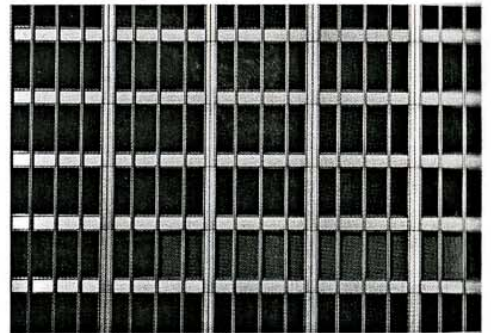


Passion for noble materials

He bathed in cold water from a spring, made bread in an oven that also provided warmth on long winter nights, and wrote under candlelight. And those experiences marked the birth of his poetry, plays, paintings and sculptures.

A selection of his sculptural work was displayed as part of the "Paradise Found" (*"El Paraiso Encontrado"*) exhibition organised by the regional government's cultural ministry in 2001 with the objective of showing works by foreign artists resident in Málaga province.



His contribution attracted widespread praise, but his growing restlessness led him to return to architecture. He accepted a challenge to design the Diamante Centre hotel in Estepona, and went on to create five pavilions for Expo 92 in Sevilla: the South African, Malaysian, Sri Lankan, Pakistani and Yugoslavian.

Not everything was smooth sailing, however: the Pakistan government insisted on its pavilion being built back home then transported to Spain, a war broke out in Yugoslavia, so he was unable to collect his fee and the only solution was to dismantle the building and use the construction materials in other subsequent projects.

Today, Paffard Keatinge Clay's enormous creative imprint extends from Great Britain, France, Germany and Switzerland to the US and Canada – and, of course, Spain. It includes architectural works, industrial sculptures of gigantic proportions and beautiful murals such as the sensual "Lorelei" in Kaiserswert (Dusseldorf), on the banks of the Rhine.

His current main interest, however, is ecology. He has proposed that Mijas Town Hall develop an "ecology centre" in the abandoned quarry above the village, and has constructed a detailed model of a "tension system" for the project.

Also in Mijas, he has been working closely with the town hall for the past 10 years on an urban plan for the La Katria "ecological urbanisation" of the valley below San Anton. His ideal of ensuring "careful respect for nature" is also soon to come to fruition in two other residential projects.

In the meantime, his affinity with the materials and technology of his many and varied projects – "Technology doesn't necessarily have to be deprived of poetry" – has led to an association with German business group Pole, a world leader in the production of top-quality metal constructions. Their respective philosophies coincide: a passion for noble metals such as rust-free steel, brass and aluminium, turning them into exquisite forms by combining artistic creativity and artisan skills. (