

Hondarribia,

city of nuances







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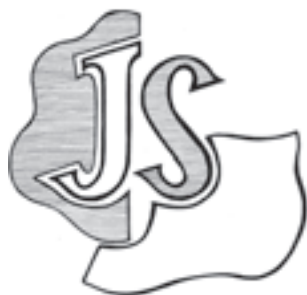
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Hondarribia, *city of nuances*



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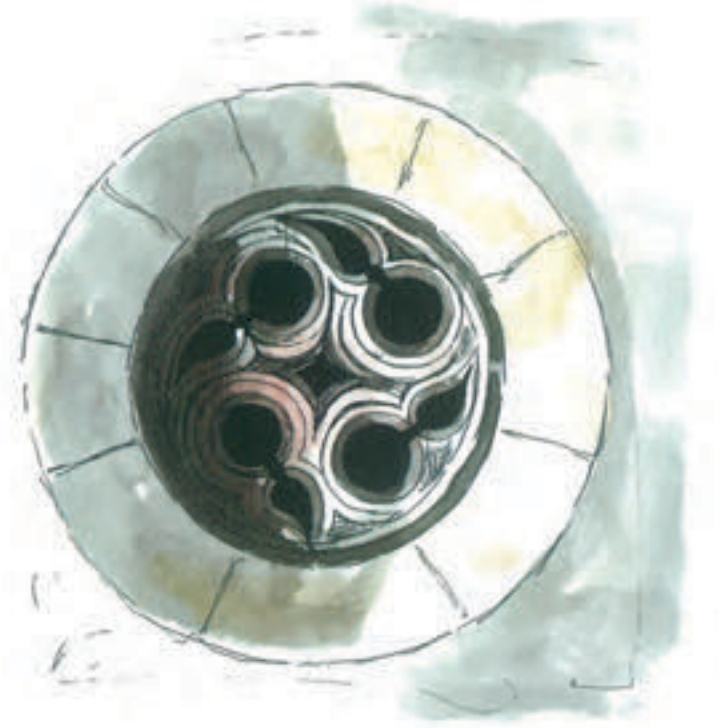
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Presentation

Hondarribia, city of nuances

All the cities in the world have their nuances. Hondarribia also has its own, of which there are quite a few. Its history, traditions, heritage, nature, landscape, gastronomy, but most of all it is its people that make it different from the others. The solemn and robust walls that surround and protect the historic old city with its well built stone houses, the beautiful wrought iron balconies, the elegant coat of arms which adorn the facades and the majesty of the most important buildings draw a space from where we contemplate all of the landscape that surrounds us.

The contrast between the blue sky and the blue sea where the fishing boats sail out to fish blends aesthetically with the houses of one of the most symbolic quarters, Portu Auzoa (The fishermen's quarter) where you can feel the sea air, a tradition and an activity / life that is still preserved.

And the vast greenery that rises on the Jaizkibel Mountain overlooking the Bay of Biscay which draws a landscape the leaves no one indifferent.

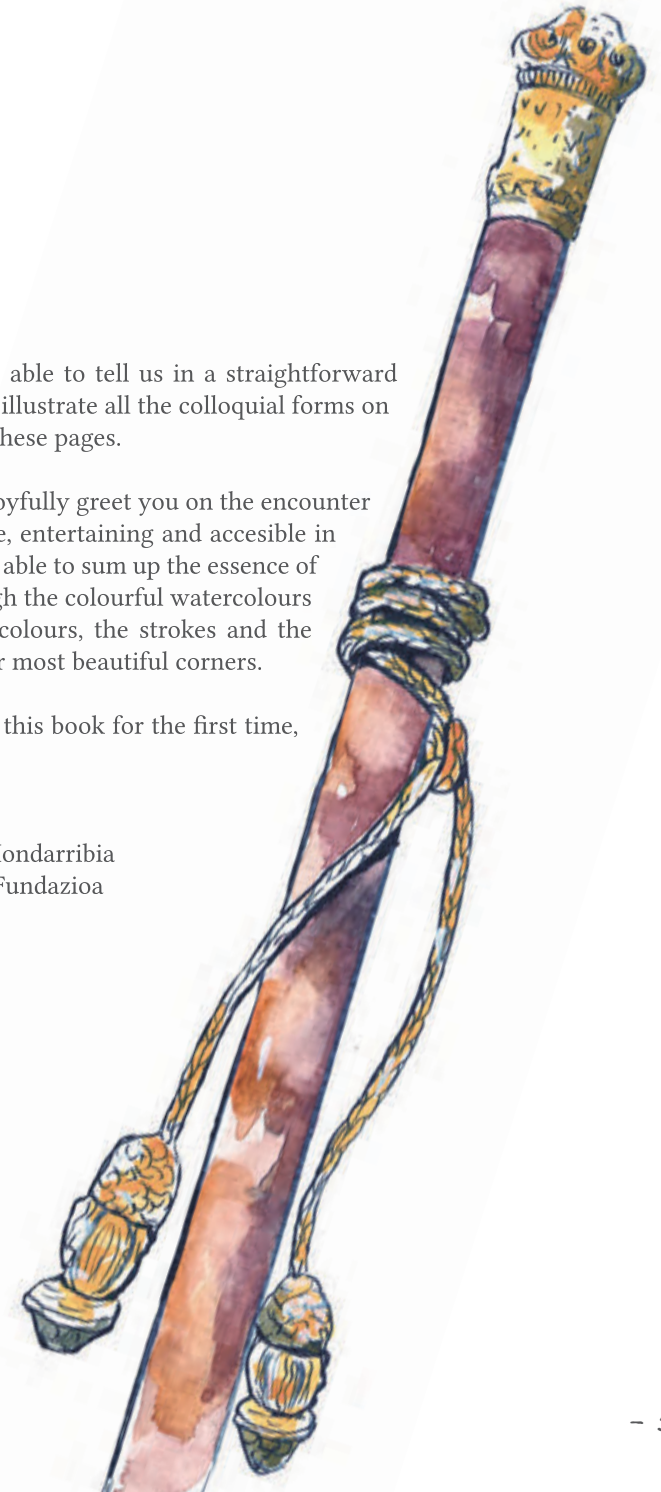
That is why Hondarribia is a dense and balanced colour palette that is blended, that flows and tunes in to all the senses in a harmonious way. And what better way to tell it than through the watercolours by the Hondarribian artist Javier Sagarzazu. His delicate paintbrushes haven't only stopped in the important nuances that are essential in the city, but in those details that for every Hondarribian are symbolic and form part of our identity.

Also Ylenia Benito has been able to tell us in a straightforward way and full of nuances that illustrate all the colloquial forms on the tour of the city through these pages.

Perhaps for this reason, we joyfully greet you on the encounter with a book that is enjoyable, entertaining and accesible in which the authors have been able to sum up the essence of the history of our city through the colourful watercolours that transmit the light, the colours, the strokes and the balanced compositions of our most beautiful corners.

For those who have attained this book for the first time, enjoy it as I have enjoyed it.

Txomin Sagarzazu Ancisar
Mayor of the Town Hall of Hondarribia
President of ARMA PLAZA Fundazioa





Prologue

Hondarribia is, for me, an open book in which the stories and adventures are given a free reign. It is an infinite journey that never comes back and that never stops storing memories. It is a stroll through the five senses. What smells? The smell of the sea. What views? Any corner asks you, please don't blink. What touch? The touch of the stone that surrounds the city. What sound? A conversation between two Hondarribians in the street. What taste? All of the *pintxos* and dishes here are a pleasure.

Visit Hondarribia and a stroll through its streets is always stimulating. You never leave empty handed.

A past history, a vivid memory, a poem, a feeling, a word....with every step you can discover something.

Hondarribia is the perfect combination. A balanced mixture. A unique fusión. Sea, mountain, city, past, present, gastronomy, architecture, culture, peace, tradition, creativity, modernity... The city has the virtue of being what you are looking for.

In other times the imposing walls "closed" the city, but nowadays Hondarribia receives with open arms the many visitors who want to stroll on our cobblestone, dive into our sea and take deep breaths of our air.

Whalers, witches, queens, fishermen, net menders, chefs, artists, rowers and a host of more characters that live in one way or another in the city to tell our history, that we are still writing and which you can be part of.

Open your eyes, listen and feel Hondarribia.

Welcome!



Introduction

The history of the city could be written in Latin, French or in Basque. Fontem Rapidum, Fontarabie and Hondarribia. The origin of the first takes us far back in time, to the era in which the Gascons occupied this place. Hondarribia has always been a place of water, springs and wells. It is not surprising that they named it for this special feature. Our French neighbours have clearly been influenced by this and when they cross the “water” that separates them, they say they are in Fontarabie. The fact is that the official name is Hondarribia and it is formed by (H) *ondar* + *ibia* which mean Sand and Ford. This meaning makes sense and it is a clear description of the location. This amounts to an almost perfect equation to say how and what Hondarribia is.

Victor Hugo wrote the following description of Hondarribia in his private travel notebook. “Fuenterrabia had left a brilliant impression on me. It had remained in my mind as a silhouette of a golden village with a pointed bell tower, at the back of a vast expanse of a blue bay”.

