



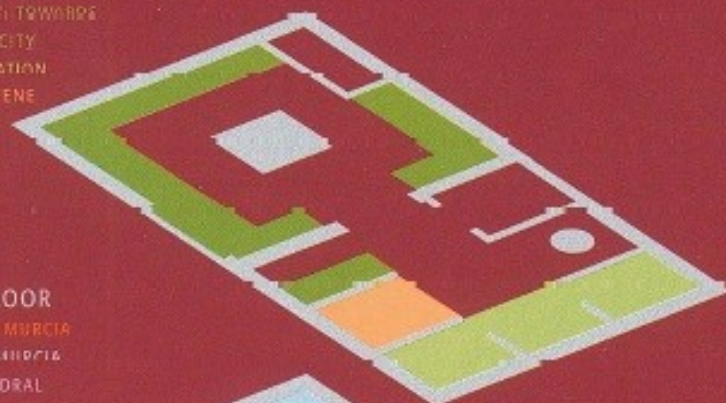
THE CITY MUSEUM



MURCIA

SECOND FLOOR

- XIX CENTURY TOWARDS A MODERN CITY
- ADMINISTRATION
- NATIVITY SCENE



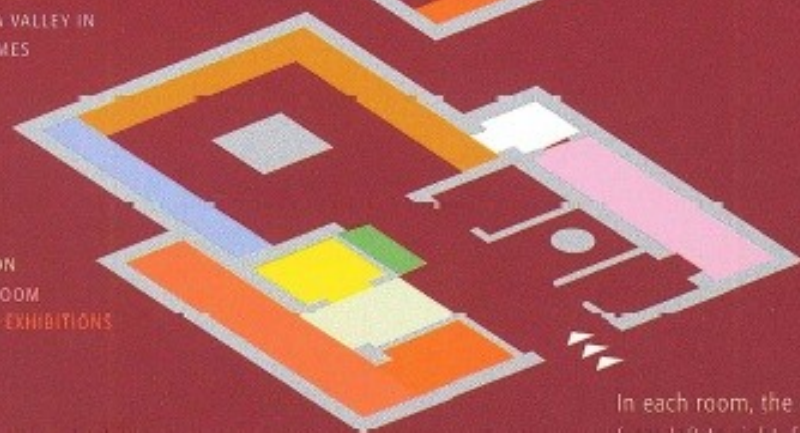
FIRST FLOOR

- CHRISTIAN MURCIA
- BAROQUE MURCIA
- THE CATHEDRAL
- ABBEY OF X
- XIX CENTURY MURCIA



GROUND FLOOR

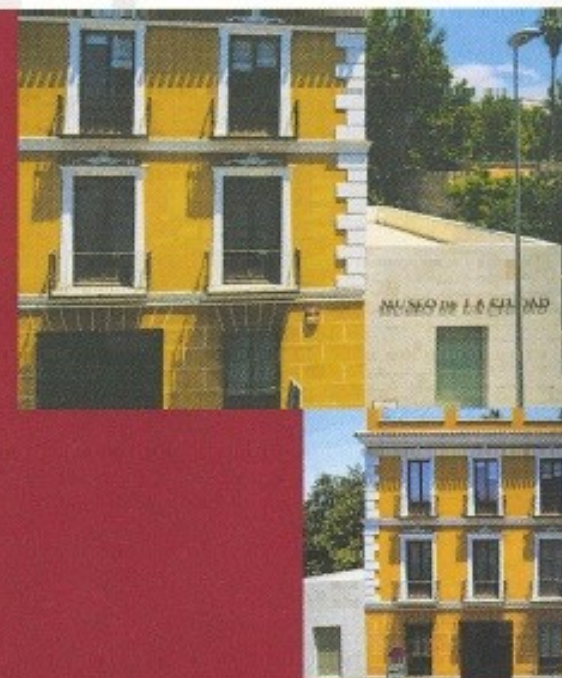
- 'ON SHOW TODAY'
- MUSLIM MURCIA
- THE SEGURA VALLEY IN ANCIENT TIMES



- TOILETS
- INFORMATION
- ASSEMBLY ROOM
- TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS
- SHOP

In each room, the contents are arranged from left to right, following a chronological order, so visitors can discover the historical evolution of the city as they move around the museum.

THE CITY MUSEUM building stands in a privileged location, by the Augustinian Convent, the Salzillo Museum, the Bullfighting Museum, the Regional Crafts Centre and the El Salitre Gardens.



THE CITY MUSEUM



LOCATED inside a 19th century house, it is the result of the different reforms of the Junterón Tower, a 16th century construction whose image is the emblem of the Museum. At the back, the Cadenas market garden, of Spanish-Muslim origin, is still conserved, watered by the Caravija irrigation channel.

