

Teacher's resources

MODERNISM

Modernism is a cultural movement in Europe that began during the end of XIX Century and the beginning of the XX Century. In Catalonia it happened between 1888 Exposition Universal held in Barcelona and 1926 when Gaudí died. Although the movement affected all arts, it influenced architecture and art most of all.

Modernism has different names in countries: Modernism in Catalonia; Art Nouveau (Architecture) in Europe. In general, it's a return to the nature: artists used flowing shapes for vegetables, flowers, animals, mermaids, dragons, and birds with long and coloured tails.

In Catalonia, Modernism became so important that it was found all around in different buildings like: factories, houses, religious buildings. It started as a time in history when there was economic growth and the feelings of nationalism. It was a period of "Renaissance".

Modernist Architecture in Catalonia means: new building techniques (using iron in structures and Portland cement as a concrete) with traditional elements: like tiles, bricks and glass. It is connect with Gothic style and exotic Islamic art. Modernism is a decorative architecture where all arts take place. Architects either designed furniture, stained-glass, mosaics and iron work. It was craftsmanship in an industrial time.

The characteristics of the style are: curved lines instead of straight lines, asymmetry instead to symmetry. Artist looked for beauty in nature and in women's figures to inspire the details in the decoration.