

ERASMUS' PROJECT ICT-YES!

SPANISH PRESENTATION

ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

Introduction

Our Alicante land has passed through the hands of many different civilizations throughout history, a fact that has left numerous architectural evidence worthy of recognition. In this project, we will study the architectural remains that each civilization has left us from the oldest to the most recent. From the Iberians in the sixth century B.C., to the Christians in the fifteenth century. We will also talk about modernism, which was a very important and influential stage in the architecture of our area, and the "boom" of the 1950s, which destroyed part of those architectural buildings.

Iberians

The Iberian peoples lived in the east and south of the Iberian Peninsula since the 8th century B.C. They belonged to the pre-Roman peoples, that is to say, the original peoples of the different areas through which the Roman Empire extended. They didn't have much knowledge about architecture. The only thing that has been found are sanctuaries very close to the Iberian towns.

Sanctuary of Iberian from Malladeta, 4th century B.C. (Villajoyosa)



Phoenicians

The Phoenicians came from the east coast of the Mediterranean. They were merchants, and they came to the Iberian Peninsula in search of raw materials. During the first millennium B.C. they established settlements called factories. The Phoenician power began to decline in 539 B.C.

Phoenician factory in Sexi (Almuñécar)



Greeks

The Greeks were commercial rivals of the Phoenicians in the Mediterranean Sea. They arrived at the Iberian Peninsula between the 8th and 7th centuries B.C. in search of raw materials. They were mainly in the east. They founded colonies like Hemeroskopeion (Dénia).

Hemeroskopeion (Dénia)



Carthaginians

The Carthaginians were the successors of the Phoenicians. They came from Carthage, a Phoenician factory located in North Africa. They controlled the Phoenician factories and created new ones, such as Carthago Nova (Cartagena) and Ebyssos (Ibiza). The Carthaginian colonization had a military character and the Greeks were expelled from the Iberian Peninsula in 535 B.C.

Carthago Nova (Cartagena)

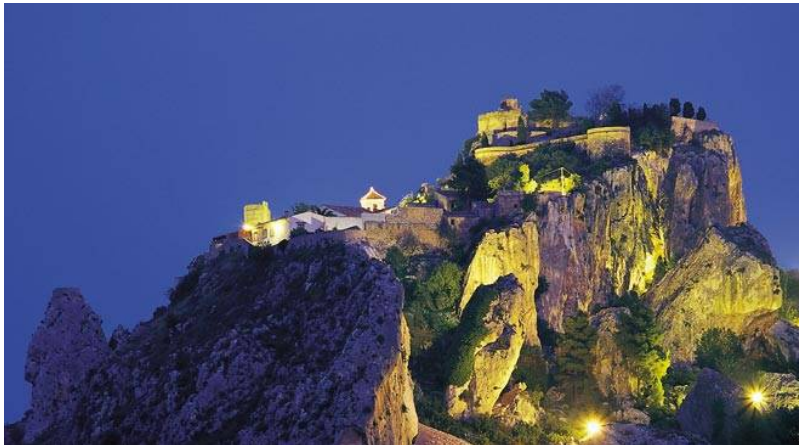


Arabs

Introduction/ Historic Context

Now we are going to talk about the Arabs in Alicante, and the architectural remains they built. The city of Alicante falls under Islamic rule between 718 and 1248 and is renamed “al-Laqant”. Throughout this period of time, the Arabs built many constructions and also today you can see archaeological remains of the Islamic medina next to the town hall of Alicante. Among the most important constructions made by the Arabs in Alicante are the castles and defense towers.

Guadalest Castle



Guadalest Castle already existed in the Muslim era and had an abundant Islamic population under the dominion of Aragonese nobles.

Cocentaine Castle



It is located in Cocentaine, Alicante on the hill of San Cristóbal, is of Valencian military Gothic style built at the end of the 13th century on the remains of other defensive constructions of Muslim origin.

Castle of the Watchtower



It was built by Arabs before the 12th century, as Arab sources mention it in 1172. It was an important fort for Muslims as it shows its strength before the troops of Jaime I because they had to besiege it three times to take it.