The first civilisations, the Argaric and Iberian cultures, settled along the slopes of the Segura Valley. The first stable settlement in the middle of the valley owes its foundation to Abd al-Rahman II. On the 25th of June 825, Mursiyya was born, with the aim of serving as the capital and military and commercial centre of the region.



During the Islamic period, Murcia and its area of influence suffered from the instability caused by the constant changes in power and the clashes among the different clans, as well as the threat from neighbouring kingdoms. Between 1147

and 1172, under the reign of Ibn Mardanish, Murcia experienced what was perhaps its time of greatest economic and cultural splendour. It was in this context that one of the most universal citizens of Murcia appeared: Ibn Arabí.



Some sections of the wall that surrounded the city still remain standing. These, together with Monteagudo castle and the valuable ceramic and glass pieces from that time, are evidence of the importance and splendour achieved by Muslim Mursiyya within Al-Andalus.



The city and the market gardens developed in parallel thanks to the creation of water-related infrastructure. From the Contraparrada dam at the entrance of the Valley, and through a complex system composed of waterwheels, irrigation channels and drains, the water from the Segura is distributed around the territory.





The transition from Muslim to Christian Murcia in the 13th century is marked by the personality of Alphonse X, who conquered the city in 1266. One of the contributions of this king, known as 'The Wise', was the arrival of the first patron saint of the city, Santa María de la Arrixaca.



Esparto and silk were the motors of the economy, thanks to contacts with Genovese merchants.



One of the curious events that took place at the end of the 17th century was the change of patron saint: the Virgin of Arrixaca was replaced by the Virgin of Fuensanta.



The shield of the city sums up its merits, which are rewarded by the symbolic crowns. The diplomat Diego Saavedra Fajardo and the historian Francisco Cascales were among the most notable figures

of the 17th century. The key figures for the history of Murcia in the 18th century are Cardinal Belluga, José Moñino, the Count of Floridablanca and the sculptor Francisco Salzillo.



The long period of construction of the Cathedral is reflected in the diversity of styles of its chapels, particularly noteworthy being that of the Vélez family, with its popular stone chain.

The Imafronte, the main façade of the Cathedral, proclaims the wealth of the Diocese in the 18th century, its antiquity and magnitude.

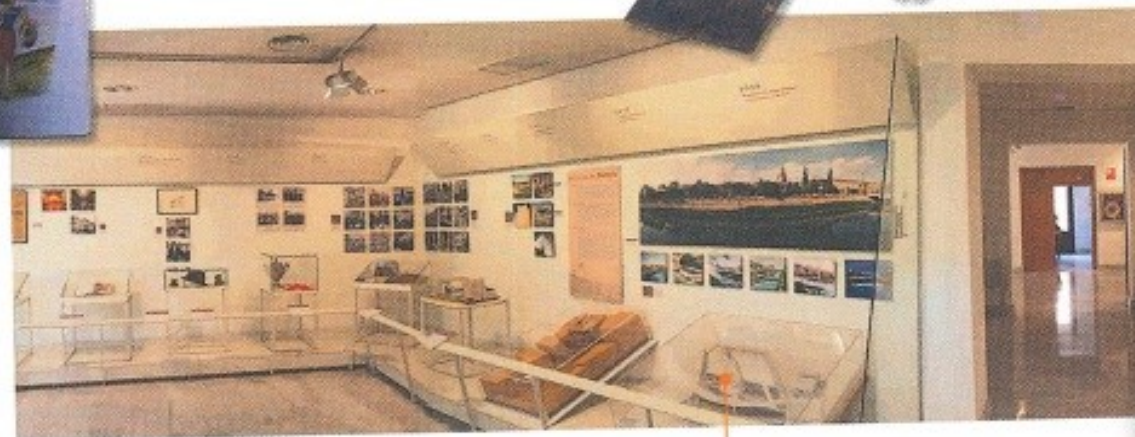


In the 18th and 19th centuries, the city grew beyond the limits of the town wall, anticipating the urban development of the 20th century. The modernisation of Murcia would not have been possible at that time without the interest in education, which led to the creation, in the 19th century, of the Alphonse X The Wise School for Secondary Education. Its laboratory and library are evidence of the desire for knowledge.

Floods have threatened the market gardens and the city every year, constituting one of the great dangers that the citizens of Murcia have had to face. The influence of this fear has marked their character and their way of life.



Murcia has the largest canning industry in the country, with the market gardens providing the finest raw materials. Another flourishing industry in this region is paprika, which gives the colour that is identified with the people of the region.



