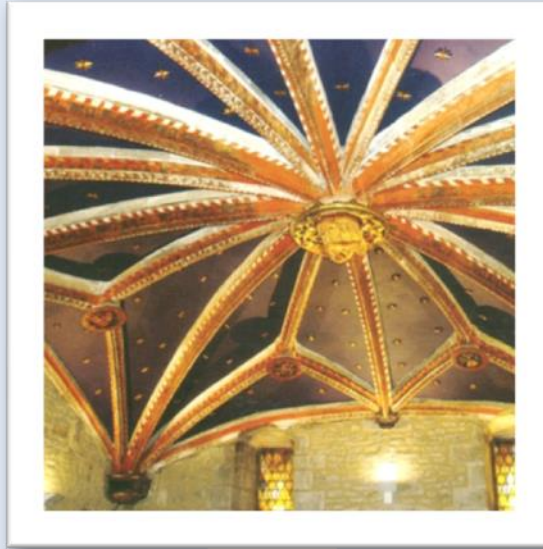


VITORIA-GASTEIZ AS AN EDUCATIONAL LANDSCAPE



MEDIEVAL Vitoria



Vitoria-Gasteiz
Ciudad Educadora
Vitoria-Gasteiz
Hiri Hezitzailea



Ayuntamiento de Vitoria-Gasteiz
Vitoria-Gasteizko Udala

DBH

ESO

itinerary

July 2007

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MEDIEVAL Vitoria

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The participation in the Historical-Artistic's Itinerary Programme is going to give you the opportunity to get better acquainted with your city: its origins, its evolution, the socioeconomic, urbanistic and artistic characteristics of each historical period, and to compare them with the characteristics that it shows nowadays.

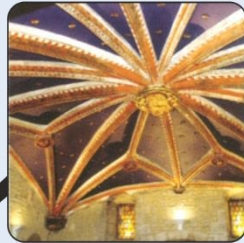
By getting to know it better, you will appreciate it more, you will try harder to take care of it and you will be better equipped to suitably use the services that it offers you.

1. PRESENTATION

The origins of our city are associated with what was a frequent phenomenon during the Middle Ages; the phenomenon of the fortified *villas*. In this case it was the king of Navarra, Sancho VI, who noticed the primitive village of Gasteiz, a village that was already surrounded by defensive walls, and wanted to incorporate it to his kingdom with the aim of improving its defences against the neighbouring kingdom of Castile. With time, Alfonso VIII and Alfonso X of Castile will also favour the consolidation of the Victoria *Villa*.

The small fortified *villa* grew in size and in population and changed its defensive function to commercial and artisanal ones. The old houses were demolished to build palaces and stately homes. Currently, some of those historical buildings have disappeared, many have been renovated and others are in need of an urgent intervention in order to be preserved. However, as we will be able to see during this itinerary, the urban outline in the medieval area has remained virtually unaltered.

2. ITINERARY



3. FRAY ZACARÍAS MARTÍNEZ STREET

The strategic location of a fortified village on top of the Gasteiz hill, was used by the king of Navarra, Sancho VI, to create and consolidate the Victoria *villa*. The primitive Victoria was formed by three lineal streets that correspond with the current streets of Santa María, Las Escuelas and Fray Zacarías Martínez. At the north of the *villa* the fortress-church of Santa María stood, and at the south, the castle of San Vicente.

This area, also known by the name of Villa Suso, Villa Navarra or El Campillo, is the part of the medieval town that has undergone many variations throughout the centuries. The primitive houses were replaced by Renaissance palaces (Montehermoso, Esquível and Villa Suso) and stately homes, built in the 17th, 18th and 19th Centuries (The González-Chávarri Palace-House, the Echanove House...).



Fray Zacarías Martínez Street



MONTEHERMOSO PALACE

The Montehermoso Palace was built in the 16th Century at the request of the married couple formed by Ortuño Ibañez de Aguirre and María de Esquivel y Arratia for convent of Dominican Order, but finally they turned it into their family residence. Historical characters have stayed here, such as Maria Antonia de Saldedo and Chavarri, I marquesa de Montehermoso, woman of great influence in the court of Felipe V. This king stayed in 1701 in the palace, like the queen Maria Luisa de Saboya, in 1710, or José Bonaparte, brother of Napoleón and king of Spain, from 1808 until the defeat of the French army in the battle of Vitoria on June 13, 1813.

