

The Architecture of Antoni Gaudí

Fall Semester 2019 (Langley Hall, room A224)

Instructor: Matthew Schlieb

Program Format: 5 week Course, with 2 hour academic Powerpoint lectures, including time for questions throughout. No required text or books, however, a bibliography will be provided for optional further reading.

Course Objective:

To offer a master level survey of Antoni Gaudí's architecture as precursor to the modern era, examining his seminal works, exploring leitmotifs, manifestos, and partis pris, through the perspective of a practicing architect and writer on architecture.

Course Description:

Gaudí set out to restore humanity through a living architecture of expressionistic forms derived from nature's flora and fauna, constructed with equilibrated structures reacting to weight and space, while anticipating the parametric architecture of today. This course will trace the arc of Antoni Gaudí's life and architectural work, originating within Mudéjar and Gothic influences in Catalan culture centered on Barcelona. His seminal works at the turn of the twentieth century will be analyzed, examining schematic strategies, theoretic postulates, and material executions, contextualized by his collaborations with artisans and poets.

Course Outline:



Lecture 1: Tabicadas (Thursday, Aug. 29, 1pm)

An examination of Gaudí's talent to balance the Catalan craft tradition with the innovations made available by industrialization, his desire to improve on methods without losing any of the personality of manual work. The early works of Casa Vicens (1883-1885), El Capricho (1883-1885) and the Güell Estate Pavillions (1884-1887) will be analyzed, identifying Mudéjar influences from the Middle Ages and the revival of Catalan culture in the romantic Renaixença movement, illustrated in the use of bóvedas tabicadas.



Lecture 2: Trencadís (Thursday, Sept. 5, 1pm)

An examination of Gaudí's relationship and collaboration with the premier industrialist Eusebi Güell, a merchant and patron of the arts. Palacio Güell (1885-1890) will be analyzed, as the pivotal transition point, when Gaudí took full command of his abilities as an architect, illustrated in the use of trencadís. Continuing with the influences from Gaudí's Morocco trip on his improvements to the Gothic style in the religious works of Astorga (1887-1893) and Teresian School (1888-1890).



Lecture 3: Stereo-Statics (Thursday, Sept. 12, 1pm)

An examination of Gaudí's experimentations with inverted tensiles and the catenary curve, in search of an equilibrated structure and the pursuit of complete architectural synthesis, illustrated in the use of the stereo-static model. Inspired by the Tangiers Mission (1892-1893) and the subsequent works of Colonia Güell (1898-1916) and Park Güell (1899-1914) will be analyzed, highlighted by the innovation and refinement of the inclined pillar.



Lecture 4: Warped Edibles (Thursday, Sept. 19, 1pm)

An examination of Gaudí's search for a plastic and continuous form, inspired by his experimentations with natural anatomic, flora and fauna in the Nativity façade of the Sagrada Família. Developments will be traced and analyzed in the works of Casa Calvet (1898-1900), the 'house of bones' Casa Batlló (1901-1906) and 'the stone quarry' Casa Milà (1905-1910), identifying social commentaries through a warped edible architecture, following his year of 'holocausto'.



Lecture 5: Sagrada (Thursday, Sept. 26, 1pm)

An examination of Gaudí's masterwork the Sagrada Família (1884-1926) and his search for a Living architecture. Beginning with an exploration of his fabrication methods for the Nativity façade, followed by his application of equilibrated structure in the Nativity bell towers, with an ultimate resolution of architectural synthesis in the Passion façade. His scale models for the nave and vaults will be analyzed in relation to his experimentations with color and light, with his final conclusion in the St. Barnabas pinnacle.

“In the total picture of the modern architecture of the twentieth century Gaudi stands apart; his uniqueness is of an order no others approach.”

Henry-Russell Hitchcock (1957)

Chronology of the life and works of Antoni Gaudí:

1852 (June 25) Antoni Gaudí y Cornet is born and baptized (June 26) in Reus, Tarragona, Spain.

1863-68 Attended the Colegio de los Padres Escolapios in Reus.

1867 Created drawings for the handwritten school magazine El Arlequin, 10 to 12 issues.

Visited Monastery of Poblet in Tarragona, with friends José Ribera and Eduardo Toda.

1868-73 Attended the Instituto de Enseñanza Media and Facultad de Ciencias de la Universidad de Barcelona.

1872 Start of Third Carlist War, the fall of the First Spanish Republic in 1874, restoring the Monarchy.

1873-78 Attended Escuela Provincial de Arquitectura in Barcelona, matriculated in 1874, degree on March 15, 1878.

1875-76 Served in the Infantry Reserves.

1875-77 Worked for Architect Francesc de Paula del Villar y Lozano on the Lady Chapel of the Monastery of Montserrat.

1876 Worked for Engineer José Serramallera drafting for the industrial machinery firm of Padrós y Borrás.

Founding member of Associació Catalanista d'Excursions Científiques, a society for reviving interest in Catalan antiquities.

1877 (Sept. 8) **Death of his mother, Antonia Cornet y Bertrán.**

1877-82 Worked for Builder Josep Fontseré on the entry gate and cascade in the Parc de la Cuitadella in Barcelona.

