

Prat de la Riba House/Museum

Visit





Historical summary

The Prat de la Riba House/Museum stands at number 7 in the square now named after the politician Enric Prat de la Riba, in the village of Castellterçol in the district of Vallès Oriental.

Enric Prat de la Riba was born here in 1870, studied law and became a member of the Centre Escolar Catalanista, the Lliga de Catalunya, Unió Catalanista, the Centre Nacional Català and finally the Lliga Regionalista, in all of which he occupied positions of responsibility and became deeply involved in politics. He contributed to drawing up the Bases de Manresa (or “fundamentals of the Catalan regional constitution”) in 1892 and was one of the founders of *La Veu de Catalunya* (1899), of which he was the editor until 1902. He became one of the ideologues of conservative, Catholic Catalanism, the foundations of which he set forth in *La nacionalitat catalana* (1906). In this widely-read work, he expressed the collective will to achieve the recognition of Catalonia as a nation on the basis of its language, its historic past and its tradition.

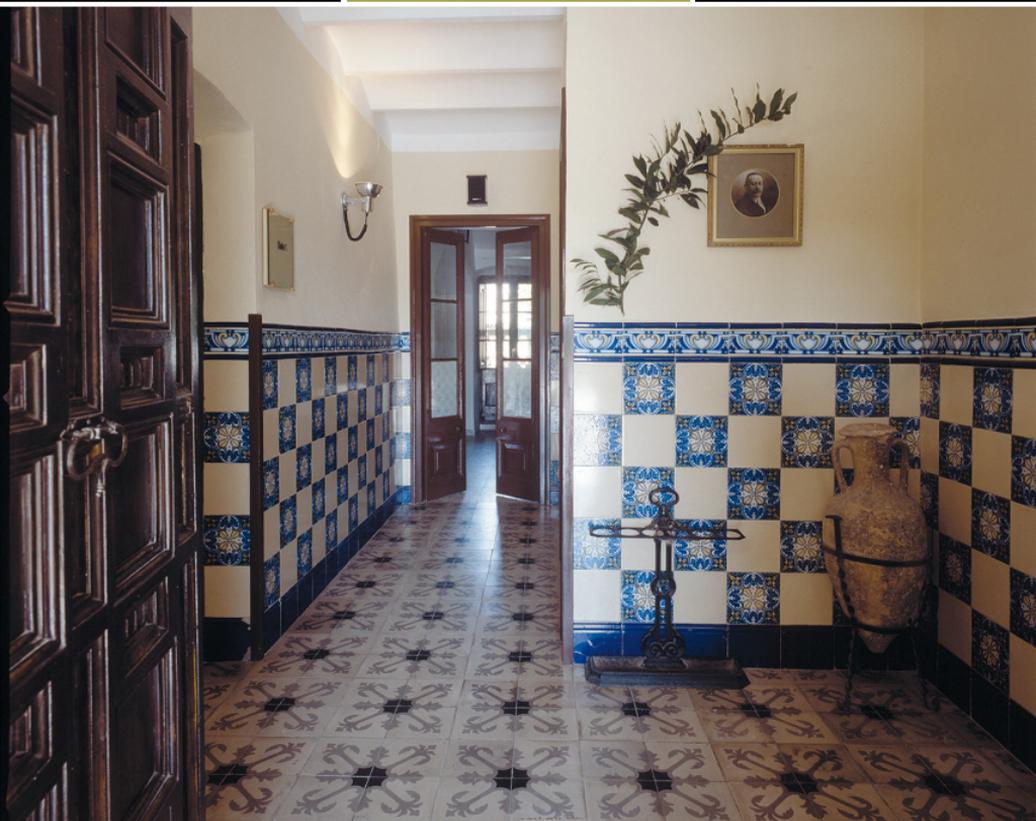
In 1907 he was elected president of the Diputació Provincial de Barcelona (the Barcelona provincial council). He used his position to promote the Mancomunitat de Catalunya, or union of the Catalan provinces (1914), which he also presided. Such was his importance as the architect of Catalan collective life and organiser of its culture that he was considered, in the words of the writer and philosopher Eugeni d’Ors, the “ordering wisdom of Catalonia”. He died in his house in Castellterçol on 1 August 1917.

In 1982, his two children, Montserrat and Enric Prat de la Riba i Dachs, donated the family home in Castellterçol, where their father had been born and died, to the Generalitat de Catalunya. A year later a board of trustees was set up to manage and maintain the house, to raise public awareness of Prat de la Riba’s work and to promote Catalan language and culture. On 1 August 1984, the House/Museum was officially opened after some refurbishment and adaptation to its new function.

Enric Prat de la Riba spent his childhood and part of his adolescence here. When he married Josepa Dachs i Carné he moved definitively to Barcelona, taking up residence at Rambla de Catalunya number 121. The family used to spend the Christmas and summer holidays in the Castellterçol house.

The house consists of the ground floor, the first or “principle” floor and an attic floor. The stucco facade frames several openings at different levels, of which the first-floor balcony above the entrance is emphasised by the earthenware-coloured scratchwork. Two plaques record the date of an earlier rebuilding and the name of the proprietor at that time.

