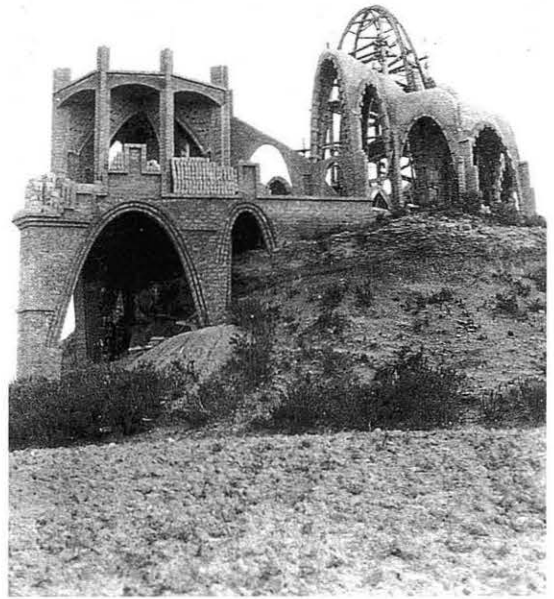
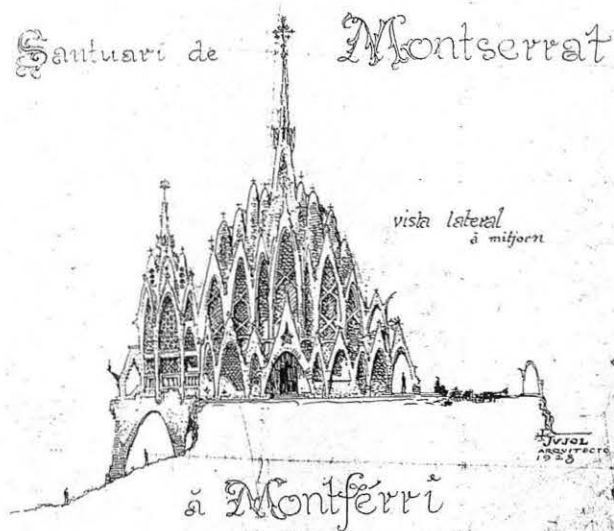


View of the path leading to the sanctuary and of the wall, unfinished, that was to enclose the area, imitating the outline of Montserrat.
In the foreground, a detail of the spring mattress used as the framework.

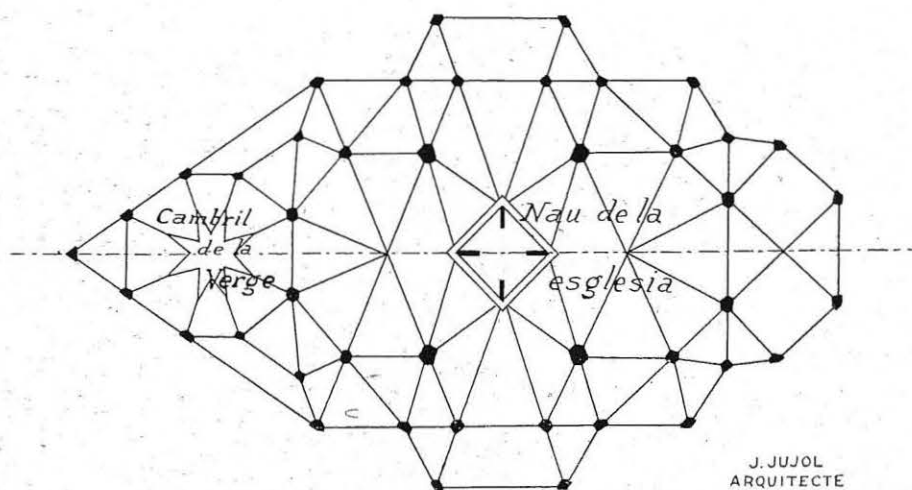
1926 Montferri church-sanctuary



The building under construction. In order to compensate for the slope, the building was placed at the foot of the hill, forming a prow that was to contain the altar, the presbytery, the small chapel of the virgin and the sacristy.



Elevation and floor plan of the sanctuary. Original drawings by Jujol.





View of the interior.



Photographs: Ferran Freixa, Isao Suzuki, Jujol Archive

After a visit to the site in a first preliminary project of the Sanctuary dedicated to the Virgin of Montserrat was prepared, which was subsequently altered.

Work began in November 1922: only two master stonemasons were involved, assisted by the local inhabitants who formed different work shifts.

The village was small and the people were not well-off, so that the most economical construction means possible had to be found. It was decided to use Portland cement and sand only for the whole project. The moulds were made from wooden crates, in which were mixed the cement, sand and cinders in the required proportions. Volunteers with carts went to fetch the cinders from the Salomó railway station, four kilometres away, where the engine boilers were emptied. The $10 \times 15 \times 30$ cm blocks were the only elements used in the arches, walls and vaults, apart from the infill stones taken from the construction site itself. Similarly, the windows were made from elements prefabricated on the site: triangular parts designed by the architect which, once in place, formed hexagonal stars.

The walls function only to close off the building: the innumerable roof vaults rest on the parabolic arches emerging from the pillars with a minimum section.

In the project the ground plan is formed from a complex of triangles of different proportions, depending upon whether they are on the periphery or inside, and from this re-

sults a perimeter formed from a line which is broken every four of five metres, composed of 24 segments.

The vaults rest on forty-two pillars and, above the vaults, thirty-three small domes are reminiscent of the forms of Montserrat. Two thin needles stand out, one of sixteen metres, above the niche, and the other of twenty-seven metres, both of which crown the whole complex.

The body consisting of the niche and the sacristy juts outwards, beyond the hillock, supported by parabolic arches above the terrain that slope down towards the cultivated fields. The landing and the whole of the presbytery rest on the hillock.

A door at the far end of the sacristy opens onto a triangular balcony which, resting on a pillar, seems to be the prow of a ship watching over the cultivated fields.

The esplanade surrounding the temple has a rustic wall that imitates the orography of Montserrat. One section reveals the technique used (designed to reduce costs and working hours) which consists of the use of mattress material supported by erect iron pedestals, faced with mortar on both sides and in the most irregular way possible.

A path descends from the esplanade towards the north; on one side a series of parabolic arches help to slightly widen the square, followed immediately afterwards by a cave, in which the Virgin had been enthroned before 1936.

The construction works were halted in 1930 due to lack of funds.



View of the interior, from the altar to the entrance door.