

A NEW MEDIA CENTRE
HAS JUST BEEN CREATED
IN SABADELL-BARCELONA (SPAIN)
MORE INFORMATION ABOUT MECAD
INSIDE THIS BROCHURE

M Media Centre
d'Art i Disseny
MECAD
Media Centre of Art & Design

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d'Art i Disseny

Media Centre of Art & Design
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How to get to MECAD

RENFE

Suburban trains: line C4 - Barcelona - Sabadell - Terrassa - Manresa.

Regional trains: Barcelona - Sabadell - Manresa - Lleida.

Trains every 12-15 min.

Ferrocarrils de la Generalitat de Catalunya

Line S2: Barcelona - Sant Cugat - Sabadell.

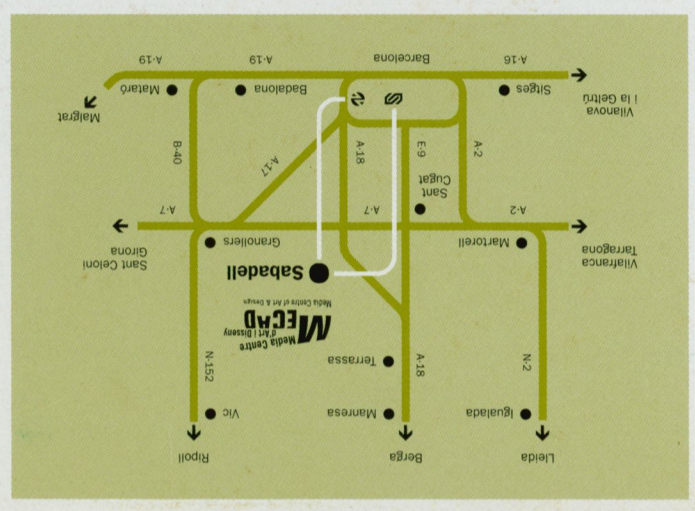
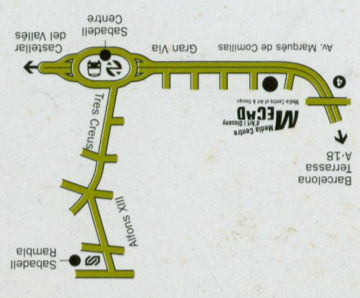
Trains every 12-18 min.

25 min from Plaça de Catalunya (Barcelona).
50 min from Iguada (NI-A7), from Manresa (E9-A18) or from Mataró (B40-A7).

By car

Several suburban lines

Central Bus Station



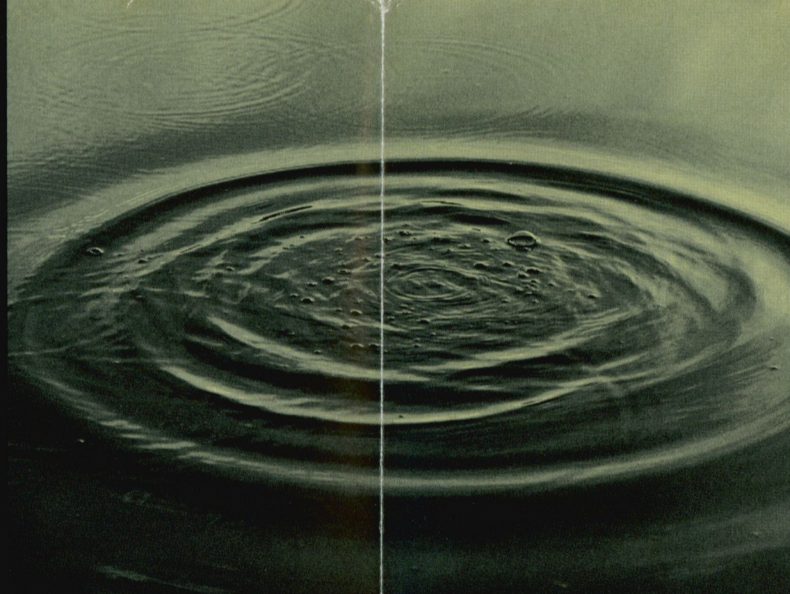
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M E C A D



Introduction

Digital and telecommunications technologies are opening paths towards hitherto unprecedented aesthetic experiences.

During recent decades these new media have made a deep impact on art and design, and their future development prospects are considerable. This has led us to create the

MECAD \ Media Centre d'Art i Disseny in Sabadell -

Barcelona, a centre oriented specifically towards research and support for creative practices using audio-visual, interactive and telematic media.

The Creation of MECAD

MECAD was created in September 1998 on the initiative of the FUNDIT Foundation, the institution that in 1989 founded the School of Design ESDI with the aim of fostering design culture and providing the necessary pedagogical and research means to do so. With the recent creation of MECAD and the appointment of Claudia Giannetti as director of the Centre, FUNDIT has made a substantial step forward in its endeavour to fortify the increasingly close links between design, art and the new technologies.

