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Simón Vélez – Vegetarian Architecture

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- The September issue of *a+u* is dedicated to MAD Architects, a global architectural practice established by Chinese architect, Ma Yansong in 2004
- A selection of 17 projects are recounted through physical models, sketches, drawing and images, to take readers on a journey through the projects' early design visions to their final realities
- To further understand the complexities behind MAD's design, Dang Qun, Gao Ying and Yu Hui – the architect, structural engineer and façade engineer, respectively came together to discuss the technicalities behind their work processes

This issue features Colombian architect, Simón Vélez. He received his architectural education in Colombia and founded his studio in 1972. Having invented the use of bamboo as a structural material by filling it with cement mortar, Vélez has gained international reputation for his designs using bamboo. He believes that architecture should incorporate more plants (vegetarian), and his work is seen to use a diversity of natural materials. Local vegetal materials – such as Guadua bamboo native to South America, Moso bamboo from Asia, and local wood like Ariso, Alboroco, and Eucalyptus – are used to maximize the restrictions and limitations of materials. Conscientious with the materials and site, he continues to create structurally rational buildings.

Text in English and Japanese.

a+u - Architecture and Urbanism – is a monthly architectural magazine established in 1971 that highlights a broad range of the work and activities of top contemporary architects from around the world in a well-presented format.