Rafael Moneo was born in Tudela, Navarra (Spain) in May of 1937. He obtained his architectural degree in 1961 from the Technical School of Architecture in Madrid. In 1963, Professor Moneo was awarded a two-year fellowship at the Spanish Academy of Rome. Upon his return to Spain, Rafael Moneo taught at the Technical School of Architecture in Madrid (1966-70). In 1970 he won a chaired professorship in architectural theory at the Technical School of Architecture in Barcelona, where he taught until 1980. In that year he was named chaired professor at the School of Architecture in Madrid, where he taught until 1985.

In 1976, Rafael Moneo was invited to the U.S. as a Visiting Fellow by the Institute for Architecture and Urban Studies of New York City (1976-77) and by the Cooper Union School of Architecture (NYC, 1976-77). During the late seventies and early eighties he was visiting professor at the architecture schools at Princeton and Harvard, and later at the architecture department of the Federal Polytechnic School in Lausanne, Switzerland.

In 1985, Rafael Moneo was named Chairman of the architecture department of the GSD, a position he held until the end of his term in 1990. He was named Josep Lluís Sert Professor of Architecture in 1991.

Prof. Moneo's pedagogical activities have extended to numerous symposia and lectures delivered at, among other institutions, the University of Chicago, Columbia University, Princeton University, Yale University, Tulane University, Rhode Island School of Design (U.S.), the Architectural Association School and the Royal Institute of Architects in London, the Cambridge University School of Architecture (United Kingdom), Universities of Lisbon and Oporto (Portugal), Nihon University (Japan), the Vasa Museum in Stockholm (Sweden), the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna, the Royal Academy in Copenhagen (Denmark), the Louvre Museum in Paris, the Pontificia University of Chile in Santiago, the AIA in San Francisco, the Louis Kahn Lecture in Philadelphia, the UIA in Barcelona, in Beirut, University Institute of Architecture in Venice and the National Institute of Architecture in Milan (Italy).

In tandem, Rafael Moneo has developed an extensive body of work as architectural critic and theoretician. His collected writings will in the future be published by CLUVA in Milan, Italy, and by the M.I.T. Press in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The majority of the texts gathered in these volumes were first published in Oppositions and Lotus magazines, and in Arquitectura Bis—an architecture journal co-founded by Rafael Moneo.


Projects now under construction include the Laboratory for Integrated Science and Engineering (LISE) at Harvard (2006), and The Chace Center, at the Rhode Island School of Design (2006).

In 1992, Rafael Moneo was awarded the Gold Medal for Achievement in the Fine Arts by the Spanish Government, and he was honored as Doctorate Honoris Causa by Leuven University in February of 1993. In May 1993, Moneo was awarded the Arnold W. Brunner Memorial Prize in Architecture by the American Academy of Arts and Letters and in June of that year he was awarded the Prince of Viana Prize by the Government of the Province of Navarra (Spain). In November 1993, he was awarded the 1993 Schock Prize in the Visual Arts by the Schock Foundation and the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Stockholm. In April 1994, Moneo received a "Laurea ad Honorem" from the School of Architecture of Venice, and in 1996, he received the Pritzker Prize, the Gold Medal of the French Academy of Architecture, and the Gold Medal of the International Union of Architects. In May 1997 Rafael Moneo became Académico Numerario in the Royal Academy of Fine Arts of San Fernando in Madrid and in October 1997 Honorary Doctor of Technology from the Royal Institute of Technology of Stockholm. In 1998 he received the Antonio Feltrinelli Prize from the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei in Rome. On 12 November 2003 he was awarded the Royal Gold Medal, by the Royal Institute of British Architects

Rafael Moneo is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, member of the Accademia di San Luca di Roma and member of the Swedish Royal Academy of Fine Arts. He is an Honorary Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and the Royal Institute of British Architects.