1878 Worked for Architect Juan Martorell on furniture for chapel of Marqués de Comillas palace estate.

Designed his own roll-top writing desk, which was moved to each of his studios for the rest of his life.

Visited Montserrat, Elne, Mallorca, Pic de la Maladeta, Toulouse, Carcassone with Catalan excursionist group.

Joined the textile cooperative society La Obrera Mataronense, (March 29) created plans for workers housing.

(June) Wrote memorandum to Barcelona municipal government on importance of street lamps, awarded designs.

(June) Designed showcase for Esteban Comella glove maker, for the Paris World Fair of 1878,

in Eudaldo Puntí carpentry shop meets Eusebi Güell and sculptor Llorenç Matamala y Piñol.

(August 10) Wrote in diary a response titled Ornamentation to Lluís Domènech y Montaner's 1878 article on eclecticism.

1882 Drafted Juan Martorell's design for Barcelona cathedral façade, lettered by Lluís Domènech y Montaner.

Designed a hunting pavilion for Güell family at Garraf, never built.

1883 Designed and built machinery shed for La Obrera Mataronense, his first parabolic arch structure, made of wood.

(Nov. 3) **Nominated by Juan Martorell to replace Villar y Lozano as the architect for Sagrada Familia.**

1884 Left La Obrera Mataronense cooperative.

1885 (March 19) First re-design for Sagrada Familia. Dragon Gate completed in Vallet workshop.

1887 **Travels with 2nd Marqués de Comillas to Andalusia and Northern Morocco, makes plaster casts from Alhambra for pavilion at Barcelona World Fair of 1888.**

1889 Rusiñol writes critique of Palacio Güell, first press naming Gaudí as the architect.

1890 Start of the Modernismo Movement in Barcelona.

1892 Sagrada Familia founder José María Bocabella dies.

Large donation made to Sagrada Familia,

Gaudí begins 'natural forms' study on Nativity.

1893 Friend/mentor Bishop Juan Bautista Grau dies.

Sagrada Familia director M. de Dalmases y Riba dies.

1894 Gaudí nearly dies from Lent Fast.

1895 (January) Sagrada Familia models of flora (tree).

1898 Spanish-American War, loses Cuba/Puerto Rico.

Gaudí begins 'equilibrated structures' study.

1900 Joan Maragall writes 1st article on Sagrada Familia, naming Gaudí as the architect.

1901 Güell starts company making asphalt and cement.

1903 Completes Park Güell gatehouses, viaducts, entry stairs and walls, begins colonnade/terrace.

1904 Transitions Nativity Towers to circular plan.

King Alfonso XIII tours Sagrada Familia with Gaudí.

Gaudí begins 'color and light' study at Mallorca.

1905 Maragall writes (3rd) Sagrada Familia fundraising.

1906 Moved with father and niece to Park Güell.

Death of his father Francesc Gaudí y Serra.

Friend/mentor Juan Martorell dies.

Gaudí's year of 'holocausto'.

Start of Noucentisme Movement in Barcelona.

1909 (July 25-August 2) **Setmana Tràgica.**

1910 Paris Exhibition of Salon des Beaux Arts.

Gaudí stricken with Brucellosis/Maltese fever.

1911 Sculptor Carlos Mani dies.

Writer Joan Maragall dies.

1912 Niece Rosa Egea Gaudí dies.

1914 **Righthand assistant Francisco Berenguer dies.**

Sagrada Familia in debt, exploring termination,
Gaudí sells family farm at Riudoms to reduce deficit,
and dedicates himself solely to Sagrada Familia.

(July 28) Start of World War I, Spain neutral.

1916 Friend/mentor Bishop Torras y Bages dies.

Gaudí asks shopkeepers to contribute alms.

1917 Designed Sagrada Familia Passion Façade.

1918 (July 8) Patron/friend Eusebi Güell dies.

Sagrada Familia model of hyperboloid windows.

1922 1:10 model of Sagrada Familia columns/vaults,
designed Glory Façade.

1923 1:25 model of Sagrada Familia interior/pinnacles.
Barcelona purchased Park Güell.

1924 (Sept.11) Arrested for attending a Catalan mass.

1925 Moved into Sagrada Familia studio.

(Nov. 30) **St. Barnabas Tower completed.**

1926 (June 7) Gaudí struck by streetcar, (June 10) dies in Hospital de la Santa Creu, (June 12) buried in the crypt of Sagrada Familia.

1929 Nativity Towers completed.

1935 Construction comes to stop when Domènec Sugrañes dies, the last architect to have worked with Gaudí on Sagrada Familia.

1936 (July 17) Start of the Spanish Civil War. Mobs burned Gaudí's workshop, smashing models and removing his body from the crypt.

1939 Sagrada Familia crypt and schools rebuilt by Francesc de Paula Quintana. Models pieced back together, to resume construction.

1867-69 Restore Poblet Monastery

1878-83 designed

1883-88 built Casa Vicens

1883-85 designed El Capricho

1884-87 stables, gatehouse, dragon gate for Güell Estate.

