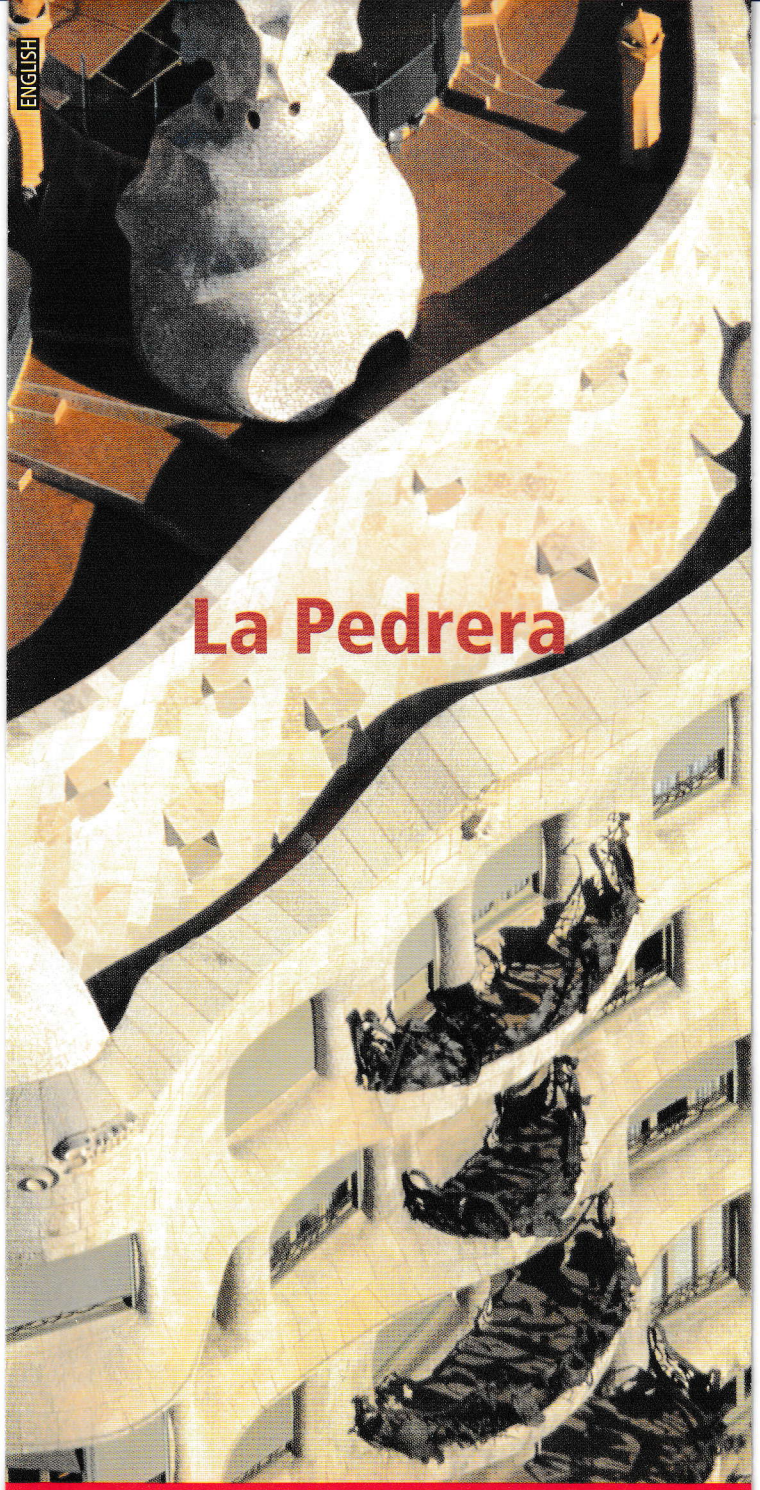
ENGLISH

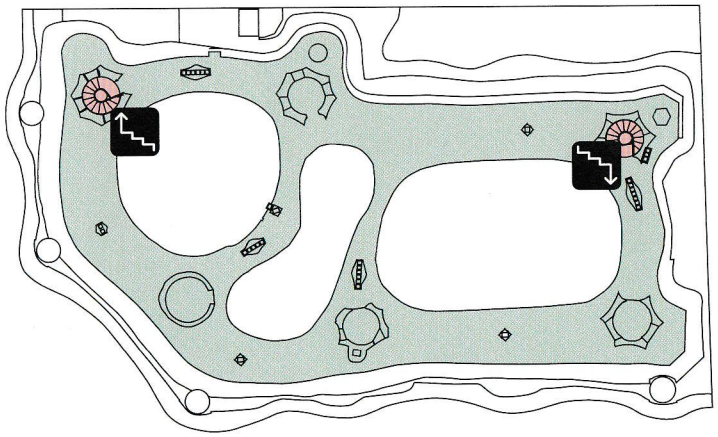


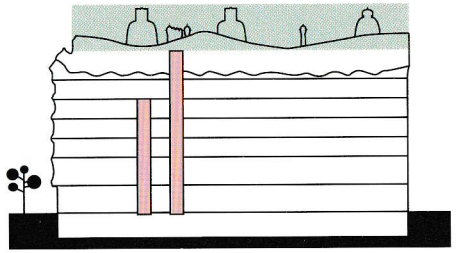
La Pedrera

FUNDACIÓ CAIXA CATALUNYA

THE TERRACE - This unique roof, with its artistic and symbolic force, was designed to fulfil a functional role. The amazing array of architectural-sculptural elements located here falls into three types of constructions: the badalots (staircases), the ventilation towers and the chimneys. Some are covered with *trencadís* (broken pieces of ceramic), whereas the elements that are less visible from the street are only roughcast rendered and painted. The undulating balustrades conform to the shape of the façade, as Gaudí sought a harmonic solution between the rhythms of the façade and the finishings of the roof.

Area included in the visit.
For reasons of safety, the roof is closed when it rains.
It is strictly forbidden to lean on the railings and stone balustrades.

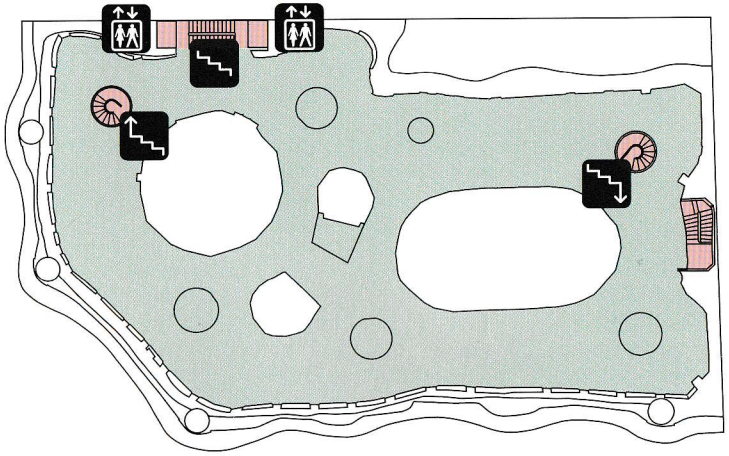


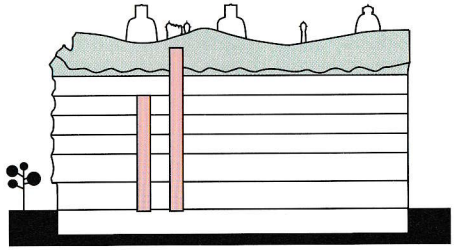


