



MODERNISM IN FERROL





MODERNISM IN GALICIA AND FERROL

Although the beginnings of Modernism or Art Nouveau are to be found in the figure of Morris and his mid 19th century “Art and Crafts”, which represented a profound appreciation of handcrafted and creative decorative arts, in contrast to the predominant trends of industrialisation and standardisation, this style would not reach Galicia until the early years of the 20th century.

This explains why Modernism in Galicia is characterised by eclectic rather than pure forms, featuring classic elements as well as others dating back to the 19th century, incorporating technical improvements and modernist decorative elements. Ferrol offers a considerable number of examples of this type of architecture, but it is also in evidence throughout Galicia, in the cities of A Coruña, Vigo and Santiago de Compostela, and to a lesser extent in the towns of Sada, Corcubión, Ribadeo, Grove, etc. Ferrol boasts a unique system of urban planning. The district of A Magdalena combines the urban rationalism of the Age of Enlightenment with 20th century modernist constructions in a single space. The new buildings in this style, constructed mainly between 1900 and 1925, blended into the original setting and provided the district with an exceptional added value. The most outstanding contribution from the architects of the day was undoubtedly the galleries, not only in terms of their practical usage (they provided heat and acted as a functional transition space), but also as an exceptional decorative element for the façades.

FERROL'S MODERNIST ROUTE

This route takes in the principal examples of the city's modernist architecture. Starting from the Anti-tuberculosis Dispensary on Rúa do Sol, it leads us to Casa Vázquez, on Rúa Pardo Baixo, although the route may also be followed in the opposite direction.

It includes around 20 buildings scattered throughout the city, the majority of which were designed by Rodolfo Ucha Piñeiro, the leading figure in the city's modernist movement, and the city's municipal architect during the first half of the 20th century. The buildings designed by Ucha are indicated by a plaque situated on their façades.

This route also highlights his prolific contribution to the city's architecture, as well as the unique features he included in each of his works.



Anti-tuberculosis Dispensary: 26 Sol St.

An exceptional building featuring a central layout and the elevation of the main body to provide natural lighting for the waiting room. Differentiated ornamental façades. This building combines features traditionally used in this kind of facilities with the modernist elements of the day. It is the work of the architect Julio Galán Carvajal and was built between 1908 and 1911.



Soup Kitchen: 29 Rubalcava St.

A single storey construction with a gable roof inspired by the French mansard roofs. Particularly worthy of notice is the rich colours of the coverings and the symmetrical layout of the recesses. A decorative section is situated over the roof at the height of the main door. The building was designed by Rodolfo Ucha, and was constructed during the first decade of the 20th century.



Casa Rodríguez Fernández: 55 Rubalcava St.

A single family home connected on the ground and first floors, in keeping with the style of the day. The façade reflects a simple modernist design, whose focal point is the decorative gable. It was designed by Rodolfo Ucha Piñeiro and built in 1912.



Casa Pereira: 172 María St.

Particularly worthy of note is the compositional freedom of the façade, which contrasts sharply with standard compositions and the lack of flexibility associated with traditional layouts. An elaborate modernist style is in evidence in the bay windows, galleries and balustrades, clearly influenced by the work of Gaudí in Barcelona. The eye is inevitably drawn to the articulation of the three recesses situated on the traditional façade. It is the work of Rodolfo Ucha Piñeiro and was built between 1912 and 1913.



53 Concepción Arenal St.

A two-storey building designed in a square plan in order to make the most of the available space. The galleries are the most outstanding feature of the façade, together with the use of wrought iron on the front-facing balconies, which have been painted black. The roof includes a gable dormer. It was designed and built at the turn of the century by Rodolfo Ucha Piñeiro.



77 Dolores St.

A classic two-storey modernist building where the spaces and recesses have been arranged symmetrically. It features a highly ornamental façade, where the galleries have been replaced with lime-coated balconies. The structure of the parapets and their black-painted wrought iron balustrades form a striking contrast with the white balconies. The façade features a series of bold colours. Particularly eye-catching are the gables that top the three parapets on the top floor. The building was designed and constructed by Rodolfo Ucha in 1916.



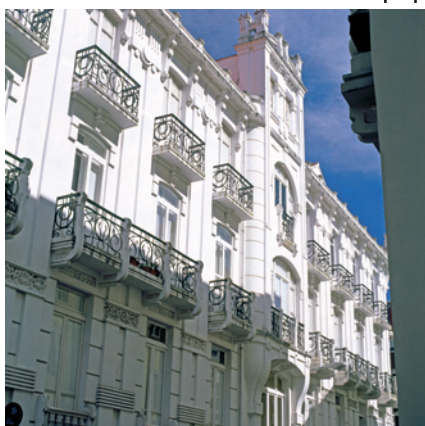
Casa Pereira 2: 64 Dolores St.

Standing on a traditional plot, this building features a modernist façade, where the layout of the bay windows and windows further accentuates the sense of verticality. Each element projects its own sense of personality and unique design. It is the work of Rodolfo Ucha and was built between 1912 and 1915.



Fonda Suíza: 67 Dolores St.

Standing on a traditional corner plot, it was designed as an extension to the original fonda (inn). An intermediate load bearing wall was erected and a further two floors added using oak planks. The façade features parapets and balustrades made from concrete and wrought iron. The Fonda Suiza was designed by Rodolfo Ucha Piñeiro and dates back to between 1909 and 1910.



Casa Rodríguez Trigo: 146 Real St.

