CASA BATLLÓ
GAUDÍ BARCELONA

Gaudí's Hidden Garden

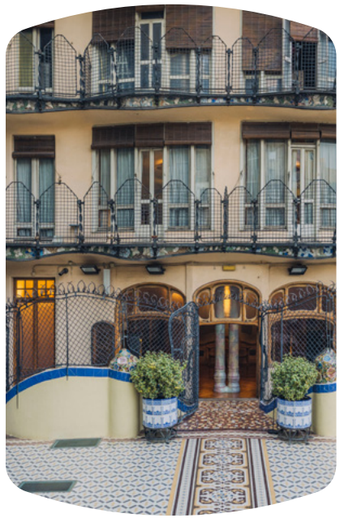
Record of a Historic Restoration: The Back Façade and Private Courtyard of Casa Batlló

















Contents

Back Façade 4

Private Courtyard 10

Materials 16

Trencadís 18

Ironwork 24

Wood 36

Stucco 40

Flooring 44

Hardware 50

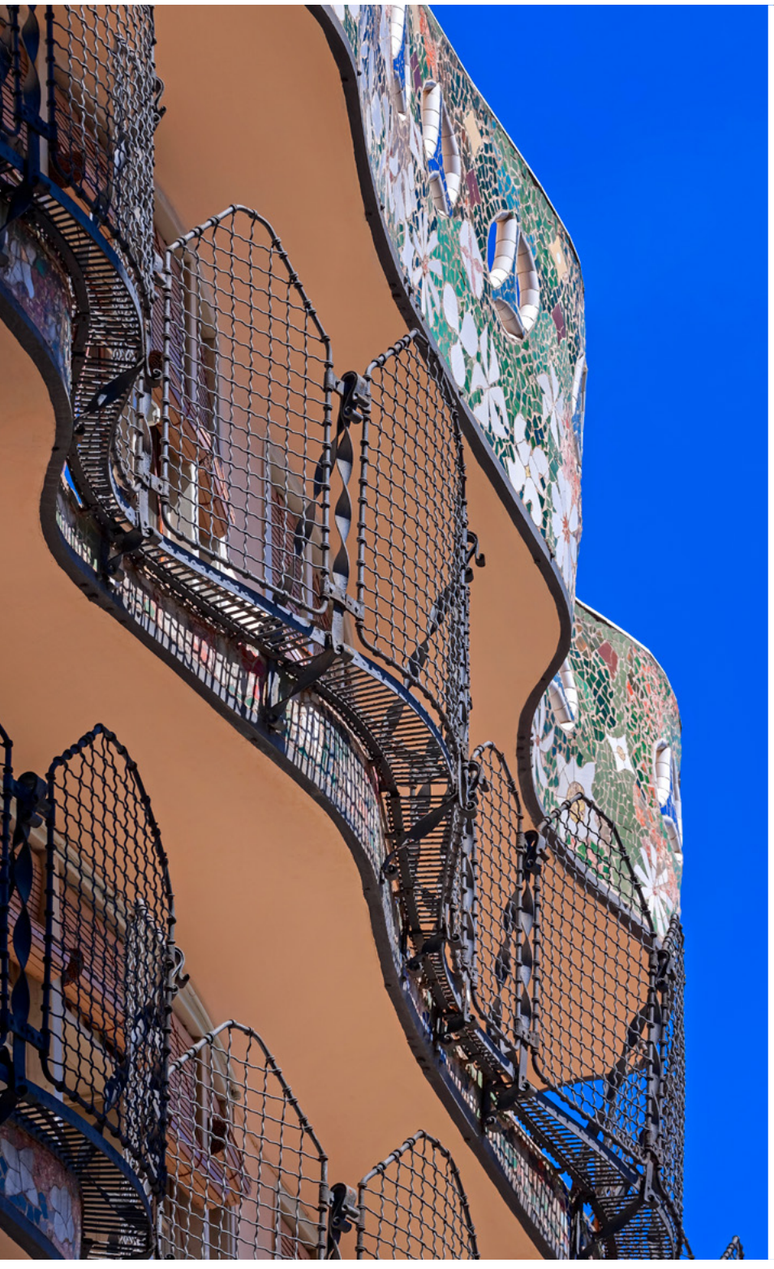
Back Façade

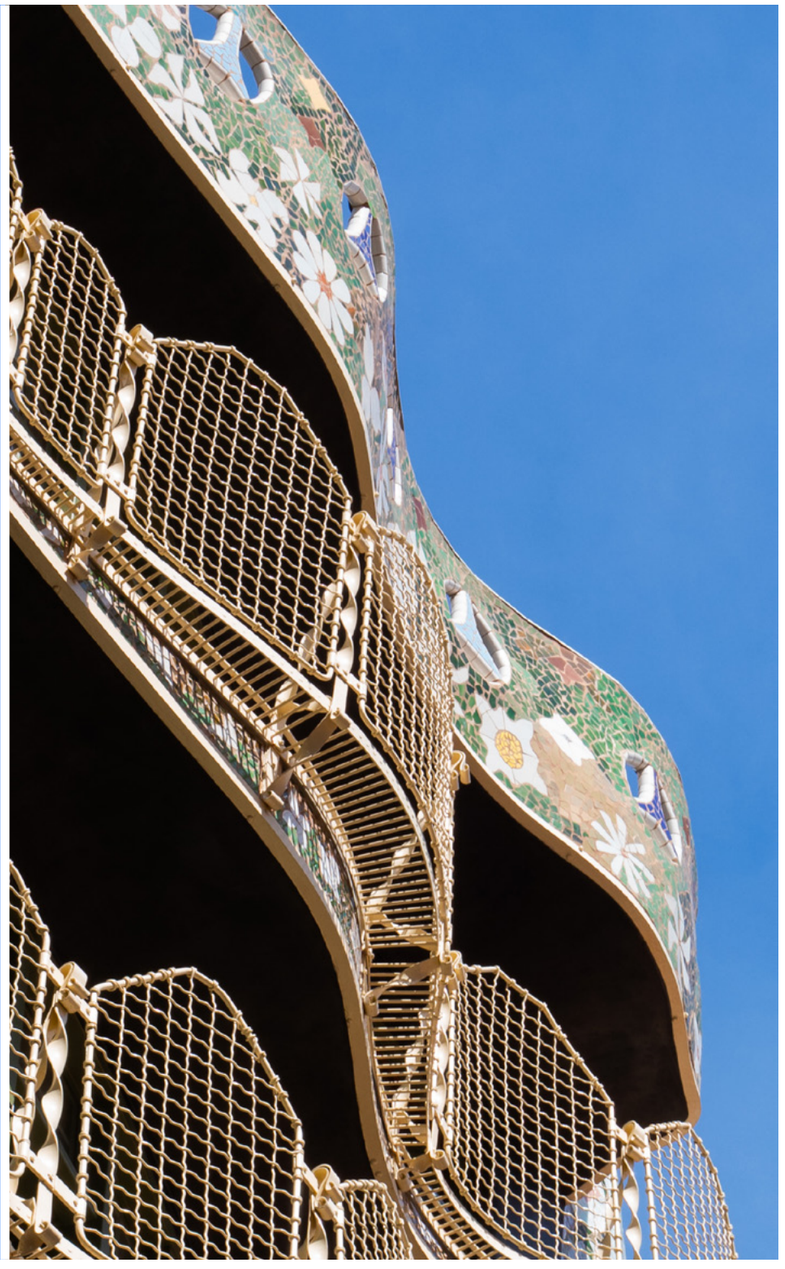
Following partial restorations in the 1950s and 1990s, the first full restoration of Casa Batlló's back façade was completed in 2024. This process uncovered the original colors of the wrought iron, wood, and stucco—long concealed under multiple layers of paint.















Private Courtyard

Designed by Gaudí as a private family retreat, the courtyard was envisioned as a peaceful oasis in the heart of the city, composed of ceramics, glass, and natural materials.



The courtyard's railings, flooring, and rear wall have been restored. Additionally, lost elements such as planters and a pergola covered with heather have been recovered.