The Montehermoso Palace was built in a renaissance style, with an interior patio with arcades. In the 19th Century it became the Episcopal Palace and its main facade was renovated with Neogothic elements. In 1994 the City Hall bought the palace, and after its renovation, it became the current Montehermoso Cultural Centre. Since 2014, there is also Oihaneder basque house.



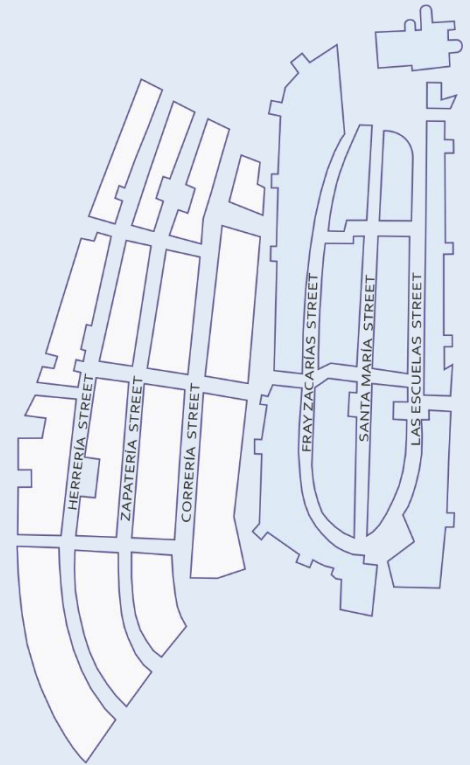
Montehermoso Palace

4. CANTÓN DE LA SOLEDAD

As a result of the special attention that Sancho VI of Navarra started to pay Gasteiz, more and more Álava inhabitants wanted to come live here. So many people came that the same monarch of Navarra was forced to expand the village out to the west with three new streets (Correría, Zapatería and Herrería), three streets crossed by *cantones* that allowed the access up to the higher part of the hill.

This expansion of the city made it necessary to build a new line of defensive walls, this time on its west side close to the Zapardiel river, which acted as a natural moat.

Afterwards, San Pedro Church and more towers were attached to the defensive walls.



Cantón de la Soledad

The *cantones* were narrow alleys that connected transversely the main streets. In the 19th Century, due to hygiene and urban reasons, a sewage system and paving works were introduced and a house on each side of the *cantones* was demolished to allow the sunlight to enter, being the resulting *cantones* wider than the actual streets. Only the *cantón de San Roque* still has its original size.

In the year 2007, in the *cantón de la Soledad*, the escalators that allow the access from the Herrería Street to the Fray Zacarías Martinea Street were installed.

5. HERRERÍA STREET

The names of the streets in this first expansion of the *villa* allude to the settlement in the city of artisans and merchants that grouped together by streets and areas depending on their trade. The people belonging to the same profession organised in guilds, which were associations that looked out for their professional interests.

The influence of these guilds can be seen in the strong disputes that they kept against the rural nobility that had settled in the *villa* and wanted to maintain a series of privileges among the rest of the citizens. The guilds grouped together on “the Ayala Band” and had their meetings inside the San Miguel Church. The nobility, organized around “the Calleja Band” had the San Pedro Church as their headquarters. The so-called “Band Disputes” played out for almost a century and ended in 1476 with the “Surrender of the Catholic Kings”. Some years later the new ordinances or bylaws of government of the city were written, and they were valid for three hundred years.

The Herrería Street was one of the liveliest streets in the *villa*, partly because it was there that Customs House was located. In this street a great number of the nobility and the first rate merchants lived.



