

## **PhD Abstract Pablo Gil- Cornaro *Numen architecture***

“I understand the work that I have developed until now as a journey of material and formal experimentations based on the application to architecture of the philosophical idea of *numen* as it is discussed by the contemporary philosopher Gustavo Bueno in the book *El animal divino*, a materialist theory of the origin of religion. In his argumentation he links the emergence of religious experience with the relationships that men of the Paleolithic had with certain animals (with specific behavioral and morphologic characteristics). How can I transfer these characteristics to architecture? How can architecture become *numen*? Is it possible through architecture to establish a *religatio* with primary objects of religious experience?.

I am making approximations to this issue from various fields: sacred architecture, ethology, animal morphology, animism, fetishism and rhetoric. I work doing experiments that have slowly developed a technology of lightweight bioplastic structures, textile formworks and finishing surfaces. Particularly interesting are:

- the development of light structures of great volume.
- the recovery of ironed stuccos.
- the use of biocomposites for structural applications.

It is also important the relationship between digital production and artisanship: in this sense I have established a protocol of fabrication that would be essential for *numen* architecture. I have tested different ways in which the hand can interfere with the machine in the process of design.

Through sketches I make hypothesis of *numen* architecture and I am trying to go up in scale from material experiments to full scale installations. I am not sure yet what the final outcome will be but I have recently discovered an interesting connection between animal behavior in situations of defense, attack and seduction with, their dedicated morphologies and the principles of the sacred”.

## **Pablo Gil Bio**

Studied architecture in Madrid and graduated with Distinction in The Bartlett in 2004. He also obtained the Archigram Prize that year. Then MArch in 2005. Awarded MPhil in 2010. Currently PhD in Architectural Design with Prof. Stephen Gage and Dr. Marcos Cruz as supervisors.

Worked for Andrés Perea, David Chipperfield Architects, Richard Rogers Partnership and Yael Reisner Architects.

I have taught in London Metropolitan University from 2006 to 2008 and in IE University in Madrid since 2009.

I have been awarded a Talentia Scholarship from Junta de Andalucía in 2009 and 2010.

Established GilBartolome ADW in 2008 with Jaime Bartolomé.