THE ARCHITECTURE OF
ANTONI GAUDI

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SAGRADA FAMILIA BARCELONA

Basilica of the Holy Family.
BUILDINGS AND LOCATION (with page numbers)

El Capricho, Comillas, Cantabria: 5
Casa Vicens, Barcelona: 6, 7
Astorga Episcopal Palace, Leon: 1, 8, 9
Palace Guell, Barcelona: 10, 11
Teresian College, Barcelona: 12
Casa Botines, Leon: 13, 14
Bodegas Guell (Wineries), Sitges, Barcelona: 15
Casa Calvet, Barcelona: 16 17
Bellesguard, Barcelona: 18, 19
Park Guell, Barcelona: 20-23
Artigas Gardens, La Pobla de Lillet, Barcelona: 24
Casa Batllo, Barcelona: 3, 25-28
Casa Mila, Barcelona: 29, 30
Church of Colonia Guell, Santa Coloma de Cervello, Barcelona: 31, 32
Sagrada Familia (Sacred Family), Barcelona, 2, 33-47

Marked in red are the seven (parts of) buildings by Antoni Gaudi included in the UNESCO World Heritage Site.
Antoni Gaudi was born in Reus, in Catalonia and became a world-famous Spanish Architect and "a leader of Catalan modernism." It is said he took his ideas from Art Deco, neo-Gothic art and Oriental techniques, becoming part of the late 19th and early 20th century modernist movement.

Gaudi's architecture and sculpture designs are in his own particular style and most are in the Catalan capital of Barcelona. Between 1894 and 2005, seven of his works were declared World Heritage Sites by UNESCO (see page 3 for list).

Gaudi's Roman Catholic faith grew during his life and many religious images are found in his works, earning him the nickname God's Architect, leading to his beatification in 2011. It is said the style of Gaudi's work was inspired by nature. It is known that he rarely drew detailed plans of his works, instead preferring to create them as three-dimensional scale models, moulding the details as he was conceiving them. Gaudi died in Barcelona on 10 June 1926, at the age of 73, after being hit by a tram.

(Biographical notes from Antoni Gaudi: Simple English Wikipedia).

Gaudi's greatest work is the Sagrada Familia (see pages 33-44).
The first of only three projects by Gaudi outside his native Catalonia.
CASA VICENS BARCELONA 1888

Gaudi's first major project.
The highly decorative interior.
The second of only three Gaudi projects outside his native Catalonia.
EPISCOPAL PALACE ASTORGA 1893
Built for the industrial tycoon Guell with rooms to entertain high society guests.
PALAU GUELL BARCELONA 1890
Built to house religious school and convent.
Built for a fabric company. Later housed a bank.
Now houses museum of Gaudi and Spanish art.
Winery and associated buildings designed for his patron Guell.
Considered Gaudi's most convention design due to its location.
CASA CALVET BARCELONA 1900
Bellesguard Barcelona 1909

Design inspired by medieval castle that once stood on site.
The original castle was built for the King of Aragon.
A group of Gaudi buildings commissioned by his mentor Eusebi Guell.
PARK GUELL BARCELONA 1914

A privatized park with both gardens and architectural elements.
PARK GUELL BARCELONA 1914
PARK GUELL BARCELONA 1914
ANTIGAS GARDENS BARCELONA 1906

CASA BATIIO BARCELONA 1906

Considered one of Gaudi's masterpieces.
CASA BATLIO BARCELONA 1906
CASA BATLLO BARCELONA 1906
Known as "The Stone Quarry" due its unconventional rough-hewn appearance.
An unfinished masterpiece.
COLONIA GUELL BARCELONA 1914
The Basilica of the Holy Family is a large unfinished, Roman Catholic, minor basilica in the Eixample district of Barcelona, Catalonia Spain. It was designed by the Catalan architect Antoni Gaudi (1852-1926) [see page 4]. His work on the building is part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Pope Benedict XVI consecrated the church in 2010 and proclaimed it a minor basilica.

Construction of the Sagrada Familia began in March 1882 under architect Francisco de Paula Villa, but in 1883 he resigned and Gaudi took over as Chief Architect. He devoted the remainder of his life (though not exclusively) to the project, and when he died in 1926, and was buried in the crypt, less than a quarter of the project was complete.

Construction proceeded slowly as the finance relied solely on public donations. Then the work was interrupted by the Spanish Civil War. In 1936, revolutionaries set fire to a workshop, destroying Gaudi’s original plans and his master model. It is said it took 16 years to redo his drawings and and piece together the fragments of his model. Gaudi's original design had a total of eighteen spires, of varying height, representing the Twelve Apostles, the Virgin Mary, the four Evangelists and, tallest of all, Jesus Christ surmounted by a giant cross. The other spires are to be topped with a variety of decorations. Nine spires were built by 2021. Completion is intended to make the Basilica the tallest church building in the world with a height of 566 feet. (The current record holder is Ulm Minster in Germany at 530 feet). Completion is planned for 2026, the Centenary of the death of Gaudi.

The Basilica will have three grand facades: the Nativity Facade to the East, the Passion Facade to the West, (pages 45 & 46), and the Glory Facade to the South. It has a capacity for 9000 persons. It was never intended to be a cathedral, which may explain its unusual dimensions: Length 300 ft, Width 200 ft, Nave 150 ft wide.

On the subject of the extremely long construction period, Gaudi is said to have remarked "My client is not in a hurry."
Construction continues.
The tower cranes gradually raise the spires.
Fixing "the big shiny star."
SAGRADA FAMILIA BARCELONA

The lofty interior.
SAGRADA FAMILIA BARCELONA
SAGRADA FAMILIA BARCELONA
Charity Portal. Detail and carvings on the Nativity Facade.
Charity Portal. Detail and carvings on the Nativity Facade.
Charity Portal. Detail and carvings on the Nativity Facade.
Passion Facade.
SAGRADA FAMILIA BARCELONA

Nativity Facade.
There are many publications on the life, the architecture and the sculptures of Gaudi. However, many are written in Spanish, German or French. Fortunately, information in English and photographs are available widely on the internet.

An outline Biography in given on page 4. Notes on the Sagrada Familia Basilica are provided on page 34 and are based on information from the internet: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sagrada_Familia