The Foundation Board is composed of various institutions. Among these, the following are especially remarkable:
Spanish Intertextile Council; Catalan Department of Industry, Commerce and Tourism; Association of Manufacturers of Sabadell; Ministry of Industry and Energy; Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Sabadell.

The members of the Executive Board of FUNDIT are:

President	Sr. Josep Roca
Vicepresident	Sr. Jesús Martínez-Pujalte
Vocals	Sr. Josep Bombardo
	Sr. Joan Canals
	Sr. Antoni Garrell
	Sr. Antoni M. Güell
	Sr. Antoni Garrell
General Director	
MECAD Director	Sra. Claudia Giannetti

The Relationship between MECAD and ESDI

The creation of MECAD has coincided in time and space with the creation in 1998 of a new degree in Electronic Art and Digital Design, granted by the School of Design ESDI. This school, created in 1989 by FUNDIT, has an association agreement with the Ramon Llull University (URL), the first private university in Spain.

The degree in Electronic Art and Digital Design – the first of its kind in Spain – responds to the need to update the study both of the arts and of design in the view of the development of new technologies and of current aesthetic trends. In the fields of research and training, MECAD lends substantial support to these new studies, through a variety of activities bringing the future generation of digital creators closer to new tendencies in their fields of action.

MECAD and ESDI share as well their physical basis, an old factory completely restored with an area of 10,000 sqm on four floors. These spacious and modern facilities provide room for offices, classrooms, workshops, labs, the library, etc.

Physical and Virtual Space

MECAD has been born with the will to be an open, decentralised entity. We believe that traditional models of institutions that restrict their field of action to the limits of the physical space they occupy have become obsolete, since they base their activities on closed policies that hamper dialogue.



MECAD identifies with the metaphor of the "hub" from which a wide variety of ideas and actions radiate, and also with that of the "nucleus", which becomes a meeting point, debate forum and centre of creation. In this context we aspire to promoting and developing both our own projects and initiatives in conjunction with other centres, entities or artists, as well as to support and share projects from outside. In practice, this means that we act both "at home", by generating activities from the MECAD itself, as well as elsewhere in Sabadell, Barcelona, Spain and the international context.

Besides the physical space we occupy in the FUNDIT building – a space we share with ESDI –, our field of action also encompasses telematic space, which allows us to be present on a global level. By building our web we set out both to facilitate access to important information concerning Media Art, and through the network to develop new strategies and supports for creation. Through these proposals, open to all kinds of projects and collaborations, our intention is to increase the scope of our action to become a centre of research and production of ideas and activities; a nucleus of reception and support for projects carried out by artists and other entities; and a point of dissemination and launching pad for creators from all areas of Media Art.

The Objectives of MECAD

1 The Dissemination of Electronic Art through Cultural Activities

Our dissemination project involves two kinds of activities. On the one hand, the organisation of a variety of events: exhibitions, conferences, concerts, performances, symposia, and so on, both at the MECAD itself and at other centres with which collaboration agreements have been established. On the other hand, the fostering of production centred on digital creation, and the setting up of interdisciplinary links between a wide range of fields: philosophy, sociology, literature, music, sciences, informatics, etc.

2 Publication

MECAD will issue a line of publications devoted to subjects related to art, culture and the new technologies, which will appear on a variety of different supports: books, CD-ROM, Internet, etc.

3 The Creation of a Media Lab

MECAD has its own space for research and production, which will continue to be developed and extended in the future. The Media Lab is equipped with PC (Pentium II), Apple and Silicon Graphics platforms, and systems of audio-visual production and post-production. The aim of the Media Lab is to develop specific projects on the basis of our own concepts or of those presented by other artists and creators to whom MECAD will provide its support.

4 Research and Production Grants

MECAD will award on an annual basis grants for production and support for research and creation. Grant holders will have at their disposal the equipment of the Media Lab and, in accordance with the Centre's plan to set up links between MECAD and the study of Electronic Art and Digital Design, they will be allowed to carry out teaching practice at ESDI in their respective specialities. There will be two types of grants: grants which provide economic support for 5 or 10 months, and grants of collaboration to the production of works, by means of which the technical equipment of the Media Lab will be at the disposal of artists for the productions of their own projects.

5 Training

MECAD will organise seminars, workshops and courses with lecturers and specialists for the theoretical and practical training of artists and designers in subjects both interdisciplinary and directly related to digital creation.

6 Exchanges and Collaborations

MECAD will establish collaboration agreements with other international Media Art centres, and with festivals and other annual events that develop activities in our field.

7 Documentation

All users of our web will have access to a source of documentation and information on the different areas of Media Art. Furthermore, in collaboration with the ESDI Library we shall progressively increase our stocks oriented towards digital creation, contemporary culture and its relationship with science and new technologies.