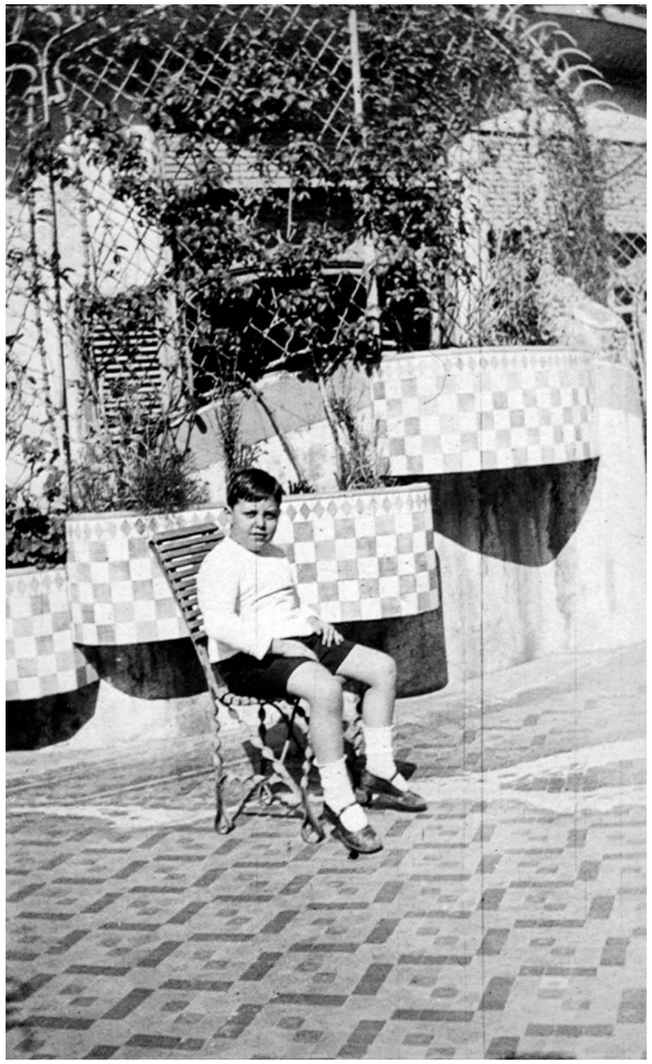




These elements of the courtyard were reproduced thanks to the analysis of old photographs from various archives.









Materials

This restoration highlights the mastery of different artisanal crafts and the skilled individuals who made it possible.





Ceramic and Glass Trencadís

Two restoration teams, Recop and Arcovaleno, collaborated in parallel on the project. The ceramic pieces were restored by master artisan Manel Diestre. Most of the *trencadís* was restored *in situ*, except for pieces that had to be replicated.



