

Strand 2: The Historiography of Art Nouveau (looking back on the past)

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

Arquitectura Modernista: What Was/Is It?

This paper examines the use of the term *modernisme* in relation to Catalan architecture both in its own period (1880s to c.1910) and subsequently, in later accounts, most especially in the pioneering work of Ràfols, Cirici-Pellicer, and Bohigas. These latter studies have served as the foundation for present-day usage of the term *modernisme* but I will argue that such an appellation is historically inaccurate and its use tends to obscure the rich ideological differences that defined the cultural politics of Catalan artistic production at the turn of the century and well into the twentieth. I further speculate on the invention of an *arquitectura modernista* in the context of the cultural resistance of the early years of the Franco regime.

Curriculum Vitae

Judith C Rohrer

Associate Prof. of Art History (Modern and Contemporary Architecture) at Emory University where I have served 9 years as Chair of the department. Received Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1984; thesis topic: "La Nova Escola Catalana": Architecture and Politics in Gaudí's Barcelona". Since then much of my scholarly research has centered on Barcelona, with major exhibitions organized in New York ("The Catalan Spirit at the Cooper-Hewitt Museum in 1987-88) and Barcelona ("Puig i Cadafalch: L'Arquitectura entre la Casa i la Ciutat" at La Caixa, 1989-90. I have given innumerable presentations and lectures on Catalan architecture in the U.S. and Europe and published widely on topics related to architecture and politics. I am currently preparing a monograph on the Sagrada Família temple for publication.