

Strand 5: Crafts in the Origins of Design

Definitive abstract for paper presentation at the *coupDefouet* International Congress

THE PROMINENCE OF IRON IN MODERNIST FAÇADE ORNAMENTATION:
RAILING DESIGNS ON BUILDINGS IN THE CITY OF ZAMORA

Key words: Modernist, iron, façade, ornamentation, Zamora

The Modernist (Art Nouveau) movement arrived in the provincial capital of Zamora at the hand of Barcelona architect Francisco Ferriol in 1907, coinciding with the transcendental architectural transformation that had begun in the city in the last decades of the 19th century.

Until well into that century, the most frequent type of railing seen in Zamora was simple, with a basic composite scheme, purely functional in character. However, the eclectic architecture that had begun to have sway there gave rise to an important turnabout in how railings were conceived, and now architects endowed these protective elements with a decorative nature, using elaborate and complex designs.

After Ferriol arrived, a modernist architecture began to be deployed, which incorporated very elaborate iron compositions as well, with designs that went hand in hand with the architectural works, the most outstanding being elegant plant, floral and animal designs.

El protagonismo del hierro en la ornamentación de la fachada modernista:
diseños de rejas en Zamora

Palabras clave: Modernismo, hierro, ornamentación, fachadas, Zamora

El movimiento modernista llegó a la capital zamorana de la mano del arquitecto barcelonés Francisco Ferriol, en el año 1906, coincidiendo con la transcendental transformación arquitectónica que había comenzado en la ciudad en las últimas décadas del siglo XIX.

Hasta bien avanzada esta centuria, el tipo de rejería más frecuente en Zamora era simple y obedecía a un esquema compositivo básico, cuyo carácter era puramente funcional. Sin embargo, la arquitectura ecléctica que había comenzado a imperar en la ciudad dio un giro importante a su concepción, de manera que los arquitectos imprimían a los elementos féreos de protección un carácter decorativo que antes no tenían, con elaborados y complejos diseños.

A partir de la llegada de Ferriol a la ciudad, se fue desplegando una arquitectura modernista que también lucía composiciones férreas muy elaboradas, con diseños que discurrían paralelos a sus obras arquitectónicas, destacando elegantes motivos vegetales, florales y animales.

Curriculum Vitae

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Co-director of several Special Continuing Education Courses. The most relevant is “Zamora and Art Nouveau”. University of Salamanca. 2009.
Partially responsible for the incorporation of the city of Zamora to Nouveau European Route. 2007
Chairwoman of the Organizing Committee for the 17th National Congress of Professors of Measurements, Estimates and Assessments. Zamora. 2008
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