

WALKING CITIES CONGRESS IN VITORIA-GASTEIZ

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From 22 to 24 October, Vitoria-Gasteiz hosted the [13th Congress of the Walking Cities Network](#) (Red de Ciudades que Caminan). The gathering brought together nearly 200 participants, **the largest turnout in its thirteen editions**. Under the motto “Camina en Verde – Berdez Ibili” (Walk Green), local government representatives, urban planners and specialists shared experiences on **universal accessibility, pedestrian mobility, population ageing** and **adapting public space to climate change**.

The opening session featured the urban planner Guillermo Peñalosa, a leading advocate of **8-80 cities**. The idea is that streets, parks and public spaces should be designed so that an eight-year-old girl and an 80-year-old alike can use them safely and independently.

The first day also included a tribute to José Ángel Cuerda, mayor of Vitoria-Gasteiz from 1979 to 1999 and a key figure in the **city’s pedestrian transformation**. Decisions taken during his time in office **gave the streets back their role as places for meeting and living together**, laying the foundations of an urban model that has continued to evolve ever since.

It was a tribute we at Naider felt especially close to: years ago we presented him with the Naider Action and Commitment Award, although, in truth, the honour was Naider’s. His vision of an **open, caring city designed around people** continues to inspire our work.



Photos: Vitoria-Gasteiz City Council

