

Introduction

A hundred years ago, in many European countries, a new art form came into being: Art Nouveau. It was known by different names depending on the country, region or city: For example Jugendstil in Germany, Glasgow Style in Scotland, Modernisme in Catalonia, Secession in Austria, Liberty in Italy or Ecole de Nancy in Nancy. At that time, industry developed rapidly, machines were used much

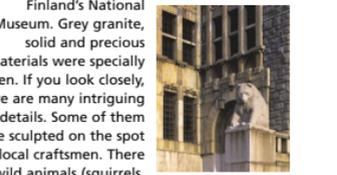
more often as were new building materials, such as steel, and new forms of energy, such as electricity and oil. Art Nouveau artists used these new elements to create objects and buildings that were both beautiful and useful at the same time. Nature, plants and animals were themes used by these artists. They also found inspiration in the history, legends and folklore of their region.

The Réseau Art Nouveau Network is a big team of people working in 13 European cities. We all share one passion: Art Nouveau. Some of us are curators or directors of museums, others are architects who restore buildings, or art historians who study the artists and their work. In short, we all want to know more about buildings, furniture and objects that were made about 100 years ago. Through the Réseau Art Nouveau Network we study the Art Nouveau of all the partner cities. Together we write books, organise conferences and create exhibitions. We also decided to make this book so that you could have fun discovering the Art Nouveau of your own city as well as the other partner cities.



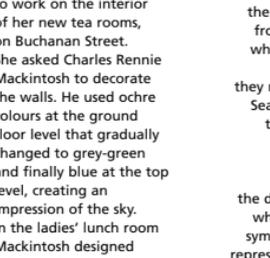
The European Commission brings together 15 European countries that have decided to work together in lots of different ways, in subjects such as politics, economics, industry, science, sport, education and culture. The European Union and the European Commission encourage the Réseau Art Nouveau Network by giving us some of the money needed to work, to exchange ideas, publish books, create exhibitions and show Art Nouveau to children and adults.

Helsinki The National Museum of Finland



Three young architects, Herman Gesellius, Armas Lindgren and Eliel Saarinen designed Finland's National Museum. Grey granite, solid and precious materials were specially chosen. If you look closely, there are many intriguing details. Some of them were sculpted on the spot by local craftsmen. There are wild animals (squirrels, bears and foxes), as well as pine cones from the forests where these animals live. You might also recognize figures out of folk stories and from a Finnish legend, the Kalevala. In the centre of the building there is a high, pointed tower, which helps you to find the museum.

Glasgow The Tea Rooms in Glasgow



In the 1890s there were numerous tea rooms in Glasgow. One of the owners, Miss Cranston, wanted a designer to work on the interior of her new tea rooms, on Buchanan Street. She asked Charles Rennie Mackintosh to decorate the walls. He used ochre colours at the ground floor level that gradually changed to grey-green and finally blue at the top level, creating an impression of the sky. In the ladies' lunch room Mackintosh designed a frieze of white ladies entwined in rose bushes. The tea rooms opened on 5th May 1897 and soon became very popular. The success continued up until 1918. The building then became a bank.

Ljubljana The dragon bridge



The dragon bridge was built in 1901 and placed on the market square. It takes its name from the four dragons in the corners. The bridge was designed by the architect Jurij Zaninovic.

Legend has it that Ljubljana's founder was the Greek prince Jason and his companions, the Argonauts. Fleeing from King Aites, from whom they had stolen the Golden Fleece, they navigated the Black Sea until they came to the Ljubljanica river. Here Jason fought and killed a terrible monster, the dragon of Ljubljana, who became the city's symbol and who is also represented at the top of the castle tower.



Bruxelles Fauna and Flora

Metal is widely used in Art Nouveau houses. It is used in the structure or the skeleton of the construction but also to protect it such as railings and the bars in front of windows. These often represent animals or plants. But be careful, they are not always easy to find! Take a close look, you will discover two animals that you know.

