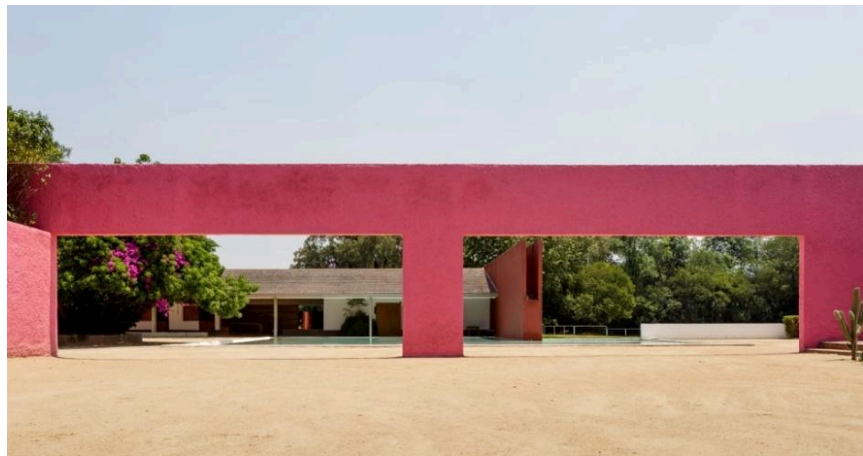


LA CUADRA

FUNDACIÓN FERNANDO ROMERO ANNOUNCES THE TRANSITION OF LUIS BARRAGÁN'S MASTERWORK, LA CUADRA SAN CRISTÓBAL, INTO A PUBLIC CULTURAL RESOURCE

Historic Estate Will Provide Mexico City's Newest Foundation with a Cultural Campus Focused on the Dynamic Interplay Between Art and Architecture

Before Opening to the Public, La Cuadra Will Welcome an Invited Audience During Zona Maco 2025 for an Artist Experience with Marina Abramović



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MEXICO CITY, January 28, 2025 — Fundación Fernando Romero, the not-for-profit foundation established by award-winning architect and design curator Fernando Romero, today announced plans to adapt the historic, Luis Barragán-designed La Cuadra San Cristóbal into a cultural resource for the public at large and the world's art and architecture community. A 6.7-acre walled compound in northwest Mexico City, La Cuadra San Cristóbal was designed by Barragán in the late 1960s as a private estate encompassing a residence, equestrian facilities, and an ample landscape.

In 2017, architect and philanthropist Fernando Romero learned that the property was available and recognized that its transition to new ownership could put its integrity at risk. This prompted initial discussions with the Egerström family, rooted in a shared commitment to its preservation. These conversations continued over the years, leading to Romero's acquisition of the property through his foundation in 2024. Romero acquired the

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property with two objectives: to protect this architectural masterpiece and to make it into a new cultural platform, where the work of artists, architects, and designers will be exhibited. La Cuadra will formally open to the public in October 2025.

Fernando Romero said, “Our work at the Fundación is driven by the belief that architectural innovation and artistic production can help foster a more just and culturally vibrant world. It is a great honor to begin this work by envisioning La Cuadra as a dynamic cultural hub that encourages new possibilities at the intersection of art and architecture. Through a range of programming, we aim to catalyze the power of architecture for the visiting public and celebrate the enduring cultural influence of Luis Barragán.”

Over the next decade, a multi-phase plan for La Cuadra’s campus will integrate architectural preservation with the addition of new pavilions, sited adjacent to the La Cuadra compound and commissioned from internationally acclaimed architects--including a timber pavilion designed by Kengo Kuma—creating a destination that evolves to accommodate and adapt to ever-changing cultural invention and programming. Fernando Romero’s master plan envisions an infrastructure capable of facilitating the rich relationship between art and architecture, providing a platform for endless creativity in one of the most vibrant spaces in Mexico.

The new cultural campus aims to cement the site's legacy as a premier destination for experiencing the transformative power of Barragán's architecture. Through the initiative of Fundación Fernando Romero, La Cuadra will prompt new creative ventures to push the boundaries of art and architecture into the future. Features will include:

- a permanent exhibition dedicated to the life and work of Luis Barragán
- an artist residency program
- a gallery dedicated to the display of the Archivo Collection of design objects
- additional galleries
- a series of temporary, site-specific installations
- a podcast production studio
- a library
- a multi-purpose event venue
- a gift shop and a coffee shop

An annual Artist Experience, to be conducted during the Zona Maco art fair, will be launched in February 2025, attended this year by an initial group of invited participants including 150 university students. Working in Mexico for the first time since the 1990’s, Marina Abramović will be the guest artist, delivering an artist’s talk and conducting an intervention within the courtyard of La Cuadra.

Fundación Fernando Romero anticipates that the public opening of its campus at La Cuadra San Cristóbal will take place in fall 2025, when the permanent exhibition dedicated to Luis Barragán will be inaugurated. Curated by Jorge Covarrubias, the architect celebrated for his work in restoring Barragán’s Casa Prieto López and Fuente del Bebedero,

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the exhibition will showcase Barragán's first modernist buildings in Mexico City and provide a closer look at eight main works: Casa Prieto López, Casa Gálvez, Casa Gilardi, Casa Estudio Barragán, Convento de las Capuchinas, La Cuadra San Cristóbal, Torres de Satélite, and Fuente del Bebedero.

About Fernando Romero

Fernando Romero is an award-winning architect, design curator, and philanthropist. Since founding his 60-person studio in Mexico City in 2000, Romero has been driven by research, experimentation, and a commitment to integrating historical, social, economic, and environmental contexts into contemporary urban developments. The studio's portfolio spans a wide range of typologies and geographies, with notable achievements including the Soumaya Museum in Mexico City and transformative nation-building projects in El Salvador, such as Bitcoin City and the Aeropuerto Internacional del Pacífico.

While Fundación Fernando Romero operates as an independent nonprofit entity, it benefits from a symbiotic relationship with Fernando Romero's commercial office. His team of architects and designers is actively involved in the foundation's initiatives, with a particular emphasis on the design and master planning of the new cultural campus at La Cuadra San Cristóbal.

About Fundación Fernando Romero

Fundación Fernando Romero is dedicated to fostering a socially just and culturally vibrant world. Driven by the belief that architectural innovation and cultural production can help advance humanity, Fundación Fernando Romero operates through the disciplines of art, architecture, and spatial research, all with the ambition of making a positive impact on people's lives. The work of the Fundación is organized under two umbrella initiatives -- Arts & Culture and a Research Institute -- with an inaugural project on the US-Mexico border.

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Images: Fernando Romero at La Cuadra San Cristóbal, credit: Juan HDZ (left); Exterior courtyard at La Cuadra San Cristóbal, credit: Yannik Wegner, courtesy Fundación Fernando Romero (right)