

THE POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH BUILDING IN VALENCIA: PROCESS AND CONSTRUCTIVE SYSTEMS

The Valencia Postal Building is constructed in the period 1915-1923. It was an important piece in the new nation infrastructure of the Maura government for improving the postal services in Spain.

The project was won by D.Miguel Ángel Navarro from Zaragoza, selected in the new postal building competition. The palace, eclectic-style, is well located in the main square of the City, where is the city hall. In those days, postal buildings were claimed to be a symbol of the authority communication, so the new “Casa-Correo” was provided with the best technologies and building systems. It’s a monumental palace and it’s being an important building in our city culture heritage since 1923.

This thesis has a double-main objective which is studies and analyzes the original building systems used in The Postal and Telegraph Building of Valencia, through the historical documentation, archives, graphics and on-site work.

Documents about this Postal Building have been compiled and compared with different historical documentation about early 20th century city of Valencia, Postal Architecture, Communication History and Telegraphs technologies. Besides, we have studied the history of the Valencia Postal Building, which has had two complete restorations between many organization renovations in the last one hundred years.

The original building process has been described as well the new technologies that appear in the moment, and the different works. We have analyzed the original graphic documents in order to drawn perspectives, which describes the building process, based in the traditional trades and the new materials like the reinforced concrete. This task is complemented with elevation and stories plans of the building and the floor tiles: Nolla Mosaic and hydraulic tiles. These tiles laid on all the floor rooms in 1923.

The Valencia Postal Building was renamed “The Communication Palace” when it was finally constructed, and this investigation compiles the new materials technologies and construction systems applied in those days.

This investigation emphasizes the importance of the Postal Building in Valencia, new materials and new technologies have been described in the singular constructive system used in Valencia, in the early 20th century.