Spain....Barcelona

by Dave Colwell





































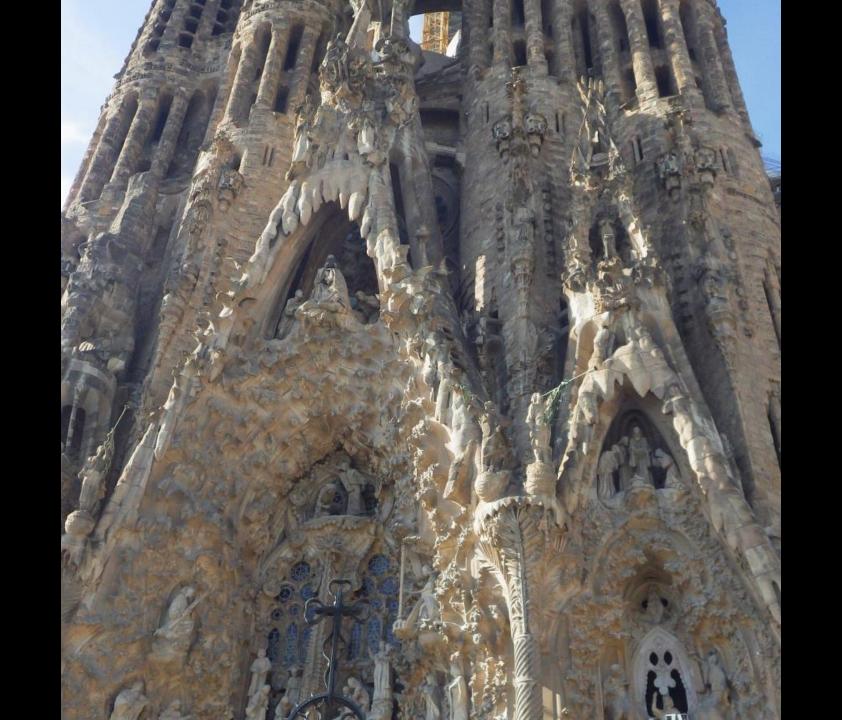






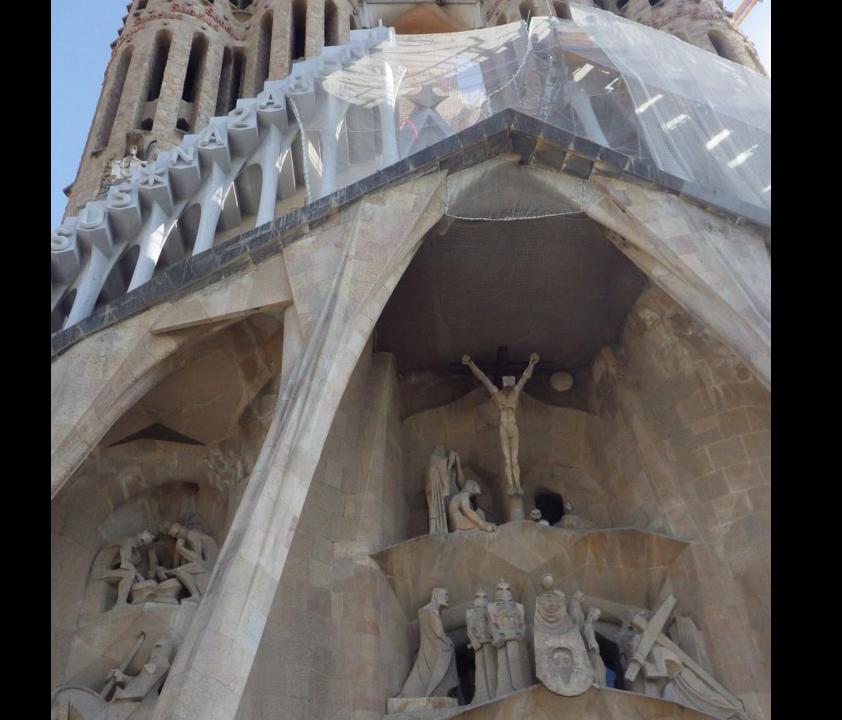
































































































































dissenyador

Antoni Gaudi projectava les seves obres arquitectòniques fins al més petit detall, i sovint s'encarregava també de dissenyar el mobiliari dels habitatges dels seus clients.

De la mateixa manera que revisava i corregia constantment els plánols i les maquetes dels seus edificis, la concepció del mobiliari estava subjecta a un mètode d'anàlisi i perfeccionament continu que generava solucions cada cop més estables i funcionals.

Els mobles s'havien d'adaptar a l'espai construït, als usos a què estaven destinats i a les necessitats del client, i si bé els dissenys de Gaudi comencen imitant els estils històrics, aviat evolucionaran cap a la recerca d'un llenguatge propi inspirat en la natura, que donarà lloc a solucions ergonòmiques i originals.

Gaudí diseñador

Antoni Gaudí proyectaba sus obras arquitectónicas hasta el más pequeño detalle, y a menudo se encargaba también de diseñar el mobiliario de las viviendas de sus clientes.

Del mismo modo que revisaba y corregia constantemente los planos y las maquetas de sus edificios, la concepción del mobiliario estaba sujeta a un continuo método de análisis y perfeccionamiento que generaba soluciones cada vez más estables y funcionales.

