SCHOTT

Mirador “El Palmeral” Casa Consistorial Vitoria-Gasteiz

Project report

Tradition meets innovation – Window restoration at the Mirador “El Palmeral”

Between 2020 and 2024, the historic Mirador “El Palmeral” at the Vitoria-Gasteiz town hall underwent extensive restoration as part of an EU-funded project. The project was managed by Landa-Ochandiano Arquitectos and glass restorer Vitrales Mikel Delika. They opted for SCHOTT RESTOVER® plus and colored glass in “Florentine” and “Muranese” patterns allowing the original aesthetics to be preserved while meeting modern-day requirements.

Architecture

The Mirador “El Palmeral” is located on the north-west facade of Vitoria-Gasteiz town hall on Calle Mateo Moraza, in the Basque Country, Spain, and extends over two floors.

Each floor has nine windows, divided into three zones: hinged windows at the bottom, lattice windows above them, and colored stained glass windows at the top.

The modernist-styled, oriel window form protrudes from the facade giving a generous view of the outside space.

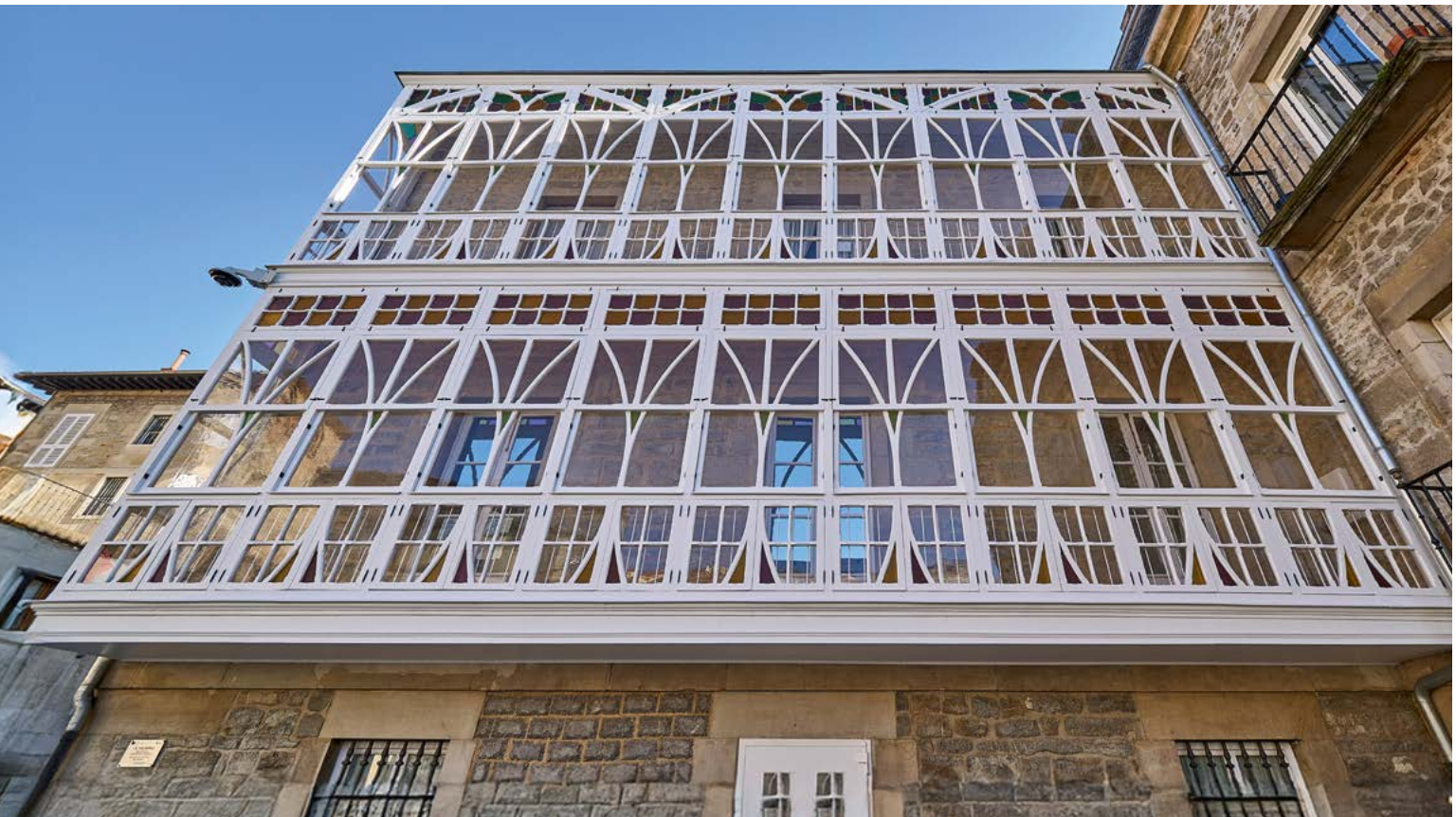
The wooden structure was constructed with traditional nail-less box and tenon joints and with metal elements on moving parts such as hinges, handles, and safety bars.

The Mirador is characteristic of the late 19th century, with large areas of glazing that combine light, warmth and weather protection in an aesthetically and functionally harmonious architectural element.

Task

Restoring the Mirador “El Palmeral” presented the project team with the challenging task of preserving the historical substance of the building while meeting modern-day technical and functional requirements.

Preserving some of the historic windows while reconstructing others to match the originals was particularly demanding. The original elements were made of blown glass, whose typical irregularities required preserving.



An added complexity was the different window shapes, sizes and patterns, which required precision design planning and documentation. Each glass element needed dismantling, numbering, and analysis to identify damage and ensure accurate restoration.

Solution

The restorers opted for SCHOTT RESTOVER® plus to preserve the historical appearance of the window front while meeting current-day requirements. This glass type has been specially developed for restoration projects and precisely replicates the optical properties of the historical material, including its characteristic irregularities and light refractions.

Wherever possible, damaged original panes were repaired or restored using techniques such as the Tiffany method. Where replacement was necessary, custom-fit replicas made from SCHOTT RESTOVER® plus were used. Each element could be precisely manufactured and installed true to the original thanks to detailed plans drawn up in accordance with the CVMA standard (Corpus Vitrearum Medii Aevi) and close cooperation between the team of architects, SCHOTT, and glass restorer Mikel Delika. The outcome can be seen as a successful combination of historical preservation, precision craftsmanship, and modern glass technology.

Material: SCHOTT RESTOVER® plus

Images: Donca fotografía

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