

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

Summer Session 2020 (Online Zoom)

Instructor: Matthew Schlieb

Lecture 4 (2020.06.11): Forma Deforma

leitmotif:

Plasticity: Sculptural aspect of architectural form, movement, life animated into materials; Gaudí intuitively developed three-dimensionally with restored form modeled in trencadís mosaic for Güell's Rooftop Ventilators (1884-87) and metalwork of Dragon Gate (1885), followed by anatomic form modeled in plaster for Sagrada Família's Nativity Façade (1892-98) and natural gravitational catenary form modeled in thread for Colònia Güell's Estereostàtic model (1898-1908) and inclined props of Park Güell's Viaduct Colonnade (1900-03), warped by metaphoric form modeled in weighted gesture for Park Güell's Gatehouses Roofs (1900-03) and Casa Batlló's Chair and Façade (1904-06), concluding with undulations from convex form modeled in tabicadas bóvedas for Colònia Güell Crypt (1908-14) and Sagrada Família Schools (1909).

manifesto:

Forma Deforma: to change the form of, deforming (geometric) form to dematerialize, pure plasticity, warped, weighted, gestured, shaped by the (free)hand of an individual creator rather than by nature, geometry, or calculated mathematics; liquefaction removing tectonic qualities of the material, intrinsic properties lost to soft amorphous fluidity.

Dripping wet plaster from casting, mixed with weight from inclined props, discovered **a softness of form, easily deformed, transformed, gestured, to speak to narrative, a story, expressing an act, animate of life, as immediate as a handprint.**

parti pris:

Weighted Form: Expressive of forces applied by an action, gesture captured in physical form, inclined props fatigued, structural function distorted beyond the line of gravitational thrusts by the addition of a secondary metaphoric force.

architecture:

Casa Amatller, Josep Puig i Cadafalch (1898-1900) Passeig de Gràcia, 41, 08007 Barcelona, Spain.

Casa Lleó-Morera, Lluís Domènech i Montaner (1902-05) Passeig de Gràcia, 35, 08007 Barcelona, Spain.

Park Güell (gatehouses roofs), Antoni Gaudí (1900-03) Carrer d'Olot, 08024 Barcelona, Spain.

Casa Batlló, Antoni Gaudí (1904-06) Passeig de Gràcia (Illa de la Discòrdia), 43, 08007 Barcelona, Spain.

Casa Milà, Antoni Gaudí (1906-10) Passeig de Gràcia, 92, 08008 Barcelona, Spain.

Casa Comalat, Salvador Valeri i Pupurull (1909-11) Avinguda Diagonal, 442, 08037 Barcelona, Spain.

Pabellón Puente, Zaha Hadid (2005-08) Plaza Lucas Miret Rodriguez, 1, 50018 Zaragoza, Spain.

Buttresses (Mattress Factory installation), Jene Highstein (1985) 500 Sampsonia Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15212.

Untitled (Mattress Factory Annex installation), Jene Highstein (1986) 1414 Monterey Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15212.

Music for a Garden (Mattress Factory installation), Rolf Julius (1997) 500 Sampsonia Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15212.

Katz Plaza (fountain & eyeball benches), Louise Bourgeois (1999) 685 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222.

Maman (Guggenheim Bilbao installation), Louise Bourgeois (1999) Abandoibarra Etorb., 2, 48009 Bilbo, Bizkaia, Spain.

House Poem (City of Asylum), Huang Xiang (2004) 408 Sampsonia Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15212.

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

Casa Batlló virtual tour: <https://www.casabatllo.es/en/virtual-tour/>

bibliography:

The Grammar of Ornament, Owen Jones (Ivy Press, London, 1856)

L'esprit des bêtes, Zoologie passionnelles, Mammifères de France, Alphonse Toussenel (Marpon et Flammarion, Paris, 1884)

Global Architecture: Antonio Gaudí, Casa Batlló, Casa Milà, Maria Lluisa Borràs (A.D.A. Edita, Tokyo, 1972)

Antoni Gaudí: Architecture, Ideology and Politics, Juan José Lahuerta (Electa Architecture, Milano, 1992, English 2003)

The Beehive Metaphor: From Gaudí to Le Corbusier, Juan Antonio Ramírez (Reaktion Books, London, 2000)

Casa Batlló, Barcelona: Gaudí, Juan José Lahuerta (Triangle Postals, Barcelona, 2011)

Little Story of the Casa Batlló, Bel Olid (Editorial Mediterrània, Barcelona, 2012)



Ceramic and glass mosaics of Casa Batlló (1904-06) become Montserrat, Mediterranean Sea, Venetian carnival metaphors.

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