

# A modern space at the time. Ricardo Bastida



Ricardo Bastida  
Bilbao, 1879-1953  
Architect

Ricardo Bastida earned his degree at the Higher School of Architecture in Barcelona. He joined Bilbao City Council as an assistant in 1903 and only 2 years later in 1905 he signed one of his first projects as municipal architect, namely, the new Bilbao Wine Warehouse. In 1907 he was appointed the Council's Head Civil Building Architect and directed, among other municipal works, the design and construction of the City Hall and Deusto moveable bridges.

The drawings to erect emblematic buildings in the city like the Schools of Indautxu, Ribera and Iturribide (1918), the Municipal Housing of Torre Urizar (1919-1922), the Colony of Sukarrieta (1925), the Central Institute (1927), or the housing blocks of Torre Madariaga in Deusto and Párroco Uncenta in Santutxu came from his office in Ercilla Street. He also erected the Santa Marina Sanatorium for Children with TB (1940) and he was responsible for restoring the cathedral of Santiago (1952).

Outside his city of birth, he also designed important buildings like the headquarters of Banco de Bilbao and Banco Urquijo, in Madrid.

As the diocesan architect of Vitoria and Bilbao, he designed among others, the churches of Rekaldeberri, Zorroza, Buen Pastor, San José and Corazón de María; the Mercedarian convents and schools in Wuhu (China) and Guadalajara (Mexico), as well as the seminaries of Lebanza (Palencia), Logroño and Castillo-Elejabeitia (Bizkaia).

He was a member of the San Fernando Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Dean of the Official Basque-Navarre Professional Architects' Association, sub-director of the Bilbao Arts and Guilds School, and Chairman of the Accesses to Bilbao Commission.