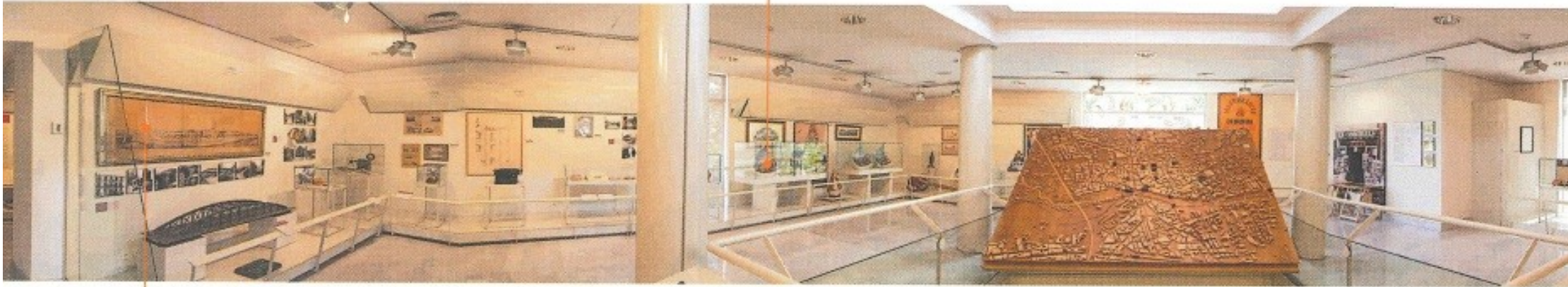
The craftsmanship of nativity scenes, whose greatest exponent is Francisco Salzillo, remained an important economic activity at the start of the 18th century. Still today, nativity scenes continue to be produced for all to admire.



The new bridges connected the banks of the river Segura, marking the aesthetic vanguard and reflecting advances in engineering. The extension of the City Hall, the work of the architect Moneo, and the Puertas de Castilla Cultural Centre also act as bridges connecting Murcia with the 21st century.

The face of the Murcian 20th century is the face of its illustrious figures: artists, intellectuals, entrepreneurs...

The sketches for the dome of the Fuensanta Sanctuary, the work of Pedro Flores, offer us a charming, happy vision of the people of Murcia and their devotion to the patron saint.



One of the legacies of the 19th and 20th centuries was the destruction of the Muslim wall, but also the construction of important civil buildings, including the City Hall, the Casino, the Romea Theatre, the Convalecencia (literally 'Convalescence'), the Casa de los Nueve Pisos (House of the Nine Floors) the Cerdá House and the Bullring.

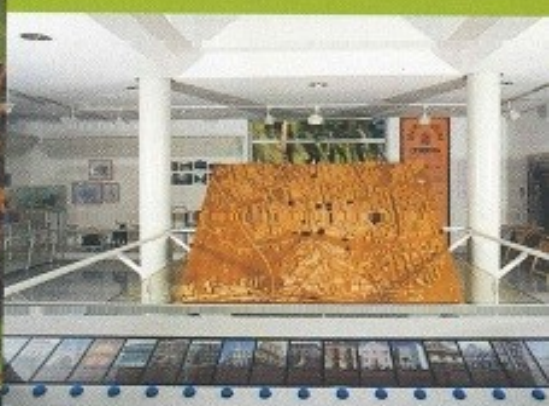
Other hallmarks of the city are to be found in its celebrations and traditions, from the worship of the Virgin Mary to the joy of Spring, from Passion Week to the burning of the sardine and the exaltation of the land.





The building also has other rooms, such as that dedicated to temporary exhibitions, an area called "On Show Today", an assembly room where cultural activities take place and a garden where concerts, recitals, etc., are presented.





FROM THE NEW CENTURY and through the large panoramic window, a final look over the Spanish-Muslim *Cadenas* garden, which is conserved behind the Museum. The city changes, but will remain alive as long as it remembers its history.





THE CITY MUSEUM

MURCIA COUNCIL



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OPENING TIMES

Winter

Tuesday to Saturday: 10 to 14 and 17 to 20 h.

Sunday: 11 to 14 h. Closed on Mondays.

Summer (July and August)

Monday to Friday: 10 to 14 and 17 to 20 h.

Closed on Saturdays and Sundays.

ARRANGED VISITS

There is a free guided visits service, which can be requested in advance, indicating the day, time and number of visitors. These can be arranged via the Museum's telephone or fax numbers, during opening times. Groups should not be larger than 25 people, in which case they will be divided into two or more, at 15-minute intervals.

ACCESS

Bus: *Rayo* Line 15

If you have arranged your own transport, we recommend you park in the Jardín de la Seda, near the Museum.