Santa Barbara's Castle

Is the most important Castle of Alicante and most important building throughout centuries and is of Arab origin

Finally, it should be mentioned that in Spain there are also many important Arab monuments such as:



Mosque of Cordoba



Alhambra of Granada

Mosque of Cordoba

It was built in 786 by the Muslim conquerors, being reserved for Muslim worship. The resulting building was subject to extensions during the Caliphate of Cordoba. It was the second largest mosque in the world.

Alhambra of Granada

It is an Andalusian palatine city. It consists of a set of palaces, gardens and fortress that housed a true citadel within Granada, which served as accommodation for the monarch

Romans

Introduction/ Historic Context

The Romans arrived in the Iberian Peninsula in 219/8 BC to fight their enemies, the Carthaginians. While they were here, they built a large part of today's cities and left great architectural works that are still preserved. Between the 10th and 11th centuries, Romanesque architecture developed in our country with influence from both the pre-Romanesque and the Arab architecture. It was based on functionality and practicality, it included the systematic use of the arch and vault, decorative arts, monumental proportions and contained basic materials such as stone and brick. In the Valencian community, the presence of the Romans is evident. In Valencia we can pinpoint their impact to the temple of Diana and the Roman theater, and in Alicante they focused on the Alicante coast, in Lucentum, Campello, etc.



Cabanes Arch Castellón



Main door of a roman castle in Sagunto

a)

In Spain, one of the most outstanding works that incorporates the Romanesque architectural style is the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia.



CHURCHES AND THE VALENCIAN MODERNISM

When Christians took back the occupied territory by the Arabs in the fifteen centuries in the period of the Spanish history call The Reconquest they, built churches around the province. Churches stood out as the pro-cathedral of San Nicolas de Bari, The Basilic of Santa Maria and the Monastery of Santa Faz.

Leaving centuries behind I reach the end of the nineteen centuries to talk about Valencian modernism. This trend was born thanks to the industrial, economic and urban development

that took place. In Novelda, a village very close to Alicante center the development of modernism architecture was linked to the huge and increasing agricultural export of grapes, oranges and rice, which recalls the style of Gaudi, Catalan modernist architect who based his work on nature. Their common characteristics are the theme of nature, the predilection for curved forms and asymmetry, exotic motifs such as Japanese, images of women and the exaltation of desires and the transmission of senses of everyday life, the mosaic, the regionalist symbology as the senyera and the Rat Penat. In Alicante center highlighted modernist buildings like The Central market, la lonja and the Carbonell house; in Elche the tower of rooster; In Novelda the Sanctuary of Santa Maria Magdalena; In Orihuela The Villaescusa house; In Villena the Chapi theater; And in Alcoy the Industrial circle.

In Spain La Sagrada Familia in Barcelona highlights modernism.

Years later in the twentieth century the civil war broke out in Spain, Alicante was one of the most bombarded cities so it suffered even more the consequences of the devastating power of the war. That destruction led Alicante to being rebuilt in its majority.

BOOM

The boom of the 60s was an era of economic development in Spain. It was based on industry and sun and beach tourism. The phenomenon of mass tourism spread mainly along the Valencian coast. Many hotels, apartments, and urban plans began to be built. One of the fundamental cities of tourism at this time was Benidorm, which began to be known as "the vertical city" given the large number of skyscrapers that were emerging.

With the boom of the sixties Alicante continued to be renewed and Benidorm became an important tourism city. Benidorm was filled with hotels and summer apartments that brought a lot of foreign population, mainly from Germany, United Kingdom and the Nordic countries, who came to Spain in search of good weather, beaches and cheap tourism.

Conclusion

Finally, with this project we want to imply that although there has been a lot of influence and many civilizations have passed through Alicante both Phoenicians and Greeks as Arabs and

Romans. Due to the war, the lack of interest in the constructions they made and tourism, many things have been lost.

In conclusion, the current architectural state of Alicante is somewhat bittersweet because of the aforementioned reason, that many ancient remains have been lost but it has also been gained in beach tourism basically by building hotels and tourist buildings that have provided wealth for Alicante by welcoming foreign people.