Herrería Street

THE CUSTOMS HOUSE

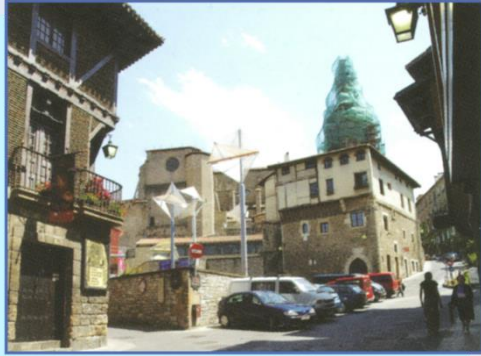
The geographic and strategic location of Victoria gave it an important role in the commercial routes between Castile and the Cantabrian ports. The merchants of Vitoria took part as intermediaries in the export commerce of Castilian wool and in the import of cloth from Flanders and England. They also made business in the *villa* with the iron coming from Biscay and Guipuzkoa, the salt from Salinas de Añana, the honey and the wax of Alcarria and the Andalusian oil.

From the Modern Age and up until 1841, Vitoria was a first-class customs or “dry port”, something that created the need for a Customs House. The majority of the historians considers that the customs were located in this house of the Herreria Street, built at the request of Juan Bautista Ortiz de Landázuri and María González de Junguitu around 1665. However, according to other that building was never used for this purpose.

In this Baroque style Landázuri house, many distinguished citizens have made their home, such as the historian Joaquín José de Landázuri and the political engineer Juan José Herrán.



The Landázuri House



Plaza de la Burullería

6. PLAZA DE LA BURULLERÍA

This place is known as the Medieval Corner because of the high number of medieval buildings that are located here:

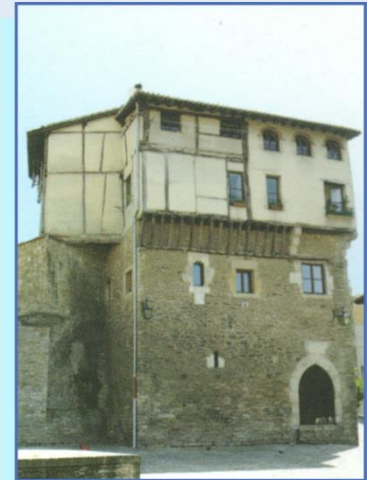
SANTA MARÍA CATHEDRAL

It started off as a small fortress-church that was used to implement the defences of primitive Gasteiz. During the 13th and 14th Centuries, the current church was built following the gothic style trends. Over the following centuries elements from other styles have been added, both in its interior as well as in the exterior construction (facade, bell tower...) This church achieved great importance and finally, in 1862 it became a cathedral.

THE ANDA TOWER

This tower was built at the end of the 15th Century in a strategic place for the defence of the city at its north-end.

The tower-houses combined the defensive function with a residential one. Moreover, the nobles used to build them in the access places of the city, something that allowed them get paid for the transit of traded goods.



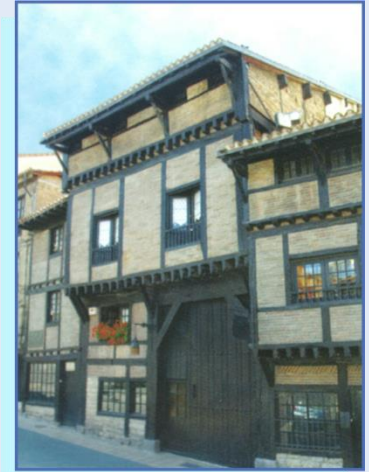
The Andatower

EL PORTALÓN

It was built at the end of the 15th Century or the beginning of the 16th Century as a lodging house.

Its constructive elements correspond with the ones that are characteristic in medieval popular houses, especially because of the materials that were used: a stone base, a wooden framework and a brick facade. Its big door stood out, it was used to allow the entrance and exit of travellers with their carriages and mounts.

By the middle of the 20th Century, due to the bad state of preservation of this house, they proceeded to renovate it. Currently, it is a renowned restaurant.