Miguel de Unamuno also used his pen to speak of Hondarribia. “At the foot of the Jaizquibel Mountain the city of Hondarribia tempts me daily with the ruins covered in ivy, the castle of the emperor Charles I, son of the madwoman from Castile and the handsome from Burgundy, the first Habsburg in Spain, with whom we entered the tragedy in which we still live”. This tragedy no longer exists but indeed it is this story that the writer of the famous generation of 98 wrote about.

The history of Hondarribia is marked, therefore, by decisions and strategies taken in castles but also by the adventures that have happened thousands of leagues from here, fishing or even harpooning whales. This is the front and back of Hondarribia and also the Seal of the Council that was used in 1297 and nowadays is housed in the Louvre Museum in Paris. On one of the sides a huge whale is seen and a boat manned by four men. On the other side a castle. This is the duality of the city that has marked its history.

It is known that this area was inhabited in the Palaeolithic period and that ore extracted from the nearby mines was exported by the Romans across its waters. But it is in the Middle Ages when the strategic location of the border is given greater importance in history. The construction and subsequent maintenance of its wall, which we can still visit today, was the concern of kings and queens. So much so that in 1203 it was granted the Town Charter and the title of “Villa” (Town). Appointments over the years would be extended to “Very noble, very loyal, very brave and forever faithful city”. In fact Hondarribia was the first in Gipuzkoa to receive the title of city and it was for its heroic defence after a violent siege by French troops.

There are places where time has stood still. In the streets of Hondarribia there are endless details that keep time and history frozen to be relived again and again. Some are nice and endearing, however, others tell of sieges and battles. Because of its location on the border with France it became a strategic place, a stronghold. It



was a high position in which the army could be protected. A place controlled by kings and coveted by troops.

Among the chapters of the history of Hondarribia there are defeats and tragedies, but victories as well. One in particular is still celebrated on the 8th September. On this day the Hondarribians remember the worst siege that the city suffered. It was in 1638 when the French troops attacked in force to take the stronghold. Hondarribia resisted and they didn't achieve it. That's why the 8th September is a special day in the calendar of the city. Every year the victory is commemorated on this day with the celebration of the Alarde parade.

Far from the darkness of those wars, Hondarribia is now a bright city. With its almost 30 km², which are sufficient to have its own and unique identity. The people of Hondarribia even have their own vocabulary. Try to guess what *axkiratu*, *txapinak*, *betta* or *txol* mean.

Nowadays gastronomy is another of the high points and pillars of Hondarribia. There are restaurants that are recommended in the New York Times and bars that don't have stars but will make you feel in heaven. Every mouthful, every *pintxo*, is a piece of paradise. It also maintains a historical heritage, to the delight of the lovers

The sea is the limit and the infinity of Hondarribia. It is the place where everything can begin but also where everything can end. The Hondarribians have lived and some still do from the resources the ocean has given. The fishermen are the symbol and character of this city.

of history, architecture and charming walks. The Gothic or the Baroque blend with the fishing tradition, the popular architecture and the present in Hondarribia.

It is the perfect fusion between the blue sea, the green mountains and the sand coloured stones that make up its huge heritage. Despite the passage of time, the city retains an abundance of "witnesses" of past times, incredible stories and unsolved mysteries. The wall surrounds the city and it will also envelop you. Prepare your five senses so you can enjoy Hondarribia, you will need all of them.

Hondarribia is the painter's palette. The anchor of a boat. The pen of a writer. The gunpowder of a battalion. The checkmate of a queen. The spell of a witch. The secret ingredient of a cook. The swing of a golfer. The rhyme of a poet. The wave that pushes a rowing boat. It's yesterday. It's today. It's now and forever.

La ciudad y sus secretos

«Érase una vez, Hondarribia...»

Un paseo por Hondarribia podría empezar como comienzan los mejores cuentos. Esos llenos de aventuras, batallas, amores, duelos, amistades y hechizos. Con reyes, reinas y princesas. También labradores y costureras. Cuando entras en Hondarribia, sus piedras talladas te susurran: «Érase una vez...». Y así comienza el cuento, el cuento en el que parece que está congelada la ciudad.

El casco histórico conserva parte de las murallas que tuvo Hondarribia, no para defenderse, sino para guardar la infinidad de historias y secretos que podemos descubrir paseando a través de sus calles. Casi cada rincón tiene algo que contar. Desde lo más grande, como la iglesia o el castillo, hasta lo más pequeño, como el nombre de una calle o un pozo. Todo es parte del cuento, un relato que comenzó a escribirse antes del medievo y que aún no ha encontrado su final.

A través de las estrechas, pero elegantes calles del casco histórico, descubrimos la Hondarribia más medieval. La piedra, los adoquines y el silencio son los protagonistas, pero los recuerdos, las heridas de guerra y los símbolos son testigos invisibles de tiempos pasados, de otros capítulos.

Todo está por leer.







The Santa María gate is one of the two main entrances that the city formerly had in the 16th century.

A sun dial from 1838 is retained above the arch and there is also the coat of arms of the city dating from 1694. They keep frozen and alive the charm of the old town which is on the other side of the arch.

Before going through, turn around. Look at what you are leaving behind your back. Look on the green of the trees that form a labyrinth of the Alameda; even greener the Peñas de Aia; and another city, Irún.



Este edificio, situado a la derecha de la puerta de Santa María, es un antiguo casino, hoy convertido en hogar para los mayores hondarribiarras.

Émile Depressoir, o cómo solían llamarlo, Monsieur Depressoir, fue quien en 1874 montó en lo que era el baluarte de San Felipe un casino de juego. Esto lo convirtió en un emprendedor y valiente negociante, ya que en aquella época el juego estaba prohibido en Francia, Italia y Alemania. Monsieur Depressoir tuvo la astucia de instalar una ruleta aquí, en Hondarribia, a las puertas de Francia. Sobra decir que fue un éxito, tanto que el edificio aún conserva el nombre de casino, aunque ahora en su interior no haya una ruleta, ni se juegue al póker.

Los «hacheros» eran habituales en muchos de los ejércitos europeos de antaño. Ellos se ocupaban de preparar el camino al resto de la tropa en operaciones de guerra. Aquí, ahora, son símbolo de la fiesta más importante de Hondarribia, pero este «hachero» también ha preparado el camino en esta operación que te va a llevar a conocer los secretos de la ciudad.



The first step in Nagusia street takes you back to another age. To stumble on the cobblestones is a stroke of luck, as it compels you to stop and enjoy the myriad of details of this place.



In 1963 the historic old town was declared a monumental site.

Looking up from the beginning of the street, it is an embellishment trapped in time.

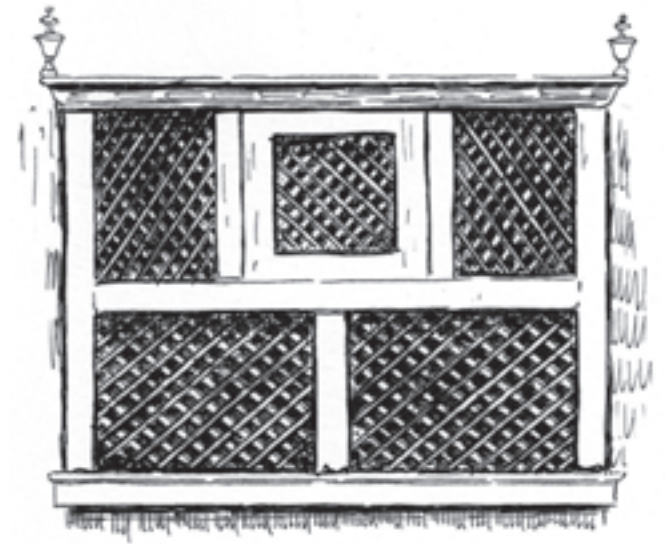


This space is "reserved" for artists with canvas and brush. The painters try from this perspective to capture the magic of the Nagusia street.





As you go up the Nagusia street you feel you are being observed. It is the puppets in the Menina shop who are to blame. Get to know stories of Basque mythology with these beautiful miniature people.



Nothing breaks the charm of this street. This shop window full of old anise bottles can take you back to the wildest Paris of the 1920s. In the second shop window the rust still lets us see the collection of metal boxes. "Factory of reinette apple sweets", "Jellied dates from Barbary" or "Richelet lozenges for a sore throat, a cough, colds, bronchitis, and asthma". We can find whatever relics here.



