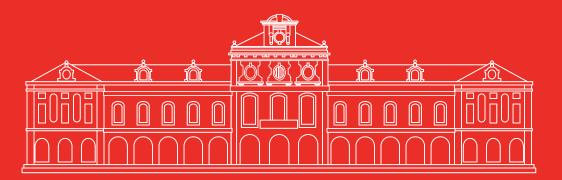
The Palace of Parliament

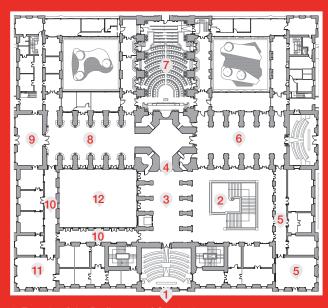


We invite you to visit the seat of the Parliament of Catalonia, one of the oldest in the world, and find out how it operates. Make a booking for your preferred date and time and an expert guide will take you on a tour of the most iconic parts of the palace, tell you about the building's history and explain the work of the Parliament and the 135 Members of Parliament who represent the people of Catalonia. Tours are free and last for 45 minutes.



Bookings:

https://www.parlament.cat/aulaparlament



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Facade of the Parliament of Catalonia (1716-1746)



The façade of the Parliament of Catalonia bears witness to the historic nature of this governmental institution, which is now housed in this building of red brick and Montjuïc stone. The structure was designed at the start of the 18th century by the Flemish military engineer Joris Prosper van Verboom (1665-1744), following the fall of Barcelona in 1714 during the War of the Spanish Succession.

The complex was built in order to create a storage depot for weapons and munitions, and formed part of the military citadel that was built on the orders of King Philip V in 1716 for the purpose of subduing the citizens of Barcelona.

Nowadays, the façade is dominated by Noucentisme-style sgraffito, which was added by Barcelona's municipal architect, Pere Falqués (1850-1916), when the old arsenal was converted into a royal palace in 1889. Also of note are the two wings, which were built by the same architect and added in 1915. They were decorated with 28 busts of Catalan artists when the complex was put to use as a municipal art museum in 1900. In 1932, Barcelona City Council donated the building so that it could be used as the seat of the Parliament of Catalonia.

Grand staircase (1892-1930)



The grand staircase links the ground floor, where the arsenal's gun carriages were originally kept, to the Parliament's main floor. The white marble used for the steps and balustrade is a reminder of the majesty of the former royal palace. Today, the grand staircase is one of the most opulent features of the Parliament of Catalonia.

In the vestibule, to the left of the staircase, there are a number of cabinets that were installed in 1932. This is where the Members of Parliament left their hats before going up to the main floor and entering the Assembly Hall.

The grand staircase is covered by an extraordinary Catalan Art Nouveau-style skylight made of wood, wrought iron and glass panels, decorated by the master glazier Martí Carbonell and the painter Pere Graner. The overall design is the work of Pere Falgués, who wanted to maximise the light and create a sense of transparency.

Hall of Candelabras (1890-1932)



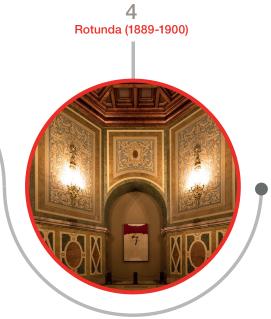
The Hall of Candelabras, designed by Pere Falqués in 1890, is dominated by eight bronze candelabras decorated with a mixture of plant

The decoration of this grand vestibule was coordinated by the architect Josep Goday and the interior decorator Santiago Marco. It was completed just days before the building was used as the seat of the Parliament for the first time.

and animal motifs.

The Hall is decorated with a grisaille mural and 24 figures from Greek and Roman mythology, drawn using the sanguine technique and representing allegories of peace and justice. This type of decoration, which adopts the trompe-l'oeil approach, is frequently found on neoclassical ceilings and walls. These particular figures were added by Josep Pey in 1932.

On the ceiling of the Hall, towards the central octagon, there are the coats of arms of the House of Bourbon and the city of Barcelona, overlaid and held up by two putti, designed by Pere Falqués.



The Rotunda lies at the centre of the Parliament building. Octagonal in shape, it is crowned by a dome whose interior comprises a skylight made from wood and glass, designed by Santiago Marco.

The main decoration for this space was crafted at the studio of Vilaró i Valls and consists of multicoloured stucco sculpted to form geometric figures in the Art Deco style.

In the central section of the Rotunda there is a painting by Antoni Tàpies titled The 7th of November, which commemorates the Catalan Assembly of 1971. The artwork was donated by the Antoni Tàpies Foundation in 2005 to mark the 25th anniversary of the reopening of the Parliament of Catalonia on 10 April 1980.

Chamber 4 and committee room corridor (1889-1900)



Towards the end of the 19th century, when this building was still a royal palace, Chamber 4 was intended to house the study of the Queen Regent of Spain, Maria Christina of Austria. In 1932, after the building had become the seat of the Parliament, it was used for meetings of the Catalan Republican Government.

The ceilings are a showcase for the extraordinary creativity of Pere Falqués, with a masterful combination of marble and wood that transforms the iron beams into veritable gems of architecture.

Pere Falqués commissioned the metalwork from La Maquinista - Sociedad de Materiales para Ferrocarril y Construcción and the firm Wolguenet i Torras (1899).



