

Strand 1: Art Nouveau Cities: between cosmopolitanism and local tradition

The architectural Art Nouveau in the Canary Islands: the city of Santa Cruz de Tenerife as a paradigm

To a large extent, modernism in architecture is a phenomenon and in fact, when it is studied in the Canary Islands, we have to resort to the cities. That is why we have focused this study on what at the time was the capital city of the Islands, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, where the most significant currents of this artistic phenomenon converge. It is a manifestation in constant mutation as different manners and trends come in through what its port signified: *art nouveau, modernisme, liberty, sezession...* all through that cosmopolitan and syncretic spirit of a minority comprised of rich, bourgeois professionals with strong financial backing, many of them sharing their everyday affairs with the world of politics. Modernist architecture covers a very short period (1901-1915) but it took sufficient root, due to the admiration it caused, that even when it had come and gone as such, it left its indelible mark on eclecticism for many years afterwards.

Key words: Canary Islands, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, architecture, town planning, art nouveau, sezesión

El Modernismo arquitectónico en las Islas Canarias: la ciudad de Santa Cruz de Tenerife como paradigma

El modernismo en arquitectura es en buena parte un fenómeno urbano y, de hecho, en Canarias al estudiarlo tendremos que recurrir a las ciudades. Por eso hemos enfocado este estudio a través de la entonces capital del Archipiélago, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, donde confluyen las corrientes más significativas de este fenómeno artístico. Será una manifestación siempre mutante, pues a través de lo que significó su puerto entrarán diferentes maneras y tendencias: *art nouveau, modernisme, liberty, sezesión...* todo ello a través de ese espíritu cosmopolita y sincrético de una minoría

conformada por ricos burgueses, profesionales con un respaldo económico fuerte, muchos de ellos compartiendo su hacer con el mundo de la política. La arquitectura modernista ocupa un periodo muy breve (1901-1915), pero con el suficiente arraigo, por la admiración que causó, que incluso, una vez desaparecido como tal, dejó su huella indeleble en el eclecticismo durante bastantes años después.

Palabras clave: Canarias, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, arquitectura, urbanismo, art nouveau, sezección

Curriculum Vitae

Alberto Darías Príncipe

Alberto Darías Príncipe is a professor of history of art from La Laguna University and he is specialist in Architecture and town planning since 1874 to 1960, also he has some publications about this theme. He has been invited to give courses in lots of Universities and societies from Europe, África and América. This professor belongs to different academies and societies as San Fernando in Madrid, San Carlos in Valencia,.... And finally he is the director of some thesis.