
ARTE ROMANICO
40076 ROMANICA 2 (St. Jan de Caselles). English

Our intention with this model is to provide you some hours of enjoyable entertainment. We also want to thank you for buying one of our products for that purpose.

Before you start assembling this model, read carefully the instructions and follow step by step the indications. Do not hesitate in contacting us if any problems or doubts arise during the assemblage.

LOCATION

The church of Sant Joan de Caselles is placed on a little hill next to the river, right on the side of the road N-II direction France.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Location on map: x 1° 36' 30" - y 42° 34' 15"

BRIEF HISTORY OF SANT JOAN DE CASELLES

The existence of that church was firstly mentioned in 1312 during the visit of the bishop of the region to the rectory of Sant Cerni de Canillo, to which Sant Joan de Caselles had to pay an annual tribute which had not been paid for the last 10 years.

There are no documents from those times confirming the theory of the existence of an important population in the area. However, a necropolis was recently found next to the church which proves it.

During the construction of the N-II road in the cities, some human mortal remains were discovered. Nevertheless it was not until 1988, during the excavation of an 80 m2 area, that 30 graves, orientated east, were discovered next to the apse of the church -at the south wall-.

The church was probably built somewhen during the XI-XII centuries as the dating of the graves reveals.

DETAILS OF THE CONSTRUCTION

The church of Sant Joan de Caselles is one of the most renowned of the Andorran romanesque style. It is located on the old path to Canillo -capital of the parish- on the upper part of the valley.

It has a rectangular nave -orientated east to west- with a semicircular apse. On one side of the nave but separate, there is a belfry as well as two porches joined to the nave which were added to the main building years after its construction.

The door is orientated north. Down the southern wall of the church there is a 20m of depth cliff leading towards the river. The door is formed by a plain horseshoe arch with no decoration. Three long, horseshoe arched windows illuminate the interior of the building. In the middle of the apse, there is another window of major size.

The floor of the church is of wood. Some 50cm on top of it and made of big clay floor-tiles, are placed the presbiter and the apse.

The semicircular apse, covered with a 1/4 of sphere ceiling, has the same width as the nave and was probably added to the construction later in time.

On the walls of the ground floor, there are some protusions that possibly supported the floor of a second storey.

As it is the case in most of the Romanesque constructions in the valley, the belfry is covered with several rows of balks of different sections, that placed on top of a square frame -one upon the other- form a pyramid. On top of these balks were placed some transoms for the supporting of the tiles.

The holes that supported the scaffolding when the belfry was built are still visible.

The structure of the porches is very plain. Only one wall covers the south part of it.

The interior of the church has been muffled up and panted while the exterior has only been partly muffled up.

Typologically, Sant Joan de Caselles is a good example of the Andorran Romanesque churches of one nave and belfry. Although it is characteristic of the XII century, the construction of this church dates from the two centuries before.

DESCRIPTION OF PLANS AND MATERIALS

This box contains two different types of plans: 40076/1 to 40076/9 (printed on cardboard) and 40076/10 to 40076/17 (on normal paper).

The first kind (1-9) is formed by different patterns to be cut out on top of which the clay pieces will be glued. Plans 10 to 17 are just descriptive; they show all the steps to follow in order to obtain a satisfactory assemblage.

You will see that in plans 1 to 9 there are two different kinds of lines: continuous and discontinuous. The first indicate the perimeter of the figure to be cut out; the latter indicate where the flanges are to be folded.

In order to cut out properly the different cardboard figures, we would advice you to place a ruler on top of the continuous lines and with a sharp cutting tool (cutter or bistoury), mark the lines in first place and cut out the figures afterwards.

Mark also the discontinuous lines with a scissors so that you can easily fold the flanges afterwards.

There are in the box two different sorts of pieces: ref. 40076/B, which are softer and therefore easier to cut or polish when it comes to adjust them into the construction; and ref. 40076/A which, due to the temperature of making, are harder. Use the soft pieces in those parts of the construction where their polishing or cutting is needed such as in the arches of doors and windows. Use a small file or sandpaper and polish them smoothly if they don't fit their placement properly. You can also break them a little bit so that they look old.

