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Antoni Gaudí

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In our modern world, the architectural designs involved much more than just simplicity. Many people enjoy visiting modern architectural monuments due to their uniqueness and inspiring beauty. To the eyes of the people, great architects are those who have contributed toward creating many artistic works for the society. Antoni Gaudí, by both his unique personality and abilities to merge the natural elements into his projects, has entirely changed the surface of the modern architecture and its elements.

Antoni Gaudí was born on the 25th of June, 1852.¹ He was a Spanish Catalan architect who has done lots toward changing the architectural world.¹ Since Gaudí was in a primary school, he has shown an extra-ordinary vision. While Francesc Berenguer, his primary school teacher, taught him that the birds have wings to fly, Gaudí responded back by saying that the chickens at his home have wings while they used their wings to run faster instead of flying.² It was an uncommonly keen vision in which not many ordinary primary students have.

In the year 1868, Antoni Gaudí moved to Barcelona to further his studies in architectural field.² While he was studying architecture in Barcelona, he took a variety of

¹ Wikipedia contributors. "Antoni Gaudí." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 6 Sep. 2012. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antoni_Gaudi>

² Eduard Solé. "Antoni Gaudí." *Gaudí and Barcelona Club*. 6 Sep. 2012. <http://www.gaudiclub.com/ingles/i_vida/i_vida.html>

courses on history, philosophy, as well as economics and aesthetic courses.² He later revealed that his decision to take a variety of courses instead of focusing on architectural courses alone was because many architectural styles were not depending on the esthetic ideology alone, but on social as well as political atmospheres, too.² Throughout his college years, Antoni Gaudí has gained lots of knowledge beyond ordinary architectural aspects.

The fame of Antoni Gaudí began as Barcelona emerged due to the Spanish textile industry.² During those times, many wealthy people began to look forward in being surrounded by artists and intellectuals. Even though Gaudí came from a middle class family where his father had to trade the family property in exchange to Gaudí's college education, Gaudí was a hardworking person and he worked for several Barcelona builders, thus he acquired his skills in precision-drafting.² In 1878, he had a chance to be a participant architect in Paris World Fair, which made Gaudí's name emerged as a well-known and skillful architect.³

Antoni Gaudí was a person of inspirations. He was famous for being able to recognize the formal architecture before his time, and turned it upside down in the way which is far beyond the imaginations of many other architects within his era.⁴ One of Antoni Gaudí's most famous projects include a famous Barcelonan cathedral named Sagrada Família.⁴ Though the construction began a year earlier, Gaudí began his involvement in the year 1883 and modified the project in a very unusual way.⁴ Many visitors who have visited the cathedral were able to recognize Gaudí's style of Modernist

³ The New York Times Company. "Antoni Gaudí, Spanish Modernist Architect." *About.com Do More*. 8 Sep. 2012 <<http://architecture.about.com/od/architectsaz/p/gaudi.htm>>

⁴ National Geographic. "Works of Antoni Gaudí." *National Geographic Traveler*. 8 Sep. 2012 <<http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/travel/world-heritage/antoni-gaudi>>

Barcelona.⁴ According to Gaudí's architectural styles, he developed an emotional and nature-inspired approach with little or no regard for the formal architectural order.⁵ The irregular modernity thus became a signature of Antonio Gaudí.

Sagrada Família, one of the most visited landmark in Spain, was recognized by UNESCO as a world heritage due to its unique architectural style which clearly reflects Gaudí's unusual sense of architectural daintiness.⁶ Moreover, seven of his works were included as UNESCO world heritage sites.⁶ The National Geographic proclaimed that Gaudí's works have made a revolution toward an ordinary face of architecture in the late 19th century and the early 20th century.⁷

Apart from his great accomplishments and honors, Antoni Gaudí was also widely noted for his personal faith in Roman Catholics.⁸ Gaudí's religious faith has been inserted into many of his works. Unlike the other architects of his era, Gaudí has decided to combine the elements of nature and religious faith with a purpose of creating a totally new architectural design.⁸

Even though Antoni Gaudí has passed away on the 10th of June, 1926, his artisan skills and magnificent projects are still remaining as the great inspirations toward the modern day architecture industry.⁹ Many modern-day architects in the 21st century were all inspired by Gaudí's magnificent and unique ideas. There are many designs of modern

⁵ The Great Buildings Team. "Architect: Antoni Gaudí." *Great Buildings Online*. 8 Sep. 2012. <http://www.greatbuildings.com/architects/Antonio_Gaudi.html>

⁶ The UNESCO Team. "Works of Antoni Gaudí." *UNESCO World Heritage Centre*. 8 Sep 2012. <<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/320>>

⁷ This Big City Team. "Gaudí's Masterpiece: Nature-Inspired Architecture." *This Big City - Ideas for Sustainable Cities*. 9 Sep. 2012. <<http://thisbigcity.net/gaudis-masterpiece-nature-inspired-architecture>>

⁸ Sharp, Dennis. *The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Architects & Architecture*. 1991. p.61

⁹ Cyber Spain Administrators. "Antoni Gaudí i Cornet." *Spain in CYBERSPAIN*. 9 Sep. 2012

structures with inspiration from a variety of elements, and they are all possible due to the great inspiration from the works of Antoni Gaudí.