

**José Cruz Ovalle**  
**explora Master Architecture**



José Cruz Ovalle is the highly regarded master architect behind the innovative and architecturally stunning explora hotels Patagonia explora (2005), Hotel Rapa Nui explora (2007) and most recently, the interior renovation of explora Atacama Hotel de Larache.

Born in 1948 in Santiago de Chile, José Cruz Ovalle is one of South America's most renowned architects. His latest achievements including the Spirit of Nature Wood Architecture Award granted for architectural merit to individuals or groups who have shown a skilled and creative use of wood in their work.

José's work has become inspirational to many architects around the world as it not only has a signature style but also breathes life into the structures he creates as a result of a certain movement – a movement between places, activities and diverse dimensions of architecture which he has picked up through out his life and experiences.

José began his architectural studies in 1968 at the Catholic University of Chile (Universidad Católica de Chile) before moving to Barcelona in the 70's, where he completed his architectural degree at the Polytechnic University (Universidad Politécnica de Barcelona). In 1973 he remained in the city running his own architectural studio before turning to teaching. From 1983–1986, together with philosopher Eugenio Trias, he taught within the Department of Architecture at the Polytechnic University of Barcelona.

Following his extensive studying, José returned to Chile in 1987 and opened an architectural studio in Santiago de Chile, which is where he currently works with his wife Ana Turrell and his partners Juan Purcell and Hernán Cruz.

José Cruz Ovalle has made many contributions to architectural projects in Chile. He has never lost sight of his Chilean roots which inspired by the wildness and beauty of natural Chile have become the canvases to his work.

Notes to editors:

*explora is not so much a hotel group as a revolutionary travel experience. It is an enterprise, founded in 1989, to encourage a new attitude towards travel for those who have a passion for discovering new places and new people, in remote and relatively unexplored regions of the southern tip of South America. Explora owns and operates three hotels – explora Atacama, Hotel de Larache, explora Patagonia, Hotel Salto Chico and explora Rapa Nui, Easter Island - together with four different Travesías that travel through Atacama, Easter Island, Patagonia, Argentina and the salt flats of Bolivia.*

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