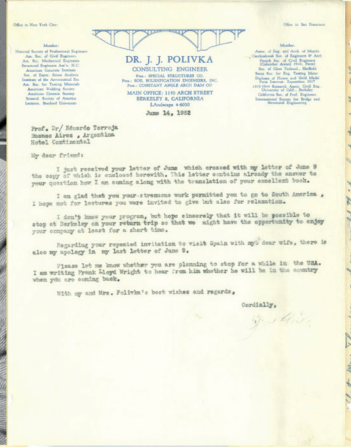



DR. J. J. POLIVKA
CONSULTING ENGINEER
MAIN OFFICE: 1150 ARCH STREET
BERKELEY 4, CALIFORNIA
June 14, 1952

Prof. Dr/ Eduardo Torroja
Buenos Aires , Argentina
Hotel Continental

My dear friend:

I just received your letter of June which crossed with my letter of June 9 the copy of which is enclosed herewith. This letter contains already the answer to your question how I am coming along with the translation of your excellent book.

I am glad that you your treasure work permitted you to go to South America , I hope not for lectures you were invited to give but also for relaxation.

I don't know your program, but hope sincerely that it will be possible to stop at Berkeley on your return trip so that we might have the opportunity to enjoy your company at least for a short time.

Regarding your expected invitation to visit Spain with my dear wife, there is also my apology in my last letter of June 9.

Please let me know whether you are planning to stop for a while in the USA. I am writing Frank Lloyd Wright to hear from him whether he will be in the country when you are coming back.

With up and Mrs. Polivka's best wishes and regards,

Cordially,


VIA AEREA · AIR MAIL

Mr. J.J Polivka

My dear friend : I received your kind letter June 14
I see you have got a heavy job with the translation of
my book, and I acknowledge you for it. But I cannot agree
with the end of your letter June 9 th where you say : "Since
I would like to finish the translation as soon as possible,
I have already given up the idea to go to Europe this year.
If it is and you really like to come to Europe,
up the book and set the journey please, send the book
to the west. I am sure it is not worth enough to prepare
the visit to Europe after so many years you left it that
Mrs. Polivka will agree with me. Would you like to
put the last decision on her hands ; it's my proposal.

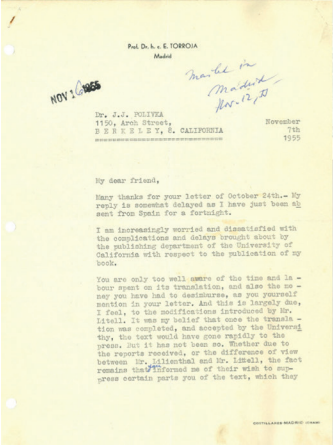
I am not go over to the States because I have all
the steps taken with lectures until the first days of
August, and then I need to go quickly to Spain for some
days and be in London for the Congress.

I understand quite well that the translation in
english should be very different of a direct one, certainly
by sentence ; and I am sure the work under your close
direction will improve the original.

Excuse me the orthography and indications in this letter
but I have no english machinery now here

With my best regards, to Mrs Polivka and you

U. S. Bases in Spain Under Way


Prof. Dr. h. c. E. TORROJA
Madrid

NOV 3 1955

Dr. J.J. POLIVKA
1150, Arch Street,
BERKELEY, 8, CALIFORNIA

November 7th 1955

My dear friend,

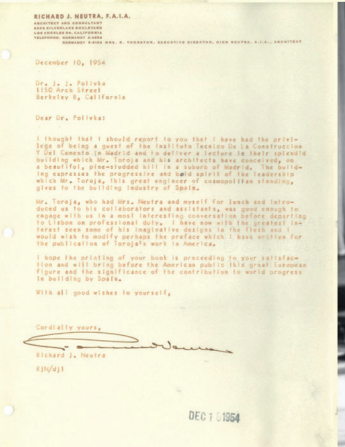
Many thanks for your letter of October 24th.- My reply is somewhat delayed as I have just been sent from Spain for a fortnight.

I am increasingly worried and dissatisfied with the complications and delays brought about by the publishing department of the University of California with respect to the publication of my book.

You are only too well aware of the time and labour spent on its translation, and also the money you have had to desinburse, as you yourself mention in your letter. And this is largely due, I feel, to the modifications introduced by Mr. Isell. It was my belief that once the translation was completed, and accepted by the University, the text would have gone rapidly to the press. But it has not been so. Whether due to the reports received, or the difference of view between Mr. Isell and Mr. Isell, the fact remains that I informed me of their wish to suppress certain parts you of the text, which they






RICHARD J. NEUTRA, F.A.I.A.
ARCHITECT AND CONSULTANT

December 10, 1954

Dr. J. J. Polivka
1150 Arch Street
Berkeley 8, California

Dear Dr. Polivka:

I thought that I should report to you that I have had the privilege of being a guest of the Instituto Tecnico De La Construccion Y Del Cemento in Madrid and to deliver a lecture in their splendid building which Mr. Torroja and his architects have conceived, on a beautiful, pine-studded hill in a suburb of Madrid. The building expresses the progressive and bold spirit of the leadership which Mr. Torroja, this great engineer of cosmopolitan standing, gives to the building industry of Spain.

