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

Strand 3: The Challenges Facing Art Nouveau Heritage (Looking Towards the Future)

The Escritoire: from the functionality in medieval period to the virtuosity of Art Nouveau

The evolution of the escritoire is explained through the Museu del Modernisme Català's furniture collection. From its use in the Early Middle Ages until its reinterpretation, as an example of mastery, in the golden years of Modernisme.

Thanks to the magnificent examples of the two cabinetmakers' workshops of reference, as are Busquets and Homar, the decoration of modernista furniture is explained, focusing on the escritoire, as well as the symbology represented in the decoration.

The interior design of Modernista houses by architects of reference, such as Antoni Gaudí or Josep Puig i Cadafalch, is also specified.

The escritoire, and by extension Modernist furniture, is eclectic, as can be observed in the different interpretations of the cabinetmakers and architects.

The degree of customisation of the furniture means the use of materials, techniques and decor personalised to clients' tastes and needs.

La arquimesa: de la funcionalidad en la época medieval al virtuosismo del Modernismo

Basándonos en la colección de mobiliario del Museu del Modernisme Català se explica la evolución de la arquimesa, desde sus usos en la Alta Edad Media hasta su reinterpretación, como modelo de virtuosismo, en los años de esplendor del Modernismo.

Gracias a los magníficos ejemplos de los dos talleres de ebanistería de referencia, como son Busquets y Homar, se explica la decoración en el mobiliario modernista, centrado en la arquimesa, así como la simbología representada en dicha decoración.

Asimismo, se especifica la intervención de arquitectos de referencia, como son Antoni Gaudí o Josep Puig i Cadafalch, en el diseño de los interiores de las

casas modernistas.

La arquimesa, y por extensión el mobiliario modernista, es ecléctico, se puede observar en las diferentes interpretaciones que realizan los ebanistas y arquitectos. El grado de *customización* del mueble significa utilizar materiales, técnicas y decoración personalizada a los gustos y necesidades del cliente.

Curriculum Vitae

Gabriel Pinós Guirao

Gabriel Pinós has been working for 15 years in the Gothsland art gallery, which he now directs. He has also contributed together with the rest of his family in the Museu del Modernisme Català project during the last five years. He is the author of several catalogues on Modernisme, specifically on Catalan painters. He has specialized on Ramón Casas's work, and within a research team is working on the publication of a complete catalogue on the drawings of Casas.