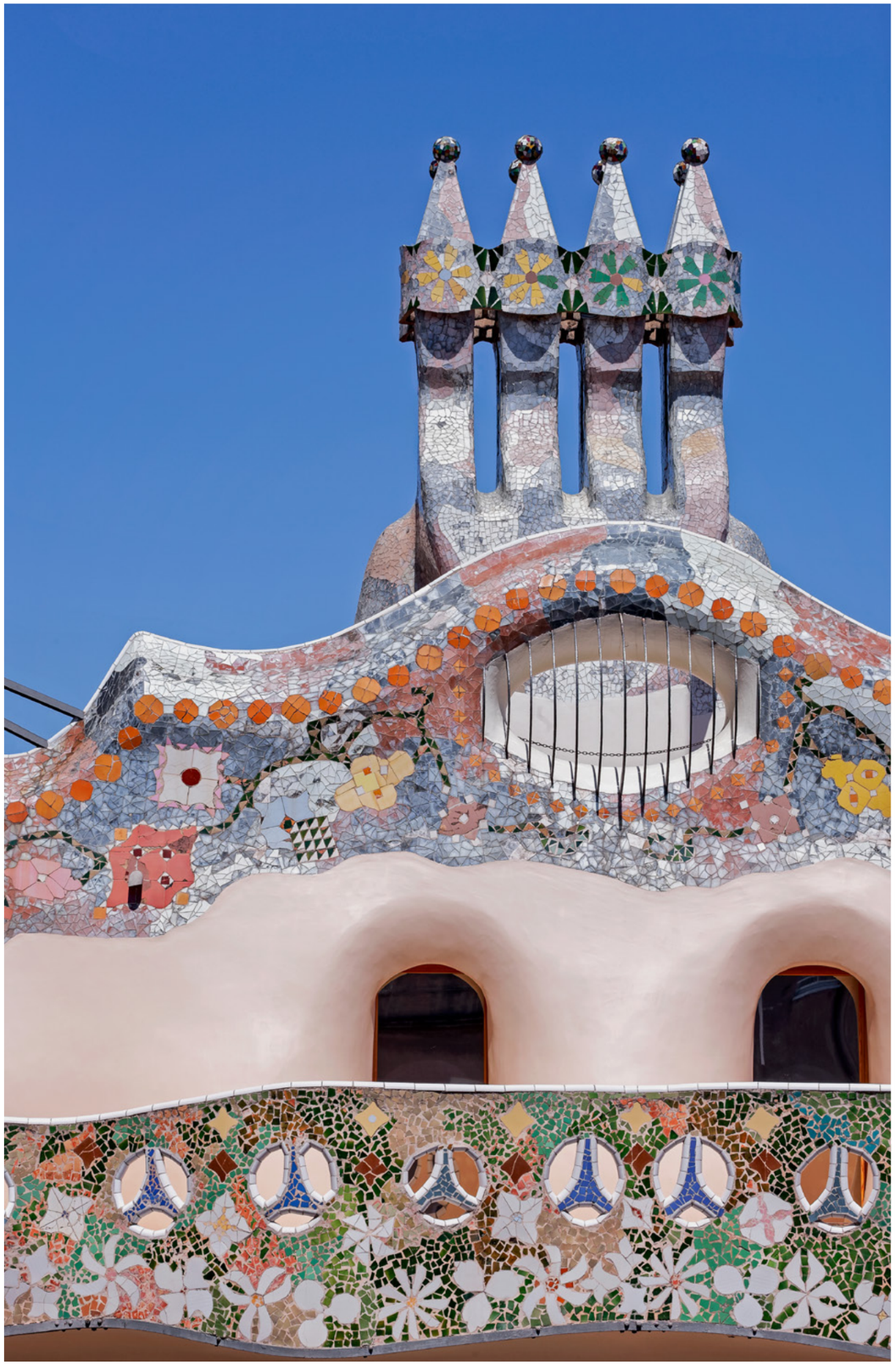








The *trencadís* is present on both the façade and on the courtyard wall. To faithfully restore this puzzle of thousands of fragments, high-resolution scans and archival images were used.