ESPAI GAUDÍ (Permanent exhibition) - The Espai Gaudí provides an insight into the life of Antoni Gaudí, the historical and cultural context in which he lived, his artistic values and the technical innovations of his architecture. His oeuvre is also presented with a complete collection of drawings, models, photographs and audio-visual presentations. The exhibition is divided into seven sections, the last of which is devoted to La Pedrera.

The Espai Gaudí is located in the attic of La Pedrera, where the water tanks and clotheslines were originally fitted out. Gaudí built the attic over the top floor to provide the building with insulation. However, to avoid increasing the weight of the building, 270 curved brick arches of different heights were used to support the roof.

Area included in the visit.

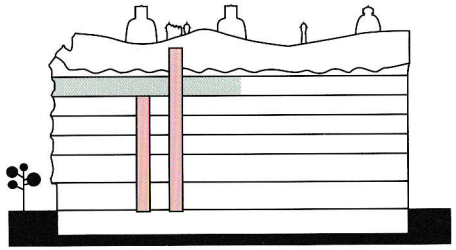




THE PEDRERA APARTMENT (Permanent exhibition) - Located on the fourth floor of the building, the "Pis de la Pedrera", has been recreated as an apartment of a Barcelona bourgeois family during the first decades of the 20th century and decorated with period furnishings and household appliances.

