
Serie ARTE ROMANICO

40078 ROMANICA 4 (Sant Cugat de Gavadons). English

LOCATION

The church is located on an elevated plain in the mountains which separate the Vic Plain from the Moianés region, at an altitude of 1,008 metres.

To approach the church, take road N-141 from Manresa to Vic. When this reaches the town of Collsuspina, between kilometres 34 and 35, take a side road to the left which goes through Raval de les Casetes, up to Bellver and then continues to Sant Cugat. The section of the N-141 which leads to Sant Cugat is 2.8 km of good roadway.

BRIEF HISTORY OF SANT CUGAT DE GAVADONS

This church is found within the ancient boundary of the castle of Tona, in the area called Gavadons. Initially it was a separate parish. Later it was subordinate to the parish of Sant Andreu de Tona. In the nineteenth century it regained its independence along with the parish of Collsuspina.

The area of Gavadons (*Gavadones*) is documented in 948 in the testament of the archdeacon Guadamir, who left two oxen which he had in Gavadons in Sant Pere de Vic.

During its early years, the name of the church of Sant Cugat did not include the reference to Gavadons. It was known as Sant Cugat de Coll-sa-Sima. Nevertheless, the first documented reference is not stated exactly as this either. The testament commissioned in 968 by a woman named Frugió mentions the donation of a parcel of land to Sant Cugat (*ad Sancto Cucufati qui est trans ipsa terra*).

It is cited as a parish in the list for the years between 1025 and 1050, and as of 1130 it is referred to as Sant Cugat de Gavadons. Before 1130 it must have lost its parish functions and been joined as a subordinate to the parish of Sant Andreu de Tona. It is not mentioned in the repeated pastoral visits made by the Bishop of Vic, Galceran Sacosta, to the parishes of the area between 1330 and 1339. This point is also confirmed by the fact that its name does not appear in any of the lists of parishes for the years 1346 and 1438.

DETAILS OF THE CONSTRUCTION

The church of Sant Cugat de Gavadons is formed by a single nave with two side chapels which were added later on. There are no remains of the apses in the head of the church. This area is formed by a rectangular chancel to which a sacristy was added, separated from the chancel by a thin wall.

At the foot of the nave there is a transverse arch which supports the belfry. The location of the door, recently reopened, and the elevation of the roofs, seem to indicate that this section was added.

The belfry has a single floor. Its plan is square and occupies half of the width of the nave. It has two windows facing west and one facing east, in a modern horseshoe shape. The wooden roof and the tiles are on two slopes.

The main door is rectangular and is located on the main facade. Above the door there is a small circular window. The side chapels were covered with Gothic spire designs decorated with animal motifs and ribs. Recently they have been restored by the Cataloguing and Conservation of Monuments Service of the Diputació (Regional Government) of Barcelona.

DESCRIPTION OF PLANS AND MATERIALS

PLANS AND PATTERNS

Two types of plans can be found in the box. One set is printed on cardboard and numbered from 40078/1 to 40078/3. The other set is printed on normal paper and numbered from 40078/4 to 40078/11.

The cutout pieces can be found in the first of these sets. These pieces shall be used to form the base on which the ceramic pieces are assembled, as described further on.

The second set of plans is simply descriptive. It shows the process to be followed during assembly for the ceramic pieces as well as the cardboard cutouts.

There are two types of lines printed on the cardboard: continuous lines and broken lines. The continuous lines are the lines to follow when cutting out the printed figures and the broken lines indicate where the figures are folded.

To cut out the figures, obtain a ruler (we recommend a metal ruler) and a cutting tool (cutter or scalpel). Place the ruler on the line and follow the line with the cutting tool. Try to cut out the figures as exactly as possible.

To fold the pieces, the most suitable method is to place the ruler on the broken line and make a mark along the line with the tip of a pair of scissors. It is important not to cut the cardboard. Apply the pressure needed to make the mark.

We recommend making the marks for the folds before cutting out the figures.

The cardboard pieces are marked with numbers which indicate the areas which should be glued to the board and to one another.

BASE OF THE BUILDING

A printed base is also included. Due to limitations of space in the box which contains the material, this base is divided. Put glue on the edges of both pieces of board and glue them together so that they match exactly. The numbers on the base indicate the position of each of the cardboard figures. These numbers should match exactly with the pieces glued in these positions. The printing also indicates the areas where the flanges on the figures should be placed and glued. The areas on the boards with slanted lines refer to the thickness of the walls. These are the areas where construction should begin.

CERAMIC PIECES

The characteristics and hardness of the ceramic pieces are suitable so that they can be modified or adapted to the area where they are going to be installed. Use a fine tooth file or sandpaper to adapt the pieces.

A jar of glue can also be found in the box.

ATMOSPHERE

In the box you shall also find a bag with natural moss. This can be used to provide the final atmosphere.

ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

Begin construction by preparing the cardboard figures marked with number 4 on page 40078/1 (Remember the system described previously). Glue figure 4 to the base of the board. Prepare figure 3, which is printed on the same sheet. Glue it to the flanges of figure 4 and also to the board base. See plan 40078/4. Cut and prepare figures 1, 2, and 5 from page 40078/2. Glue figures 1 and 2 in the appropriate area on the base and the flanges of the previous figure. See descriptive plan 40078/5, which shows the installation process. Install piece 5 on the marks of the base board and also on the marks of piece 3, which has already been installed. See plan 40078/6.

Install a 5 x 5 mm lath from the upper part of the corner of the belfry to the base of the board. This shall support the weight of the small tower of the belfry.

Begin construction of the walls preferably on the lower parts of the nave. Use the largest pieces in the corners of the construction and along the edges of the perimeter of the doors and windows. In the corners of the building these pieces should be installed joined together as shown in plans 40078/7 and 40078/8. To construct the arches for the doors and windows these pieces should be filed and adapted until they have a rounded shape like these.

Construct the cemetery wall. This should be 15 mm high. During the process of building the walls some ceramic pieces need to be adapted to the area where they are going to be installed so that there are no gaps with unusual measurements. The pieces which form the sloping parts of the roof must also be adapted in order to form a perfectly aligned ridge.

Once the construction of all the walls with the appropriate decorations has been completed, prepare the cardboard pieces which form the roofs. These pieces are located on page 40078/3. The appropriate area for these pieces is indicated. Install them accordingly.

To install the pieces of the roofs see plans 40078/9 and 40078/10.

Install the tiles which form the roofing. Place them in an irregular pattern so that the joints are not aligned with one another. You may even break some pieces to obtain the rustic atmosphere the building attempts to recreate. Begin installation by the lower rows, that is the lower part of the roofs. The pieces on the upper rows should be assembled 1 mm above the lower row, so that the roof is not completely flat. See plan 40078/11.

To add a finishing touch to the atmosphere in the area surrounding the building, glue small pieces of moss in the areas you consider suitable, or use the photograph on the front cover as an approximate guide. Cover small portions of the base board and sloping cardboard parts with glue. Apply the glue with a brush and cover it with common sand before it hardens. This will make the area around the construction much more realistic. Install the cross in the cemetery.

We hope you have had an enjoyable pastime during construction of the model.

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