El Portalón



Gobeo-Landázuri House

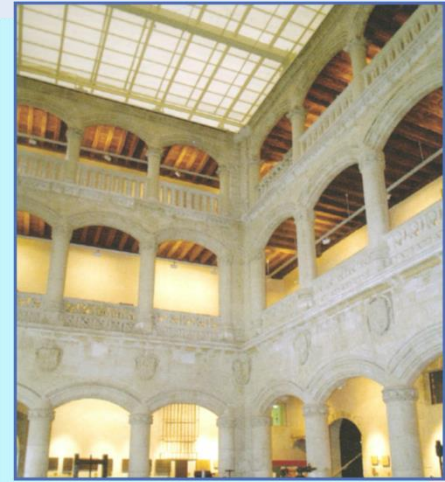
GOBEO-LANDÁZURI GUNSMITH HOUSE

It was built at the end of the 16th Century as the house of the Gobeo-Landázuri family. In 1960 it was renovated to host the Museum of Archaeology, which remained in this building until its transfer to the Bibat museum.

7. CUCHILLERÍA STREET

In 1256, Castilian king, Alfonso X the Wise carried out the second expansion of the medieval *villa* urbanising the eastern hillside. Three new streets were built: Cuchillería, Pintorería and Judería (currently, Nueva Dentro) and also the same number of *cantones*.

The resulting urban space in the middle of the 13th Century was not widened again until the end of the 18th Century.



Interior of the Bendaña Palace

BENDAÑA PALACE

It was built in the 16th Century at the request of Juan López de Arrieta and his wife Maria de Escoriaza, as his family residence based on a previous tower-house. It is a residential building of transition between the last Gothic and the new Renaissance trends.

It is also known, with the name of the Arrieta-Maestu Palace because it belonged to those families. However, in the 19th Century its owner was the Marquis of Bendaña, from whom its most common name is taken.

After its renovation, the Bibat Museum, which hosts the Playing-Cards and Archaeological Museums, is located here.

THE CORD HOUSE

It was built at the end of the 15th Century as the residence of an important Jewish merchant family: the Sánchez de Bilbao.

The beginning of the Modern Age came marked by the expulsion of the Jewish community. Some Jews were able to stay after they converted to Christianity but, even then, they had to put up with constant vigilance of their social and religious behaviours.

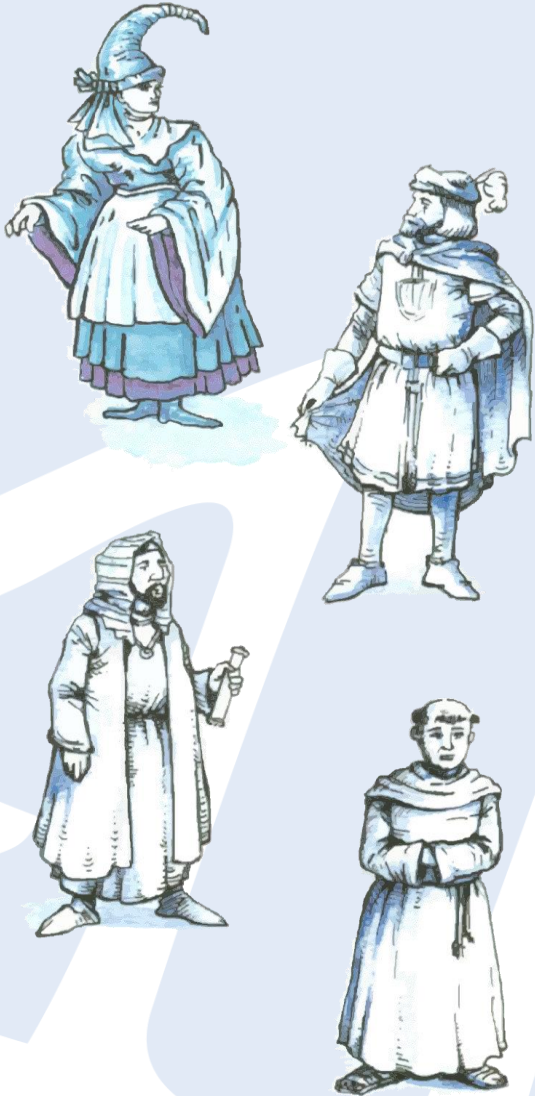
The family Sánchez de Bilbao, to prove his Christian convictions and his loyalty to the Crown, adorned the facade of his residence with religious and institutional motifs: adding the Franciscan cord above the door, which gave the building its name, as well as including the coat of arms of the Catholic Kings.

