

The Architecture of Antoni Gaudí

Summer Session 2020 (Online Zoom)
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Lecture 5: Illuminated Space (2020.07.27)

leitmotif:

Illuminated Space: Study of light, angle of incidence and orientation, over daily and seasonal cycles; **chiaroscuro** contrast of light and shadow; **dimensional** form, casting shadow in light, shade gradations; nuanced renderings of varied materials and **textures**; layering fenestration and envelop **filtering** light; repetitive light and dark **rhythms**; play of light incidences scattering off fragmented **facets**; candlelight flame **mobility** of life; **complimentary** projections and recesses; concentrations of form modulating light within **density** of space; hyperboloids **dispersing** and softening light; creating an intimacy of subdued space.

“Architecture is the main plastic art; all of its excellence comes from light.

Architecture is the organization of light, sculpture is the play of light,
painting is the reproduction of light through color, which is the decomposition of light.”

manifesto:

Casa Batlló (1904-06): Staircase light well, inverted sea, **reflectivity** and brightening hue of ceramic tiles drawing light downward, through openings of increasing size, to **balance natural light within interior spaces, modulating light with color.**

“When people see a pale person, they say that he looks like a walking corpse. On the other hand, when they see a corpse that still has color, they say it seems to be still alive. And the fact is that all living beings have color, color is inherent in life and life is the essential quality of a work of art.”

parti pris:

Vidre de Colors: Colored glass, stained glass three color process, four layers of colored plate glass (yellow, red, blue, and white), to distribute light properly, each toned down with acid, to predominate balance of other colors, **blending** into infinite hues, adjusting intensity, clarity and **vibrancy** of tone, liberating light from opacity of painted enamels, choking out light.

“Ornamentation consists, as it has and always will, of coloring, since nature does not produce any objects that are monotonously uniform. Everything in the plant world, in geology, in topography, and in the animal kingdom always has some kind of contrast in colors. Thus, we are obliged to color, partially or completely, an architectural feature, and though this coloring may disappear, the hand of time will always provide it with another beautiful coloring of its own, that of antiquity.”

architecture:

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 Horse Stables & Dragon Gate, Antoni Gaudí (1884-85) Av. de Pedralbes, 7, 08034 Barcelona, Spain.

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

Santa Teresa Convent, Antoni Gaudí (1888-90) Carrer de Ganduxer, 85, 103, 08022 Barcelona, Spain.

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

Mallorca Cathedral Restoration, Antoni Gaudí (1902-14) Plaça de la Seu, s/n, 07001 Palma, Illes Balears, Spain.

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

Sagrada Família Windows, Antoni Gaudí (1914-18) Carrer de Mallorca, 401, 08013 Barcelona, Spain.

bibliography:

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

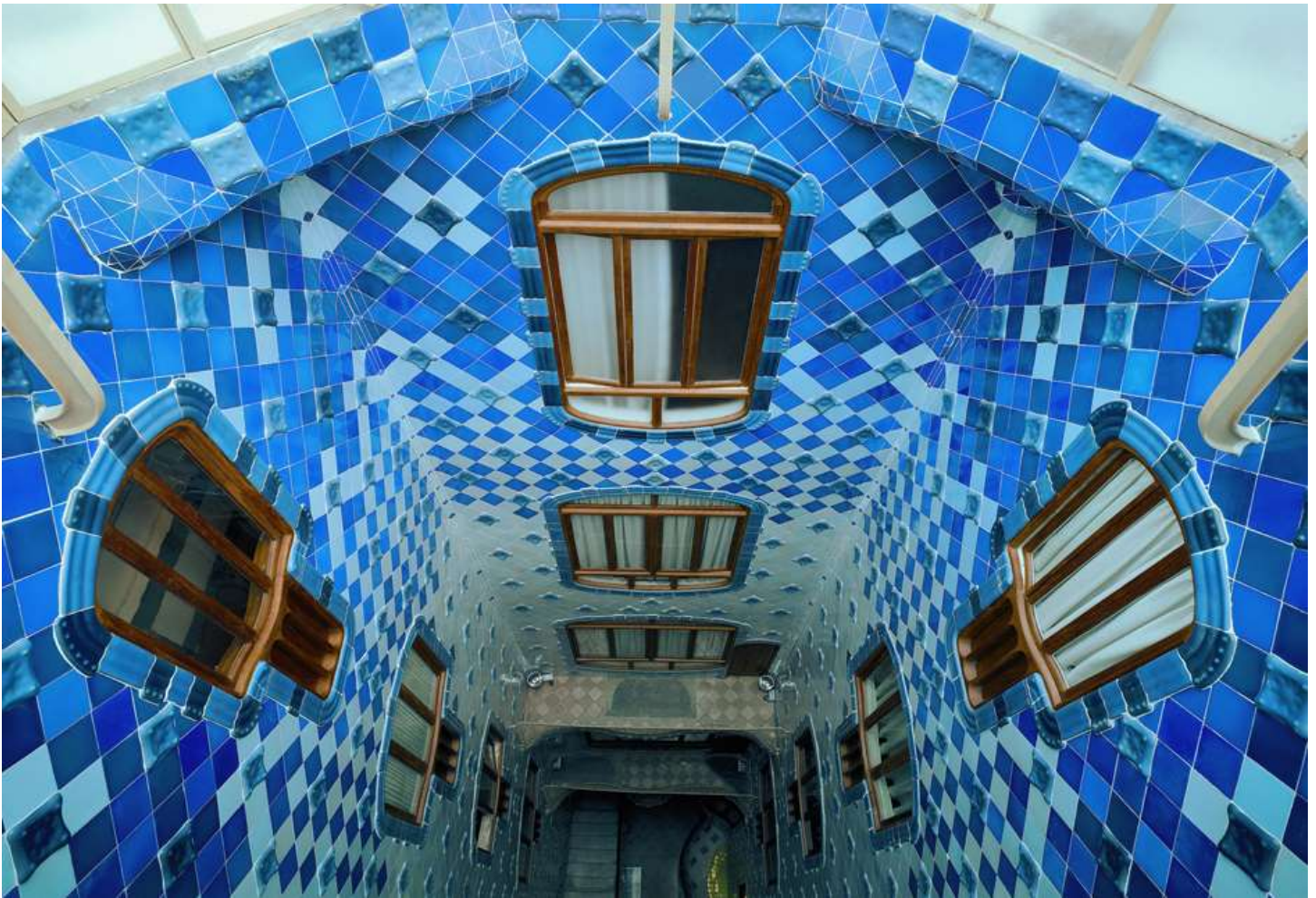
Gaudí: His Life, His Theories, His Work, César Martinell (The MIT Press, Cambridge, 1967, English 1975)

