

The CaixaForum Social and Cultural Centre is housed in one of Barcelona's chief Art-Nouveau buildings: a striking textile factory that stands as a unique example of Catalan Art-Nouveau industrial architecture of the early twentieth century.

After standing idle for many years, the building was refurbished by internationally renowned architects in order to fit it out as a modern cultural facility without detracting from the original spirit of the work.

Now a permanent exhibition takes visitors further into the history of this building, from its original design down to its refurbishment, bringing further insights into the Art Nouveau movement and into the work of one of its doyens: the architect Josep Puig i Cadafalch.



**CaixaForum. Social and Cultural Centre**  
Av. Marquès de Comillas, 6-8  
08038 Barcelona  
Tel.: 93 476 86 00 / Fax: 93 476 86 35

**Opening times**  
Tuesday to Friday, and Sundays: 10:00 am to 8:00 pm.  
Saturdays: 10:00 am to 10:00 pm  
Mondays: closed (except national holidays)  
Opened on Mondays as from January 2008  
Free admission to the exhibitions


**Information Service of "la Caixa"**  
**Foundation Community Projects**  
Tel.: 93 495 39 45  
Monday to Sunday: 09:00 am to 8:00 pm  
[www.laCaixa.es/ObraSocial](http://www.laCaixa.es/ObraSocial)

**Media Library - Consultation Area**  
Multimedia art and music  
[www.mediatecaonline.net](http://www.mediatecaonline.net)  
Tuesday to Friday: 10:00 am to 8:00 pm  
Saturdays: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Sundays, Mondays and national holidays: closed. Free admission

**Cafeteria - Restaurant**  
Laie - Caixaforum  
Tuesday to Friday, and Sundays: 10:00 am to 8:00 pm.  
Saturdays: 10:00 am to 10:00 pm  
Tel.: 93 476 86 69 / Fax: 93 476 86 90  
[caixaforumcafe@laie.es](mailto:caixaforumcafe@laie.es)

**Bookshop**  
Laie - Caixaforum  
Tuesday to Sunday: 10:00 am to 8:30 pm  
Tel.: 93 476 86 59 / Fax: 93 476 86 87  
[caixaforum@laie.es](mailto:caixaforum@laie.es)

**Public transport**  
Metro: Espanya station, on lines 1 and 3  
FGC regional railways: Espanya station, lines S3, S33, S4, R5 and R6.  
Buses: lines 9, 13, 27, 30, 37, 50, 56, 57, 65, 79, 91, 105, 106, 109, 157, 165, L72, L80, L81, L86, L87 and L95.

**Parking B:SM**  
Entrances: Av. Maria Cristina or Av. Rius i Taulet  
 Direct access to CaixaForum from basement floor -1



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WELFARE PROJECTS  
THE SPIRIT OF "LA CAIXA"

once an  
**Art-Nouveau  
factory**  
now **CaixaForum**

FREE  
ENTRY

once an  
**Art-Nouveau  
factory**  
now **CaixaForum**

# CaixaForum

## a pioneering Art-Nouveau factory

The factory came into being when the industrialist Casimir Casaramona, a pioneering entrepreneur in the use of electricity in factories, commissioned it from Josep Puig i Cadafalch, one of the three Catalan architects most closely associated with the Art-Nouveau movement, along with his contemporaries Domènech i Montaner and Antoni Gaudí.

Puig i Cadafalch's architectural work epitomises the cultural outlook and social concerns of the prosperous Catalan bourgeoisie of the early twentieth century. The design of the factory is the result of a remarkable blend of aesthetic and functional criteria. Fully Art-Nouveau in style and built with a traditional brick structure and wrought-iron additions, the building drew its inspiration from a romantic vision of the medieval castle. It also blazed a trail in fire-prevention measures, and became a benchmark for good working conditions.



## a jewel of industrial architecture

The opening of the Casaramona factory raised great expectations among the ordinary people in the district and marked the launch of a new stage in the development of the city beyond its old walls.

The design and execution of the building were lauded by the newspaper *La Veu de Catalunya* in its 28 January 1913 edition: "Upon beholding it for the first time, one can scarcely credit that a building of such artistic and original architecture should be a factory".

Puig i Cadafalch was awarded the Annual Prize for Artistic Buildings for his Casaramona factory in 1913. That award acknowledged the architect's efforts to design a factory that would be fully functional while never neglecting the importance of the aesthetic and symbolic elements inherent to Art-Nouveau.



## a legacy building recovered for the city

The factory's industrial activity came to a definitive end in 1919. After standing idle for a long time, the building was used as a police station from 1940 to 1992. It became the property of the "la Caixa" savings bank in 1963, and it was given its official status as a Historic Monument of National Interest in 1976.

Then in 2002 it was reopened for the launch of CaixaForum, the new social and cultural centre of the "la Caixa" Foundation in Barcelona, standing in one of the most emblematic locations in the city — at the bottom of Montjuïc, near the architectural complex of the La Fira de Barcelona trade-fair precinct and the Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya, both originally designed by this same architect Puig i Cadafalch.



## Art Nouveau for new times

### Tours around the former Art-Nouveau factory

This tour brings the opportunity of exploring every facet of this fine example of Art-Nouveau industrial architecture. The secrets harboured in the one-time factory, and the remarkable change now brought about in it, throw light on many aspects of the history of Barcelona, and also on the shifts that marked the path of architecture over the last century. The tour also spotlights the artistic works by Sol LeWitt and Lucio Fontana, that give a unique slant to the most modern part of the building while establishing a dialogue with the existing architecture.

#### Historical and technical tour of the building

A specialist tour for becoming acquainted with the work done on the building by the architects Francisco Javier Asarta (restoration of the façade), Roberto Luna (refurbishment of the interior in line with its new use), Robert Brufau (structural engineering) and Arata Isozaki (design of the entrance patio and the monumental trees).  
Prior booking required: 93 476 86 30 Price: 15.00 € / group

#### Prearranged tours for groups

Prior booking required: 93 476 86 30  
Group: minimum 10 / maximum 30 members Price: 15.00 € / group  
Groups coming with their own guide are also required to make an appointment.

#### Prearranged tours for school groups

Prior booking required: 93 476 86 30  
Group: minimum 10 / maximum 30 members Price: 15.00 € / group  
Groups coming with their own guide are also required to make an appointment.

#### Guided tours for groups of people who are deaf or hard of hearing

For visits in Catalan Sign Language (LSC) and for visits adapted to oral communication, prior enrolment is required to arrange a date and time.  
Fax: 93 476 86 35 E-mail: seducatiu.caixaforum.fundacio@lacaixa.es  
Groups should have a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 15 members.

#### Family activities

##### CaixaForum backpacks

Building game: the CaixaForum patio - **Haku Tei**.  
For children aged 7 or over. Scheduled from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm  
Price: **Haku Tei**, free activity. Backpack: 2.00 €.

Materials available at the reception desk.

##### The CaixaForum puzzle

For children aged 3 or over. Scheduled from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm  
Free activity. Materials available at the reception desk.