

WALL



ISLAMIC AND LATE MIDDLE AGES HOUSES



THE BATHROOM BUILDING

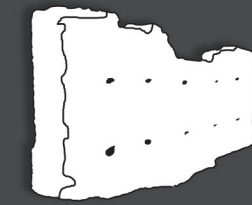


GOTHIC BUILDING



CASA DEL PASO

MUSEUM MAP



MUSEO DE LA MURALLA ORIHUELA



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OPENING TIMES

TUESDAY TO SATURDAY: 10:00 - 14:00 / 16:00 - 19:00
SUMMER HORARY: 10:00 - 14:00 / 17:00 - 20:00
from June 1 to September 15.

SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS: 10:00 - 14:00
MONDAYS: CLOSED



MUSEO DE LA MURALLA



MUSEO DE LA MURALLA

THE WALL MUSEUM IS LOCATED IN THE BASEMENT OF THE BUILDING *CASA DEL PASO*, IN THE CAMPUS *LAS SALESAS* OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MIGUEL HERNÁNDEZ.

IT IS A SIGNIFICANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE, AS A RESULT OF THE EXCAVATIONS MADE IN DIFFERENT STAGES BETWEEN 1998 AND 2000.

A MEANINGFUL ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE IS KEPT: THE WALL AND FOUR FORTIFIED TOWERS, ARABIC BATHS, ISLAMIC AND LATE MIDDLE AGES HOUSES AND STREETS, A GOTHIC PALACE AND THE ARCHEOLOGICAL REMAINS OF *CASA DEL PASO* (18TH CENTURY BUILDING). FURTHERMORE, THE REMAINS HAVE BEEN RECOVERED DATED BACK TO THE SECOND HALF OF THE 12TH CENTURY AND FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE 13TH CENTURY UNTIL THE 20TH CENTURY.



THE CITY WALL

It was declared B.I.C. (*Bien de Interés Cultural*)¹ the 14-12-1998. It is dated from the second half of the 12th century and the beginning of the 13th century (Almohad age), with subsequent renovations. It runs along the basement from side to side. It is a concrete and tapial work, made with lime mortar and sand which include limestone of different sizes. It was built using the wood framing technique, some work marks can be seen, such as plank marks, holes and *barzones*.

Around 80 metres of wall have been documented with a maximum excavated height between 2'40 and 3'10 m.; the width is fairly even, approximately 2'20 m.

Attached to the wall there are four fortified towers with a quadrangular floor plan, three of them built with the same technique as the wall, the fourth one is tapial work and *caliscostrado* and has a set of graphite inside.

¹ *Heritage of Cultural Interest*. It is a category of the Spanish heritage register, which protects the cultural property.



ISLAMIC AND LATE MIDDLE AGES HOUSES

There is a group of homes dated back to the Islamic period, in the Almohad age. They are facing a street, parallel to the wall. These homes were renovated and reused in the late Middle Ages, from the 13th and 14th centuries. Archaeological remains have been preserved from five houses: pavements, walls, drains and a home. These homes used to have an access from the street, which was located by the wall. It used to have an angled entrance, a quadrangular floor plan and they are structured around central courtyards, with wells, water tanks with access to other units.



THE BATHROOM BUILDING

The bathroom or "hamman" is one of the most interesting buildings. The purpose of this building is mainly religious, as it is indispensable to perform the greater ablution; it is also a social meeting point, it has therapeutical and medicinal functions and, sometimes, it was an occasional inn.

The bathrooms kept in the museum are located outside the city and had public use. They are from the second half of the 12th century and beginning of the 13th century and had endured until the late Christian Middle Ages.

They occupy a total surface area of 200 m², they have a slightly trapezoidal floor plan and three parallel naves, characteristic of Sharq



al Andalus and Nazarí kingdom. Two areas have been conserved: the public one, with three rooms (cold, warm and hot) used by the customers and an restricted area used by the service personnel.

These units are maintained in the public zone:

- Cold room (bayt al-barid): it was renovated by subsequent structures. However, it keeps part of the access from the possible lobby and a sink where the ablutions were performed.

- Warm room (bayt al-wâstani): it is connected with the hot room by a narrow door; it keeps part of the original pavement made of stone slabs.

- Hot room (bayt al-sayun): it was heated by a hypocaust made with 12 brick pillars, connected with the oven laid on the pavement. Near the corners, four chimneys removed the smoke. It is conserved part of the half barrel vault that covered the room.

The service zone keeps part of the Islamic oven (as well as the adobe oven from the Christian age), and a cistern connected to the hot room through an arch subsequently bricked up. At one end of the room we can find two stair steps which used to lead to the bathrooms terraces.



GOTHIC BUILDING

This important building is the Palace of the Infante Fernando de Aragón (son of the king Alfonso IV el Benigno de Aragón, and Leonor de Castilla), lord of Orihuela in the second half of the 14th century.

This is a building with a rectangular floor plan, attached to the inner face of the wall, built on the street and several Islamic houses. There is a corridor between the supporting walls, there are two significant courtyards and a main room with pillars attached to the walls, which held a series of arches. In the lower part, two interesting typical Gothic facade decorations are conserved.

It a masonry and ashlar work with some walls, facade decorations, pillars and ashlar windows.



CASA DEL PASO

The architectonic remains of Casa del Paso are conserved, ancestral house dated from the 18th century, built on part of the wall and also on part of the first fortified tower, used as the foundation. Similar to other cities constructed in the same century, it was distinguished by the clear organization of spaces and the heraldic crest on the corner.

The archaeological excavation has revealed the existence of the first constructive stage of this building; several pavements have been kept, some of them made of boulders and one of the access doors.



MATERIAL REMAINS

A significant part of the archaeological remains recovered from the excavation are displayed in the museum. Among the pottery items it is worth highlighting: Islamic pottery from the Almohad age, great part of this cultural period was represented (paintings, stamping, honey-coloured glazing and manganese); Gothic-Mudejar crockery, dated from the 14th and 15th centuries (cobalt blue, chamber pots, earthen bowls, etc.). Alcora crockery from the 18th century; imported Italian ceramics from the 17th and 18th centuries (Montelupo, Savona).

It is also worth highlighting the monetary findings (a quarter gold escudo from 1790 of Felipe V, a late Middle Ages Castellan coin), as well as glass items and fauna remains that were part of their diet.