In its interior there is a defensive tower from the 13th Century, around which, Sánchez de Bilbao family built his house. The noble room of the tower it is covered by a beautiful starry and polychromed vault.



The Cord House

Among the social and ethnic groups that lived in the city during the Middle Ages, the following stood out:



a) The popular classes: They were made up of artisans and small shop-owners and also peasants, the latter being in fewer numbers. The artisans were the largest group.

b) The nobility: They became settled in the city, coming from the rural environment, from the 14th Century. They immediately became the privileged social class, as they had control of the economic, social and political power.

c) The Jews: The Jewish community, located in the Judería Street (currently, Nueva Dentro), lived secluded by its own organisation and by the coexistence rules that the Christians imposed onto them. They mostly worked in artisanal and commercial activities. In our city, they also had a great importance in the field of medicine.

d) The clergy: It was a very numerous and influential social group for the life in the city, not only in the religious sphere, but also in the cultural, social and political ones too.

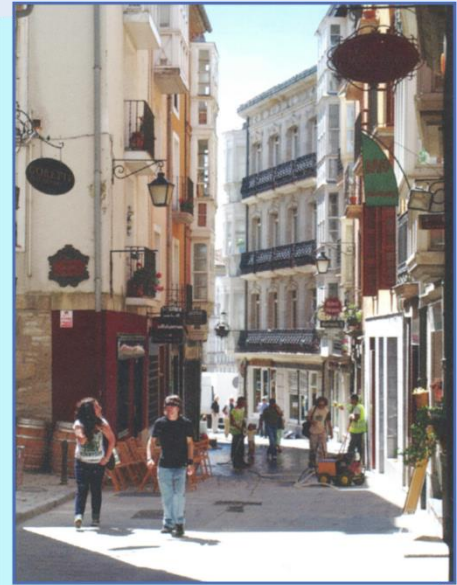
The medieval society was quite a poor one. Except for a small part of the population that belonged to the upper classes (nobility, rich business families and the high clergy), most of them lived with minimum resources and on what they earned working.

“Among the lower classes, the family economy was very fragile (...) a bad harvest, (...) the dismissal from work or a long illness of the head of the family could direct the family toward misery (...) The biggest percentage of paupers were widows, alone or with little children.” (Josemari Imízcoz and Paloma Manzanos. *Historia de Vitoria*).

Throughout its history, the medieval town has suffered important variations in the social structure of its population. The most significant ones have occurred since the 1950s, around the time of the industrial development of the city and the creation of new neighbourhoods. This generated the exodus of the residents of the Old Town towards those new neighbourhoods, which caused a process of abandonment and a physical and social deterioration of the area.

The Old Town of many cities has been and still is, sometimes, a deteriorated area, with a high percentage of empty and damaged houses, as well as with precarious internal equipment. Also, they have been neighbourhoods with scarce community services and they have been characterised for hosting an aged and, to some extent, impoverished population.

