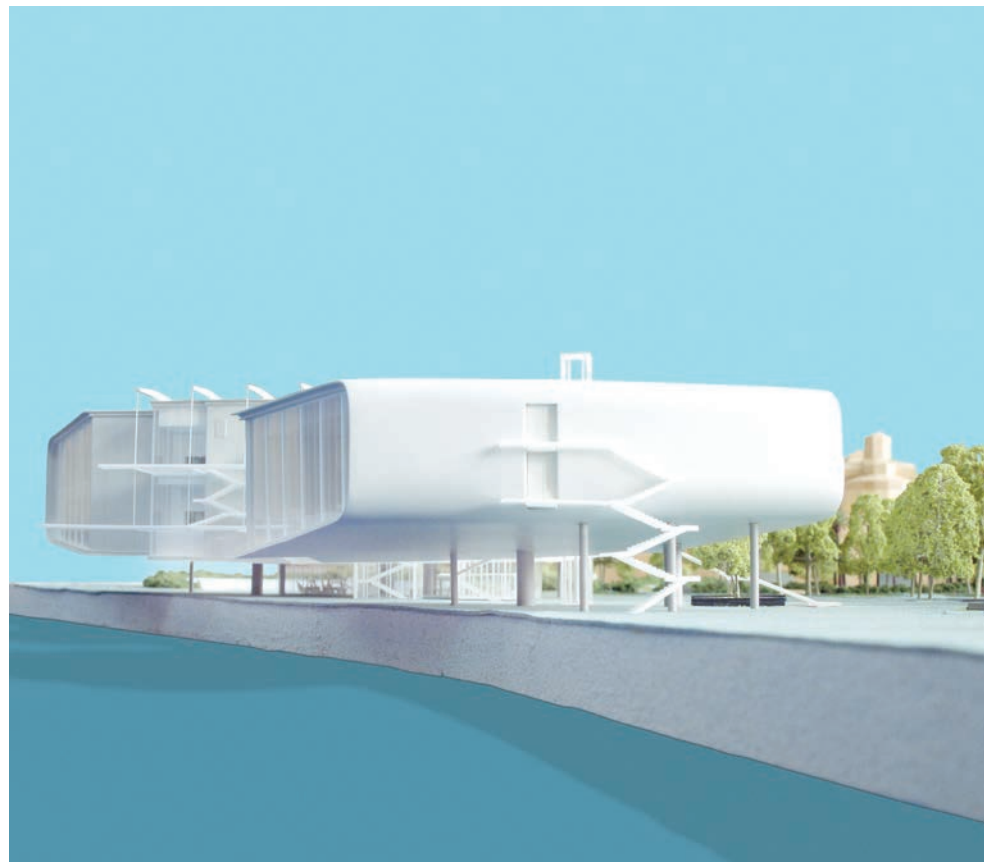


The aim of the project, by architect and Pritzker Prize winner Renzo Piano, is to create a space for art, culture and educational activities, as well as to build a new meeting place in Santander which will link the city centre to the bay.

To achieve this, the public spaces created around the building and the new Pereda Gardens –whose current size will be doubled by redirecting traffic through a newly built tunnel–, will be as important as the Centre itself.



The building is designed in two volumes linked together by a structure of spaces and walkways which will act as the nucleus and main access to the Botín Centre. The West building is devoted to art, with 2,500 m² of exhibition space; and the East building to culture and education, with a 300-seat auditorium, four seminar rooms and workspaces.



A terrace will be located on the roof of the East building from which visitors can enjoy spectacular views of Santander and its bay. The ground floor will be completely transparent: the East building will generate a covered square, and beneath the West building will be the Botín Centre “Pier”, a glassed-in public space with the restaurant, shop and leisure zones.

Weightlessness is the main concept the architect has sought in his design. The two volumes are raised on columns to avoid obstructing the view of the bay and to let light shine through. One of the project’s greatest technical innovations is the outer covering of ceramic pieces which will reflect the light of the bay and the Gardens.

The squares to the North and to the West of the building will be two of its most important spaces. They will provide leisure zones from which to enjoy the Gardens and the bay. An open-air amphitheatre where cultural activities will take place will be located in the West square. From here, people will be able to watch films in the open-air, thanks to a large screen placed on the façade of the building, and to enjoy broadcasts of the activities being held inside the Centre.



The new Pereda Gardens will be expanded from 4.942 acres to 9.884. The green areas will be tripled and the rest areas doubled. The design preserves and highlights this historical park, while at the same time adapting it to its new scale.