1885-88 Palacio Güell

1887-94 Astorga Episcopal Palace

1888-90 St. Teresa convent

1891-94 designed Casa de los Botines

1892-93 Tangiers Mission

1895-99 Bodega

1900-14 Park Güell

1898-1908 designed Colonia Güell

1891-1900 Nativity Façade

1901-14 Nativity Towers

1909 Sagrada Familia Schools

1914-26 Nativity Pinnacles

1908-14 built Colonia Güell

1902-14 Mallorca Restoration

1904-06 Casa Batlló

1906-10 Casa Milà

1901-02 Miralles Gate

1900-08 Bellesguard

Variations on Mudéjar style (1878-1888)

Variations on Gothic style (1887-1908)

Search for structural synthesis (1892-1908)

Search for a Living architecture (1892-1925)

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- The Grammar of Ornament, Owen Jones (Ivy Press, London, 1856)
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Joan Canaleta
Domenech Sugranyes
Francesc de P. Quintana

Instructor Bio:

Matthew Schlueb is a licensed architect practicing architecture for over two decades. His designs have been awarded locally and nationally by juried competitions, receiving praise internationally in both print publication and television media. His own home is a manifesto on creativity, to expand the minds and sensitivities of his two sons raised in the environment.

Instructor Experience:

Matthew Schlueb owns and operates a sole-proprietorship private practice, maintaining six to eight active projects, specializing in residential architecture. He has authored ten books on architecture and lectures from the kindergarten to post-graduate level.

Abridged CV:

2018 - Invited Entry, Laka Foundation, [The End of Architecture](#)
2017 - Invited Speaker, PechaKucha Night Pittsburgh 26, [Are We the Last Architects?](#)
2016 - Instructor, Univ.of Pittsburgh, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, [Architecture in the Modern Era](#)
2015 - Featured writer/monthly contributor to the North Hills Magazine
2014 - Launched 'Architectural Storytelling' initiative, [Cherry Blossoms](#)
2013 - Featured guest on the Discovery Channel Network, [Epic Bathrooms](#)
2012 - Profiled in Pittsburgh Business Times, Executive Living, [A Well-Rounded Experience](#)
2011 - Villa Vuoto featured in Wesley Spectrum Tour of Homes, charitable fundraiser
2010 - Inaugural SCHLUEBarchitecture Student Design Competition, [Dream Home](#)
2009 - Published [An Architect's Manifesto on the Origins of Creativity](#)
2008 - Villa Vuoto published in Pittsburgh Magazine, winner of Superior Interiors, [Far Out](#)
2007 - Launched 'the schlueb suite: Rifugio Collection', SPLASH Luxury Home Collection
2006 - Villa Vuoto published in Moodne Kodu, Estonia, [Crusade Against Rectangle](#)
2005 - Featured guest on the HGTV Network, [OFFbeat America](#)
2004 - Completed construction on Villa Vuoto
2003 - Registered Architect, State of Ohio
2002 - Launched the 'Why Learn to Draw?' initiative, [creativity against the world](#)
2001 - NCARB Certification, licensed to practice throughout North America
2000 - Established SCHLUEBarchitecture studio, private practice, Pittsburgh
2000 - Registered Architect, State of Pennsylvania
1994 - Master of Architecture, Pratt Institute
1993 - Bachelor of Architecture, Pratt Institute
1991 - Bachelor of Science in Architecture, Ohio State University
1968 - Born in Columbus, Ohio

Authored Books:

2019 - [Le Corbusier Reflections of Gaudi in Five Points](#) (forthcoming)
2018 - [traces: drawing from underlays](#) (Villa Vuoto Publications, Pittsburgh)
2017 - [eave shakings: North Hills Monthly Magazine, vol.3](#) (Villa Vuoto Publications, Pittsburgh)
2016 - [mousetrap](#) (Villa Vuoto Publications, Pittsburgh)
2016 - [leaf shakings: North Hills Monthly Magazine, vol.2](#) (Villa Vuoto Publications, Pittsburgh)
2015 - [sleeve shakings: North Hills Monthly Magazine, vol.1](#) (Villa Vuoto Publications, Pittsburgh)
2012 - [sketches: blog on architecture](#) (Villa Vuoto Publications, Pittsburgh)
2008/2010 - [Villa Vuoto: An Architect's Manifesto on the Origin of Creativity](#) (Stella Cadente Publications, Pittsburgh)
2002/2005 - [creativity against the world](#) (Villa Vuoto Publications, Pittsburgh)
1994 - [gestured form and activated space](#) (Pratt Institute, New York)

Contact:

Matthew Schlueb, SCHLUEBarchitecture
website: <http://www.FINALmove.com>
phone: 724-934-7868
email: matthew.schlueb@pitt.edu
publications: <http://www.amazon.com/author/schlueb>
abridged cv: <http://www.schluebarchitecture.com/schlueb.pdf>

Teaching Assistant:

Erin O'Neill
phone: 412-512-3125

Course Materials:

<http://www.schluebarchitecture.com/lectures/2019/pitt/gaudi/>