

MODERNIST ALCOY

The Modernism, like urban art inspired by nature and beauty, comes to Alcoi thanks to his important industrial development and his social-cultural link with the high middle class.

This period of great social change leaves a legacy in Alcoi, which constitutes today a unique artistic heritage included in the European Route of Modernism and that is revived every September, with the celebration of the Week and Modernist Fair of Alcoi.

It is mainly in architecture where Modernism is most manifest thanks to the leadership of both architects: Vicente Pascual Pastor and Timoteo Briet Montaud, with the collaboration of important master builders. The first is tilted, in the central moments of Modernism in Alcoi (1906-1910), towards forms linked with Art Nouveau, not without historicist components, neo-rococo, some Gaudinims and, of course, influences of Catalan Modernism; whereas Timoteo Briet shows more passion for the movement of Viennese Sezession.



Modernism was not exclusive to middle-class housing, but given its aesthetic and social value, it appears also in the cover designs of local shops, in the ancient building of the Hydroelectrics and in the local Slaughterhouse, on the façades of the factories around the Plaça Gonçal Cantó and even in some of the Municipal Cemetery pantheons.

On the other hand, it had a great impact on graphic arts: drawings of tobacco booklet covers, newspaper mastheads, advertisements, posters and catalogues, ...



INDUSTRIAL ALCOY

The origins of industry in Alcoi date from the fifteenth century in the Molinar area. The establishment of industrial activities was favoured by the permanent flow of water and the existence of steep hills.

The location of the old industrial buildings promoted and conditioned by the existence of the small water courses that crossed the town of Alcoi. The upstream stretch of the river Barxell or Riquer was the site chosen for the establishment of paper mills, whereas dye works for wool were established downstream, close to the confluence of this river with the river Molinar. This area, once the setting for an extraordinary level of manufacturing activity, has now been declared an Asset of Cultural Interest.

The industrialisation process of this city is a basic phenomenon that helps us to understand the new society that emerged between the final decades of the eighteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century. Standing witness to all of this, the city has some notable examples of industrial buildings, from primitive paper mills and fulling mills to large factories for combined manufacturing.

Alcoi was a city with an special relevancy in the Industrial Revolution, mainly in the textile sector, though also in the metallurgist and paper industry.

At present, it remains the whole structure that composed this industrial enclave which was adapted with great skill to the orography, allowing the use of the hydraulic power in a rational way.



SPAIN

ALCOY

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ART NOUVEAU EUROPEAN ROUTE
 RUTA EUROPEA DEL MODERNISME

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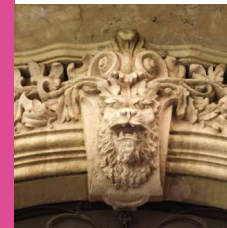
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ALCOY

INDUSTRIAL AND MODERNIST

ENGLISH



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INDUSTRIAL ROUTE

1 INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL. Old College of Engineers. It was built in 1923 over the site of the ancient clothesline of the Real Fábrica de Paños.

2 NEIGHBOURHOOD OF WORKING HOUSINGS.

Housing offering appropriate living conditions for working class families, on a piece of land that had been a drying area of the Real Fábrica de Paños.

3 TOSSALS I MOLINS.

Factory area. The buildings that form these factories belong to the last stage of a process that commenced in the eighteenth century, when the first manufactures were established in the mills and fulleries powered by the rivers of Alcoi.

4 TACOS FACTORY.

This building constitutes the best example of industrial architecture of the second half of the nineteenth century, following the English model of a storeyed factory. Its circular tapered chimney has a height of 12 m.

5 WATER BOILER.

An old Babcock & Wilcox type steam boiler, which belonged to the textile factory of Bautista Merin Reig in the year 1897. The advantage of this type of boiler was that it made better use of the gases, and had a larger heating surface.

6 BUIDAOLI CHIMNEY.

A tapered octagonal chimney that rises to a height of 20 m. Like the majority of chimneys from this period, its crown is decorated in classical neo-Mudéjar style. 1940s.

7 TINTES MARCIAL CHIMNEY.

The chimney of this industrial building, octagonal and with a height of 20 m, is remarkable owing to the bevelled red bricks on its sides that emphasise the optical effect.

8 TEROL HERMANOS CHIMNEY.

Spectacular octagonal chimney of 20 m. in height. Its spans are decorated with tiles.

9 TINT OF SANT JORDI.

Old dye works built in 1746. Its truncated-pyramidal chimney has a height of 8 m. It was fully active until the nineteen-sixties. Today it houses the Expo-museum of the City "Explora" with exhibition space dedicated to industry.

10 OLD SEAT OF PAPELERAS REUNIDAS.

This eclectic building was the head office of Papeleras Reunidas S.A., a company that in 1934 brought together the majority of the paper manufacturers of the city, famous for cigarette paper and cellulose.

11 OLD FACTORIES OF FERRÁNDIZ AND CARBONELL.

Industrial buildings designed to produce knitwear. Both buildings, in Modernist style, have been restored recently to house the Technical University of Valencia.