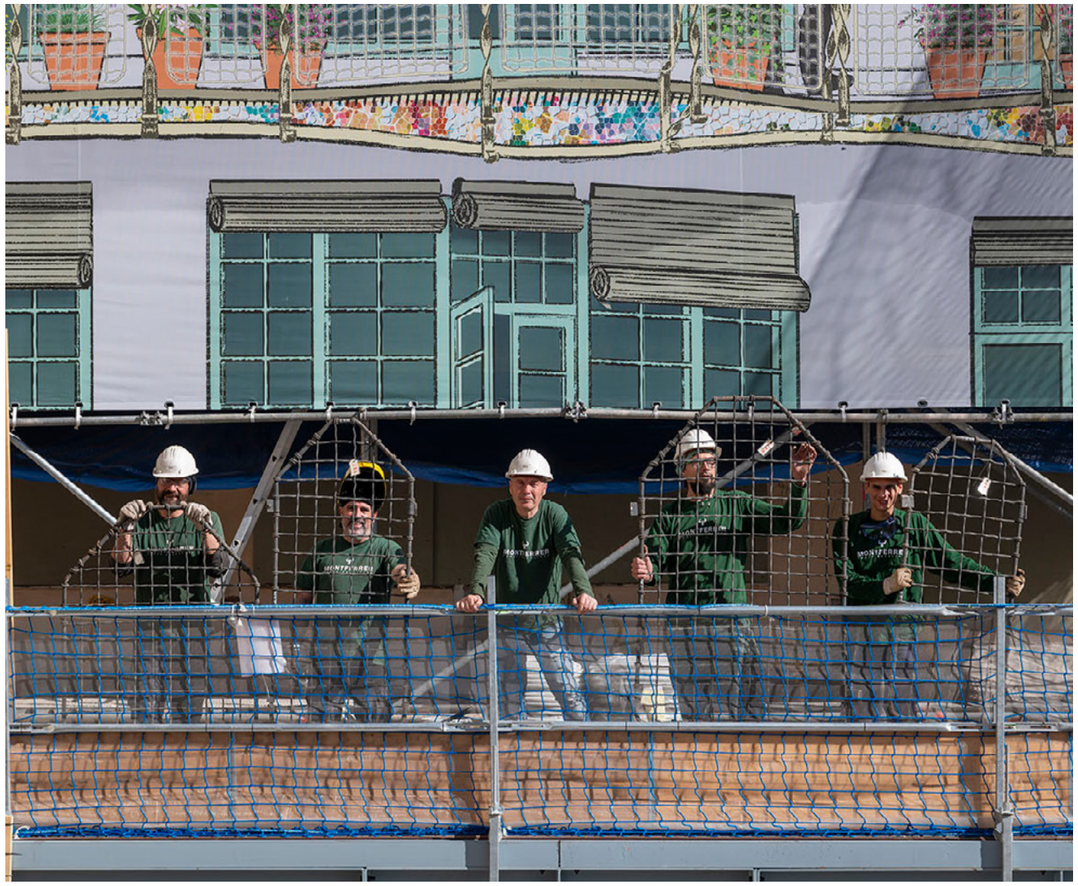


Ironwork

After disassembly and transport, the wrought iron elements were restored by master artisan Enric Pla Montferrer's team at their workshop in Alpens.









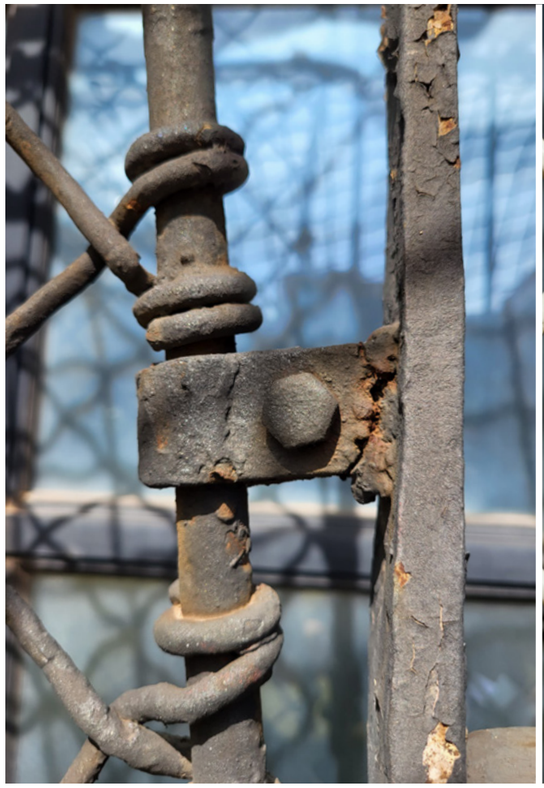


The main restored components were railings, planters, and uprights. In line with UNESCO restoration guidelines, only elements that had lost more than 75% of their original material were replaced.





After the blacksmiths' work, all pieces were polished, primed, and painted with the original color.









