

Casa Batllo by Antoni Gaudi

Student's Name

Institutional Affiliation

Casa Batllo by Antoni Gaudi

General Description

The modernist form characterizes most of Gaudi's structures, and the Casa Batllo is no exception. Modernist architecture includes the use of materials such as sculptures, paintings, stone blocks, and ceramics, as well as incorporating an explosion of color as wavy and sinuous lines. The style of the building incorporates a red brick structure created by applying a stone infill patterning (The Art Story). The flowing forms of the walls and different colors create a jolting contradiction with the rigid structures that surround it. The building is innovative because it is comprised of supplementary independent elements in all of its floors. Each section is symmetric, and together they form an organic composition. The scale used is 32 cm by 14-5 cm and the actual height of the building is 32 meters and 14.5 meters wide (Gaudi). The 2500 square meter structure has many rooms that are usually rented out for different functions. The material aspects are significant because the building was constructed as and has always been a magnet of attention that brings new energy to ordinary architectural structures. In fact, the structure has been termed the "House of Bones" due to the cage-like outline evident in its first and second-floor windows and walls.

Physical Description

Many of the materials and the structure itself make the building resemble a Vicens factory. The article titled "Casa Batllo" notes that the materials used in its construction include red brick, ceramics, glass, numerous colors, and stone infill carved in sawtooth patterns with stepped arches that create the elaborate bracketing of the balconies. Most of the materials come

from Montjuic in Spain (Casa Batllo). The technology used in the construction is known as *biographic synthesis*, and involves the combining of form and function. The architect used precise geometry to create a concrete form using optimal mechanics. He unified ancient stone technologies and incorporated daring extensions which bring to mind both traditional examples of the craft and modern architecture (Gaudi). The innovative materials used are the colored ceramics and honey-colored limestone, and the structure was constructed using forged iron in its decorations. Additionally, the building used a rotating system with openings that allow for ventilation, and the atrium of the windows has a lower wooden mechanism that improves climate efficiency. Furthermore, the corrugated walls are aligned with the spectacular staircases made with hand-carved wooden railings. There is also a façade that extends between the two pillars and is painted in numerous colors and contains small round plates resembling fish scales.

Aesthetic Description

The surface and edge articulation is curved and coated with ceramic discs of different sizes. The materials used to make the floor include tiles and byzantines, most of which range in size from 15 to 35 centimeters. Inside the building, sandstone obtained from Montjuic is mixed with ornamental elements to form a three-dimensional winding of the walls and doors (Gaudi). The stained glass and ceramic create symmetrical edges that align with the roof tiles and the wrought iron used in the walls, doors, and windows. The edges of the façade are fitted with masks created from wrought iron and the windows are loft-shaped and constructed using trencadis glass (Gaudi). The edge definition is implicit because of the strict layering of ceramics and tiles and the abstract functionalities of every material and section of the house. The edges amplify the structural system in a number of ways, and their coordination allows access to the

lobby and the façade by showing the two routes that link the upper floors to the lower ones (Gaudi). The elevator is adjacent to all the surrounding stairs, which are all illuminated by sunlight from the glass skylight.

Orientation of the Building

The orientation of the building is slightly different now compared to what it was at the time it was initially built. The structure is surrounded by houses in a neighborhood nicknamed “the apple of discord” because of the discrete buildings with slightly varying architectural styles. The building is on the axis of the road connecting Ciutat Bella de Gracia with Eixample. Access to the lobby is gained through a door on the left of the façade or through a path with the patio lights. One is able to directly access the garage from Paseo de Gracia. The climate conditions considered during construction were the sun and the wind. The oval windows and the tall pillars allow for ventilation. Besides, the structure is reflective of the maritime and mountainous character of Catalonia.

Artistic significance

Castillo became a precedent for later buildings because it improved the Modernist model also known as the Art Nouveau. For instance, the architect modified the ground floor to have unusual tracery and sculpted stonework. The roof has colorful mosaics, and the walls include broken ceramic. Moreover, the structure is considered a work of architectural excellence because it incorporates new equilibrated elements, as seen in the façade. Its architectural excellence is evident in the ornamental prodigy of the exterior and interior. The structure helped in establishing a trend of new modernist styles. For instance, the architecture inspired the

construction of *Illa de la Discordia*, which consists of four structures completed with the use of Modernista technique.

Conclusion

Answering questions about Casa Batillo has been instrumental in facilitating the understanding of modernist design. The general description shows that the building's cage-like framework and the use of various materials such as brick and ceramic create a uniqueness not experienced before the 20th century. Regarding its physical description, the structure is symmetrical, and the technology used is known as biographic synthesis. As for the aesthetic description, the edge articulation is symmetric and curved. The orientation is convenient because it is accessible via two routes and structure is significant because it is an epitome of architectural excellence, especially in improving *Art Nouveau* or Modernista style.

References

Casa Batlló. (n.d.). The façade. Retrieved from

<http://www.casabatlo.es/en/antoni-gaudi/casa-batlo/facade/>.

Gaudi, Antoni. Batllo House - Data, Photos & Plans. (n.d.). Retrieved from

<https://en.wikiarquitectura.com/building/batllo-house/>

Gaudi Artworks & Famous Architecture. (2019). Retrieved from

<http://www.theartstory.org/artist/gaudi-antoni/artworks/>



**Need a more
personalized sample?**

Order now

Get quote