12 MONTE DE PIEDAD.

This detached building in Modernist style, was built by Mr. Vicente Pascual Pastor in 1909 to be used for Alcoi's Pawnbrokers, constituted thanks to the initiative of a Cadiz manufacturer very close to the city.

13 OLD BANCO DE ESPAÑA.

Art Déco building from 1923-1927. A new branch of the Central Bank of Spain was opened in Alcoi to cater for currency that would pay blue collar workers' weekly wages.

14 ANTIGUA BANCA VICENS.

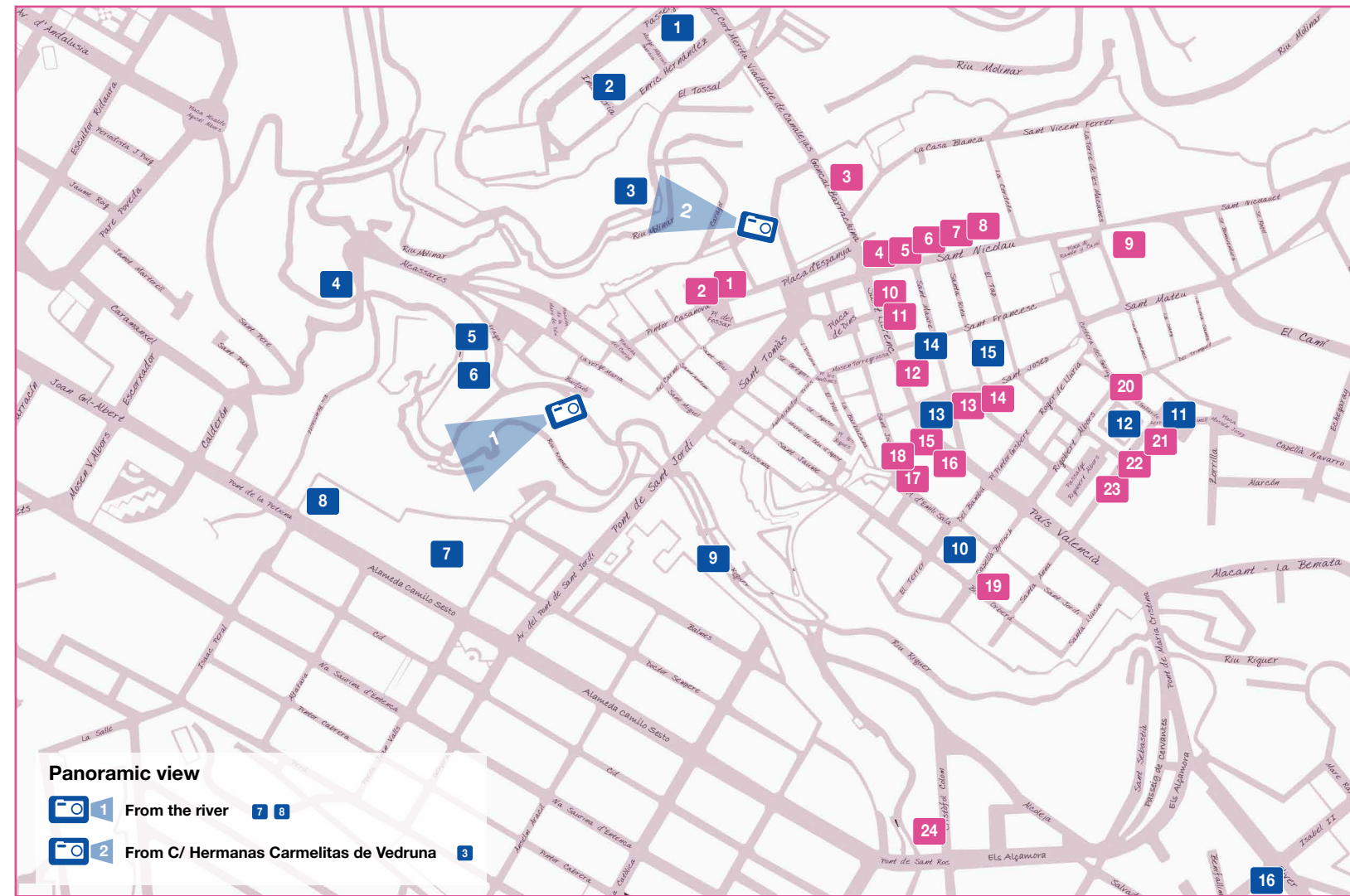
Built in 1881, it is the current headquarter of the Alcoi Chamber of Commerce. The caduceus of Mercury on the door symbolizes trade.

15 CASA DE LA BOLLA.

This building in Neoclassic style, was built between 1787 and 1790. Its name comes from a tax, (called "la bolla"). It was also a "label" or tag with which the Real Fabrica de Paños certified the origin and high quality standards of woollen items.

16 PLAÇA GONÇAL CANTÓ.

A group of old factories renovated for use as a leisure area: discos, pubs, bars...



