

Art Nouveau

> [Map of Olot \(pdf - 5308 kb\)](#)

ART NOUVEAU IN OLOT - Highlighted route -

Olot's Art Nouveau is one of the city's most captivating features and is well complemented by a succession of numerous shady avenues. Other interesting architectural styles are to be found in the cloister of El Carme and the churches of El Tura and Sant Esteve.

The Museum of Saints - a living cultural showcase where religious images are manufactured - is the newest addition to the list of Olot's museums, which already includes the Garrotxa Museum (Museu Comarcal), the Volcanoes Museum and the Can Trincheria Museum-House.

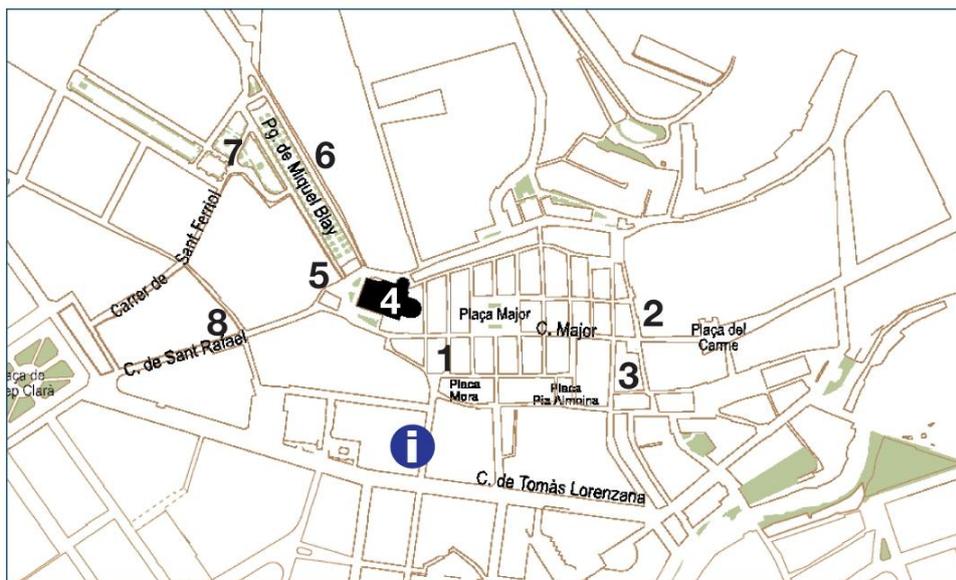
Scattered throughout the city's streets art-lovers will delight in the other artistic monuments that are on display.

Modernisme - the Catalan version of the Art Nouveau or Modern Style artistic current - reached its apogee in Catalonia at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries. Its principal points of reference were the Romanesque and Gothic styles in its emphasis on hand-crafted artisan work, traditional artistic techniques and carefully selected materials such as stone, tiles from Valencia, ceramics and wrought iron.

It is characterised by its rich decoration with ambiguous shapes and forms. Its sculptures and mosaics are reminiscent of oriental and Byzantine art, and organic floral motifs are nearly always present on façades and balconies. Modernisme greatly influenced the urban architecture of Olot and its influence can be seen in the work of architects and artists such as Alfred Paluzie, Josep Azemar, Lluís Domènech i Muntaner and the sculptor Miquel Blay.

The Art Nouveau route begins in the centre of the town where the majority of the most relevant buildings are to be found, and then heads towards Passeig de Barcelona and the Malagrida suburban development, a good example of a garden city.

This route will enable visitors to discover the riches of this architectural style that are present in Olot.



1. PASTISSERIA FERRER (1907, Alfred Paluzie)

In Plaça Móra, also known as Font de l'Àngel due to the Baroque fountain with a sculpted angel located in its centre, we find the Art Nouveau pastry shop 'Patisserie Ferrer', whose façade is adorned with floral motifs and wrought-iron balconies with whiplash lines.

Entry into this delightful shop, with its magnificent ceiling, is a must, as is a taste of one of the elaborate pastries that the Ferrer family has been creating for over a century.

2. CASA PUJADOR (1911-1912, Josep Azemar i Pont)

This is one of the best-known houses in Olot and is to be found on the corner of Carrer del Carme and Mare de Déu del Portal, next to the small square of Plaça del Conill. The whole building including the cylindrical tower on one corner is characterised by the use of worked stone. The stone used is reminiscent of Renaissance town houses, albeit with the addition of Gothic ornamentation. Of great merit is the Sacred Heart bas-relief on the tower under a large gallery with barrel vaulting on the first floor. The roofs are covered in multi-coloured hat-shaped ceramic tiles.

