

Celebrate the Art Nouveau World Day with the **Réseau Art Nouveau Network**...

... and Luis Gueilburt from **Melilla (Spain)**!

What does your job consist in?

Luis G.: My job is to coordinate European networks for Melilla Ciudad Monumental Foundation, including the Réseau Art Nouveau Network.

Could you describe the Art Nouveau heritage of Melilla in one word?

Luis G.: Intense

Which is, in your opinion, the most significant Art Nouveau work/building in your city?

Luis G.: We have many examples in Art Nouveau style. Among more than 500 buildings built in this style in the city of Melilla I would emphasize the Melul House, and the Tortosa House.



Melul House, Enrique Nieto y Nieto, 1915-1916, Avenida Juan Carlos I, Melilla

Tortosa House, Melilla, 1914
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Which is your most powerful memory linked to an Art Nouveau work?

Luis G.: When I arrived the first time in Melilla and when I found that the streets were full of buildings built in this style, as the city was extended in the era of modernism.

Which are the current or next Art Nouveau projects in Melilla?

Luis G.: Maintaining Melilla requires great awareness of all its citizens and that can not be done without the tremendous help of neighbours.

Our task is to raise awareness, especially of the future generations about each heritage value of this city belonging to the 1900 movement.

The XXth century brought a touch of cosmopolitanism and the search for a thrilled modernity in Melilla. The cyclopean geometries of its old fortress yielded to the wild vibrations of Art Nouveau buildings, the curves of their façades and their balconies, as well as the color range of their mouldings and decorative productions of local crafts. Melilla became then, thanks to the architect Enrique Nieto, one of the main Spanish cities which can boast about possessing an Art Nouveau heritage as vast and of such quality. The city probably constitutes the epicentre of this style for all of North Africa. The style of this architect deploys on number of façades of the city; its ability to absorb its environment and achieve to synthesise it in a personal creation of very high quality is Nieto's main characteristic. He reinterpreted all the Art Nouveau trends that can be imagined, and the result is simply splendid. Buildings like "La Reconquista", the "Military store", the "Building Melul", the "Vicente Martinez House" and many others only form a small sample of more than 300 Art Nouveau buildings in Melilla. In this city a whole creative environment was introduced, encouraging other architects or engineers to develop Art Nouveau within its new town centre as well as in other areas. Thus Emilio Alzugaray, Francisco Carcaño or José de la Gándara are also important creators.

Melilla is part of the Réseau Art Nouveau Network since 2012.

HAPPY ART NOUVEAU WORLD DAY!

More information: www.artnouveau-net.eu