1 HOUSES ON PINTOR CASANOVA, 16 AND 18.

They were built as rental properties in 1915 by Mr. Timoteo Briet. To stand out the circles over the windows and the wrought iron columns of the first, as well as the green tiles and undulating balconies of the second.

2 HOUSE ON PINTOR CASANOVA, 20.

It was renovated in 1908 by Mr. Timoteo Briet. An interesting feature is the balcony railings made of wrought iron.

3 OLD FIRE STATION ON GONÇAL BARRACHINA, 8.

It was built in 1915 by Mr. Vicente Pascual for the insurance company La Unión Alcoyana, the firm which provided fire safety in Alcoi from 1888 to 1955.

4 HOUSE ON SANT NICOLAU, 4.

It was rebuilt in 1910 by Mr. Vicente Pascual. The tripartite enclosed balcony is of interest, as well as the big keystones with floral motifs.

5 CASA DEL PAVO ON SANT NICOLAU, 15 AND 17.

It was built in 1908 by Mr. Vicente Pascual. This is undoubtedly the best reference of Modernism in the city. It housed the studio of the modernist painter Fernando Cabrera Cantó. Its most characteristic elements are the peacocks and the top with glass mosaic.

ROUTE MODERNISTE

6 CIRCULO INDUSTRIAL ON SANT NICOLAU, 19.

It was renovated in 1909 by Mr. Timoteo Briet in Sezession style. Head office of the industrial bourgeoisie of Alcoi.

7 HOUSE ON SANT NICOLAU, 29.

It was renovated by Mr. Vicente Pascual in 1905 according to the canons of Art Nouveau. The masonry and the plant motifs carved on the jambs and the wrought iron railings are the outstanding elements.

8 HOUSE ON SANT NICOLAU, 35.

Reconstruction of the façade made in 1908 by Mr. Timoteo Briet under the influence of the Sezession movement.

9 GLORIETA SANT NICOLAU S/N.

They stand out the hoses in forge of the iron fence. It was realized by Mr. Vicente Pascual in 1898 following the Art Nouveau style.

10 HOUSE ON SANT LLORENÇ, 3.

It was the birthplace of the modernist painter Mr. Fernando Cabrera, converted by the architect Timoteo Briet in 1910. Only some Sezession details appear at the attic level.

11 HOUSE ON SANT LLORENÇ, 5.

It was designed by Mr. Vicente Pascual in 1910 in Art Nouveau style. It is remarkable the top part and the forge of the balconies.

12 HOUSE ON SANT LLORENÇ, 27.

It was designed by Mr. Vicente Pascual in 1913. The building has beautiful curved iron balconies with floral decorations.

13 HOUSE ON SANT JOSEP, 24.

Home and studio where Mr. Timoteo Briet lived and died, and whose façade conversion was designed by the architect himself in 1910. It's a good example of his understanding of Sezession style.

14 HOUSE ON SANT JOSEP, 26.

The front was reformed in 1908 by Mr. Timoteo Briet. It stands out the band worked in stone like a frieze.

15 CASA LAPORTA ON PAÍS VALENCIÀ, 26.

It was renovated by the architect Timoteo Briet in 1904. It stands out its bay balcony made of steel and their beveled green wall tiles.

16 HOUSE ON PAÍS VALENCIÀ, 30.

It was designed by Mr. Jorge Vilaplana Carbonell, in 1911. It stands out the curves in doors and windows and also its historical elements in Moorish tiles and lattice.

17 GARAGE ANNEXED TO THE HOUSE ON PL. D'EMILI SALA, 22.

Garages built in 1905 by Mr. Timoteo Briet, on the rear of the Casa Laporta. The façade is defined by a facing brick construction.

18 OLD FACTORIES ON SANT JOAN 43 AND 45.

They were built by Mr. Timoteo Briet in 1915. In the first one, they stand out the hanging circles or squares in Sezession style and the hoses in forge in the second one.

19 HOUSE ON CAPELLÀ BELLOCH, 9.

It was designed by Mr. Timoteo Briet in 1910. Note the twisted stone rectangles on the front as well as the iron enclosed balcony.

20 HOUSES ON BARTOLOMÉ J. GALLARDO 1, 3 AND 5.

They were designed in 1905 by Mr. Timoteo Briet. It stands out the curvilinear ornamental tops and the green tiles in both buildings of the ends.

21 HOUSE ON JOAN CANTÓ, 10.

House built in 1907 by Mr. Vicente Pascual. It is highlighted the smooth and textured granulated blocks of stone and the wavy shapes.

22 HOUSE ON JOAN CANTÓ, 8.

Designed by the architect Vicente Pascual in 1906. It stands out the different types of stone blocks.

23 CASA DE ESCALÓ ON JOAN CANTÓ, 2.

It was built by Mr. Vicente Pascual in 1906. It is one of the most beautiful and representative buildings of Modernism in the city. In this place, the Municipal Conservatory of Music and Dance "Joan Cantó" has his head office.

24 HYDROELECTRIC SUBSTATION BUILDING ON COLON, 1.

It dates to 1910. It was designed by the architect Timoteo Briet under the Sezession symbols.