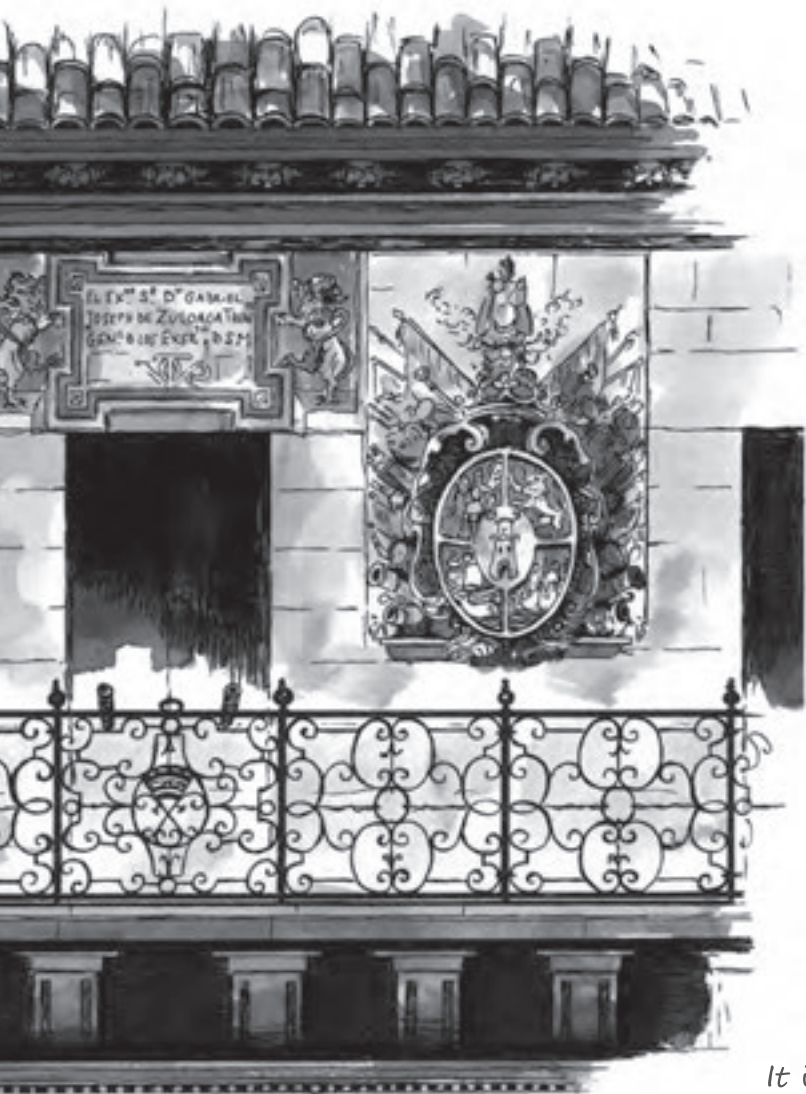


Everything in the Nagusia street is impressive. Nothing is by chance and everything has a story behind it. Many of the buildings retain the tradition of the family crests. You can entertain yourself by looking between the balconies and imagine the stories of the great noble families.



Half way up the street there is the Town Hall. It wasn't always here and before it was located in what is now the parish church tower.





It is in the Baroque style, but sometimes ahead of its time. What stands out is the elegant wrought iron balcony and the symmetry that achieves the two coats of arms of the city.

The coats of arms were carved at the expense of the first Count de la Torre Alta, one of the most illustrious sons of the city. It was a gift, but who was this Count? His name is between the two coats of arms.

With a coat of arms on each side, there is a stone plaque in the centre held in place by two lions. On this plaque the inscription can be read "His Excellency, Mr. D. Gabriel Joseph de Zuloaga Lieutenant General of the Armies of His Majesty". He is the Count de la Torre Alta.



Gabriel Joseph de Zuloaga was Governor and Captain General of the Province of Venezuela. He is still remembered for his courage and energy. It is no wonder that the existing geographical extent of Venezuela is due largely to his work as Governor.



A bit further up the Nagusia street it seems that the predominant colour is sand due to the harmony of the stones in the buildings and the cobblestones of the pavements. But in spring the residents decorate those small ledges of wrought iron with colourful flowers. It is an art form in the city and there is even a competition of flowered balconies.

This splendid Baroque style building is where the municipal library is located.



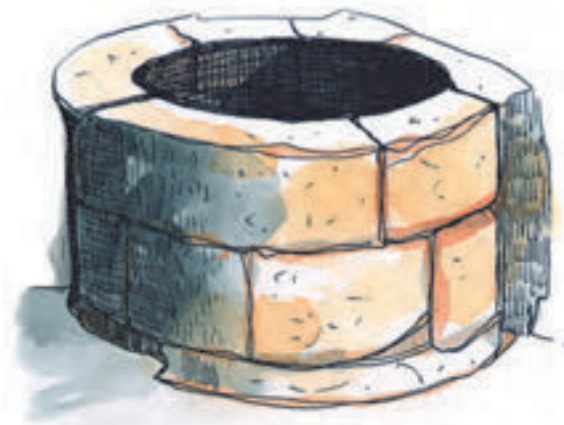
The princess María Teresa Antonia, who was going to marry the son of Louis XV, stayed here in the Zuloaga Palace in 1745. She is not the only princess to spend the night in Hondarribia. Maria Teresa of Austria also stayed here in 1660 prior to reigning next to the Sun King (Louis XIV) in France. Juana of Castile stayed in 1502 when she was on her way to be named crown princess.



If you look up, the beautiful wrought iron balconies are sure to stand out and the eaves with shapes that have been carved by stonemasons. Artists from another era.



Stone is almost the main protagonist in Hondarribia and one could say that the stonemasons were the main "designers" of the city.



In its interior we can find one of the many wells that are found in the houses of the city.





Iriarte House

Only a few more steps up we find what might be the other side of the coin. The Iriarte House is completely different to the Zuloaga Palace but equally impressive. Its wooden framework, its balconies.... don't go unnoticed in the Nagusia street.

It was built in the 16th century. Up to the first floor was made of stone, the protagonist material of this street, and the rest was made with a wooden framework filled with bricks.

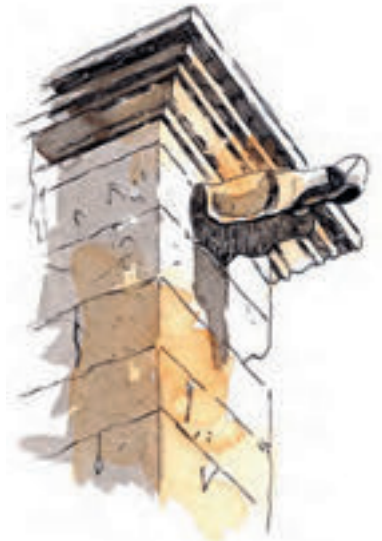


In the Casadevante Palace N° 5
Nagusia street.

In addition some families such as the Casadevante, retain more than a coat of arms. On the plaque installed in the Casadevante Palace we find one of the oldest lineages in Hondarribia. And in some of the oldest documents of the city, it already seems that the Casadevante's govern the destiny of Hondarribia.

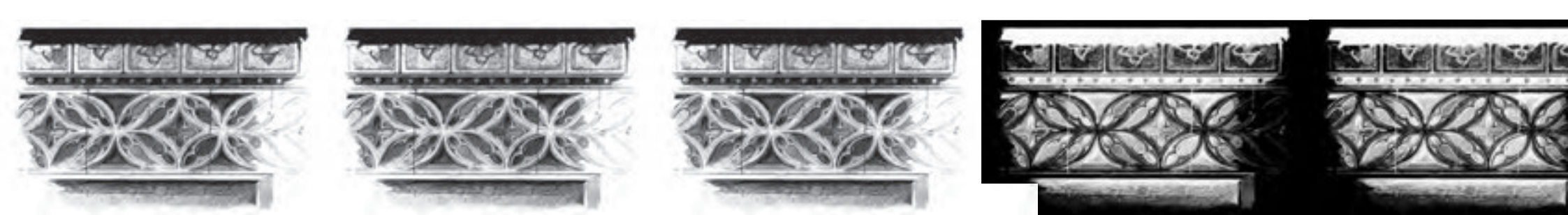


The apse of the church is protected by solid buttresses and as in Notre Dame by some gargoyles.



The tranquillity and silence in the Nagusia street is broken in a timely manner. Throughout the day the bells of the parish church warn that time is passing, and every Sunday morning the txistulari musicians with their aubade herald a new dawn.



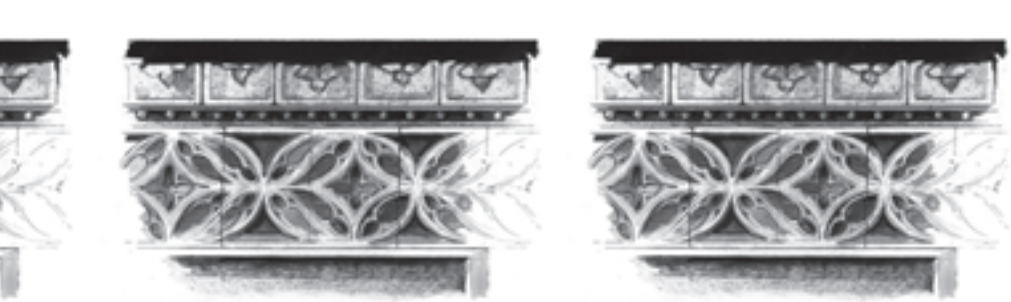


In its interior we can find a coat of arms in polychrome over the sacristy door. Dating from the mid-17th century, it is the coat of arms of the city. You can look for the golden lion or the whale or the mermaid with her mirror in her right hand...

This is the Parish Church of Santa Maria de la Asunción y del Manzano, whose tower rises above the skyline of the city. The tower has been a Town Hall, a prison and a municipal archive.

The proxy marriage of the princess Maria Teresa of Austria and Louis XIV, the Sun King, took place in the Parish Church in 1660. Inside the church a stained glass window portrays this. It doesn't shine because the Sun King was not present. It is the perfect excuse to go inside and see it and get to know the rest of the church.

Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque. Architecture lovers will enjoy recognising the combinations of styles.



