

PERMANENT EXHIBITION

A Possible Home

DOMESTIC INTERIORS IN PALMA
(1600 - 1951)

CAN
BALA
GUER



Ajuntament  de Palma

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Free admission. First floor

“A possible home” is a permanent exhibition that recreates the upper floor of Can Balaguer. Through the evolution of its period interiors, changes in the lives of its inhabitants can be seen, together with the general trends that influenced their lives. Visits can be made to part of the baroque house, where the public reception rooms form a separate circuit from the private living spaces. The recreated rooms are part of the house's public areas, made up of a succession of rooms whose route takes you round the courtyard.

When baroque alterations were made to the house, the **entrance room** acted as a vestibule, leading through to the formal public areas, on the one hand, and to the family's private rooms on the other. The entrance room can be described as “austere” in comparison with the other public rooms.

The **antechamber and bedchamber** formed part of a number of opulent rooms where visitors were received and important events were held. Decorated to be admired and to show off the family's wealth and status, they mark the end of the home's public areas.

Dining rooms began to be seen in larger houses from the 1630s. They were solely for the family's use and so initially they formed part of the home's private areas, although during the 19th century, when more priority was given to social life and fine dining, they became important living spaces. Dining rooms were complemented by an adjacent room with a fireplace, cosier than the other public areas. This room became fashionable with more informal attitudes, more active social lives.

Visits can also be made to the period rooms of **Josep Balaguer** and his sisters, the house's last owners. A musician, entrepreneur, collector and patron of the arts, Josep Balaguer (Inca 1869 - Palma 1951) was a driving force behind Palma's cultural life during the first half of the 20th century. Changes can be observed that were made to the house's baroque layout, dating back to the period when the Balaguer family lived in there. A space specially dedicated to the **Balaguer collection** has been created in the area leading from the entrance room to the baroque antechamber and to the big music room, where the Walcker organ was installed. This is an outstanding example of an organ, able to reproduce the sounds of different instruments. The next room is the **Louis XV room**, decorated in the time of Josep Balaguer, who bought furniture and fabrics for it in the Louis XV style that was in vogue in the late 19th century.

In 1699, Mateo Gual-Sanglada commissioned alterations to this property, transforming it into a baroque home typical of Palma's more aristocratic houses. During the second half of the 19th century, the property was divided into two: one with an entrance in Calle Sant Jaume, and another with an entrance in Paseo del Borne, sold to Antoni Buades Juan. The latter comprises today's house. In 1927, it was bought from the Blanes family by the Balaguer brothers. In 1951, the Balaguer family donated the building to the city. With recent Casal Balaguer's refurbishment, Palma City Council has regained one of the city's emblematic buildings so that it can be used as a new cultural centre for citizens.

“A Possible Home”. Permanent exhibition. Can Balaguer

C. de la Unió, 3. 07001 Palma

Opening times: From Tuesday to Saturday: 10.00 am to 7.00 pm

Sunday: 11.00 am to 2.00 pm

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First floor

Opening times:

From Tuesday to Saturday: 9.30 am to 8.30 pm

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