

'VISUAL GUIDE TO CASA BATLLÓ'

The refurbishment that Gaudí converted into a work of art, described in an entertaining and visual way

Within its collection of visual guides to great architectonic works, Dos de Arte Ediciones presents the 'Visual Guide to Casa Batlló', in which every detail of this original and colorful work by Antoni Gaudí can be explored in a multidisciplinary way, by means of photographs, illustrations, graphics and plans.

Around 1904, Gaudí received the commission to completely refurbish a property, located on Passeig de Gràcia in Barcelona, acquired by a rich Barcelonan industrialist. It dealt with converting a sober four-storey building into an architectonic work capable of competing in ostentation with its illustrious neighbours on the Block of Discord: the Casa Amatller by Josep Puig i Cadafalch, Casa Lleó Morera by Lluís Domènech i Montaner and Casa Mulleras, by Enric Sagnier Villavecchia, amongst other masterpieces.

Maintaining the structure of the old building, but adding another floor and an additional attic along with enlarging the inside patio to provide more light to the lower floors, Gaudí converted the property into an authentic work of art whose façade, clad with colourful ceramic work, appears to move to the rhythm of the sunlight.

The 'Visual Guide to Casa Batlló' introduces the historical context of early 20th century Barcelona, with the rise of an entrepreneurial, industrialist upper-middle class and the decisive expansion that led to the urban development of the Eixample and, in particular, the layout of Passeig de Gràcia, the boulevard where the wealthiest of families wanted to construct their new mansions.

A general vision of the project prologues the analysis of the work section by section, from the mentioned façade, which boasts the famous mask-like balconies, up to the terrace, with the roof that reminds of a sleeping dragon, on to the entrances –which presage the naturalist profiles of the interiors–, the apartments –where curved forms reign– and the attic, whose arches are like the ribcage of the dragon that sleeps on top of the house.

With more than 400 images, including general photos that globally show off Gaudí's architecture and close-up images so that the decorative detail he designed can be appreciated, this Visual Guide with 112 pages in a handy format of 13.5 by 21 cm incorporates numerous photographs, illustrations, graphics and plans to provide a better understanding of this unique World Heritage site, accompanied by a large number of concise and entertaining texts whether for the art lover in general or experts in architecture.

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