3. CASA ESCUBÓS (1906, Alfred Paluzie)

Next door to Casa Pujador, this house faces into Plaça Conill and the streets of Carrer Major and Baix del Tura. The upper part of its balconies and windows are decorated with compositions full of sinuous curves, adorned by glass-ceramic tiles and floral motifs including green leaves with a red flower in the centre. The façade is pale green.

4. SIDE DOOR OF CHURCH OF SANT ESTEVE (Martí Sureda)

Continuing along the main street (Carrer Major) you come to the church of St Esteve, whose side door is the work of Martí Sureda. The decorative yellow Valencian tiles, with their crosses, stand out. It is also worth taking note of the access ramp, adorned with typical Art Nouveau organic motifs, and the gardens that were redesigned in 1906.

5. CASA GAJETÀ VILA (1901 - 1905, Alfred Paluzie)

Opposite the church of Sant Esteve across the square Rector Ferrer stands Casa Gaietà Vila, one of the most representative of all the Art Nouveau buildings in Olot. Like some of the other Art Nouveau buildings in Olot, the design of this house has clear medieval influences, exemplified in this case by the crenellations that crown its façade.

This house is notable for the variety of its decoration that includes plants, animal and dragon motifs, and an abundance of wrought iron.

White and green glass-ceramic tiles highlight the shapes of the windows and provide a pleasant contrast to the dark red colours that otherwise predominate on the façade. The balcony railings are gracefully curved outwards.

These artistic elements confer on this building its own particular identity and make it an ideal site for a café (in the past) and the Llibreria Drac, a book-shop, its current occupant.

6. CASA SOLA MORALES (1913 - 1916, Lluís Domènech i Montaner)

On the street of Passeig de Blay (also known as El Firal) a stop outside a magnificent façade designed by Lluís Domènech i Montaner is a must. This house was included in the European Art Nouveau Route in 2000, a fact that speaks volumes for its interest and reveals that it is an essential stop for all those interested in the subject.

Lluís Domènech wisely respected the characteristics of the house - the order, arrangement and shape of the old Baroque balconies - and added the sgraffito on the exterior that gives it an additional elegance.

Domènech reformed the whole upper stories of the house and built an arched gallery with 12 columns crowned by capitols and barrel vaults.

The barbican, daringly overhanging the street below, is decorated by tiles from Valencia, with

yellow floral motifs that stand out from between the beams. The whole ground floor was reformed using stone from Avinyonet.

7. SCULPTURE "LA LECTURA" (Miquel Blay)

At the end of Passeig del Firal, just where the Firalet begins, we find this sculpture - 'The Reading' - by Miquel Blay.

It is sculpted out of Girona stone and is dedicated to the Uruguayan politician and teacher, José Pedro Varela from Montevideo, also known as 'The Reformer'.

It depicts a young girl and two small boys reading a book.

8. CASA GASSIOT (1911 - 1912, Alfred Paluzie)

In the centre of Olot in the street Sant Rafel we find the Gassiot house. It stands on a corner and its façade has clear medieval influences with twin neo-Gothic arches. The wrought-iron balcony and decorations are eye-catching. In the centre of the façade there is an eagle sculpted in relief, an allegoric reference to the medical profession, and the sculpture 'The X-ray', the speciality of the doctor who once owned the house.

Other Art Nouveau buildings of interest in Olot:

CASA MAS COLLELLMIR (1910, Alfred Paluzie)

At number 7 of the street Tomàs de Lorenzana we find Mas Collellmir, a house with a beautiful gallery supported by three undulating buttresses. The upper part of the gallery is decorated with a tile frieze and a row of floral motifs. On top there is a crest, also composed of floral motifs. Above each side of the house door there is a railing decorated with the letter 'M' corresponding to the abbreviation of the name Miquel Mas.

CASA SIBIDÍ (1916)

At nº 3 Sant Rafel street we find Casa Sibidí, whose façade is crowned with superb organic motifs.

TORRE PONS I TUSQUETS (1916-1917, Albert Blasco i Ochoa)

In the Malagrida suburb (nº 13, Passeig de Barcelona), there is a grand house surrounded by gardens with wooden balconies, a corner tower, a gallery and beautiful columns on the main entrance steps.

CASA MASLLORENS

At the beginning of Sant Cristòfor street we find the impressive Casas Masllorens. Its three brick balconies on the first floor are adorned with two-headed eagles, two on each of the side balconies and seven in the centre. The balustrades on the balconies on the first floor are decorated with two rows of clover-leaved flowers, one on top of the other.

The decoration that unites the two central windows on the second floor and the central windows on the first floor also boasts floral motifs, including in the upper part the head of a winged angel.

CARRER FONTANELLA, NÚMERO 14

If the front door is open you can see inside a magnificent hall decorated in tiles from Valencia and a fine decorated wrought-iron bannister.

CASA RIERA

Nest-door to the Solà Morales house, this building has interesting floral motifs and Art Nouveau decoration on its façade.