The tower of the parish church was the scene of a witch trial. On the sixth of May 1611 Inesa de Gaxen and three other women were interrogated here for witchcraft. They were accused of participating in witches covens, invoking the devil and casting spells on boys and girls. Nothing was proven but they were taken to Logroño. Perhaps they left some of their magic here...

On a facade in front of the church a curse can still be read, "La maldición de la madre abrasa i destruyede raishijos i casa". (The curse of the mother burns and destroys and uproots children and house). Its origin is as magical as it is mysterious. Do you dare to find out?



The facade belongs to the House of Ladrón de Guevara as his coat of arms confirms. The Ladrón de Guevara is from those lineages that have been key players in the history of the city. They have been "Maestres de Campo", contraband inspectors, distinguished soldiers, colonels, ensigns and mayors.







From the top of the Nagusia street look down and then look up towards the bell tower that touches the sky. You have just learnt centuries of history in barely 200 steps.

Some are giants and others are *cabezudos* (big festival heads). Some dance and move elegantly. Others run and hit you with their "weapons". The giants and the *cabezudos* are the mythical characters of the festivals and part of the Basque folklore. Run away from the *cabezudos* and enjoy the beauty of the giants when you meet them in the Nagusia street.

The Arma square is a strategic place in times of battle. It is an area "spoilt", especially by Isabella the Catholic and her grandson Charles V, due to its geographical location. It was a high place, the highest place around and it had and has a clear view of France. It is common knowledge that the French were one of the serious headaches of the Catholic Kings.



The town was built on a small hill which today is this square. From here we can peep out at the bay, which is now a feast for the eyes. Back then it was an exceptional position for the defence of what was considered to be the key to the kingdom. Once the town was conquered they were free to enter the kingdom of Castile.



Yesterday and today, it is hard to imagine an urban square that already in 1638 could become a bullring. But that's the way it is. The townspeople have told me that they have seen many black bulls and some Veronicas (movements of the bullfighting cape) in the square. Today it is the perfect place for all kinds of concerts and meetings among friends. Have something to drink in the square looking at the colourful facades; it is sure to make you smile.

Moreover, there are still remains of those evenings with the bulls. The Sokamuturra is a heifer tied to a rope and they don't use capes. It is released in the Nagusia street during the fiestas to the delight of the most daring that run in front of it.

For this reason the Arma square has always been a meeting place. Troops or festivities, the coming together have always been the character of this space. And it still is.

The building of the "Cultural and tourist information centre Arma Plaza" is today the meeting place for the thousands of tourists who visit Hondarribia, but before it was the stage for major events. In fact its construction in 1790 had the objective of having the best view of what happened in the square. In another era it was a bullpen, a school, a music academy, a post office... Here you can find all the information you need to visit the city.



The painter Daniel Vázquez Díaz had a small studio in the square. On his way to Paris he became enchanted by the city. He used to say that the light in Hondarribia changed him and taught him how to paint.

Another signature beginning with "V" also spent time in Hondarribia. Diego Velázquez in addition to being one of the most outstanding painters in history, he was also one of the most trusted men of King Philip IV. In 1660 Velázquez was responsible for supervising everything related to the wedding of Maria Teresa of Austria to Louis XIV. So that everything was ready, the carriages, the decorations, the father of the princess, Philip IV delegated this responsibility to the painter. This was the last journey that Velázquez made, the work and the 72 days en route exhausted the painter, who died on his return to Madrid.



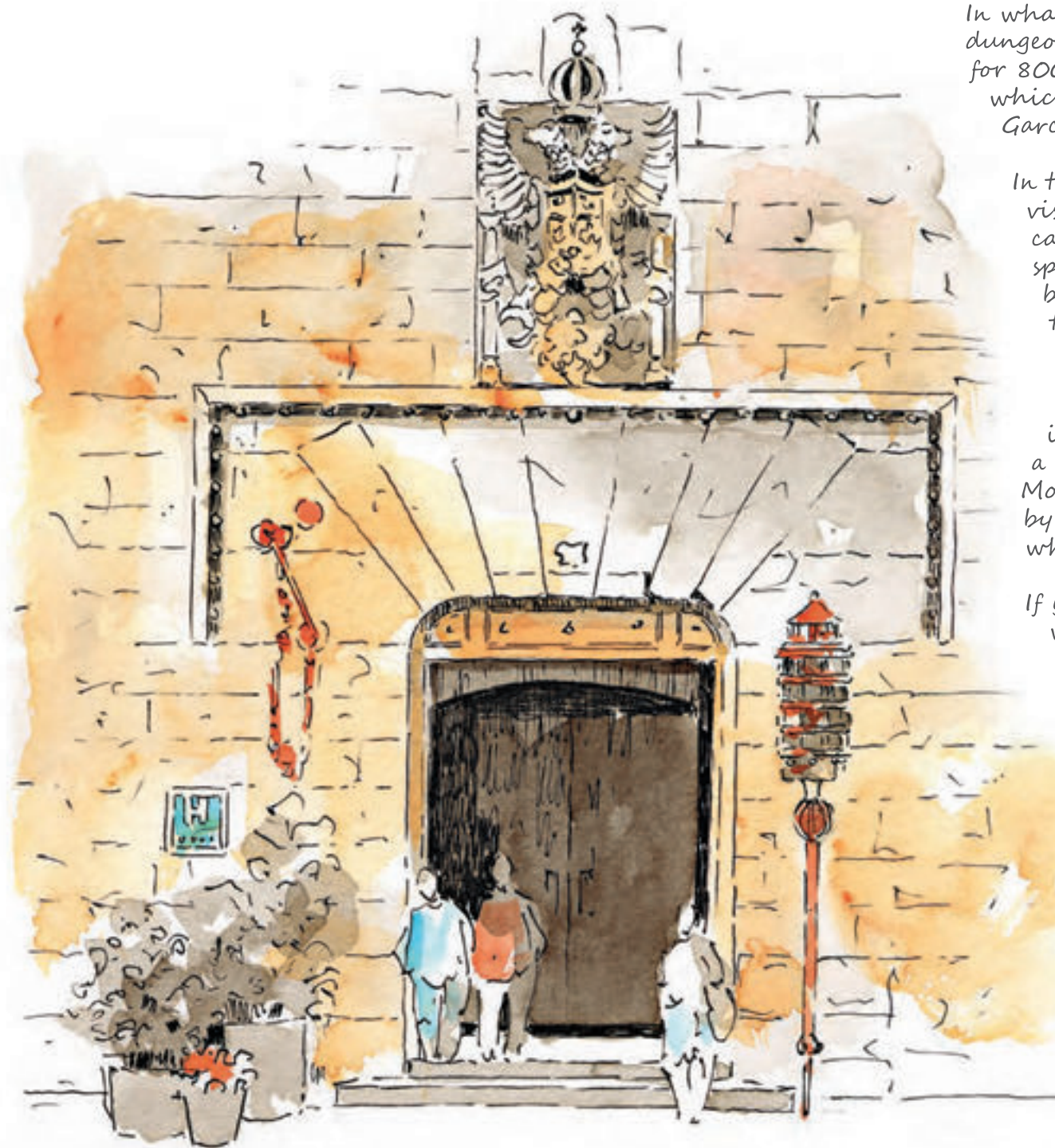
And today the one, who best captures that light of Hondarribia which Vázquez Díaz talked about, is the author of these watercolours, Javier Sagarzazu.



The darkness in times of war is maintained in the stones of the castle because nowadays the light and the colours from the rest of the buildings take on all the prominence.

The castle, which is a hotel nowadays, has the name of the emperor, Charles V and if its walls, stones or corners could talk they would tell of endless battles and strategies between kingdoms, victories, defeats and many secrets.





In what today is the reception, were formerly the dungeons. What was the headquarters of the stronghold for 800 soldiers is nowadays a hotel with 36 rooms in which distinguished visitors such as Sofia Loren or Garcilaso de la Vega have stayed.

In the summer of 1928 the Queen Maria Cristina visited Hondarribia and she regretted the state of the castle in ruins that was going to be auctioned. She spoke to the Mayor of the city for the Town Hall to buy the remains. In 1966 for the price of one peseta the Town Hall "sold" the castle to the state. Then it was turned into the hotel which it is today.

Going around the castle helps to verify the immensity of the construction, but also to discover a small work of art. It appears to be "A trip to the Moon" by Georges Méliès but it is in fact a sculpture by Remegio Mendiburu. The artist from Hondarribia who is much loved in the city.

If you want to see the real Moon or a spectacular view, "turn around". Your astonishment won't emerge unscathed. It is also worth taking a photograph of the view from here.