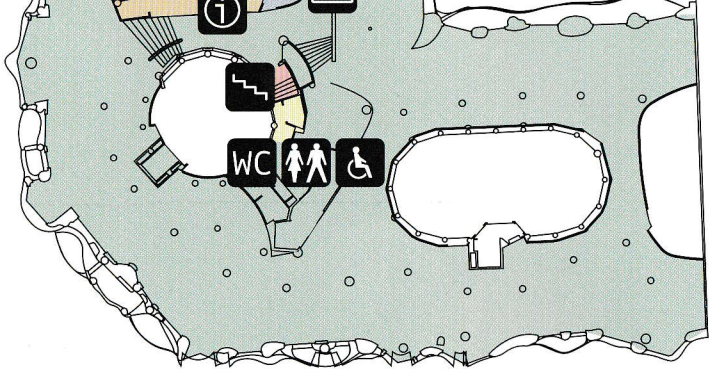
The visitor can also see original ornamental elements designed by Gaudí for the interiors of the dwellings, from the ceilings to the floors -with parquet in the living quarters and hexagonal hydraulic mosaic tiling in the service quarters-, and from the mouldings of the arches to the door knobs and handles, which set an unmistakable precedent in ergonomic design.

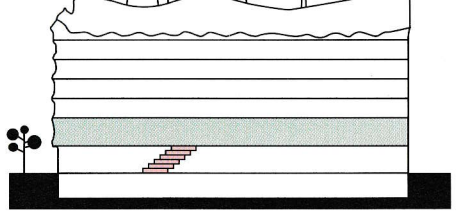
To ensure their conservation, visitors are kindly requested not to touch the furniture, objects and fabrics exhibited.
Area included in the visit.



exhibition hall, has hosted individual exhibitions by artists including Noguchi, Bacon, Dalí, Chillida, Nolde, Giacometti, Dürer, Matta, Chagall and Kandinsky.

Access via the entrance on Passeig de Gràcia.
Free admission.
Open to the public every day between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.

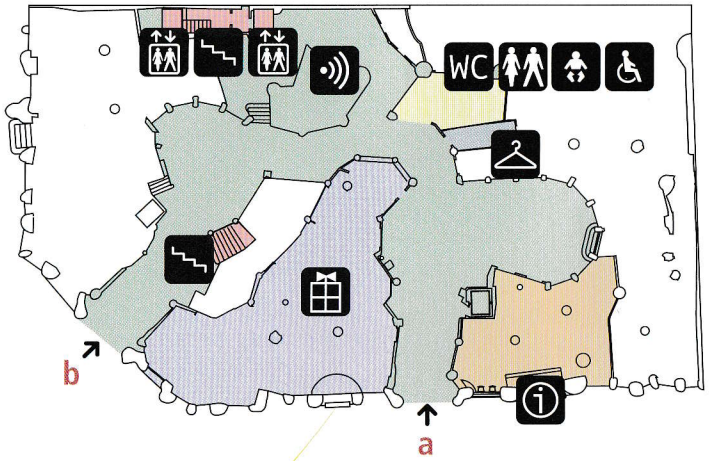


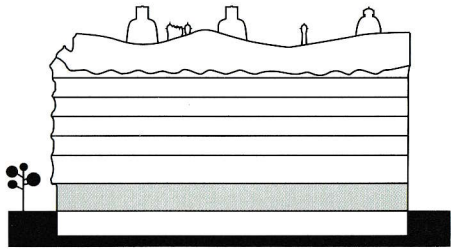


ENTRANCES TO THE BUILDING

a - Carrer Provença entrance: ticket offices and visit to the building (courtyard, the Apartment, Espai Gaudí - attic and roof).

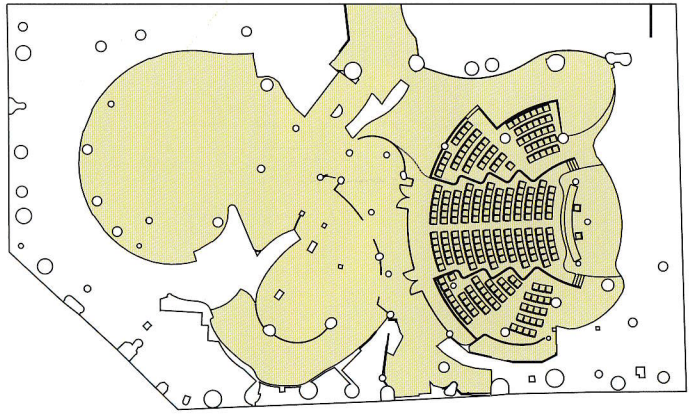
b - Passeig de Gràcia entrance: access to the temporary exhibition hall.

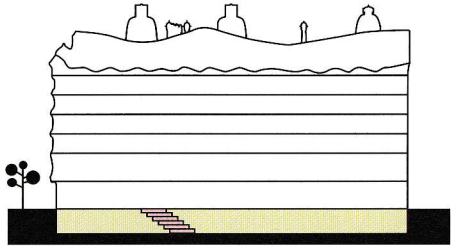




AUDITORIUM - The Auditorium and the annexed room are used for holding symposiums, conferences, concerts and other cultural activities. (auditori@funcaixacat.org).

