LANZA Atelier

“The sensibilities and imagination of the Mexican people have often overshadowed respect for recent, weaker authoritarian social norms.”

LANZA Atelier belongs to a new generation of Mexico’s political influences that are often at odds with one another: pre-Hispanic artistic traditions. In the 1970s the Nobel Prize–winner Luis León Soriano (1907–1983) wrote a poetic text entitled “Nómada” (Steps Table), which to this day is the conceptual guide for LANZA Atelier’s projects. It is both an object and an action and reflects their approach to architecture.

Abascal was born in 1984 and moved to Mexico City, where he studied and eventually worked for the Architects of Mexico (AMS). Arienzo has a degree in architecture from Instituto Politécnico Nacional, where he and Abascal met. In 2015 they established LANZA Atelier, which has already produced a number of exhibition, publication, and even tattoo designs; the drawings and models for one of the many proposals for multiunit residential buildings in Mexico City. For example, Luis Barragán and Max Cetto’s 1941 Forest House (as well as J. Serrano’s Casas Elorduy (Elorduy House), Juan Legarreta’s Edificio en Mexicali (Mexicali Housing), Christopher Forest House, and Robert Wilson’s Emergency Staircase) are among the projects on view at SFMOMA.

The projects by LANZA Atelier on view at SFMOMA represent a careful consideration of the needs of today’s users. The Atelier’s work is in the tradition of multiunit housing, with its historical roots in the work of Ricardo Legorreta and his contemporaries. Their formal complexity also alludes to the mixture of historical influences that have filtered through Mexico’s multicultural heritage. This listing reflects the information available at the time of publication. All works are courtesy LANZA Atelier. Generous support for this important exhibition is provided by the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. The project is made possible in part with public funds from the California Arts Council.