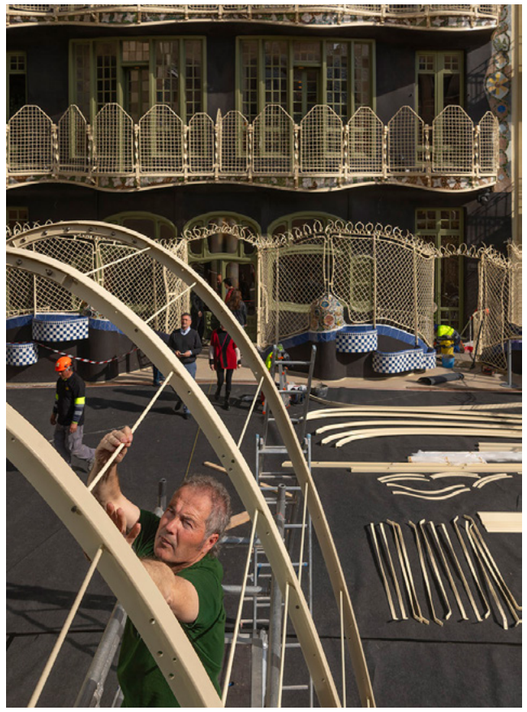




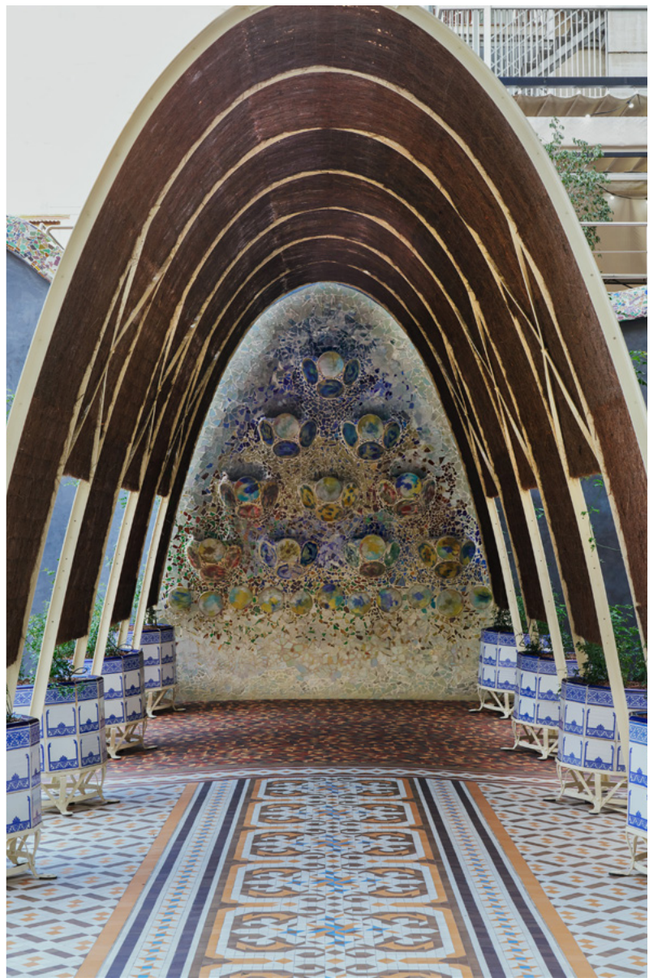


Montferrer's team also replicated the structure of the pergola in the courtyard, which has a parabolic shape.















Another major challenge was the reassembly. Welds added during the last intervention were removed, and the original modular structure using nuts and bolts was reinstated. To ensure precision, virtual reality glasses and a 3D scan of the façade were used.

The system of reinforced vaults supporting the balconies was also restored. Radically innovative for its time, it consists of a mixed structure of brick and iron in a spiral form, never seen before.







During the process, original markings were discovered, indicating the exact position of each piece.

Wood

The wood was restored by heritage carpentry specialist Josep Bartolí and his team. Most of the restoration was carried out at Casa Batlló, with only the necessary pieces replicated in their workshop.











Other restored wooden elements include the original muntins of the windows and doors of the tribunes. The corresponding glass pieces were recreated by Glass Studio.