Talua

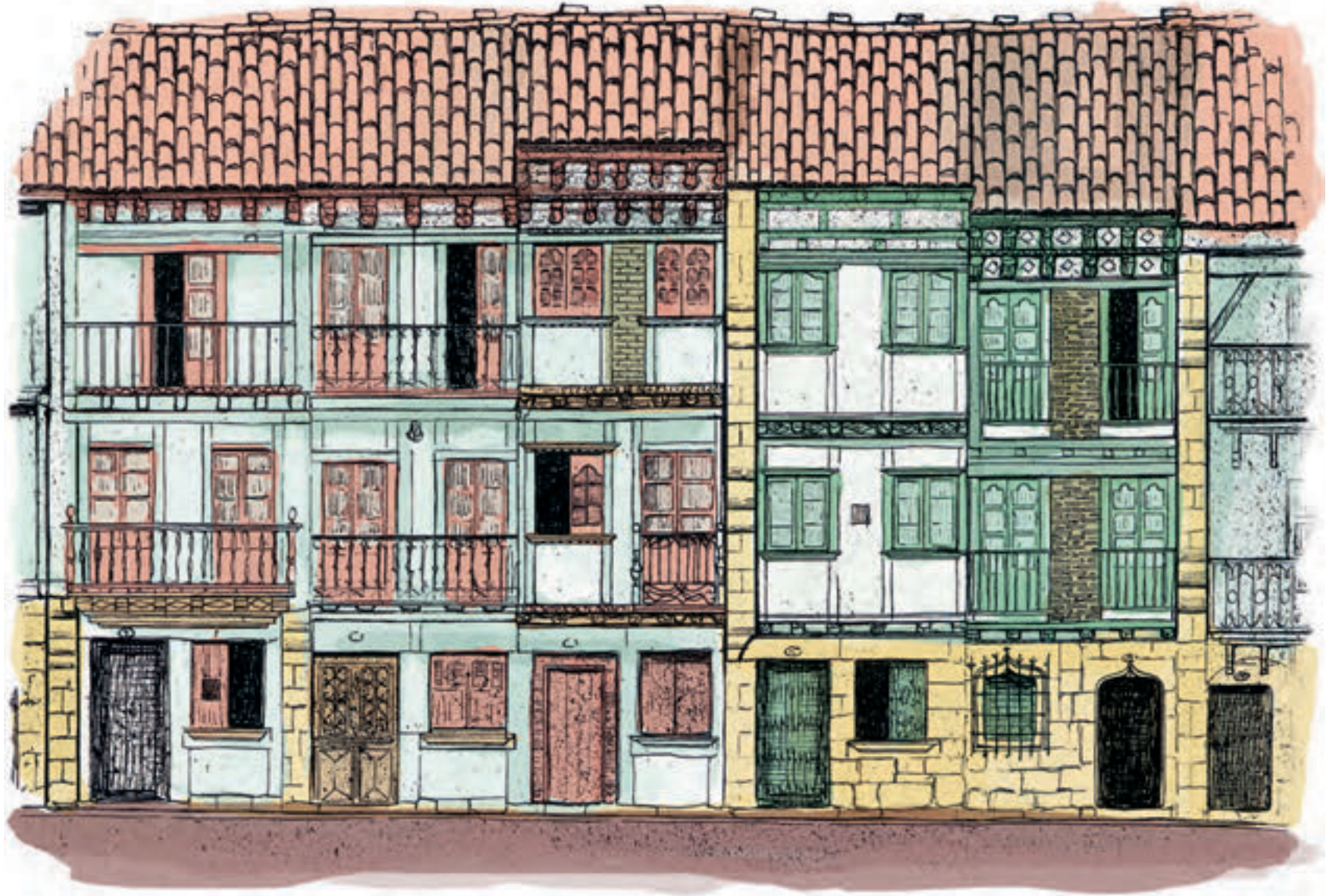
And that the infinite view is seen from here. Look straight ahead and you feel it. Look first, and then take out your camera. Very few views more beautiful than this one will be stored in your retina.

The houses on the Arma square blend in with the houses in the San Nicolás street. Enjoy this architecture from the 16th and 17th centuries with narrow and long houses.



Look at the houses closely. You hardly have space to feel somewhere else that is not this. The city captures you almost literally

Getting lost in the small streets of the historic old city is an adventure. They all have something in common, the cobblestone pavements, but each one has a special feature.





San Nicolás street nº4

The Mugarrietanea House, known by the residents as the place where the "Ttopara" is done, a curious procession during Holy Week. Today the ivy hides something more than a building, it is said that a ghost dwells there.

Have you seen it?



The coat of arms of Egiluz House

Egiluz House is known popularly as the house of Juana "la Loca" (Joan the Mad). It is said that Juana of Castilla spent three days in this house when she was travelling with her husband, Felipe el Hermoso (Philip the Handsome) towards Toledo to be proclaimed heirs to the throne of Castile.



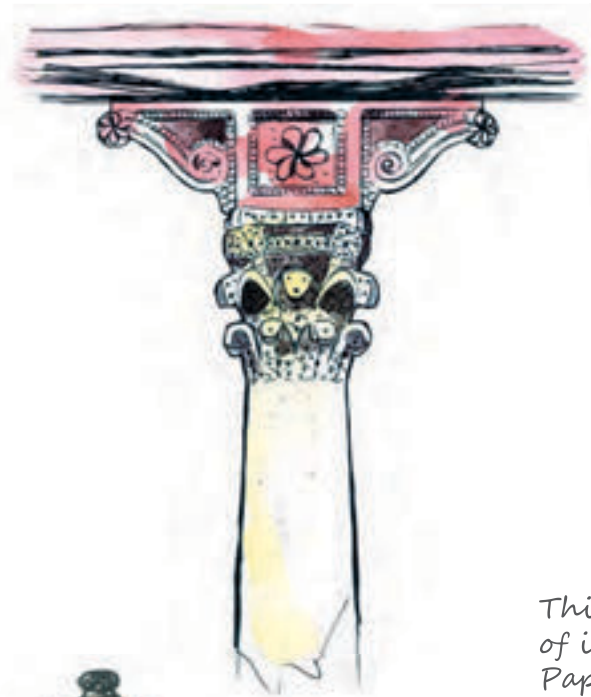
Juan Laborda street nº3

The Gipuzkoa Square is another frozen embellishment, but this one has a catch. In spite of its medieval appearance, it was designed in the second half of the 20th century by the architect Manuel Manzano-Monís.





In this square everything is different. The balance and harmony along with the flowers on the balconies in spring delight all those who visit it.



This city has been the scene of important films such as Papillon. Can you believe it?





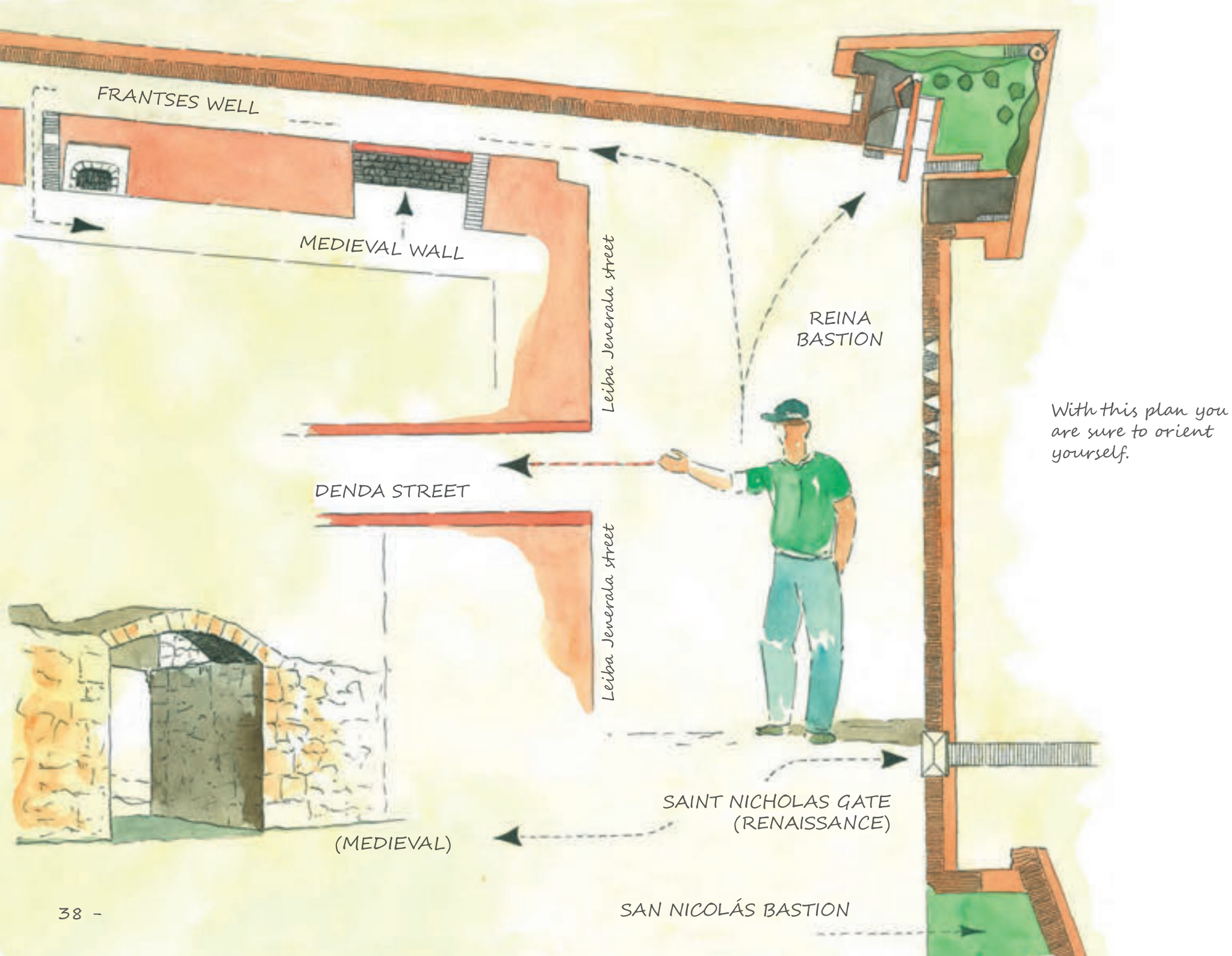
Before we reach the San Nicolas gate look at the Zilardegi (silverware) street. It is so narrow that there is no question of even a breeze, but the residents find the necessary centimetres to hang their washing.



