



CATHEDRAL

OLD
TOWER
S. XVI

BAROQUE
S. XVIII



CHAPEL OF OUR LADY
OF THE BIG EYES

The Chapel of Our Lady of the Big Eyes is a masterpiece of the Galician Baroque whose author, Fernando de Casas y Novoa, went on to design the Obradoiro façade of the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela several years later.

Three potent stepped tambours of stone define the chapel's exterior skin. The last of them, the lantern that provides light to the whole of the interior, is a little masterpiece of the Galician Baroque in itself.

On the inside, the beautiful image of Our Lady of the Big Eyes, patron saint of the city, holding one of her breasts tenderly with one hand and the Baby with the other hand, is accommodated in a splendid, golden Baroque baldachin, which is, in turn, contained within the bright interior space designed by Casas y Novoa. In this gleaming, extremely white area, everything seems light and becomes unreal and sacred.

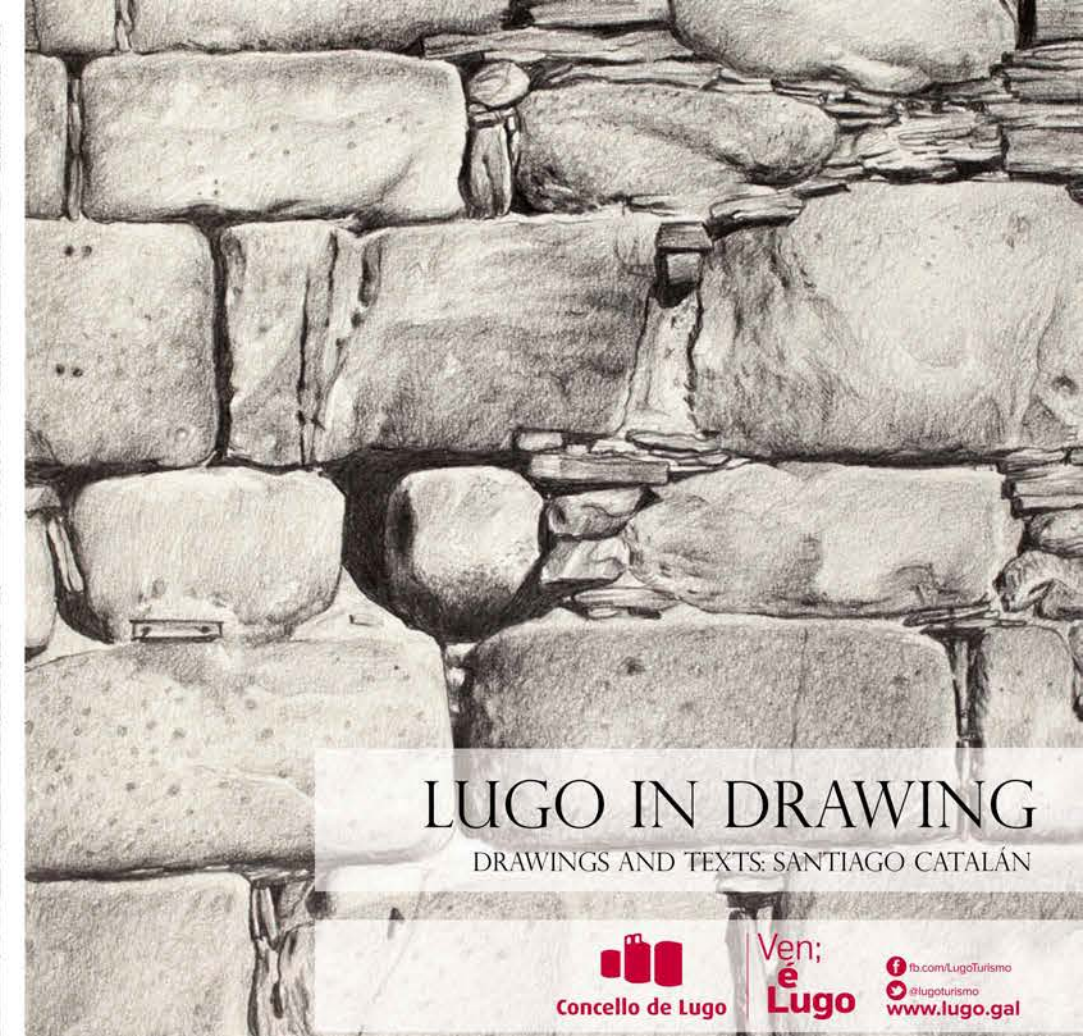


FAÇADE OF THE CATHEDRAL

The origin of today's Lugo Cathedral (designated a World Heritage Site in 2015 and part of the Way of St James) can be found in the 12th century. The original Romanesque layout of the impressive interior space has been preserved, although different time periods, and also