Los muebles debían adaptarse al espacio construido, a los usos a que estaban destinados y a las necesidades del cliente, y si bien los diseños de Gaudí empiezan imitando los estilos históricos, pronto evolucionarán hacia la búsqueda de un lenguaje propio inspirado en la naturaleza que dará lugar a soluciones ergonómicas y originales.



Gaudí the designer

Antoni Gaudi planned his architectural works down to the last detail, and often even designed the furnishings for his clients' homes.

Just as he checked and corrected the plans and models for his buildings again and again, his concept of furniture design also underwent a continuous process of study and improvement that generated ever more stable and functional solutions.

All the furniture had to be adapted to the built space, its purpose and the client's needs and, although Gaudi's designs imitated historic styles at first, they soon began to evolve towards the search for a personal language inspired by nature, which resulted in original, ergonomic solutions.







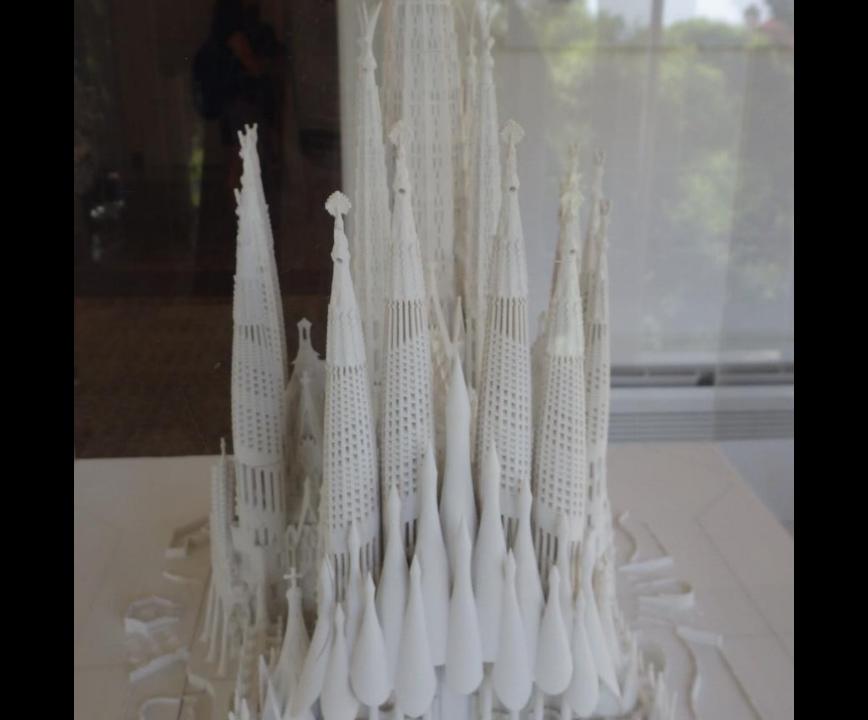












This was Antoni Gaudi's home for nearly twenty years of his life. He had left Reus to come to Barcelona in 1868. Since then, he had had several homes in the city centre before, in 1906, he moved into this house with his father and his niece.

The situation of the house, within the magnificent grounds of Park Güell, far from the city centre, seemed ideal given his father's poor health, whilst it also enabled the architect to follow work on the park, then under construction, at first-hand. Moreover, the Mediterranean vegetation and the sea views probably reminded Gaudí of his childhood in the Camp de Tarragona area.

Today, Gaudi's home conserves his memory in several rooms and in the porch, where a statue of Saint Anthony reminds us that Gaudi would doff his hat to the saint every day on leaving and returning home.







(C. 1903-1903)

During the construction of Park Güell, a show home was built in order to promote sales of housing plots. This building was designed by Francesc Berenguer on a well-oriented plot with easy access by car that commanded views over the sea and the city.

An application for planning permission was submitted to Barcelona City Council in October 1905, though the house was probably finished by then. Antoni Gaudí signed the plans, as Berenguer was not officially qualified as an architect.

The house has three storeys, a basement and a pointed tower. The two chimneys and the tower roof are covered in trencadis ceramic mosaics, whilst the outer walls are plastered and adorned with sgraffiti.

"I have lost my right arm and part of my left!"

(Antoni Gaudí, as remembered by his follower Joan Bergós, on the death of Francesc Berenguer)

Francesc d'Assís Berenguer i Mestres (1866-1914) was employed in Antoni Gaudí's workshop for twenty-seven years. Born in Reus, he had moved to Barcelona to study architecture, though he finally dropped out. However, Gaudí assured him that he would always have work at his workshop, and was as good as his word.

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Gaudí trusted Berenguer completely, considering him his right-hand-man. This was because Berenguer was not only an excellent draughtsman who could draw the architect's ideas precisely, but he was also gifted at transmitting these ideas to the building workers, as well as taking over management of the works.

Berenguer also worked at the same time as assistant to the municipal architect in the

Park Güell show house with his father, Francesc Gaudí i Serra, and with his niece, Rosa Egea i Gaudí. His father died that same year, and his niece in 1912.

After that, the Carmelite nuns that had nursed his father and his niece during their illnesses continued to help Gaudí with domestic chores. Moreover, his friend Llorenç Matamala i Pinyol, a sculptor on Sagrada Família, often slept in the house.

Although we do not know whether Gaudí decorated the house, it seems that he made several alterations in the interior, and probably designed the porch and the pergola around the perimeter of the plot.

In late-1925, months before his death, the architect moved into his workshop at the Sagrada Família.