Enclosed in the box, you will also find a little pot of glue.

The moos in the plastic bag endorsed is to decorate the surroundings of the church once it has been finished.

ASSEMBLING INSTRUCTIONS

Cut out the patterns number 1 (cardboard 40076/1);2 (40076/2);4 (40076/3);3, 5 and 7 (40076/4) and 6 (40076/5). Glue their flanges properly onto the base cardboard.

With a 10x2mm lath, construct the first flight of the staircase of the belfry. See plan 40076/10.

Cut out the pattern of the second storey of the belfry (cardboard 40076/5); place the floor and the stairs as shown on plan 40076/10.

Place the clay pieces as shown on plan 40076/13. Do not cover the spots where the flanges of the other patterns are to be glued (these are marked with inclined lines and with the ref. numbers of the patterns).

Place the pieces ref. 40076/B (of the arches of the windows and door).

Cut the pattern of the last storey of the belfry (cardboard 40076/6) and place it as shown on plan 40076/11. With a 10x2mm lath, make the floor of that storey and place it. Cover this pattern with clay pieces but leaving uncovered the spot where the windows are to be placed.

Cut out the patterns number 9 (cardboard 40076/4) and 8 (40076/7) and place them as shown on plan. The first one will serve as base for the column of the frontal side of the church while the second forms a supporting wall on the side of the nave. See plan 40076/11. Cover these two patterns with clay pieces.

Prepare the pattern number 3 of cardboard 40076/4 that corresponds to the apse. With some cutting tool, mark all the intersections as it will be easier to fold and install it later. Place and cover it with clay pieces as shown on plans 40076/12 and 40076/17.

Place the socles of the walls (cardboard 40076/9). The position of the staircase of access to the church is marked with inclined lines on the pattern; next to the socle that goes from the lateral of the nave to the frontal façade. The wall that will support the staircase must also be covered with clay pieces. The staircase of the frontal façade is also marked in the same way; build up also its supporting wall.

Onto these staircases and socles, place the floor-tiles (10x12x1mm pieces). Reserve some uncovered space for the installation of the bench indicated on plan 40076/13. Break the pieces a little bit so that they give a more real effect. Build up the walls that will support the balks of the frontal side of the nave. Take the sizes from plan 40076/14.

Place the walls of the front side of the entrance's staircase that supports the props of the balks. Their height has to be of about 15mm. Their placement point and width is marked on the base cardboard. See plan 40076/14.

Place the props and balk as shown on plan 40076/14. Make the balks with 5x5mm laths. These have to jut out some 20mm of their supporting walls. With 5x5mm lath make the balks that support the ceiling and place them.

Construct the three windows of the belfry. Glue the clay pieces onto the printed pattern number 40076/6. The 2.5mm thick pieces have to be placed on top of the 5mm thick ones (indicated on the pattern by crossed lines).

For the central column, use the cylindrical pieces. Fit them into the holes of the construction as shown on plans 40076/15, 40076/16 and 40076/17. The 2.5mm pieces have to be at the same level as the brick of the nave walls.

Cut out the patterns of the roofs of the apse, belfry and nave (cardboards number (40076/7 and 40076/8). See plan for their location. Glue the flanges on the pattern onto the bricks of the walls.

Cover the roofs with 10x12x1mm pieces (same pieces used for the socles). Break them a little bit so that they look more real. Start placing them from the lower row of the slope and upwards. The second row has to be glued on top of the first and jut out of it some 1 or 2mm and so on. For the roofs of the apse and belfry, cut the pieces in conical shapes and place them as it is indicated on plans 40076/16 and 40076/17.

With 5x2mm lath construct the wing of the door of the same size of its frame and place it as shown on plan. Place the cross and the bell as indicated on plan.

Paint the base cardboard with a bit of glue and put some of the moss endorsed on different spots. Cover also some spots with plain soil as shown in the photograph of the box so that the whole construction has a more real appearance.

We sincerely hope that you have enjoyed much assembling this model.

DOMUS KITS[®], S.L.