architectural styles, overlap here, just as in so many historical buildings. The Lugo Cathedral contains Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque signs and the works only stopped in the 19th century, with the completion of the unfinished towers of the main façade, to the west, designed in 1769 by Julián Sánchez Bort.

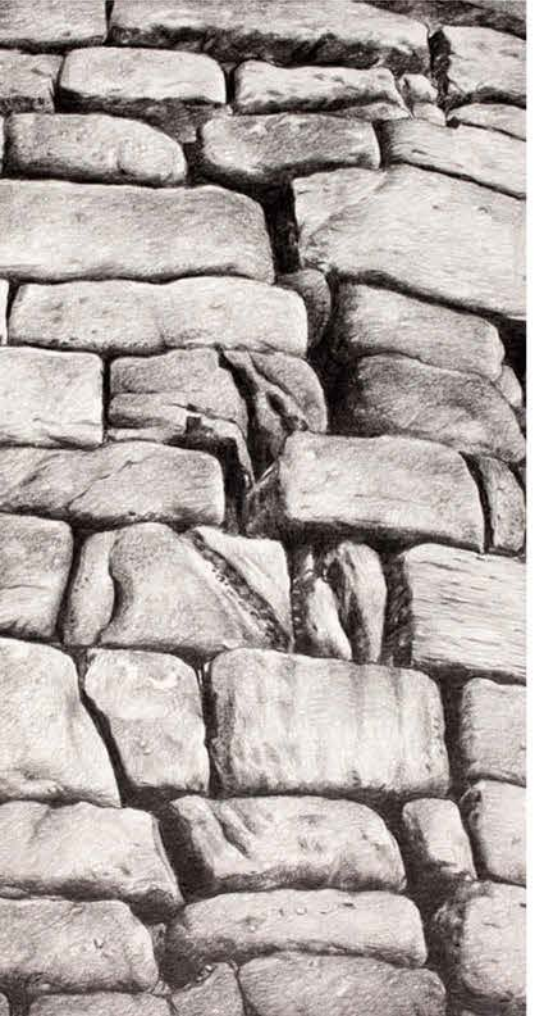
The side view of this imposing neoclassical façade reveals the monumental scale of the building, which stands opposite the wall in the magnificent atrium that lies before it. With its outstanding layout and the equally outstanding design of its enclosure, including a number of impressive pinnacles, this unique urban space was designed in the neoclassical period.

Facing the Roman wall, different historical periods converge in this privileged space, resulting in an admirable, joint urban work that has stood the test of time and speaks of the richness and importance of this old city.



LUGO IN DRAWING
DRAWINGS AND TEXTS: SANTIAGO CATALÁN





THE WALL

Founded around 13 BC by Paullus Fabius Maximus in honour of Caesar Augustus, the city of Lugo appears to be surrounded by a circle that is a little dented, deformed by the passage of time and the circumstances, which produced the wall's current irregular layout.

