



Church of Santa Maria de Barcelos | Mother Church

It was built during the 14th century. The Gothic style construction was built over a Romanesque church, as shown by the architectural elements of the 12th/13th centuries. The Gothic style can be seen in the broken arch portal, the plan floor of three naves and the chancel. From the beginning of the 16th century, date the chevet chapels with its complex vaults. The side chapels date from the 17th century and the Chapel of the Holy Sacrament from the 18th century, as well as the bell tower (of 1708) and the tile panels that cover the inside of the Mother Church, depicting episodes of the Virgin Mary's life. The rose window that tops the Gothic portal was placed during the renovation works in 1929.



Palace of the Counts

It was built between 1406 and 1412, by order of D. Afonso, 8th Count of Barcelos, to be his home. It had a L shape main structure to which was annexed a tower over the bridge, that gave it an interesting volume. Barcelos' population called it, thus, "the castle". The building kept deteriorating over the centuries, until it was offered to the Municipality of Barcelos by the House of Bragança, in 1874. It was classified National Monument in the October 16, of 1910, putting an end to its destruction, leading to some attempts of reconstruction that never managed to restore its original sublimity.

Pillory of Barcelos

Symbol of municipal power, it was originally located in front of the City Hall. Nowadays it's in the garden, surrounded by the Manor of Pinheiros, Mother Church and Palace of the Counts. It's a Manueline masterpiece, from the beginnings of the 16th century (possibly from 1515), with a simple finial surmounted by an octagonal cage.



BARCELOS

A Medieval City to Discover

INFORMATION:

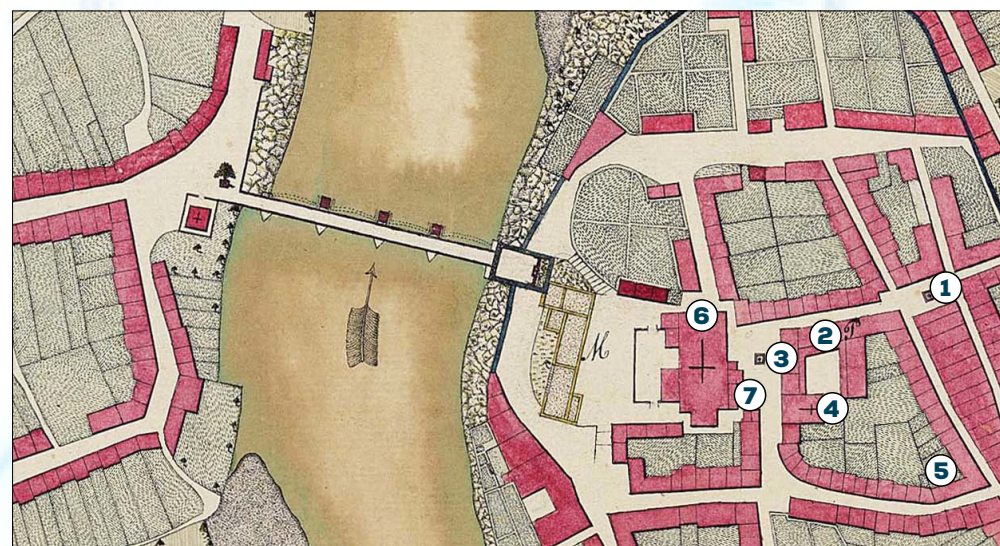
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Barcelos a Medieval City to Discover

We can say that Barcelos' history has always been closely connected to the history of the Kingdom, first with Afonso 1st of Portugal in the 12th century, and later when Denis of Portugal turned it into a County, in 1298. Barcelos' Counts were the great responsible for the emblematic borough constructions; between 1325 and 1330, the Count D. Pedro ordered the construction of the bridge that crosses the Cávado river, ordering, as well, the renovation of the Mother Church. The 8th Count of Barcelos, Afonso (bastard son of the king John the 1st), promoted the construction of the Palace of the Counts and of the town walls, in the beginning of the 15th century.



City Hall in 1903.
Publisher Emílio Biel & C..
Municipal Library of Barcelos.



"Map of the Villa of Barcellos for intelligence information on the quarters of the cavalry regiment in the mentioned village, by Custódio José Gomes de Villasboas, Sargento-Mor."

Francisco Queiroz
Year 1806 (Direction of infrastructures of the Army),
in Património de fachada em Barcelos.

