim and Christian cultural worlds.

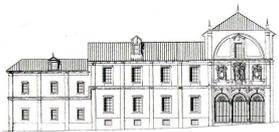
Seville, 3 January 2013. Concepción Rodríguez Moreno has been awarded the Prize for the best doctoral thesis on a theme related to Seville 2012, for her study entitled, “The Palace of Pedro I in the Royal Alcazars of Seville. Study and analysis”. The prize, which has been presented by the Focus-Abengoa Foundation since 1983, is endowed with an award of 3,000 Euros, and the work may also be published if requested by the Foundation’s trustees, in order to promote it and generate social awareness of the work.

The jury for the prize, chaired by Santiago Grisolíá, the executive chairman of the Rey Jaime I awards and a trustee of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation, highlighted “the magnificent interpretative analysis of Hispanic medieval palatine architecture in general” of the winning thesis, which was both “fresh and new” and which was overseen by Antonio Almagro Gorbea. The work analyses the different palaces that comprise the architectural complex of the Royal Alcazars as the setting for the palace of King Pedro, from “a functional, formal, spatial and perceptive viewpoint using the most modern graphical representation methods as analysis tools”.

The jury recognised the “innovative contribution” of the thesis in the field of architectural research, which confirms the relationship between the Muslim and Christian cultural worlds. The study by Concepción Rodríguez Moreno on the Royal Alcazars offers an original interpretation of a space that is essential to understanding Seville’s landscape, and which has also been the central theme of other award-winning works recognised by the Focus-Abengoa Foundation on previous occasions.

The award winner attributed the Prize to the joint work carried out by LAAC, the archaeological and architectural laboratory research group of Seville. “It was at the heart of this group, made up of architects, archaeologists, historians and restorers, where the idea came from to further develop the knowledge about the palace of Pedro I, a fundamental structure in understanding the evolution of Hispanic medieval architecture. Although plenty has been written about it, about its history, constructive evolution, its restorations and the inscriptions on its walls, relatively little had been researched about the creative process of its architectural project, created for a very particular monarch and a society subjected to the profound changes of the 14th century. In this sense I believe that my work contributes new hypotheses and interpretations that may further our understanding of this Sevillian monument”.

Appointed by the trustees of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation, the jury of the 29th edition, chaired by Santiago Grisolíá, the executive chairman of the Rey Jaime I awards and a trustee of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation, also comprised Antonio Miguel Bernal



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Rodríguez, professor of history and financial institutions of the University of Seville; Juan Antonio Carrillo Salcedo, vice-chairman of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation; José Domínguez Abascal, general technical secretary of Abengoa; Consuelo Flecha García, professor of educational theory and history at the University of Seville; Francisco García Novo, professor of ecology at the University of Seville; Carlos Alberto González Sánchez, professor of modern history at the University of Seville; Alfredo J. Morales, professor of history of art at the University of Seville; Isabel Montes Romero-Camacho, professor of medieval history at the University of Seville; Alfonso Pleguezuelo Hernández, professor of history of art at the University of Seville; Ramón Queiro Filgueira, professor in the department of urban and territorial planning of the University of Seville; Rogelio Reyes Cano, professor emeritus in the department of Spanish literature of the University of Seville, and Rafael Sánchez Mantero, professor emeritus in the department of contemporary history of the University of Seville.

### **Focus-Abengoa Foundation**

The Focus-Abengoa Foundation was created in 1982 as a result of the cultural work begun in 1972 by Abengoa with the publication of the works *Temas Sevillanos* (Themes of Seville) and *Iconografía de Sevilla* (Iconography of Seville). A collection of documents, books and engravings on the Kingdom of Seville and by Sevillian authors was created during the same period. This initial cultural work showed Abengoa's directors the importance of the company's involvement in activities that directly benefit society, beyond its core technology-based work, and this led to the creation of the Seville Cultural Fund Foundation. The Hospital de los Venerables, a 17th century monument and the headquarters of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation in Seville, has housed the Diego Velázquez Research Centre, a leading institution for studying and disseminating the Baroque era and the Sevillian period of this universally renowned artist, following the acquisition of Velázquez's Santa Rufina by the Foundation in 2007.

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