

Foreword

This guide is a selection of 150 constructions in the province of Girona which date from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The selection has been made with a view to illustrating each period and pinpointing the most significant architects and every type of building, taking special care not to overlook urban complexes, gardens, etc., as well as works of infrastructure, since they represent, perhaps more than specific buildings, the civic values of an epoch.

The guide has been planned, then, as an anthology. This is its only function and it makes no attempt to evaluate the works selected since this would be the purpose of a study. Like all anthologies, this one displays the tastes, tendencies, even prejudices of the architects concerned. Consequently it is, in this sense, a partisan guide.

The selection of works has been limited to those found within the territorial boundaries of the province of Girona, irrespective of cultural origins which often come from much further afield than the province itself. Nevertheless we have attempted to give a sample of «Girona architecture» while recognizing that such an architecture does not exist as a homogeneous entity.

Among those architects who have carried out or continue to carry out their profession in and around Girona, we believe that the work of Josep Roca i Bros and, above all, that of Rafael Masó, transcends any provincial limits. Both architects have provided an example of quality and originality which stands as possibly the only attempt to create a «Girona architecture» with its own characteristics.

On a more local level the work of Martí Sureda Deulovol, Bonaventura Conill i Montobbio, Joan Roca Pinet; one or two specific creations of Joan Bordàs Salellas, Pelagi Martínez Paricio, Emili Blanch i Roig and Joaquim M.^a Masramon i de Ventós is particularly interesting.

The guide is not only aimed at the visitor interested in the subject but also, and perhaps fundamentally, at the citizens of Girona themselves who have lived all their lives among these constructions, to help them the better to appreciate their cultural heritage. We have laid special emphasis on those buildings or urban areas which, by virtue of their public character, urban significance or potential for re-use, should be preserved at all costs.

The geographical limits of the guide were decided by the publishers, who followed criteria of efficacy when the moment came to decide upon the areas of distribution of the several guides planned. Due to the nature of the selection of buildings in the guide, these limits are of little importance. If, on the other hand, this book had been a critical study, then cultural areas would have prevailed over purely administrative divisions.

Concerning chronological limits, by the nineteenth and twentieth centuries we refer not strictly to the period from 1800 to the present day but rather to the most important movements and styles which emerged during those years. That is: neo-classicism, eclecticism, modernism, 'noucentisme', rationalism and contemporary architecture.

The guide is laid out according to a double criterion: cities and itineraries. The cities of Girona, Olot and Figueres have been dealt with separately since the number of works in each justifies this. The itineraries attempt to group those localities with selected building together in logical series along existing highways and roads. Within each locality we have followed a chronological order of styles and architects.

Apart from the 150 works selected to fill the guide, we mention others in order to provide a wider panorama both of styles and architects.

Those works would have formed part of a less restricted selection. The notes accompanying the illustrations contain strictly chronological and informative data, while the indices provide a wider vision of styles, types and architects. We offer a selection of those works we consider of greatest importance.

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