



PRESS RELEASE

Madrid, 9 May 2018

Completion of the full restoration work on the façades of the Banco de España building in Cibeles

As indicated in the press releases dated **11 November 2015** and **9 January 2017**, the Banco de España has carried out restoration work on the façade of its main headquarters at Calle Alcalá 48, Madrid, undertaken as a result of a piece of stone breaking away from the cornice of the façade in October 2015.

The Banco de España building is a listed national monument and included in the Catalogue of Protected Buildings with level 1 special protection under the Madrid Urban Planning Programme. Therefore all the safety and emergency measures and the final outer façade restoration project were required the relevant permits from the two competent government agencies, namely the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport and the Madrid City Council.

The initial work, undertaken immediately after the piece of stone broke away, consisted of protecting the affected area and checking all the cornices of the old building in Calle Alcalá and Paseo del Prado. As a result of the inspection, it was concluded that, to ensure safety in the face of the risk of dislodgement of other elements, it was necessary to erect scaffolding along the building's entire facade from street level to the cornice.

The following step was to engage, through a public procurement process, the services relating to the drafting of the blueprint for the restoration and the technical oversight and management of the associated work. The contract was awarded on 2 June 2016 to the team comprising the architects Mr. Valentín Berriochoa Sánchez-Moreno (National Prize in 2000 for Heritage Restoration and Conservation) and Mr. Valentín Berriochoa Hausmann.

Once the restoration project was approved, a public procurement process was launched for the execution of the work, which was awarded on 5 December 2016 to the firm Proyectos y Rehabilitaciones KALAM, S.A. For project management, the firm V. Berriochoa Arquitectos enlisted the architects Mr. David Gil Crespo and Mr. Juan Carlos Bueno Caballero, and the task of ensuring execution of work as specified in the restoration project was supervised by GEA Asesoría Geológica, S. Coop. This firm, specialised in stonework, was awarded the contract in the related public procurement process on 10 February 2017 and carried out quality control of the processes and materials used in the restoration.

The restoration work commenced in January 2017 and the work scope was defined as the outer façades of the old building and the extension building, i.e. those looking onto Calle Alcalá, Plaza de Cibeles, Paseo del Prado, Calle de los Madrazo and Calle del Marqués de Cubas, with a total surface area of 11,781.10 m². The work consisted mainly of the following:

- Insertion of structural tie rods to ensure stability of overhanging elements, and placement of zinc on cornices to prevent water damage.

- Cleaning and restoration of deteriorated elements of façades, the consolidation of stone to prevent existing deterioration from progressing further and the application of water-repellent and anti-graffiti treatments to protect the stone from possible future damage.
- Modernisation and maintenance of other elements of façades such as the installation of ornamental lighting running along façades at various levels and the straightening of the fence lining the footpath in Calle Alcalá.

Now that the work has been completed, the building once again has the appropriate safety measures in place and the city landscape has regained one of its most emblematic buildings. Overall, it is since the Bank's construction the most extensive and complete restoration undertaken on the façades of its old building in the Plaza de Cibeles, i.e. those looking onto Paseo del Prado, Calle de Los Madrazo and Calle Alcalá.

The Banco de España wishes to thank the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport and the Madrid City Council for their cooperation in the various stages of the restoration, and the citizens of Madrid for their understanding of the inconvenience caused in the streets around the Banco de España building during the somewhat more than two-and-a-half years that the restoration work lasted.

Reproduction permitted only if the source is cited

For further information.: Phone. +34 91 338 5044 / 6097 / 5318 Fax +34 91 338 5203 www.bde.es Email: comunicacion@bde.es