Area not included in the visit.





Information. Shop Checkroom. Audioguide

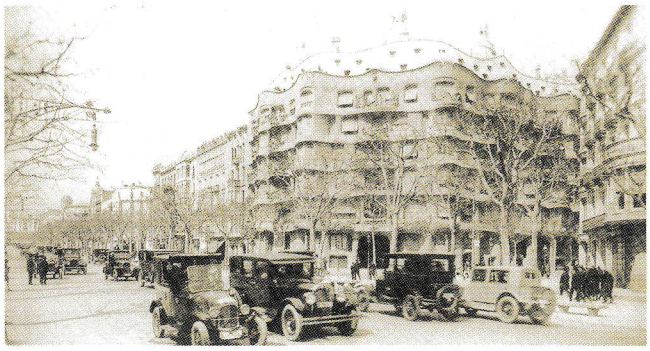
Elevators. Stairs

Services

In 1986 the **CAIXA CATALUNYA** bought **La Pedrera** and began its restoration. After ten years work, in 1996 it was opened to the public as a Cultural Centre and very quickly developed into one of the most important cultural spaces in Barcelona.

La Pedrera is currently the headquarters of Caixa Catalunya's Social Work division as well as its four foundations:

The **Fundació Caixa Catalunya** (culture)
The **Fundació Territori i Paisatge** (environment)
The **Fundació Un Sol Món** (charity)
The **Fundació Viure i Conviure** (social care)



The Passeig de Gràcia on the corner of Carrer Provença, ca. 1918.

ANTONI GAUDÍ - He was born at Reus on 25th June 1852. In 1873, he began his studies at the Escola Provincial d'Arquitectura de Barcelona and qualified as an architect in 1878.

Antoni Gaudí lived the consolidation process of the industrialisation of Catalonia during the latter half of the 19th century and found his best clients from amongst the Barcelona bourgeoisie and the Church. The industrialist Eusebi Güell (1846-1918) became his main client and patron.

Gaudí was educated in the spirit of the Catalan *Renaixança* under the tutorship of Elies Rogent and Josep Fontseré. He subsequently paved the way to Modernism, one of the movements that renovated the architecture of the late 19th and the early 20th century throughout Europe, although he never allowed himself to be constrained by the rules and aesthetics of that movement.

His career was marked by his endeavour to achieve his own characteristic aesthetics and constructive forms, which find their maximum expression in the Casa Milà (La Pedrera) (1906-1912). His early production like the Casa Vicens (1883-1888) and the Palau Güell (1886-1888) is characterised by his interpretation of historical canons with oriental influences and the revival of medieval elements.

Antoni Gaudí

From a very early age, Gaudí manifested a great interest in shapes, colours and the geometry of nature, and sought his own particular resources and solutions from artisan crafts. At the same time, he took advantage of the innovative techniques of his day, such as the use of iron and pre-manufactured elements in structures, although he also employed traditional techniques and styles like brickwork.

Gaudí understood architecture as a complete art form, for which reason his creativity extended to each and every one of the elements that make up his work, from balustrades to door knobs. Thus, setting a precedent that would later influence the study of architecture, he surrounded himself with the best artisans and architects, the most important of whom was Josep Maria Jujol (1879-1949), who worked on Park Güell (1900-1914) and the Casa Milà, (La Pedrera).

Gaudí died in Barcelona at the age of 74 years on 7th June 1926.

CASA MILÀ "LA PEDRERA" (1906-1912) - Between the late 19th and the early 20th century, the district of the Eixample, that is the Passeig de Gràcia and its surroundings, became the main hub of Barcelona's expansion, thus supplanting the bourgeois residential area of Ciutat Vella.

The industrialist Pere Milà and his wife Roser Segimon commissioned Gaudí to construct a building on the boundary separating Barcelona from Gràcia, with the aim of turning the main floor into the family residence and leasing out rest of the dwellings.

Gaudí built two blocks of apartment houses, with independent entrances, arranged around two large, interconnecting interior patios, in order to illuminate all the dwellings. These blocks share a single sinuous façade, which transmits its rhythm into the interior. Moreover, the structure of the building rests on pillars instead of using weight-bearing walls, which allows for independent floors with large apertures in the façade. The innovative design, both in its functional and constructive and ornamental aspects, broke with the architectural styles of its time.

Owing to the way its façade appears to be carved out of rock, the Casa Milà was nicknamed "La Pedrera", which means stone quarry.

In 1984, UNESCO declared it a World Heritage site.