The Roman wall, the construction of which can be said to date from the 3rd century AC, is an immense mass of stone with a circumference of more than two kilometres. Built and rebuilt, the wall's granite ashlars and slate slabs form an impregnable ring that, for several centuries, served as military protection for this city and give it a very personal character today, defining its unique urban profile.

This powerful, sacred, untouchable monument was, however, touched and retouched one and a thousand times by anonymous citizens who in the past used the wall as support for the floors and roofs of their houses, as larder and warehouse, as latrine and cellar, or as wall and enclosure for their humble homes.

In spite of its monumental nature, the plastic beauty of the marks left on those stone walls by the passage of time should not go unnoticed. Marks and wounds caused by generations and generations, which for almost two thousand years have constituted the emotional map of this walled city.



THE CITY HALL

On Praza Maior, the city's nerve centre and a meeting point for Lugo's citizens, the city hall stands out.

The base of a previously existing Renaissance building was used by the great architect Lucas Ferro Caaveiro for erecting the current city hall in 1735. In spite of its marked horizontality, the building is a wonder of architectural expressiveness, showing multiple variants within its restrained dimensions. Its characteristic elements include the deep arcades of the loggia on the ground floor, the continuous balcony of the piano nobile, the charming lateral towers and the central pillar, topped by a fine escutcheon in the shape of a Spanish ornamental comb which contains a spectacular coat of arms of Spain with the Golden Fleece and a beautiful projecting crown. The graceful pinnacles on the cornice punctuate the whole of this most original façade, which belongs to the best Galician Baroque, and make it vibrate.



PRAZA DO CAMPO

In 1753, Bishop Izquierdo decided to bring channelled water to Lugo, using the remains of the old Roman aqueduct for this purpose. Two fountains were built: one on Praza Maior, which no longer exists, and another one on Praza do Campo, which remains as witness to this infrastructural work that was so important for the city.

This curious sculptural piece, from which wine pours miraculously instead of water once a year, is located in the middle of this small, secluded urban space that was once a traditional market of farm products from the rural surroundings of the city. This is one of the most unique, curious urban areas that can be found in a Galician city. It is actually a crossroads space where up to six different rúas (streets) converge, including some of the oldest in the city, certain of which coincide with the burgo vello (old town) present in the city's mediaeval fabric, and even with Lucus Augusti's hidden original layout.

An image of St Vincent Ferrer preaching crowns and tops the fountain. Exquisite in its design and carving, this piece shows as decorative motif a trilobed cloud sculpted with angel masks bearing bronze spouts in their mouths. Lastly, St Vincent rests on a profusely decorated base topped by a spectacular archbishop's coat of arms.

1. CÍRCULO DAS ARTES 2. CASA DO TAMBOR ON CAMPO CASTELO 3. HOUSE ON CAMPO CASTELO 4. PRAZA DO CAMPO 5. XOÁN MONTES SECONDARY SCHOOL 6. CÍRCULO DAS ARTES 7. CASA LUISA CASAL ON PRAZA MAIOR 8. SANTA MARIA HOSPITAL 9. ST JAMES' CHURCH, A NOVA 10. FRESH FOOD MARKET

OTHER ARCHITECTURES



RATIONALISM

This building on Praza Maior belongs to the rationalist style that spread all over Europe in the first half of the 20th century. Eloy Maquieira was an important architect who applied this international style in the Galician context, and also its best representative in Lugo. Its premature death frustrated the continuity of a promising work that was critical to the city's urban development and to its necessary connexion with the most advanced trends of the Europe of that time.

The building on Praza Maior is the largest volume ever erected by Maquieira and belongs to the type called 'corner building', with clear influences of Mendelsohn and Madrid's Capitol Building on Gran Vía. The two frontages to the square and to Rúa do Doutor Castro bend towards the inside at their intersection, marking two vertical joints that define the strong cylindrical volume that is the focus of the building's potency and proudly expresses the principles of the new architecture in a symbolic place of the city, one marked by the ideas of encounter, power and centrality.