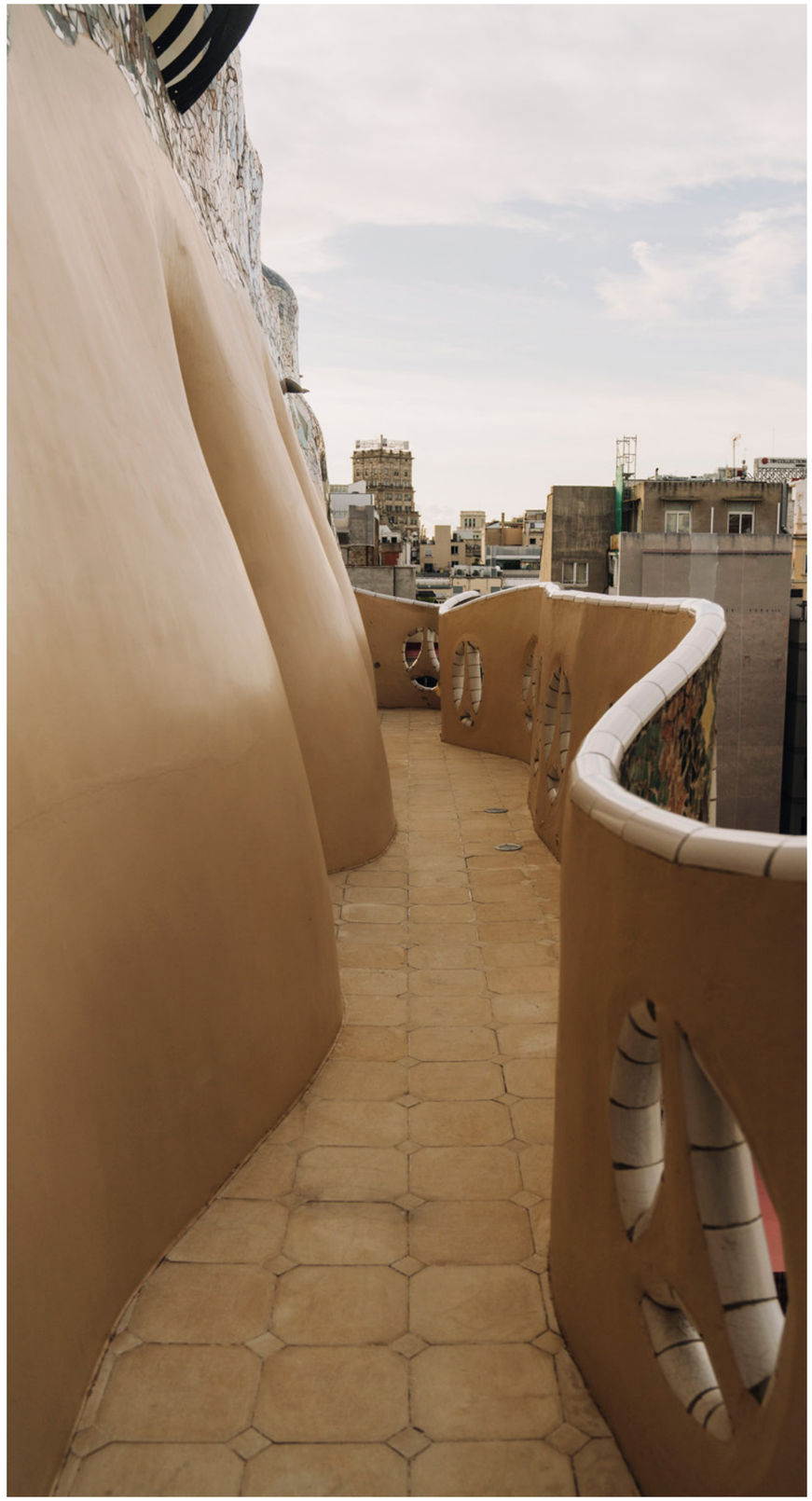
The original color revealed during the restoration matches the green on the wood of the main façade.





Stucco

One of the most significant discoveries was the original stucco color, which changed from cream to black, dramatically altering the appearance of the façade.








Flooring

Restoring the courtyard floor was another major challenge. Comprising 85,000 pieces, it is made of Nolla mosaic, a high-quality ceramic of the era. These were faithfully replicated with enhanced materials to ensure outdoor durability. Thanks to historic photographs, the original pattern from 1906 was recovered.