Here is the answer: compare these railings with the drawings. The flamingo has a long neck, a head, and a beak. How many birds do you see on the balcony? On the other balcony, are these flowers or butterflies? Or maybe both?

The Palau Güell was built by Antoni Gaudí for Eusebi Güell. Mr Güell was very fond of the architect and regularly asked him to design things. Antoni Gaudí built a magnificent palace that became the main residence of the Güell family. It was here that they housed their collection of antiques organised in political meetings, musical concerts and accommodated their guests. The construction was very expensive as the architect wanted to use only the best stone, the best wrought iron and the best wood for this unique house.



Barcelona Palau Güell

Reus The Pere Mata hospital



I was constructed in 1898. My designer was a very well-known architect, Lluís Domènech i Montaner. I am a tower, 30 meters high, built of brick, square at the base and then round, with a big tank at the top. I am crowned by a weather vane that indicates the wind direction. I am visible from a long way off and must surely be the best-known emblem of the Pere Mata hospital, where you can find me. Do you know what I am? I am a water tower!

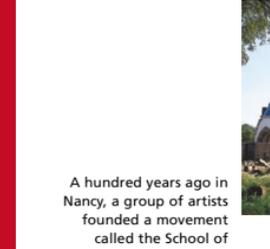
Alesund The Mountain Troll



Early one morning, as the mountain flower lifted its head to greet the day, the Troll climbed up very high to catch the first ray of sunlight. Blinded by the light, he became dizzy and stumbled, fell from the mountain and turned into stone.

Art Nouveau artists were fascinated by these old stories. Can you find the Troll on the façade of this house designed by Norwegian architect Hagbarth Schytte-Berg?

Terrassa The Agrupació Regionalista



In 1905 the architect Lluís Muncunill constructed a building called the Agrupació Regionalista to accommodate artists, writers, architects and musicians. Art and music classes were taught here. Several exhibitions also took place here. If you want to find out more about this building then take a look at the photograph. The building is made out of bricks. The doors and windows are triangular with rounded corners. This is what is known as a parabolic form. The ceiling also has the same shape. The Agrupació Regionalista did not exist for long, in 1954 the building was pulled down. A Post Office was put up in its place.

Budapest The palace of the pachyderms



The Elephant House (or the palace of the pachyderms) at the Budapest Zoo was built between 1909 and 1912 according to a design by the architect Kornél Neuschloss, in the Art Nouveau style. He designed a building where the elephants would feel at home. Unfortunately the building was damaged during the Second World War. In the 1990s, Hella and Zita's (the two female elephants) building was completely renovated, both on the inside and outside and the tower rebuilt. The elephant's enclosure was even enlarged and now includes a swimming pool, a shower and scales to weigh them on.

Province of Varese The hotel Campo dei Fiori



Beetles, dragonflies and butterflies as well as many other examples from nature are all symbols that you can find on objects, houses and monuments from the Art Nouveau period in Europe. Try to find the hidden insect on the pillar. With its large pincers and its powerful shell it is a stag beetle. This one, made of cement, decorates all the columns of the entrance to the hotel Campo dei Fiori in Varese. The architect Giuseppe Sommaruga, who designed this hotel, has been very original and inventive in his use of this animal-shaped decoration.

Nancy The Magnolia Lamp



This lamp, first designed for a big exhibition, was then produced in numerous variations of the original design.

Riga The clock tower



This building, built in 1909, has shops at the street level, banks on the first floor, and private apartments on the upper floors. The architects, Konstantins Pēkšēns and Artur Moedinger, have used very valuable materials in the construction. The outer walls are covered with black and grey granite which came from Finland and Switzerland. The light in the staircase shines through from stained glass windows representing transport, commerce, the navy, education and wisdom, which is symbolised by an owl. On the corner of the building there is a small clock tower. You can find many similar towers in Riga.

Vienna The exhibition pavilion of the Secession in Vienna



There are owls on the sides and lizards to the left and right of the main entrance. Small turtles seem to carry the big blue vases situated next to the stairs.



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