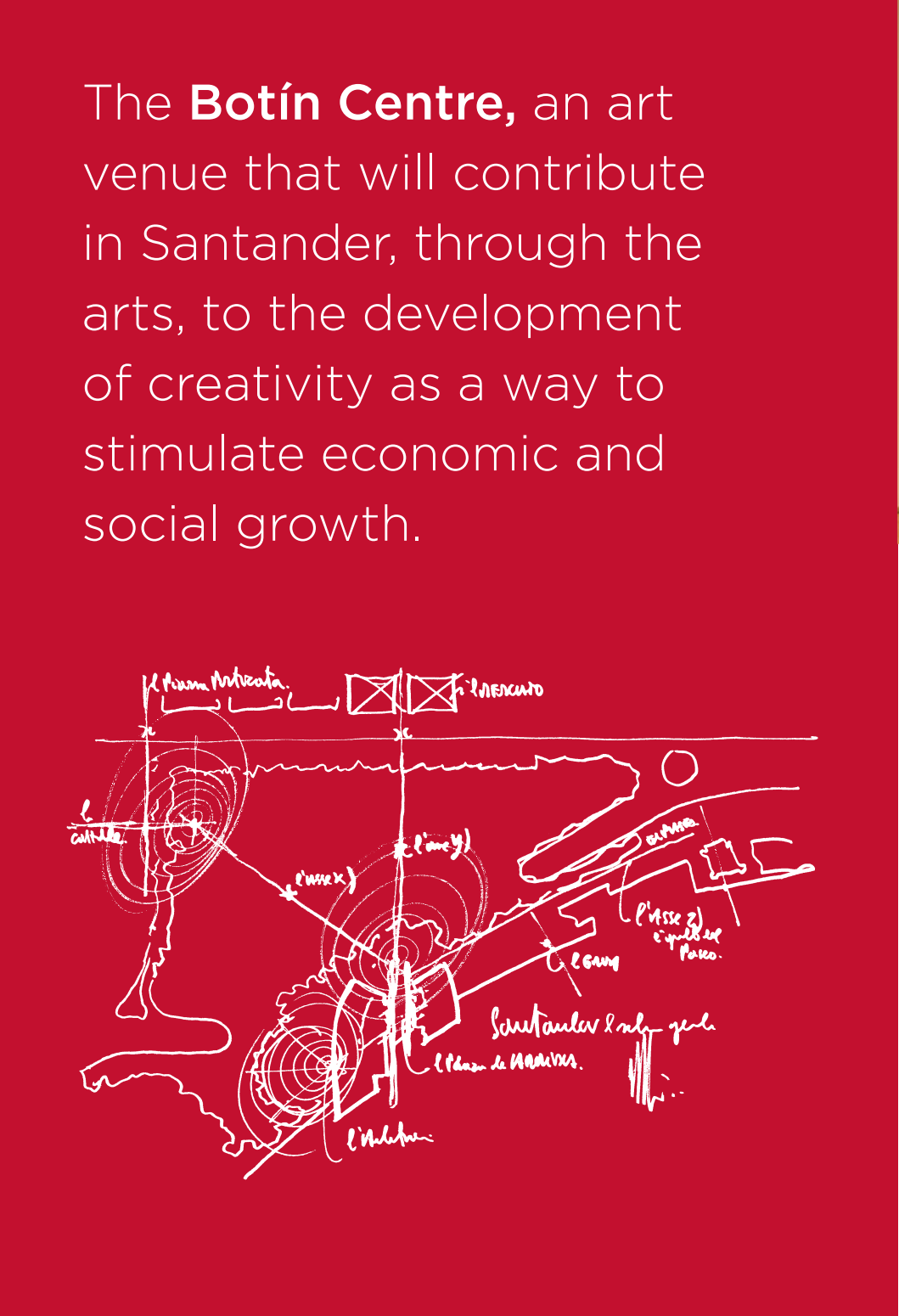
To the West, The Alfonso XIII square will be transformed into a large urban space and antechamber to the Gardens. Inside the Gardens, footpaths, green areas and rest areas intermingle to provide both sunny and shady spaces. A new oxidized concrete, borderless, paving in blue and green hues, will help to create a very special, bright atmosphere.



Botín Centre



The **Botín Centre**, an art venue that will contribute in Santander, through the arts, to the development of creativity as a way to stimulate economic and social growth.



A private art centre, point of reference in Spain and one of the leading art centres on the international art scene

The Botín Centre will extend and strengthen the Botín Foundation's Visual Arts programme which it has been running for over 25 years. Its Visual Arts Committee, in charge of programming the venue, is led by Vicente Todolí, former director of the Tate Modern.

The Visual Arts programme consists of three main areas: training in the form of grants for artists and international workshops led by renowned artists; research into the genre of drawing by Spanish masters from all historical periods; and international exhibitions either directly produced by the Foundation or arising from its research and training programmes.

The Botín Foundation's Art Collection is a reflection of its programme and its history. It contains works of art by its grant awardees and workshop directors, complemented by additional works by contemporary artists which help put one and the other into context.



A new meeting place in the city centre that will use art and culture to empower and enrich the life in Santander

The Centre will become part of the daily lives of the inhabitants of Santander and it will contribute to strengthening the city's social and cultural fabric. Above all it will be a meeting place using art, music, film, theatre and literature to enrich life in the city.

For this reason it will be fundamental the ways in which the people of Santander use their new Gardens –the Pereda Gardens whose current size will be doubled thanks to the newly built tunnel and which will link the city to the bay.



A pioneering place in the world for the development of creativity through the arts

The Centre will use the arts to generate emotions that encourage people's creative capacities. It will achieve this by organizing workshops, seminars, courses and educational activities for children, teenagers and adults.

The Centre will also be a research centre for studying the relationship between the arts, the emotions and creativity, as well as an international meeting place for experts and scholars in these fields.