

Strand 3: The challenges facing Art Nouveau heritage (looking towards the future)

Definitive abstract for paper presentation at the *coupDefouet* International Congress

The Cistercian monastery of Santa Maria de Valldonzella, a hardly known example of the last Catalan Modernisme architecture

In 2012 we completed a three-year research on the history, architecture and art of the female Cistercian monastery of Santa Maria Valldonzella in Barcelona, in the period that covers from 1147 to 1922. In this paper, we present the final chapter of the monograph devoted to the last monastery built by and for the community between 1911 and 1922. We focus specifically on the importance of the monastery in the political, social and ecclesiastical context in Barcelona in those years, paying special attention to the social relations among members of the Valldonzella community, the church and the Catalan bourgeoisie. Secondly, we provide an analysis of the building, designed by Bernardí Martorell i Puig, with the following sections: development of the project; feasibility of the Cistercian rules and the full community life patterns; perception of the iconographic program; assimilation of local and foreign architectural models, as well as historicist models (especially German, English and Byzantine models, and Gothic).

Keywords: Valldonzella, Cistercian Order, female monarchism, royal monastery, Modernisme, Barcelona, Catalonia, Bernardí Martorell, Torras i Bages.

El monestir cistercenc de Santa Maria de Valldonzella a Barcelona, un exemple poc conegut d'arquitectura modernista catalana tardana

El 2012 es completava una investigació de tres anys per reconstruir la història, l'arquitectura i l'art del monestir femení cistercenc de Santa Maria de Valldonzella, a Barcelona, des de 1147 a 1922, i retornar-li la visibilitat perduda. En aquesta comunicació presentem el darrer capítol de la monografia, dedicat a l'últim monestir construït per i per a la comunitat, en el primer quart del segle XX. Ens centrem específicament en la importància del monestir en la història política, social i religiosa de Barcelona en aquells anys, prestant una especial atenció a les relacions socials entre membres de la comunitat, de l'Església i de la burgesia catalana. Segonament, aportem un estudi de l'edifici, obra de Bernardí Martorell i Puig: com es gesta el projecte; adaptació als preceptes Cistercencs i a la vida comuna; disseny d'un programa iconogràfic acurat; assimilació de models arquitectònics locals i forans, així com

historicistes (especialment alemanys, anglesos i bizantins, així com gòtic).

Paraules clau: Valldonzella, Cister, monaquisme femení, monestir reial, Modernisme, Barcelona, Catalunya, Bernardí Martorell, Torras i Bages.

Curriculum Vitae

Margarida Güell i Baró, Antoni Albacete i Gascón

M.Güell has a Bachelor's degree in Art History from the Universitat de Barcelona (UB) and a DEA from Paris IV–La Sorbonne. Her current main research fields are the Monastery of Santa Maria de Valldonzella and the catalogue raisonné of the French academic painter Félix Barrias (1822-1907). A.Albacete has a Bachelor's degree and a DEA in History from the UB, as well as a Bachelor's degree in Archives and Records Management from the Universitat Autònoma of Barcelona. His current main research topics are the Monastery of Valldonzella and the slavery in Medieval Catalonia (Phd research topic)