

Morphosis Transforms Vialia Vigo TGV Station in Vigo, Spain

**In a phased opening, the project invigorates the station into a cosmopolitan center
integrating infrastructure with civic space**

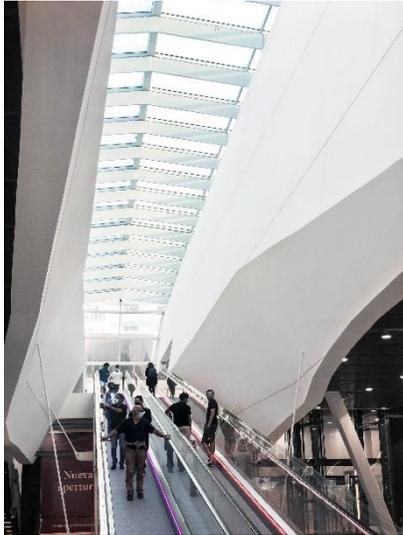


Photo by: Brandon Welling. Courtesy of Morphosis.

October 5, 2021 (Vigo, Spain) – Vialia Vigo TGV Station was inaugurated last Wednesday, September 29. The station was designed by global architecture and design firm Morphosis as part of a larger project to revitalize the region’s major train station. Located on the western coast of Spain, the transportation hub will ease connection into and out of Vigo, housing a new high-speed railway that connects Vigo to Madrid and, eventually, to Porto, Portugal. Vialia Vigo will provide civic space for a variety of new public, retail, and commercial spaces that foster critical connections for people in Vigo and the surrounding region. Morphosis worked in partnership with BDU Arquitectura and L35 in the creation of the project.

Morphosis Partner and Project Director Brandon Welling notes: “Vialia Vigo TGV Station demonstrates the firm’s continued interest in collaborating with cities to create projects and interventions that enhance urban connectivity while engaging with the day-to-day experience of its users. Not only does Vialia Vigo provide critical infrastructure to the region, but it creates a new gateway to the city that will catalyze social and commercial growth.”

Nestled into the mountainous coastal terrain, Vialia Vigo’s narrow site negotiates a 55-foot (17-meter) drop in elevation, sloping from an elevated residential area down towards Vigo’s city center. The undulating roof-scape of the four-story station serves as a public plaza creating a vibrant new public space and vital connections. The surface of the rooftop plaza folds downward to reveal a soaring atrium below that serves as the station’s main lobby and heart of Vialia Vigo.



The public plaza's prominent position and the atrium's transparent façade afford sweeping vistas of the sea and city center below. Circulation flows are oriented to facilitate navigation, optimize connectivity, and fill the station's public spaces with cosmopolitan activity. From a distance, the glowing glass roof that caps the atrium identifies the plaza at night, and lighting beckons activity within. From the highway, striated lights reveal a dynamic echoing the motion of the train station beyond a metal mesh that veils the site from the north.

Morphosis' work plays into the larger renewal of the station, with future urban developments to follow. Plans to create a variety of public and commercial spaces within the elegant new station will centralize Vigo as an attractive and important destination.

About Morphosis

Morphosis is a global architecture and design firm, creating compelling work that is intelligent, pragmatic, and powerful. For more than 40 years, Morphosis has practiced at the intersection of architecture, urbanism, and design, working across a broad range of project types and scales, including civic, academic, cultural, commercial, residential, and mixed-use; urban master plans; and original publications, objects, and art. Committed to the practice of architecture as a collaborative enterprise, founder and Pritzker Prize-winning architect Thom Mayne works in tandem with Partners Arne Emerson, Ung-Joo Scott Lee, Brandon Welling, and Eui-Sung Yi, and a team of more than 80 in Los Angeles, New York, Dubai, and Shenzhen. At the root of all Morphosis projects is a focus on rigorous research and innovation, prioritizing performance-driven design that is environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable. Through its research arm, The Now Institute, the firm collaborates with academic institutions to create design-based solutions for the pressing issues of the day, from mobility, urban revitalization, and sustainability to public policy, planning, and community outreach. For more information, visit www.morphosis.com.

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