

Barcelona: A European Capital of the Arts
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Syllabus

Barcelona has been home to extraordinary talents in the arts and architecture. From Joan Miró to Antoni Tàpies, from Antoni Gaudí to Lluís Domènech i Montaner, from Josep Lluís Sert to Oriol Bohigas and many others, the crowd of creatives this metropolis has produced over the centuries is astonishing. This class dives into the extraordinary tradition of the capital of Catalonia, where heritage and pioneering thinking have consistently kept Barcelona at the forefront of the modern and contemporary avant-garde.

Lesson 1. BARCELONA: A POWERFUL URBAN PLAN

Ildefons Cerdà conceived the ingenious urban grid that framed the controlled expansion of Barcelona in the 19th century. In encapsulating the old city center, known as Barrio Gótico (Gothic Quarter), this radical planner launched this city into the European scene, making it a center for experimental architecture. The inhabitants of this metropolis, capital of Catalonia, have consistently cultivated an independent mindset from Madrid as well as from other Spanish regions. This class provides an overview of the growth of the city over time and the cultural influences that make this both a global and local phenomenon.

Lesson 2. MODERN ART AND ARCHITECTURE IN BARCELONA

Antoni Gaudí was a precursor and a pioneer in construction and form-making. Another imaginative architect, Lluís Domènech, was radical as well in giving an architectural expression to the Northern and Sub Saharan influences that single out Spain from other European nations. In later years Josep Lluís Sert and Josep Antoni Coderch, natives of Barcelona, designed some of the milestones of the Modern Movement in the city in the post-war period. The involvement of Barcelona in modernity has equally distinguishing figures such as Joan Miró and was home to Salvador Dalí and Pablo Picasso. The list of consequential figures in both arts is long and dense. This second talk will survey the extraordinary contributions of these creatives.

Lesson 3. LIVING IN BARCELONA. Guest Speaker: Fabrizio Leoni.

A resident in the city for over 20 yrs, architect and architecture professor Fabrizio Leoni will articulate his own experience as a practitioner and as a citizen of inhabiting one of the most exciting places in Europe where the intoxicating mix of public places and private landmarks makes of Barcelona a world city.

Lesson 4. BARCELONA TODAY: RECENT TRENDS IN ARCHITECTURE AND ART.

Barcelona figures consistently in contemporary surveys of current architecture. Since Spain emerges from Francisco Franco's dictatorship, the city has been the epicenter of architectural relevance. The hosting of the 1992 Olympics was the impetus for a complete redesign of the city through a clever scheme of network interventions masterminded by Oriol Bohigas. Countless talented architects were given an opportunity to design their own city, making it then and now a required destination for any designer who conceives of architecture as an art form. This fourth delivery will expose the audience to a gallery of mesmerizing projects.