

The construction of the theater "El Siglo".

Example of economic and cultural project, originated by the ideas of progress at the end of the 19th century.

The "El Siglo" theater in Carlet, is an example of a collective and private initiative, in the late 19th century, built with the proposal of having a theatrical venue for the citizens of the city of Carlet and nearby. For its implementation up to 26 people formed as a partnership with the aim of promote and finance its construction.

This fact demonstrates the interest about the culture and business innovation of the citizens of Carlet, consistent with the ideas of modernity and progress that began to break through that historic moment, but it is also indicative of the beginning of a new era characterized by the economic impact of the improvements in agriculture and the subsequent boom meant for farmers of the village, about the export of their fruits such as the orange with the momentum of the early rail lines, in short the good economic times made easy a private patronage, which contributed decisively to make possible the financing of several modernist buildings.

The construction of the "El Siglo" theater started in 1880, taking place the inauguration on February 2, 1889.

Therefore, represents a clear example of the Art Nouveau movement, which in Carlet can be dated between 1880 and 1936, period in which appear different buildings with these characteristics, such as the old Hospital 'La llum', (nowadays a residence for people with functional diversity), historicist building of 1858-1890; the Drinking water tanks of Eugenio de Ondovilla know by the inhabitants as 'Els pinets', dated in 1928 (today a protected Park where you can visit the old water tanks); the school 'El Parque', protected enclosure of Francisco Mora Berenguer, dated in 1926; the railway station of Francisco Mora Berenguer, or the market of Mariano Peset of 1934. These buildings can be visited, in addition to the numerous existing facades on the 'Major' street, all of them also of this period plenty of art nouveau, secessionist and historicist.

It is, in short, a whole set of historical buildings that can be visited together, also with the theater "El Siglo", which constitutes one of the most emblematic buildings of those which make up this modernist route.

The theater 'El Siglo' has a facade in two bodies of arcades that was ended by a clear modernist lines wavy pediment. A wide frieze separates the wavy pediment. Two thin piers corner is ended with two rosettes identical to existing in the College of San Pio V in Valencia (18th century).

The building interior recreates the forms of a classic italian theatre with the stage with moat and proscenium, orchestra and decoration enhanced with italian hand-made iron. There are two levels of boxes and a third level also with a gods (known in valencian as 'galliner'), with enough space for more spectators.

In the decade of the 1920s the fronton was modified, changing the circular window of the finish to a rectangular cover in arch.

In addition to its undeniable ethnological and historical patrimonial value by virtue of the reasons exposed above, we must also highlight the emotional and sentimental significance for the citizens of Carlet due to the special circumstances that became during his existence. So have shown residents and associations in many occasions. In fact, his rehabilitation was, even, one of the most voted in the first edition of the participative budgets allocated by the City Council of Carlet.

Responding to this demand made for the citizens, the Council has requested the inclusion of this project in the grants announced for local projects of the local entities of the Valencian Community for the conservation or recovery protection on goods the Valencian cultural heritage and its value, that can be co-financed by the ERDF operational programme of the Valencian Community 2014-2020, since this is a major performance with a significant economic cost.

Collaterally, this rehabilitation will allow to increase the tourist attractions that the city already has.