Mr. Torroja, who had Mrs. Neutra and myself for lunch and introduced us to his collaborators and assistants, was good enough to engage with us in a most interesting conversation before departing to Lisbon on professional duty. I have now with the greatest interest seen some of his imaginative designs in the flesh and I would wish to modify perhaps the preface which I have written for the publication of Torroja's work in America.

I hope the printing of your book is proceeding to your satisfaction and will bring before the American public this great Europeen figure and the significance of the contribution to world progress he building by Spain.

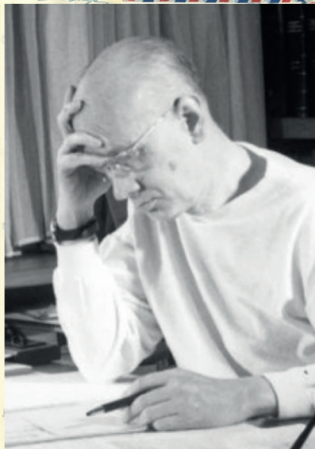
With all good wishes to yourself,

Cordially yours,

Richard J. Neutra

RJN/ejt

DEC 1 0 1954



Polívka–Torroja
Filosofía y Razón
Philosophy and Reason

18 de noviembre 2026, 18:00h

Colegio de Arquitectos de Madrid
Auditorio COAM, 2ª planta
Calle de Hortaleza 63, Madrid

Inscripción

Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic
Brno Academy of Fine Arts and Architecture
COAM Colegio Oficial Arquitectos de Madrid
Fundación Arquitectura COAM

Gobierno de España
Ministerio de Transportes y Movilidad Sostenible
Vicepresidencia Tercera del Gobierno
Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y el Reto Demográfico
CEDEX
CEHOPU

El encuentro entre Eduardo Torroja y Frank Lloyd Wright en abril de 1950 abrió la puerta a la difusión de la obra y del pensamiento del ingeniero español en Estados Unidos. Una conocida fotografía de ambos paseando por las calles de Phoenix, publicada en *Architectural Forum*, puede interpretarse como una imagen icónica, representativa de una filosofía compartida en la que técnica y estética se entienden íntimamente vinculadas en el arte de construir. Pero las fotografías no siempre revelan a todos los protagonistas. Detrás de la cámara estaba Jaroslav Josef Polívka, colaborador de Wright, admirador de Torroja y principal responsable de aquel encuentro.

La jornada, el libro y la exposición profundizan en la figura de este profesional polifacético de origen checo —ingeniero, arquitecto, empresario, investigador, inventor y profesor— y en la relación que mantuvo con Torroja durante más de una década. Fruto de las conversaciones mantenidas durante ese primer viaje de Torroja a Estados Unidos surgiría su conocido libro, *Razón y ser de los tipos estructurales*, publicado un año más tarde en Norteamérica como *Philosophy of Structures* con la traducción de Polívka y su hijo Miloš.

Las actividades programadas ponen de relieve la biografía de Polívka, las redes internacionales que logró articular, su papel en la proyección norteamericana de Torroja y el trabajo archivístico que ha hecho posible preservar su legado. El Fondo Jaroslav Josef Polívka permite seguir el proceso de traducción, edición y difusión de *Philosophy of Structures* y descubrir un entramado de relaciones cruzadas entre figuras como el propio Wright, Buckminster Fuller, Pier Luigi Nervi, Richard Neutra, Mario Salvadori o Bruno Zevi. En conjunto, este legado muestra el espíritu de una época en la que arquitectura e ingeniería se entendían como disciplinas estrechamente interdependientes.

Polívka–Torroja

Filosofía y Razón | Philosophy and Reason

18 de noviembre 2026, 18:00h. Auditorio 2ª planta
Colegio Oficial de Arquitectos de Madrid (COAM)

18:00 *Apertura institucional*
Fernando Landecho
Vocal de la Junta de Gobierno del COAM
Áurea Perucho Martínez
Directora del Centro de Estudios y Experimentación de Obras Públicas (CEDEX)

18:15 *Abrir el Fondo Jaroslav Josef Polívka*
Marta Morueco, Isabel Rodríguez, Rosana Rubio (CEHOPU) y Aida Suárez (Tragsatec)

18:45 *Mesa redonda:*
Polívka–Torroja. Documentos de una relación profesional y personal.
A Professional and Personal Relationship in Documents.
Modera Miguel González Portal
Jefe del gabinete de relaciones externas y actividades comerciales del CEDEX
Ronald M. Polívka–Ingeniero de estructuras, nieto de Jaroslav J. Polívka
Ladislav Jackson–Brno University of Technology
Ramon Graus–Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya
Jorge Bernabéu–Universidad Politécnica de Madrid

19:35 *Presentación de la exposición*
Ladislav Jackson

19:50 *Clausura*
Jana Polívková Čepeláková–Directora del Centro Checo Madrid

20:00 *Visita a la exposición*

20:30 *Vino español*