This building stands on two opposite plots, and consequently the composition varies considerably from traditional layouts. The formal structure of the façades, with their galleries, bay windows and balustrades, is in the modernist style, but in keeping with the features that characterise the district of A Magdalena. This building was designed by Rodolfo Ucha and dates back to between 1914 and 1915.



ROUTE:

- 1 Anti-tuberculosis Dispensary: 26 Sol St.
- 2 Soup Kitchen: 29 Rubalcava St.
- 3 Casa Rodríguez Fernández: 55 Rubalcava St.
- 4 53 Concepción Arenal St.
- 5 Casa Pereira: 172 María St.
- 6 77 Dolores St.
- 7 Casa Pereira (2): 64 Dolores St.
- 8 Fonda Suíza: 67 Dolores St.
- 9 Casa Rodríguez Trigo: 146 Real St.
- 10 Casa Antón: 18 Pintor Imeldo Corral St.



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- 11 213 Magdalena St.
 - 12 Pescadería: Igrexa St.
 - 13 1 Méndez Núñez St.
 - 14 Correo Gallego: 186 Magdalena St.
 - 15 Casa Romero: 119 Magdalena St.
 - 16 Casa Brañas: 125 Real St.
 - 17 Casa Munduate: 61 Magdalena St.
 - 18 82 Magdalena St.
 - 19 Casa Bruquetas: 4 Igrexa St.
 - 20 Casa Vázquez: 25 Pardo Baixo St.



Casa Antón: 18 Pintor Imeldo Corral St.

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This exceptional, highly original building was designed as a single family home. The spaces are distributed on three floors: the ground floor was destined for daily life, whilst the two upper floors were used at night. The façade features several outstanding elements such as the modernist corner bay windows, the attic dormers or the pergola situated at the entrance, all of which add to the originality of this building. One of Ucha's greatest achievements, it was built between 1918 and 1919.

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213 Magdalena St.

This building reflects to perfection the structural system that can be observed in most of the city's modernist buildings. This three-storey square plan building features galleries on the front of each floor. In addition, the galleries on the first floor share the space reserved for the balcony. Worthy of note is the use of wrought iron for the geometric decorative elements on the balcony. The roof includes an additional section in the shape of a French dormer. It was built during the early years of the 20th century and was designed by Rodolfo Ucha Piñeiro.



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Fish Market: Igrexa St.

A rectangular-shaped pavilion with a zinc roof and metal trussing, with an elevation to allow for ventilation. Especially striking is the easy access and the inclusion of a fountain in the middle for hygiene. The elaborate modernist style of the façade was somewhat lost over the long construction period, and due to the extension to its original size. It was designed by Rodolfo Ucha and the building work lasted for a considerable time, from 1910 to 1923.

1 Méndez Núñez St.

This building stands on a corner site of the block. The sense of verticality of its floors is particularly striking. The façade features several balustrades with their corresponding wrought iron balconies. The combination of straight and curved lines creates a spectacular effect. This building was designed and built during the 1920s by the architect Rodolfo Ucha Piñeiro.



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Correo Gallego: 186 Magdalena St.

Restoration and extension work was carried out on these former business premises, which occupied the basement and ground floor. These plots feature the most typical styles to be seen in this area of the city, known as the Ensanche or 'extension'. The façade features three balustrades, and stands out for the elaborate and costly design of the capitals and wrought iron that personalise this building. It was designed by Rodolfo Ucha Piñeiro between 1912 and 1913.

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Casa Romero: 119 Magdalena St.

Here we find two types of traditional plots: two corner and one intermediate sites. Pitch pine was used in the construction of this building. Positioned next to the traditional floor layout we find a large number of windows and bay windows decorated in an elaborate modernist style in which meticulous attention has been paid to even the smallest of details. Rodolfo Ucha Piñeiro designed this building between 1909 and 1910.

Casa Brañas: 125 Real St.

This small-scale corner plot is the site of a two-storey single family home. The bay windows, balustrades and galleries were made from wood and wrought by skilled craftsmen, and feature a traditional modernist design. This building is the work of Rodolfo Ucha and dates back to between 1913 and 1914.

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Casa Munduate: 61 Magdalena St.

The most outstanding feature of this building in terms of its modernist design, is the exterior finishing and wrought iron work, as the rest of the building fits in with the traditional style associated with this type of house. The size of the plot and the composition of the various sections of the façade comply with the prototype layout of these buildings. It was designed by Rodolfo Ucha and built in 1910.



82 Magdalena St.

A typical modernist construction that stands out for the height of its three floors. The layout of the various spaces reflects a play on symmetry, formed by the galleries, together with the use of lime-coated wood and wrought iron. The most striking architectural feature is its luminosity and the sense of stylistic renewal it projects. It was built during the second decade of the 20th century by the architect Rodolfo Ucha Piñeiro.



Casa Bruquetas: 4 Igreja St.

Here, the work consisted of the inclusion of a gallery on the second floor and the addition of a third floor, which also features a corridor gallery. This modernist design in wood and glass completely altered the appearance of the building. The layout is similar to other buildings constructed on small plots. The work was carried out by the architect Rodolfo Ucha Piñeiro between 1912 and 1914.



Casa Vázquez: 25 Pardo Baixo St.

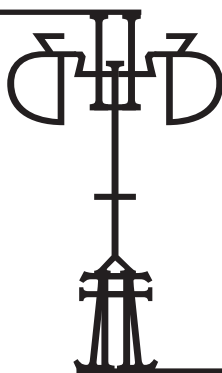
In this case, a second and third floor were added, and galleries were incorporated onto the façade. In addition, the existing bay windows were adapted to the modernist style, completely transforming the character of this building. The work was carried out by Rodolfo Ucha Piñeiro between 1913 and 1914.

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