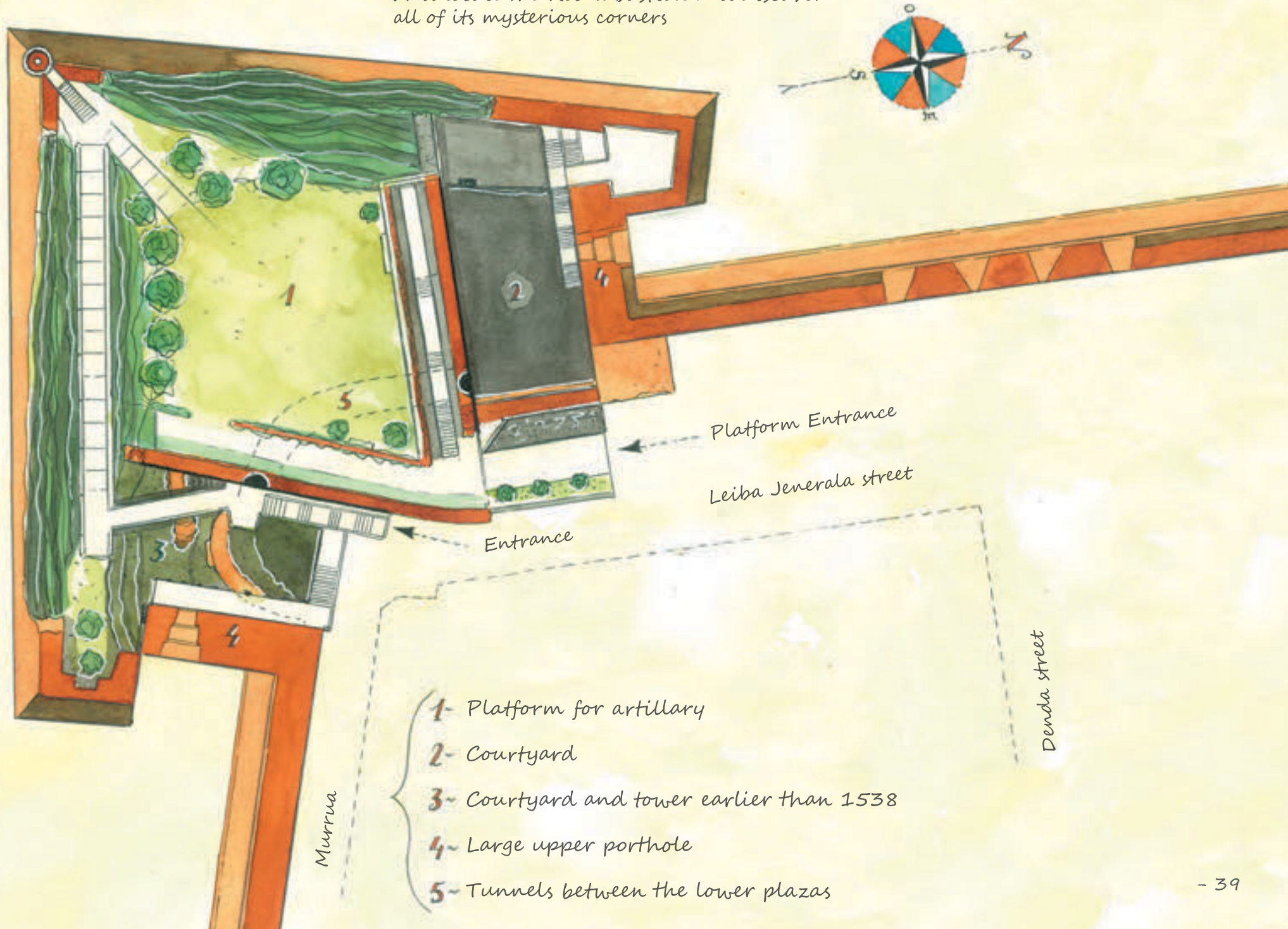


The San Nicolás gate is another of the old entrances to the city. This gate connected the walled city to the slopes of the Jaizkibel Mountain.

There are still traces of the lift gate on this bridge. Although you don't own a horse or a carriage, walk across it, the views are beautiful. Nowadays it is a walkway. It is one of the most beautiful places to appreciate the Renaissance walls that still surround part of the old town. Take a look, on one side you will see the Reina bastion and the San Nicolás bastion.

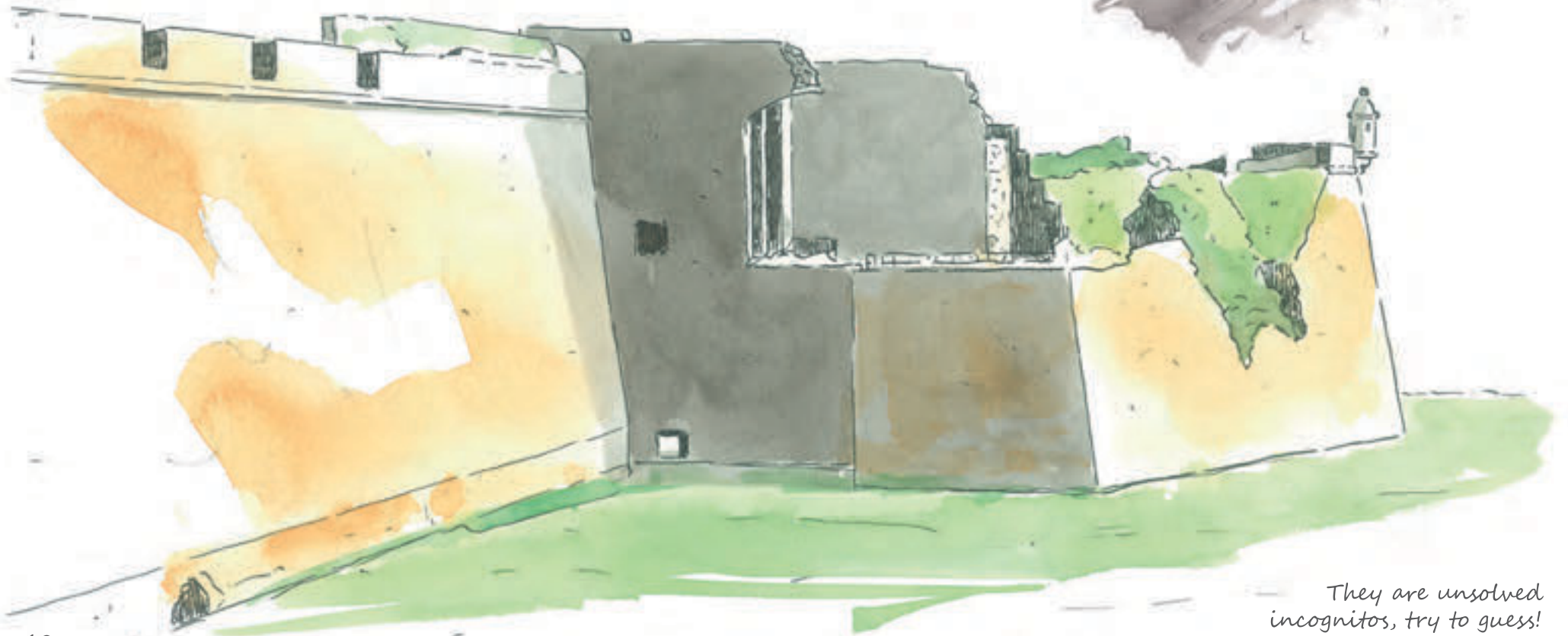


And locate the Reina bastion and discover
all of its mysterious corners



The Reina bastion is another witness of how important Hondarrribia is in the modern era. The polygonal floor, like the point of an arrow served as a powerful defence.

But which Queen does it belong to? Who was it built for?



They are unsolved incognitos, try to guess!