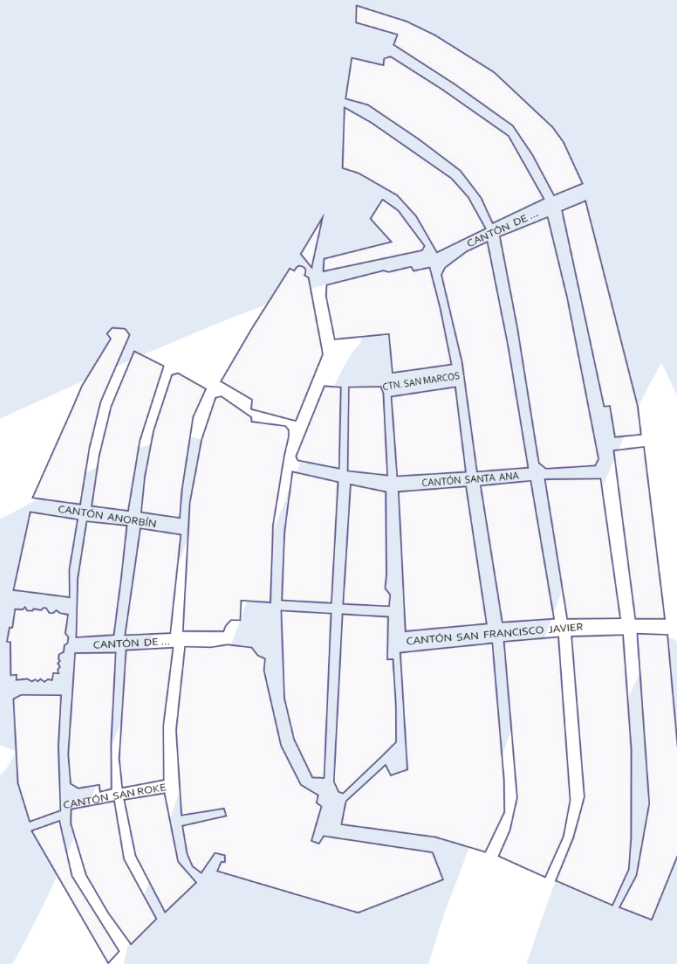
In our city, in the last decade of the 20th Century, the City Hall started a project of revitalisation and improvement of the Old Town, that, summarised in a series of actions (physical, social, economic, cultural...) aimed at achieving better living conditions.



Correría Street

8. ACTIVITIES

8.1. LOOK at this map of the Old Town and DO the following exercises:



- ✓ Colour in different ways the three areas on the map of the Old Town: the centre or higher part of the city where the first primitive Gasteiz was born; the first expansion towards the west that was carried out around the year 1181; and the second expansion, in 1256, towards the east.
- ✓ Write the names of the streets and complete the names of the *cantones*.
- ✓ Mark on the map the following buildings: Ramón Bajo School, Villasuso Palace, San Vicente Church, Health Centre, Montehermoso Palace (where the Basque language house Oihaneder Euskararen Etxea is located, in addition to the cultural center of the same name), El Campillo Community Centre, Luis Aramburu Municipal Music School and temples of different religions.

8.2. **RELATE** the medieval streets with the products which may be found in each one of them.

STREET	PRODUCT

8.3. **WRITE** the characteristics of each type of building, the social group that lived in them and give an example of each type (name and location).

- ✓ *Casas de Alforja* (“Saddlebag Houses”):
- ✓ Tower-Houses:
- ✓ Palaces:
- ✓ Stately Mansions:

8.4. **WRITE DOWN** some of the functions that, throughout history, have some of these buildings had:

PLACE	FUNCTIONS
González de Chávarri House	
Escoriaza-Esquibel Palace	
San Miguel Church	
Doña Otxanda Tower	

8.5. ANALYSE the information on the following charts and DETERMINE some of the characteristics of the population that lives in the Old Town.

Population of the Old Town per gender (1)		
GENDER	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
MAN	4226	49,26
WOMAN	4.352	50,73
TOTAL:	8.578	100,0

Population of the Old Town per age (1)		
AGE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
0 to 4	351	4,09
5 to 9	389	4,5
10 to 14	333	3,8
15 to 19	306	3,5
20 to 24	378	4,4
25 to 29	532	6,2
30 to 34	650	7,5
35 to 39	719	8,3
40 to 44	780	9,1
45 to 49	770	8,9
50 to 54	753	8,7
55 to 59	625	7,2
60 to 64	439	5,1
65 to 69	348	4,08
70 to 74	326	3,8
75 to 79	234	2,7
80 to 84	280	3,2
85 to 89	202	2,3
more than 90	163	1,9
TOTAL:	8.578	100,0