Legend of the 1806 map:

1. Largo do Apoio. Central square in medieval times, site where drinkable water was available.
2. Hospital from the 14th century, with a façade to the old Santa Maria Street, later called Misericórdia Street.
3. Former area occupied by the City Hall, with its Gothic arcades on the ground floor, working on the 1st floor the Dispatching Room.
4. Chapel of the Holy Spirit, whose construction dates back to the 16th century.
5. Former Jewish quarter.
6. Mother Church (Barcelos Collegiate Church).
7. Old square and pillory.



Capela de Nossa Senhora da Ponte | Barcelinhos Chapel

- Built in the beginning of the 14th century, it was a construction somewhat smaller than the present one, with a porch at the west. This is depicted in the drawing of Duarte D' Armas, from the beginning of the 16th century. The chapel was refurbished around the middle of the 17th century and during the 18th century, when the street was leveled with the bridge. In the reconstruction of 1992, was added a foot washing sink, possibly connected to the support given to the pilgrims of the Way to São Tiago de Compostela.

Solar dos Pinheiros | Manor house

- Private building built by order of Pedro Esteves, in 1448, and modified by his son Álvaro Pinheiro. In its façade stand out the coat of arms of both.



A Praça / The square and the Town Hall

- The actual building of Town Hall is the result of a series of architectural works, history and administrative episodes, dated back to the foundation of the village. The street of Santa Maria connected two spaces of extreme importance: the Largo do Apoio (civic centre at the time) and the Mother church. Its documentation refers the existence of a guesthouse in this place since the 13th century, which ended up giving place to the village's hospital. Through this street there was access to the hospital, which had 4 rooms ("duas a norte e duas a sul" (two facing north and two facing south) and to the chapel of the Holy Spirit. It was limited at south by the old Town Hall and the hospital fence. To the east could be found the Jewish quarter. With the creation of the House of Mercy in the 15th century, the hospital started being administrated by this confraternity, that ordered, in 1593, the construction of a "ampla igreja" (sizeable church), with its façade turned to the "praça da villa" (village square). The borough kept getting bigger and with it new spaces and new demands, the neighbourhood became too small to accommodate a hospital, the casa do cabido, the Town Hall and other public facilities. In the 19th century, with the extinction of the Religious Orders and moving of the Hospital of Misericórdia to the also extinct Convent of Saint Francis - gave the Public Administration the opportunity to change all the former buildings into departments of the most important services at the time: Finances, Courtroom and City council.



View from the Largo do Apoio, of the north and west façades of the current Paços do Concelho (City Hall) building, after the great reforms of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and the works of the late twentieth century.



View of the old Santa Maria street, later called Misericórdia street. It was one of the main medieval sections connecting the Largo do Apoio to the Mother Church. The medieval hospital was integrated in this body between the City Hall to the south, "the houses of Martim Peres" to the north and the Jewish quarter to the east. It had four rooms in total and an oratory (or hospital chapel) in which the Holy Spirit would be invoked.



Niche of the old medieval hospital, moved from its original site. Inside, a figure, dated 1998, represents the last moment of the great works on the building. The Cross, Passion, Death and Resurrection of Christ is by Conceição Sapateiro.



The Salão Nobre dos Paços do Concelho (Noble Hall of the City Hall) is the main nave of the former Chapel of the Holy Spirit, whose origin dates back to the 16th century, but constant remodeling is clearly visible inside the structure.



Stained glass window by Eduardo Nery
Just like the carpet, the work commissioned to the same artist, this time to mark the spirit of the original function of the building. The artist, aware of the historical and social significance, "structured the stained glass according to a dynamic and expanding cross. Using the optical effects of an example of squares and rectangles with an illusory internal dynamism". (Paulo Henriques.2003)



The original building of the City Hall, which dates from the 15th century. The Gothic arches were an extension of the "village square", functioning as an outdoor space, while the "Casa da Câmara" (Town Hall) had its services on the upper floor. Next to these, the tower of the town hall acted as the granary of the village. Today, the famous gothic hall is an interior space where exhibitions and cultural events are held. During the works at the end of the 20th century, some were commissioned to decorate the spaces, including the carpet in this room, measuring 4 m by 6.40 m, by Eduardo Nery, who gave it the title Vibrant Space III. The carpet was made at the Manufactura de Tapeçarias de Portalegre in 2001.

