

Antoni Gaudí's Influence on the Contemporary Architecture of Barcelona and Bilbao

Summer Session 2020 (Online Zoom)

Instructor: Matthew Schlieb

Lecture 1 (2020.05.21): Trencadís Mosaic

leitmotif:

Parabolic Form: architectural structure recurring in all of Gaudí's work; metaphor for Montserrat (Holy site of the Virgin of Montserrat, Patron Saint of Catalonia); symbolizing natural growth; avant-garde improvement on Gothic pointed arch.

manifesto:

Trencadís Mosaic: easily broken or brittle ceramic tile; fragments infilled on curving surfaces (first appearing on rooftop lanterns and ventilators of Güell's country estate horse stables); utilizing rejected, discarded, and broken tile scraps, often laid with unskilled tile setters to economize material and labor costs; example of Gaudí's resourcefulness and creativity.

Gaudí's work explores this human trait that will be needed for our survival on a rapidly changing planet. By use of **discarded, broken, fragmented materials as decoration, Gaudí finds redemption**, a humility willing to consider all.

parti pris:

Restoration: Gaudí's work sought to restore the handmade craft traditions (brickwork, ceramics, wrought iron, woodwork) overtaken by the new industrial age; restore Catalan culture under the thumb of Spanish rule; restore the Catholic Church dissolving from the rise of a new scientific age and growing atheism.

architecture:

Casa Vicens, Antoni Gaudí (1878-83 design, 1883-88 construct) Carrer de les Carolines, 20, 08012 Barcelona, Spain.

Pavellons Güell (Dragon Gate & Stables), Antoni Gaudí (1884-87) Av. de Pedralbes, 7, 08034 Barcelona, Spain.

Park Güell (Serpentine Bench), Antoni Gaudí (1909-14) Carrer d'Olot, 08024 Barcelona, Spain.

Agbar Tower, Jean Nouvel (1999-2005) Avinguda Diagonal, 211, 08018 Barcelona, Spain.

Metro Bilbao, Norman Foster (1988-95) 48001, Nafarroa Kalea, 2, 48001 Bilbo, Bizkaia, Spain.

Gateway Station, EDGE Studio with Pfaffmann & Associates (2011) 550 Stanwix St, Pittsburgh, PA 15222.

Ode to Space, Virgil Cantini (1966) 3942 Forbes Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15260.

Mosaic Tunnel, Virgil Cantini (1964) 50 Chatham Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219 (pedestrian tunnel under Bigelow Blvd.).

Iron Eden, John Walter (2011-2015) 4001 Lorigan St, Pittsburgh, PA 15224.

Randyland, Randy Gilson (1996) 1501 Arch St, Pittsburgh, PA 15212.

Articulated Cloud, Ned Kahn (2004) 10 Children's Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15212.

Cloud Arbor, Ned Kahn (2012) 10 Children's Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15212.

Hull, Ian Brill (2016) 600 Grant St, Pittsburgh, PA 15219 (within U.S. Steel Plaza east wall).

Lecture images/videos: <http://finalmove.com/gaudis-influence-on-contemporary-architecture-trencadis-mosaic/>

bibliography:

The Stones of Venice, John Ruskin (George Allen, London, 1853)

The Mudéjar Style in Architecture, José Amador de los Ríos (Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando, Madrid 1859)

Dictionnaire Raisoné de L'architecture Française, Viollet-le-Duc (E. Martinet, Paris, 1869)

L'Art Arabe d'après les Monuments du Kaire, Prisse D'Avennes (Ve A. Morel et cie, Libraires-Éditeurs, Paris, 1877)

Gaudí: The Man and His Work, Joan Bergós (Ariel, Barcelona, 1954, English 1999)

Gaudí and trencadís mosaic, Mireian Freixa and Marta Saliné (Triangle Postals, Barcelona, 2018)



Casa Vicens with custom sized tiles on ventilator parabolic dome (1888).



Pavellons Güell with trencadís mosaic infilled between standard tiles on lantern parabolic dome (1887).

<http://www.schluebarchitecture.com/lectures/2020/pitt/GaudiInfluences/TrencadisMosaic/>