(1) Source: Municipal Register of Inhabitants
01.01.2018

Population of the Old Town per country of origin (1)		
COUNTRY OF NATIONALITY	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
SPAIN	6.974	81
MOROCCO	403	4,7
ALGERIA	167	1,9
NIGERIA	134	1,6
PAKISTAN	101	1,2
COLOMBIA	79	0,9
PARAGUAY	68	0,8
RUMANIA	46	0,5
CHINA	40	0,5
SENEGAL	39	0,5
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	31	0,4
PORTUGAL	29	0,3
BRASIL	28	0,3
VENEZUELA	27	0,3
ITALY	25	0,3
ECUADOR	24	0,3
BOLIVIA	23	0,3
MAURITANIA	21	0,2
UKRAINE	17	0,2
PERU	16	0,2
GEORGIA	16	0,2
OTHERS	255	3,1
TOTAL:	8.578	100,0

(1) Source: Municipal Register of Inhabitants
1.1.2018

Economic activity in the Old Town per type of activity (2)	
BRANCH OF ACTIVITY	FREQUENCY
Agriculture and fishing	1
Industry and energy	30
Construction	94
Commerce, hotel industry and transportation	459
Bank, insurances and services for businesses	158
Other service activities	126
Annexed premises	19
TOTAL:	887

(2) Source: Economical Activities Tax.
Premises registered by the 31.12.2017.

8.6. COMPARE the different cultures and religions that existed in the Medieval Vitoria with the ones that exist nowadays. What do you think that was the relation between those cultures in the Middle Ages? And nowadays? Discuss it with your classmates so you can share different opinions.

8.7. DEBATE IN CLASS

Taking into account the actions implemented by the City Hall to revitalise the Old Town, as well as the demands that its inhabitants had, analyse the extent to which they coincide and make proposals to help improve this neighbourhood of our city. Talk about them with your classmates.

9. GLOSSARY

BAROQUE STYLE: The prevailing style in the Western Art and Architecture approximately from 1600 until 1750. Among the general characteristics of the Baroque style are the sense of movement, the spirituality, the correct representation of space and perspective and the strong contrasts of lights and shadows.

BASE: Body or lower part of a building or construction.

(TO) CAPITULATE: Pact or mutual understanding between two or more people about some frequently serious matter.

CASA DE ALFORJA (“SADDLEBAG HOUSES”): Traditional medieval houses in Vitoria and other cities. They typically are very narrow and deep, allowing to open on the facade just one or two windows.

CONVERT JEW: Jew that has converted to Christianity.

CORBEL: Part of the roof that stands out from a building's line of facade and projects itself to the exterior.

DRY PORT: Border area without access to the sea, where customs have been established.

EPISCOPAL: Belonging to or relative to the bishop.

GOTHIC STYLE: Artistic style that developed in Europe during the three last centuries of the Middle Ages, starting since the revolution of the Romanesque style. In Architecture, its main characteristic is the employment of the ogive or pointed arch.

GUILD: Association of the masters, skilled workers and apprentices of the same profession or trade, ruled by ordinances and special regulations.

MODERN AGE: The Modern Age is one of the periods in which the history is traditionally divided, stretching from the Ottoman conquest of Constantinople in 1453 until the French Revolution in 1789.

NEOGOTHIC STYLE: In the 19th Century, the enthusiasm for the medievalism and the historicism led to substantial renovations of medieval buildings, establishing a Neogothic style,

an Architecture built as an imitation of the medieval Gothic.

ORDINANCES (BYLAWS): Series of regulations of lower rank to the law. The municipal ordinances or bylaws are dictated by a City Hall, Municipality or its higher authority (Mayor or Municipal President) to administrate the municipality.

RENAISSANCE STYLE: Artistic style that reflected in the 14th Century in Italy and spread to the rest of Europe during the 15th and 16th Centuries. The two essential features of this movement are the imitation of the classic shapes developed in the Ancient Greek and Rome and the intense concern for the profane life, which are expressed by a rising interest for the humanism.

VAULT: Curved architectural construction that covers the space between two walls or several pillars.

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Vitoria-Gasteiz as an educational landscape.



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Ayuntamiento de Vitoria-Gasteiz
Vitoria-Gasteizko Udala