Some of the rooms inside have been faithfully preserved, while others have been redesigned, but they all lead visitors to an understanding of Prat de la Riba’s personal and political story. Furthermore, the house is a good example of a prosperous family’s rural residence in the early years of the 20th century. In view of the size of the house, on the one hand, and the breadth of Prat de la Riba’s thought and of his governmental work on the other, it was inevitable that a selection of themes had to be made. The visit focuses on three: firstly Prat de la Riba’s origins, his farming ancestors and his family; then his work as a thinker and communicator; and finally his work in government.



1



Vestibule and passage

You enter the house through the large door on the ground floor, which leads into a vestibule and a wide passage decorated with an early 20th-century tiled dado.

Plane

2



Reception

To the right of the vestibule, another chamber opens onto the exterior, which was used as an office. It is now the reception and shop.

Plane



3



Kitchen and dining room

To the left of the vestibule there are two of the most important rooms in the house: one, probably used as a dining room, with a window that gives onto the square; the other, the kitchen, which preserves an old fireplace and a cast-iron stove typical of the houses in the centres of many towns and villages.

Plane



4



At the end of the passage a very wide space opens up, which was created as a result of the alterations carried out by the architect Jordi Sarri and which is used for events and exhibitions. This room is dominated by a portrait in oils of the former president of the Mancomunitat, the work of the local painter Josep Gallès i Malats.

Plane



5



Courtyard

Behind the house there is a courtyard with a stone fountain in the middle, overlooked by a composition in majolica representing Our Lady of Montserrat. On one of the walls of the courtyard there is a replica, placed here in 1986, of the bust of Enric Prat de la Riba in the Palau de la Generalitat in Barcelona sculpted by Joan Borrell Nicolau. Beside it is an ancient bay tree.

[Plane](#)



6



On the first, or "principle", floor, there is a recreation of Prat de la Riba's office in Barcelona.

[Plane](#)



7



Bedroom

Next to the office, we find the bedroom where the politician was born and died. Note the 19th-century furniture in the style known as "de la ditada" and the early 20th-century telephone.

Plane



8



Giving onto the square there is a chamber used as a reception room, where you can now see a video about the life of Enric Prat de la Riba.

[Plane](#)

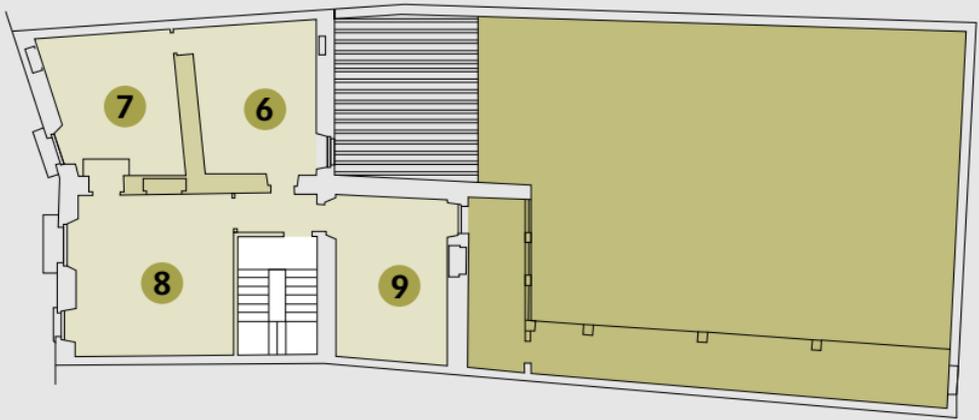


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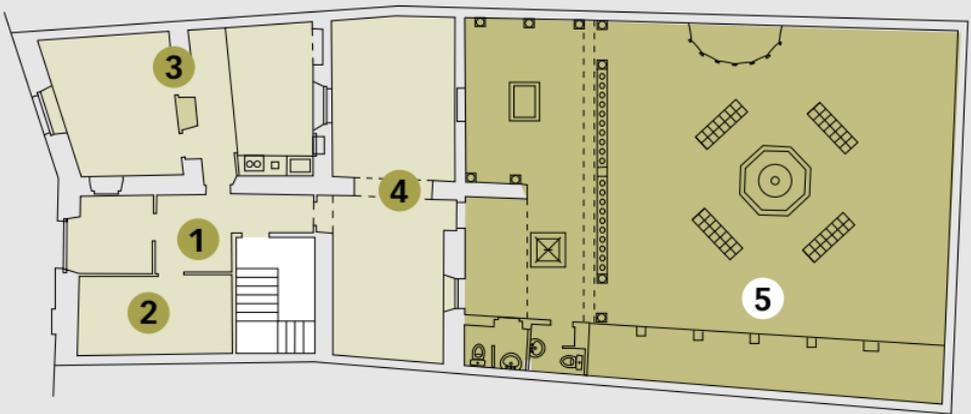


This room is devoted to Enric Prat de la Riba and his associates. It contains a portrait gallery, including some works by the painter Ramon Casas.

Plane



First floor



Ground floor