



Above: The terminal is divided into four strips, each capped by a roof shaped like a pair of wings  
Right: The wavy roof projects dramatically at the perimeter to provide sunshading

# TERMINAL 5's BIG BROTHER

You think Richard Rogers Partnership's Heathrow Terminal 5 is about as big as big can be? Well prepare to be amazed: the practice's Barajas Airport terminal in Madrid is twice the size – and even more elegant. **Martin Spring reports**

COMPARED WITH HEATHROW Terminal 5, Madrid Barajas Airport is a veritable jumbo jet of a building. It has a total floor area of 1.1 million m<sup>2</sup>, or twice the size of its British counterpart. And although design started in 1996, seven years after T5, its undulating, aerodynamic form is due to take-off next spring, two years before T5. And Barajas is shaping into a more

elegant beast, than T5. For one thing, it has retained the flourishes that were lost at T5 – which is ending up a vast six-storey shed beneath a shallow vaulted roof.

The comparison is apt, as both terminals are planned as European hubs with throughputs of up to 35 million passengers a year, and both are the brain-children of

the same British architect, Richard Rogers Partnership.

More to the point, both terminals originally shared the same design concept of several multistorey strips of building, each with its own wave-like roof. The problem was that Heathrow was beset by a tiny site, vociferous local residents and a prolonged public inquiry that resulted in the building being ►