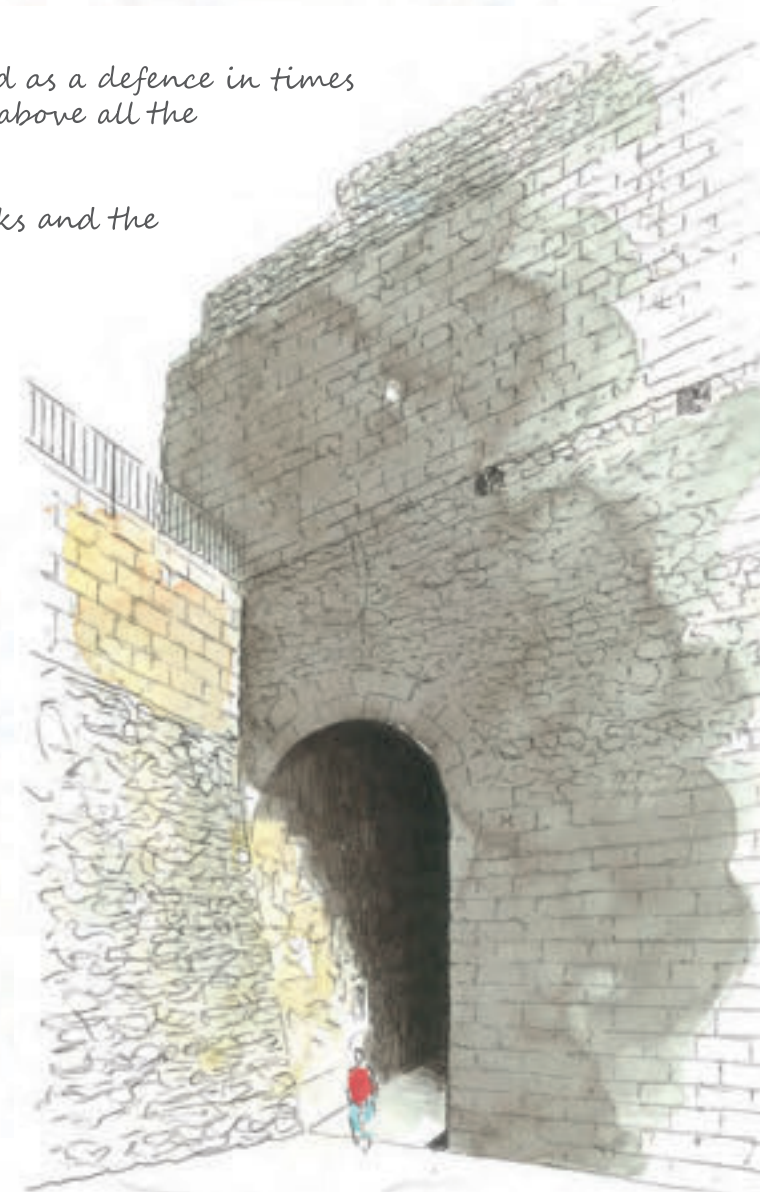
Don't hesitate to explore the corners of the bastion and imagine how it was used to defend the city. Look for the marks of the stonemasons that carved the stones of the walls.



You can still see towers, balconies and tunnels that acted as a defence in times of war. The stones still tell of the numerous attacks and above all the resistance.

And that the bastion resisted and has resisted these attacks and the passage of time.

The stones of this construction acted as a protection for the townspeople, just like the gunpowder. The Polvorín (Gunpowder Magazine) where the gunpowder was stored which you can also visit in the Javier Ugarte Street.



And after touring the bastion, it is imperative to wander through the streets. Enjoy contemplating its facades, its coat of arms and the carved eaves.

Many noble families have had their origin and have lived in Hondarribia. In number 4 in the Ubilla street there is a coat of arms with a legend that says "Soy de Arsu" (I am from Arsu)..

Harategi street
(Butcher street)



The story may seem like knights of old looking for "Dulcineas" but it is real.

This is one of the oldest and most illustrious houses in the city and the renowned Machin de Arsu is from here and he is attributed with a heroic victory over the French on 20th December 1280



Artzu House in Ubilla street N° 4



Denda (Shops) street

In the Denda (Shops) street they don't serve as many costumers as before but it keeps the charm of having seen the famous poet "Satarka" (Klandio Sagarzazu) born and live here.



Nere itsas-erri
eder, Ondarribi.
Biotz barruko
lore usai gozodun
zoragarri!

(It is a verse that "Satarka" dedicated to his city).

"Bordari" which Fernando Artola Sagarzazu used as his nom de plume was also a master of words.

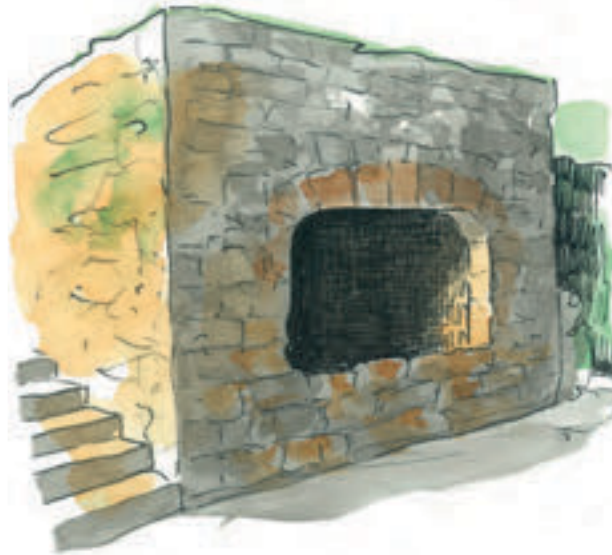


A writer and a poet
he always had fine
words for Hondarribia
and its surrounding
area. Moreover he was
the first to ask for the
professionalization of
the bertsolaris (a poet
singer) master of words
just like him.

The coat of arms of
Vedruna-Olazabal.

Other streets and buildings, however, keep Gascon names such as Pampinot or Mouriscot; a street and an old hotel.

And others like the Etxenagusia Margolaria (painter) street which before was "Fuentes y Gorgot". "Echena", was how he signed his paintings, he could have been in that corner of the painters which is a little further down, but he travelled and spent long periods in France and Italy. José Ignacio Echenagusia from Hondarribia along with Eduardo Zamacois was the first Basque artist of international renown. His artwork crossed borders, just like him.



A well in the Etxenagusia Margolaria (painter) street, so-called the Frantses Well.



Etxenagusia Margolaria street



Pampinot street

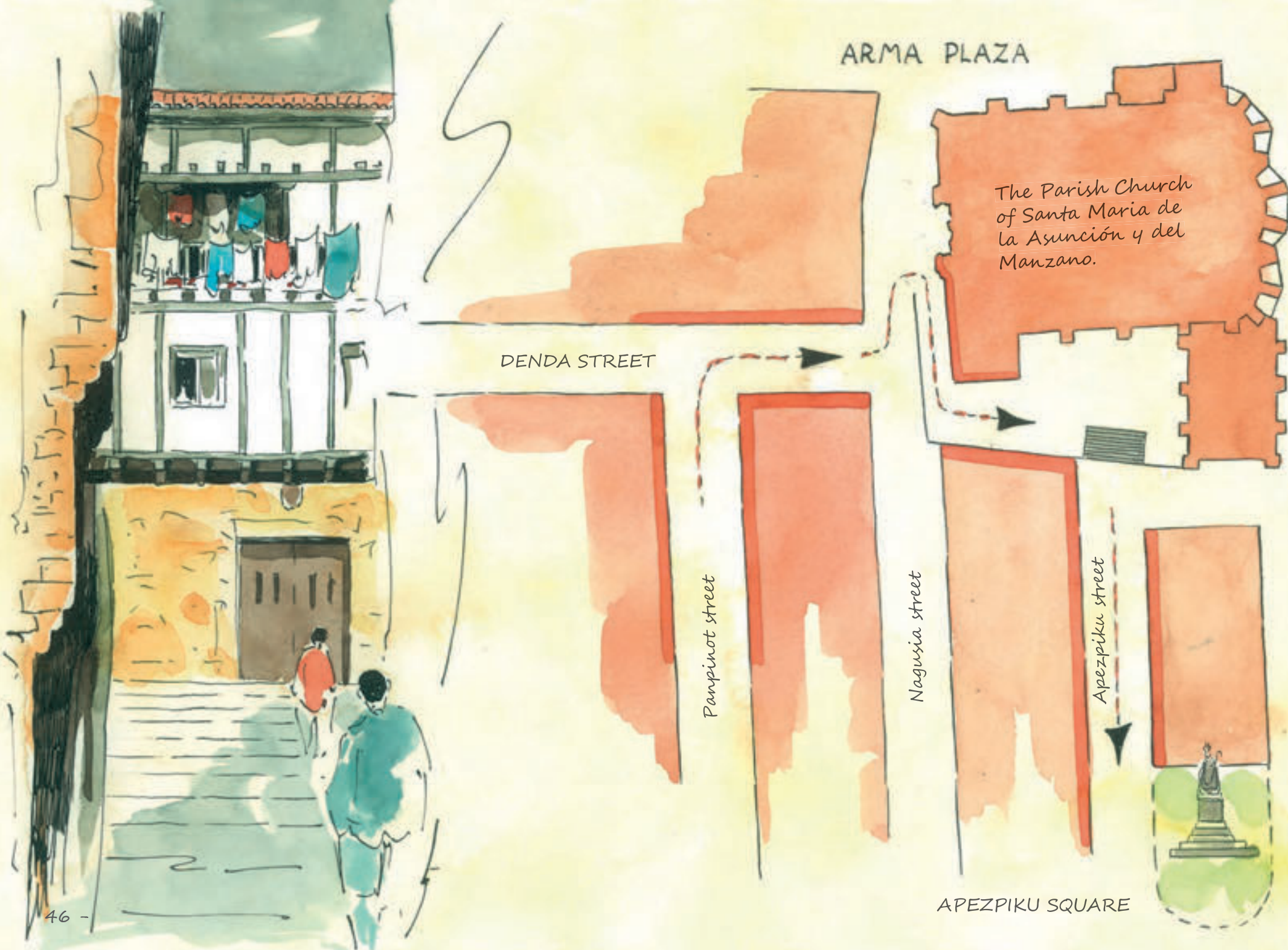


*In the Pampinot street
we can't stop looking
at this beautiful
facade. It is the Ramery
House where the ARMA
PLAZA Fundación
is located and that
devotes its resources to
disclosing the heritage of
the town.*

*The Ramery family is originally from Flanders
and was established here in the time of Philip IV.*

*This building was also renovated by the architect
Manuel Manzano-Monís.*





ARMA PLAZA

DENDA STREET

The Parish Church
of Santa Maria de
la Asunción y del
Manzano.