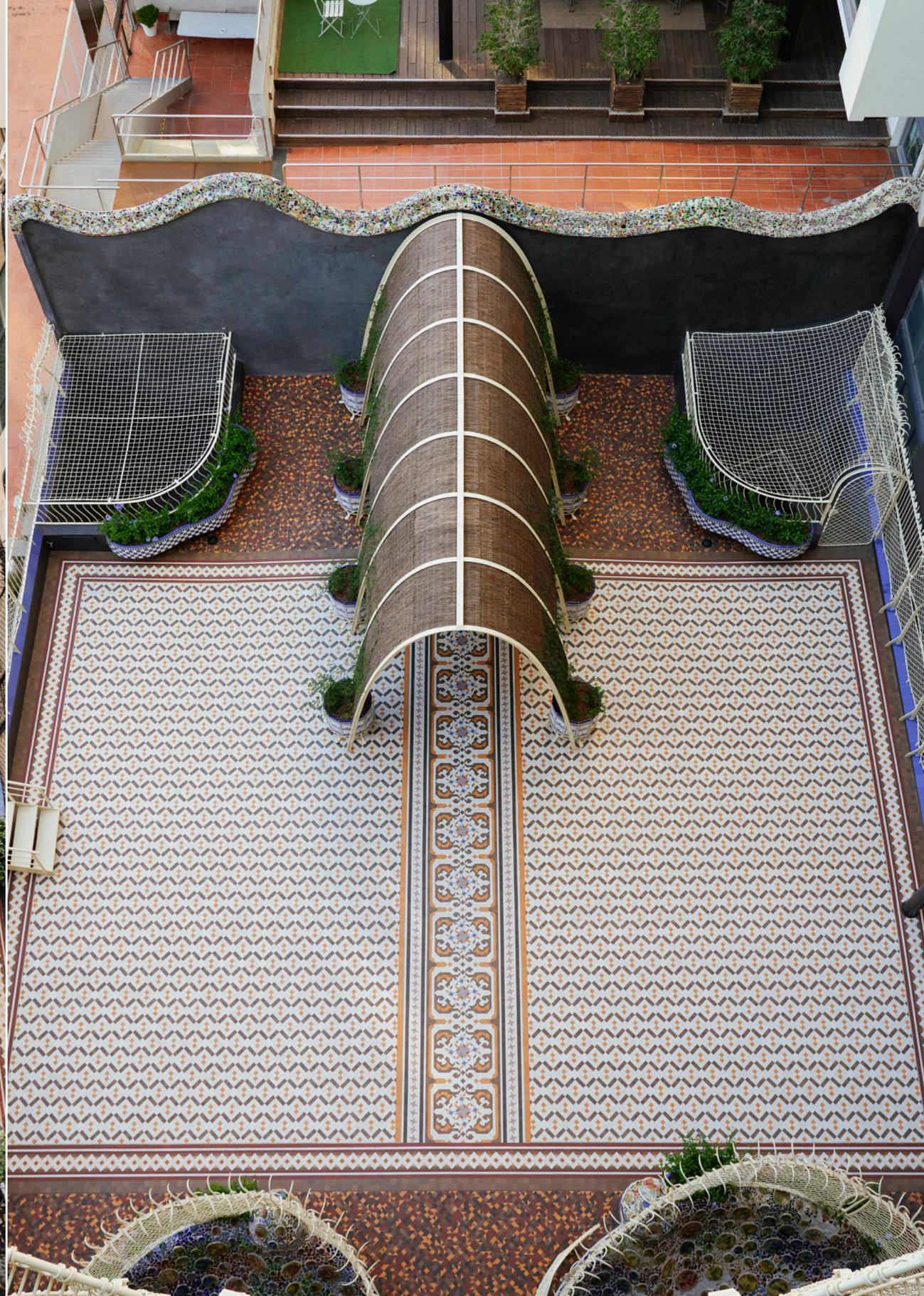
















The balcony flooring was restored by Huguet Rajoles Hidràuliques.





Hardware

The restoration of the doors and windows also included the recovery of numerous original hardware elements - knobs, handrails, handles, bolts, ventilation systems - thanks to the work of the metalworkers at Iberplata.









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Marimón Batlló Family Archive
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