

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

Summer Session 2020 (Online Zoom)

Instructor: Matthew Schlieb

**Lecture 2 (2020.05.28): Colades de Guix**

leitmotif:

**Natural Form:** Study of anatomic form in the human skeleton and body, inspired by Gaspar Becerra's marble retable figures within the Astorga Cathedral (discovered while working on Episcopal Palace of Astorga with Bishop Grau, 1887-1893), derived from the Catholic liturgy; ornament growing from functional needs, honest expression of internal structure; beauty is the glow of truth, of life, manifest in the human form through movement.

manifesto:

**Colades de Guix:** washes of plaster; castings of the human figure, flora, fauna, in the tradition of architectural castings (as Gaudí made of Alhambra ornament during 1887 trip with 2nd Marques de Comillas, for 1888 Barcelona World Fair); capturing the movements of the body's gesture in plaster **casts directly from the source, transferring truth and character, restoring an authenticity, essential nature**, realism, articulated three dimensionally, lost on the flat paper architecture.

Casting the laborers from the construction site, their wives and children, the church parishioners, the common people immortalized in stone, reproducing life as it is, Sagrada Família (Sacred Family) becomes a church of the people, elevating honest humbleness to the spiritual sacred on the Nativity Façade.

parti pris:

**Living Architecture:** Search for plasticity of form, sculptural aspect of material, which is more than tectonic and structural, to breathe life into the façade of stone, capturing the essence of all living things made by the creator, in their multitudes of variety and expressions, the architecture becoming a living organism, every element serving a purpose.

architecture:

**Old Economy Village (Feast Hall & Great House)**, German Settlement (1824) 270 16th Street, Ambridge, PA 15003.

**Villa Vuoto (Venetian Plaster)**, Harry Stites, Sr. (2004) 1604 Settlers Grove Lane, Wexford, PA 15090.

**Syrian Elephant**, Marcus Coates (2019) gypsum plaster sculpture.

**Alhambra Palace**, Mohammed ben Al-Ahmar (mid-13th century) Calle Real de la Alhambra, s/n, 18009 Granada, Spain.

**Sagrada Família (Nativity Façade)**, Antoni Gaudí (1892-98) Carrer de Mallorca, 401, 08013 Barcelona, Spain.

**Hall of Architecture (Carnegie Museum)**, Frank Alden & Alfred Harlow (1907) 4400 Forbes Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

**Circle of Animals / Zodiac Heads (Hall of Architecture)**, Ai Weiwei (2016) sculptural installation.

**Dinosaurs in Their Time (Carnegie Museum)**, Jendoco Construction (2008) 4400 Forbes Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

**Barcelona Pavilion**, Mies van der Rohe & Lilly Reich (1929) Av. Francesc Ferrer i Guàrdia, 7, 08038 Barcelona, Spain.

**Barcelona Chair**, Mies van der Rohe & Lilly Reich (1929) leather upholstered on polished chrome frame.

**Alba (Dawn)**, Georg Kolbe (1929) cast bronze reproduction of original sculpture.

**Vizcaya Foral Library**, IMB Arquitectos (2007) Diputazio Kalea, 7, 48008 Bilbo, Bizkaia, Spain.

Lecture images: <http://finalmove.com/gaudis-influence-on-contemporary-architecture-colades-de-guix/>

bibliography:

The Church of the Sagrada Família, I. Puig Boada (Editorial Barcino, Barcelona, 1929, English 1986)

Antonio Gaudí: A Reappraisal, E. Casanelles (Studio Vista, Barcelona, 1965, English 1967)

Gaudí: His Life, His Theories, His Work, César Martinell (The MIT Press, Cambridge, 1967, English 1975)

Gaudí: The Visionary, Robert Descharnes and Clovis Prévost (Viking Press, New York, 1982)

Gaudí, Ignasi de Sola-Morales (Rizzoli, New York, 1984)

Antoni Gaudí: Ornament, Fire and Ashes, Juan José Lahuerta (Tenov Books, Barcelona, 2016)



Gaspar Becerra's marble retablo figures, Astorga Cathedral (1562).



Stone figures carved from Antoni Gaudí's plaster casts, Sagrada Família Nativity Facade (1892-98).

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