The Grey Hall comprises the right-hand wing of the transverse nave, and is one of the Deputies' Galleries. Its current appearance, with pilasters made of grey marble and conglomerate, was designed by the architect Pere Falqués in 1889 when the arsenal was being converted into a royal palace.

Pere Falqués conceived this space as a grand banqueting hall; however, the palace was never used as a royal residence. Between 1902 and 1931, when the building was being used as a municipal art museum, this Hall housed a variety of paintings and sculptures.

The Grey Hall provides access to the current Press Room, built in 2010, which provides a place for journalists to work and hosts press conferences.



The Assembly Hall occupies the rectangular space that Pere Falqués had intended to serve as the Throne Room. The adaptation work was coordinated by Santiago Marco, a pioneering figure in the world of domestic architecture. Under his direction, the space took on its definitive form and acquired its current semi-circular layout in 1933.

In the upper part of the Hall, Santiago Marco opened up a number of elliptical oeil-de-boeuf windows, covered by panes of glass decorated with classical plant motifs in the Catalan Art Nouveau architectural style. The glass was designed by Granell i companyia, the studio that succeeded Rigalt, which was the leading glazier at the time.

The seats and other furniture in the Assembly Hall are made of oak and Flemish pine. The carpenter and designer Josep Mainar, instructed by Santiago Marco, helped to ensure that this semi-circle fitted perfectly within the columns of Tortosa marble and lonic capitals of bronze that were made for the royal palace by the master craftsman Lluís Nogués.



The Pink Hall lies to the left of the transverse nave and comprises the other Deputies' Gallery.

When this building was a royal palace, the architect Pere Falqués designed this space to be used as a ballroom. Today, this historic legacy is reflected in the ten decorative columns, which stand out for their short shafts, Ionic bases and capitals decorated with large acanthus leaves, culminating in latticework necking above large corbels. Towards the bottom of the columns, beneath the corbels, there are stone seats where people could sit and converse.

The antique rugs in the Pink Hall and the rest of the rooms were commissioned by the Parliament in 1934 from the workshop of Tomàs Aymat in Sant Cugat del Vallès. On 11 November 1992, the Parliament and Barcelona Provincial Council signed the record of receipt and delivery of the rugs, which had been stored in the headquarters of the Provincial Council for the duration of Franco's dictatorship.



The Presidential Office is the official place of work of the President of the Parliament, where he or she receives institutional delegations and meets visitors. The ceiling is decorated in the characteristically creative style of Pere Falqués. Throughout the rest of the Office, the design combines marble elements, decorated beams and a recreation in painted wood of the diaphragm arches in the Catalan Gothic style used in civic architecture.

The upper panel above the main door bears the coat of arms of the Generalitat (Government of Catalonia), which was commissioned by the interior decorator Santiago Marco in 1932 and is another reference to the Parliament's republican history.

On the way out of the Office and on the left-hand side, the ceilings of the rooms occupied by the presidential services, which evoke vaulted ceilings, domes and spherical segments, inspired Falqués to give the exposed brickwork a monumental appearance as a tribute to the skill of Catalan bricklayers.

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Vice Presidents' and Secretaries' corridor (1889)



The gallery that runs around the east side of the inner left courtyard serves as a corridor providing access to the offices of the Vice Presidents of the Bureau of the Parliament, the Bureau Chamber and the Board of Spokespersons. The coffered ceiling features elements made from wood, marble and metal, like the majority of the offices on the main floor designed by Pere Falqués.

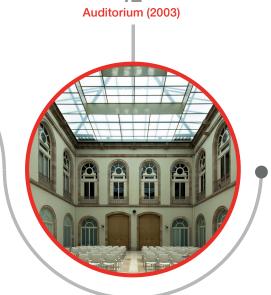
Further on, there is a gallery that runs around the south side of the inner left court-yard, which serves as a corridor providing access to the offices of the Parliament's secretaries and to the inner left staircase. Here, the ceiling incorporates a series of domes atop scallop-shaped structures that are inspired by the Byzantine tradition. On the walls there are niches containing statues of medieval kings from the royal House of Barcelona. The orange-coloured ceramic cladding of this gallery, created by Tarrés i Macià, Josep Molins, Joan Romeu and Jaume Pujol, provides a stark contrast to the other materials (stone, wood and metal) that are used to decorate the building.

Bureau and Board of Spokespersons Chamber (1889)



The Bureau and Board of Spokespersons Chamber is the space where meetings are held to organise the work of the Parliament. The ceiling is characteristic of the style of Pere Falqués, with decorated, wood-clad iron beams that are veritable works of art in themselves.

In front of the oval table is a painting by Joan Miró (1893-1983) titled *Woman*. To the right of this painting are portraits of the presidents of the Parliament, from its creation through to the present day.



This room, which was opened in 2003, was previously one of the courtyards of the old arsenal and one of the last spaces to be used as a museum. Today, the Auditorium hosts institutional events, conferences and large-scale receptions.

It is covered by a cut-glass dome, which was designed by André Ricard and incorporates the Generalitat's coat of arms in the centre. The walls of the courtyard preserve the original balconies and windows designed by Pere Falqués and are topped by the gargoyles of the old arsenal. They exemplify the luminosity of the Mediterranean style: a quality that is especially evident when viewed from the main floor. The marble flooring also bears the Generalitat's coat of arms.