

'VISUAL GUIDE TO LA PEDRERA: CASA MILÀ'

In an entertaining and visual way Dos de Arte reveals Gaudí's most personal and innovative work

Within the collection of visual guides on great architectonic works, Dos de Arte Ediciones presents the 'Visual Guide to La Pedrera: Casa Milà', an in-depth multidisciplinary study which explores by means of photographs, illustrations, graphs and plans, every little detail of this daring work by the great Antoni Gaudí.

In 1905, the great Catalan architect took on the management of Casa Milà, which would be the final civil project of his career. In the construction of this property on Passeig de Gràcia in Barcelona, Gaudí exposed all the ideas that he had been working on at the turn of the century and which would mean a significant step forward in his conception of architecture as an expression of the forms of nature. The result was a such a daring building that neither the critics of the time nor even its own developers could fathom it out.

The 'Visual Guide to La Pedrera' sets the historical context of early 20th century Barcelona, with the rise in upper-class industrial enterprise and the decisive expansion that led to the development of the Eixample and in particular the planning of Passeig de Gràcia, the boulevard where the wealthiest of families wanted to build their new mansions, leaving such projects in the hands of great Modernist and Noucentist architects of the time such as Josep Puig i Cadafalch, Lluís Domènech i Montaner, Enric Sagnier Villavecchia and, of course, Antoni Gaudí.

A general vision of the project prefaces the detailed section by section analysis of the work, from the three rocky façades that shocked in their time and which are now admired by millions of passers-by, up to the magical universe of the terrace, the innovative entranceways, originally designed to provide automobile access, and the spacious and luxurious apartments: the one owned by the Milà family, on the main floor, took up an area of 1,323 metres square.

With more than four hundred images, including general photos that give a global view of Antoni Gaudí's architecture and close-up shots of the decorative features that he himself designed, this Visual Guide with 112 pages in a format measuring 13.5cm by 21 cm includes multiple illustrations, graphics and plans that help provide a better understanding of this majestic building of World Heritage interest, along with a wealth of concise and entertaining texts useful for art-lovers in general or experts in architecture.

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