

Etxezarreta Palace


Town:

Durango.

Location:

San Agustinalde, 16.

Access:

Close to the old quarter of Durango, just on the other side of the river.

Other places of interest nearby:

 Casa Consistorial (Town Hall).
Durango

 Church of Santa María de Uribarri.
Durango.

 Arch of Santa Ana.
Durango.

 Church of Santa Ana.
Durango.

 Convent of San Agustín.
Durango.


Standing beside a road on the edge of Durango, next to the old convent of San Agustín, the Palacio of Etxezarreta has a quadrangular ground plan that is built up to make a powerful cube-like volume covered by a four-sided hip roof.

Most points of interest are concentrated in the main façade, itself organised on a symmetrical five span grid pattern spreading over four floors that are separated by horizontal mouldings which break at the centre to emphasise the most significant elements on each floor. The main entrance, on the ground floor, is an architraved space framed by lined, lobed and legged mouldings, above which is set a sundial. The prominent feature of the third floor is a wrought iron balcony resting on a large bracket from which hang fleshy acanthus leaves. Two window-doors framed by

lobed and legged mouldings give on to the balcony. This frame is repeated around the other windows in the façade except for those on the attic floor. And, lastly, there is the escutcheon, one of the largest remaining in the town.

The entire façade is framed upwards at the sides by superimposed encased pilasters that rise through the roof where they resolve into pinnacles. Around the roof runs a cornice moulding on which rests an overhanging roof that is decorated at the edge with carved vegetable and animal motifs.

Originally a family residence, this magnificent Baroque urban palace is now home to Durango's own Museum of Art & History. Certainly the building boasts all the basic ingredients of the Baroque style, from the balanced organisation of the façade, which draws the observer's attention to the central axis, the hierarchised use of the various construction materials and the regular lintelled spans to the gallery oriented towards the south. The entrance garden and the importance given to the main façade are also typically Baroque. Etxezarreta is an excellent example of an ornamented, though not overly so, Baroque palace of the kind that were being built all over Bizkaia in the mid-18th century.

Sadly, no documentation survives that would shed light on the house's construction process. All we know is that it belonged to the Etxezarreta clan, one of the leading families in the town at the time of its construction in the mid-18th century.

The Museum's art collection is wide-ranging and of great interest to ancient historians and scholars of modern and contemporary art alike.

Temporary exhibitions are held regularly to accompany the exhibition on permanent display at the house.


Bizkaiko Foru Aldundia

 Kultura Saila
Ondare Historikoko
Zerbitzua

Diputación Foral de Bizkaia

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