

The Architecture of Antoni Gaudí

Summer Session 2020 (Online Zoom)
Matthew Schlueb, Instructor

Lecture 2: Surface Ornament (2020.07.06)

leitmotif:

Surface Ornament: Animating the surface, to bring structures to life, through juxtaposition, collage, parataxis of materials, textures, colors, adding an energy, vitality, breath of life into the visual composition, working toward a living architecture.

“Color is life.” – Gaudí speaking to students, while giving a tour of Sagrada Familia in 1915.

manifesto:

Park Güell Serpentine Bench (1910-14): Initially intended as protective balustrade for the park’s elevated terrace, transformed into continuous undulating bench, place for community to gather, rest, interact, providing a social function beyond safety function, recesses collecting small groups of people facing each other to encourage communication, clad with pieces of common everyday household pottery, as mementos of the **working class contribution, elevating them by elevating the things from their daily life to a work of art, redemption of sins, broken pieces, transformed into pure beauty, through honest application and expression.**

“I have exhausted many of those who have worked with me, in the constant endeavor of improving things. I have not given them my final seal of approval until I have convinced myself I can improve them no further.”

parti pris:

Trencadís Mosaics: Broken tiles, resulting in irregular shapes, economizing use of discarded materials, by lesser skilled labor, adding color, energy, life into ordinary, smallest of leftover spaces, binding the structural elements, thereby enhancing the whole, ornamenting structure, at fullest potential easily conforming to and providing protective cladding of expressive rounded form.

“The commitment must be not only to undertaking grand projects, but to making them realizable, make projects economically feasible and as a result embrace the conditions of production of our time.”

architecture:

Latrines Pavilion (Mataró Workers Cooperative), Antoni Gaudí (1883) Carrer Cooperativa, 47, 08302 Mataró, Barcelona, Spain.

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

El Capricho, Antoni Gaudí (1883-85) Barrio Sobrellano, s/n, 39520 Comillas, Cantabria, Spain.

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

Palau Güell, Antoni Gaudí (1885-88) Carrer Nou de la Rambla, 3-5, 08001 Barcelona, Spain.

Bellesguard, Antoni Gaudí (1900-09) Carrer de Bellesguard, 20, 08022 Barcelona, Spain.

Park Güell Viaducts, Entry Stairs & Gatehouses, Antoni Gaudí (1900-03) Carrer d'Olot, 08024 Barcelona, Spain.

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

Park Güell Hypostyle Hall, Antoni Gaudí (1906-09) Carrer d'Olot, 08024 Barcelona, Spain.

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

Colònia Güell Crypt, Antoni Gaudí (1908-14) Carrer Claudi Güell, 08690 La Colònia Güell, Barcelona, Spain.

Park Güell Serpentine Bench, Antoni Gaudí (1910-14) Carrer d'Olot, 08024 Barcelona, Spain.

Sagrada Família Bell Tower Pinnacles, Antoni Gaudí (1923-25) Carrer de Mallorca, 401, 08013 Barcelona, Spain.

bibliography:

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

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

Jujol & Gaudí, Josep M. Jujol Jr. (Triangle Postals, Barcelona, 2019)

materials:

<http://finalmove.com/the-architecture-of-antoni-gaudi-surface-ornament/>

<http://www.schluebarchitecture.com/lectures/2020/cmu/gaudi/ornament>



Parataxis of materials, textures, colors, exposing structural stone as finish material tracery pattern plate within Mudejar decorative border frame, made of serially produced industrial materials and a single unique marigold tile (Casa Vicens, Antoni Gaudí, 1883-88).



Trencadís Mosaics irregular shapes, economizing use of discarded materials laid by lesser skilled communal labor, adding color, energy, life by elevating broken pieces to beauty, through honest application and expression (Park Güell, Antoni Gaudí, 1910-14).