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Samenvatting van dit persbericht

Rubriek: **Architectuur**
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Palermo / Barcelona - ART NOUVEAU DISCOVERY

Young scholar finds the cabin lift that belonged to Casa Batlló in Barcelona

Exceptional finding of Andrea Speziali, a young Italian scholar expert in Art Nouveau: "A precious cabin lift that appertained to Casa Batlló in Barcelona, found in Italy". The masterpiece building designed by Antoni Gaudí between 1904 and 1907, has become one of the most well-known Art Nouveau style architectures in the world.

On September 23, 2015, Casa Batlló will celebrate its 10 years anniversary since UNESCO declared it a World Heritage Site.

Fascinated by the beauty of the opera, a wealthy collector from southern Italy acquires the cabin lift a few months ago from a private holder and addresses the scholar Speziali to obtain his expertise. The studies and research conducted by the academic attribute the masterwork to Casa Batlló in Barcelona. The belonging is clear, affirms Speziali.

The blown glass, the scenic forms, colored decorations and joints are the same as those found in the house designed by Gaudí. The wood (mahogany) and internal flooring of the cabin correspond to those used for doors and windows of the building.

Another confirmation derives, according to the young Italian expert, from the metals employed for the handles of the cabin, once again the same as those used in Casa Batlló. A significant emphasis obtained from the current elevator dimensions in Casa Batlló correspond with the measures of the historic cabin, considering the joints thickness of its base intended to level the structure of the floor.

Additional elements that contribute to support the originality of the art piece mounted by the Spanish company Fuster Fabra Brothers established once in Barcelona. And yet the story told by the son of the Spanish entrepreneur, that during the regime of Francisco Franco the cabin was carried to Palermo where the family resided; brings back a childhood memory of his father that worked in the construction sector restructuring buildings during that period.

The design idea of the cabin, according to Andrea Speziali and confirmed by other Italian and Spanish art experts and critics, Gaudí commissioned the design to Lluís Domènech i Montaner.

The expertise issued to the current owner of the cabin lift highlights the elements that support this hypothesis, such as the woodwork, the geometric and natural decorations in the cabin's roof. When the director and officials of Casa Batlló became aware of the cabin lift located in Italy and for the first time saw its pictures, they were surprised and amazed by its beauty and elegance.

Taking into account that the cabin's return to Casa Batlló would not be possible, this does not exclude the possibility that the managing body of Casa Batlló organizes a conference in Spain where Andrea Speziali and the leading expert of Gaudí's art can discuss the discovery.

The comments received in the last days from the Iberian Peninsula regarding the finding, testify some kind of rivalry between the two countries, ignoring at the same time, the historical and cultural roots that Spain and Italy have in common. Certainly, at least for a time, our country has shown particular attention towards the heritage of art and culture. In 2017, during the exhibition of the famous Art Nouveau architect Giuseppe Sommaruga on the centenary of his death, a preview of the cabin may be exposed to the public. The desire of Andrea Speziali as the exhibition's curator is to stimulate visitors showcasing different foreign art pieces.

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