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

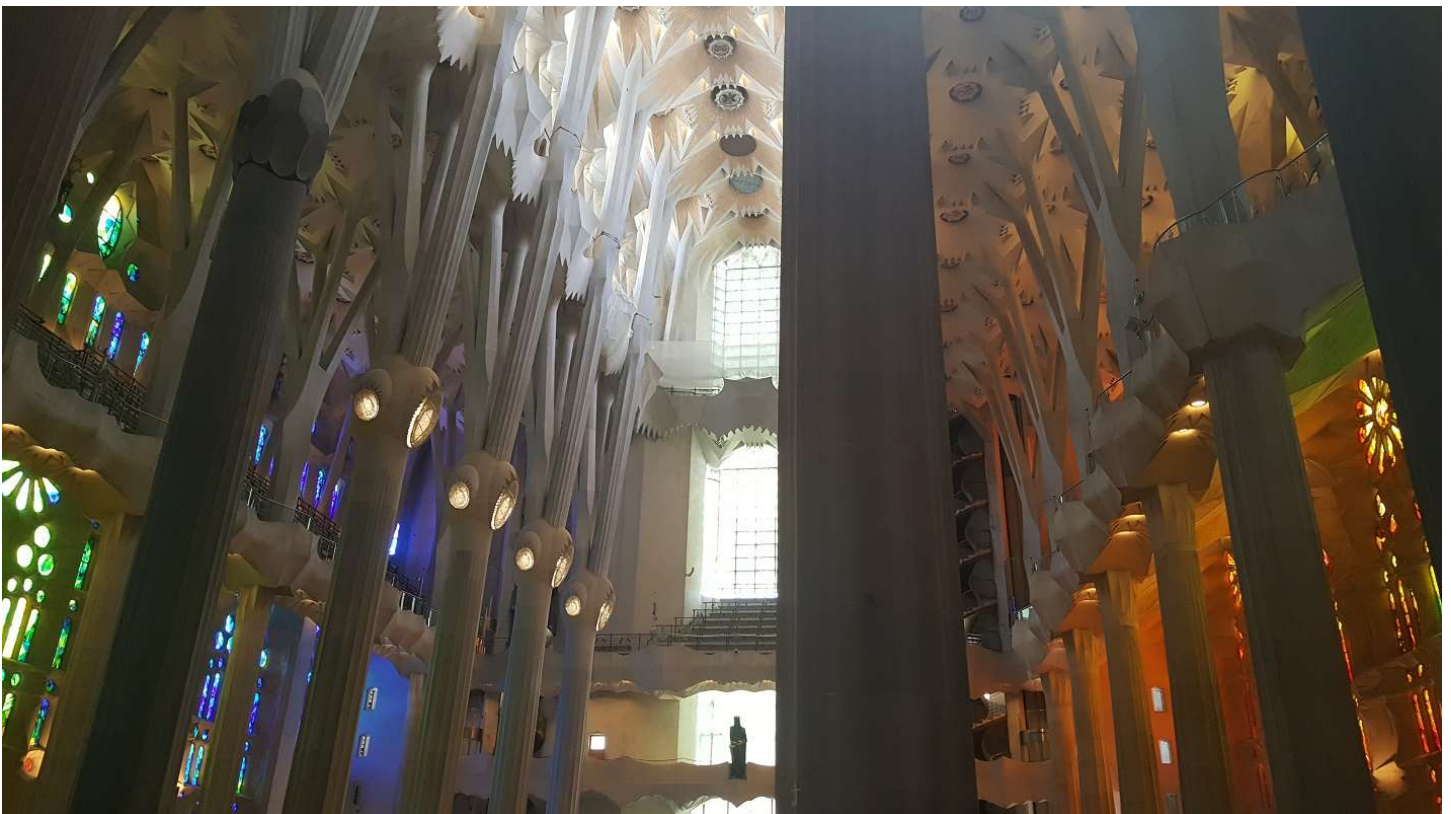
materials:

<http://www.finalmove.com/the-architecture-of-antoni-gaudi-illuminated-space/>

<http://www.schluiebarchitecture.com/lectures/2020/cmu/gaudi/illuminated>



Casa Batlló staircase light well modulating light with color, hues brightened in recessed depth (Antoni Gaudí, 1904-06).



Sagrada Família vidre de colors windows modulating light, diffused into shadow for withdrawal (Antoni Gaudí, 1914-18).