Pampinot street

Nagusia street

Apezpiku street

APEZPIKU SQUARE



You can't miss a stroll around the Apezpiku square (Bishop square).

Another journey back in time, this time to 1502, when Cristóbal Rojas y Sandoval was born here as a result of the encounter between the Marques de Denia and doña Dominga de Alcega, a maiden of noble descent.

Rojas y Sandoval was Bishop of Oviedo, Badajoz and Córdoba; he attended the Council of Trent and died while he was archbishop of Sevilla. His positions are sufficient reasons to dedicate a square and a sculpture to him.



Palencia or Etxebestenea House

The sea and the fishermen's quarter

Despite its few kilometres of extent, Hondarribia is a city of contrasts in harmony. It seems impossible but that's the way it is. The sea coexists with the city. The past speaks to the present. And the green is understood by the asphalt. The most visible proof is in the fishermen's quarter, which is known here as "Portua".

On the other side of the walls there exists another Hondarribia, which the *arrantzale* (fishermen) erected. There aren't any coats of arms here but the vivid colours of the facades attract our attention in the same way. Likewise, the sand of the stones is replaced here by the brightest white and the blue of the ocean. The houses in "La Marina" in spite of their low structural height act in some way as dikes. The mist from the Cantabrian Sea can't seep between these picturesque alleys, but this area of Hondarribia smells of the sea. Over the years the fisherman's quarter hasn't lost its identity. The more traditional shops have combined with others more contemporary, but without losing an iota of its character *arrantzale*. It is an authentic place if there ever was one.

It is also one of the most active areas in Hondarribia. In its streets the shopping is done, the day to day affairs, going to the doctor, or *txikitea* (go drinking) with friends. Amidst the hustle and bustle of the city, the adventures and feats of the fishermen or of the old whalers are still heard. The contrast is also harmony here. Do you want to check it out?

Beyond the wall of stone that was intended to curb the French attacks, the part most linked to the sea of Hondarribia, the fishermen also put stone on top of stone. Not to erect walls but for their houses. Thus the first expansion of the fishermen's quarter was born. Here the French influence in the architecture, in the colours, in the cuisine, is undeniable. And it is seen in many corners.



1. The Church of Santa Maria Magdalena
2. Auditorium
3. Health Centre Itsas Etxea
4. The former headquarters of the Fisherman's Guild of San Pedro
5. The former Church of Santa Maria Magdalena
6. Kai Zaharra (the old port)

*Pasea sin prisa, piérdete entre la multitud
en la amplia calle central, pero también
prueba a descubrir las estrechas callejuelas
entre las casas.*





No hay dos casas iguales, pero todas tienen algo en común. El blanco de las fachadas es el lienzo idóneo para el colorido de los balcones, las flores y los toldos. La calle San Pedro es un cuadro perfecto.





Esta calle, además de ser un punto de encuentro habitual para los hondarribiarras, también es el escenario de múltiples eventos y fiestas. El Hondarribia Blues Festival, la Kutxa Entrega, el Alarde o las victorias de la trainera Ama Guadalupekoa se celebran aquí.





Seguramente la calle más popular de Hondarribia. Es aconsejable visitarla con el estómago vacío, aquí el buen comer es ley.

Parece que las casas hacen las veces de diques. No dejan pasar la bruma del mar y su colorido es el protagonista. La luz es una habitante más en esta calle.





The houses are simple and bright. Look at the colours (blue, green, red,) and the flowers that create a perfect decoration that takes us to the world of the fishermen and their boats. Also you can find a house with a coat of arms.



The Zeria House (It means whale in Basque) is a house that was built in 1575 and is one of the most charming of the old fishermen's settlement.

In the mid 20th century during some restoration work, the remains of a whale were found under the foundations. It is now a restaurant.



The coexistence between the past and the present is also seen in the shops. You can go round the shops and get a beautiful souvenir of the city.

You can eat well in any of the bars or restaurants. The difficulty here is to choose.



Learn these three words: *Epa!*, *Pintxo* and *Pote* and be prepared to enjoy.





And you can't miss wetting your lips with Txakoli, a slightly acidic white wine whose grapes are grown in coastal areas such as Hondarribia.



Ttinttorro, Perlita, Txinua, Txakarrayou are from Hondarribia when you have a nickname and a group of friends to txikitear (drink) with.





*It is the Santa María Magdalena square.
On this site there was the ancient
basilica which has disappeared.*

*The "Camino de Santiago" (the way
of Saint James) passed through here,
and stopped at the church dedicated to
Mary Magdalene.*



In the Itxaropena bar you will see it.

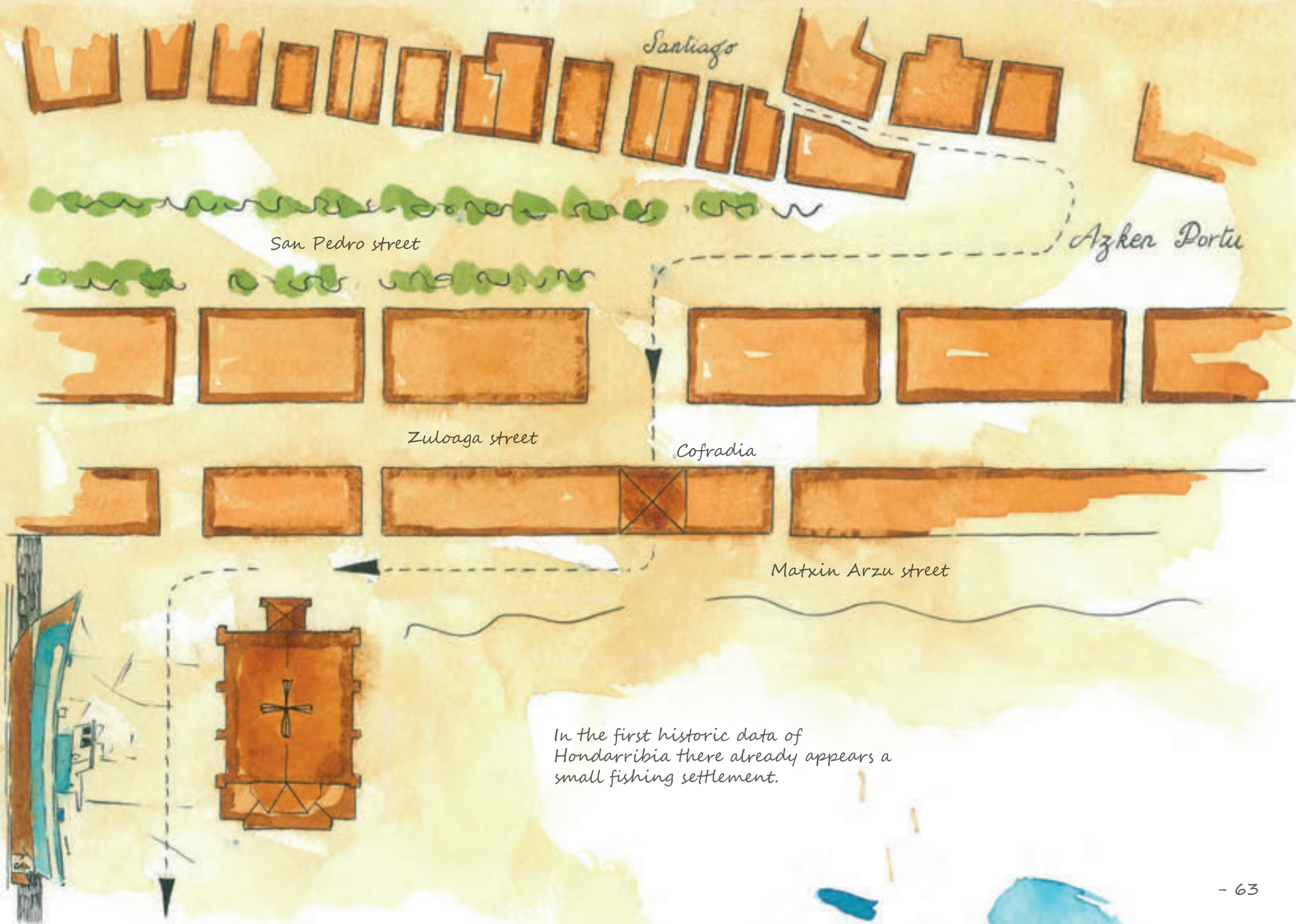


The houses in the
Santiago street are
protected by the cliff and
are located as far away as
possible from the sea.



Nowadays the streets of the fishermen's quarter are the social gathering points and the celebration of popular events. A remarkable framework for combining the past of the Hondarribian fishermen, well known for their courage and skill in the art of fishing, with the present, a meeting place of gastronomy and everyday life that you really must visit.



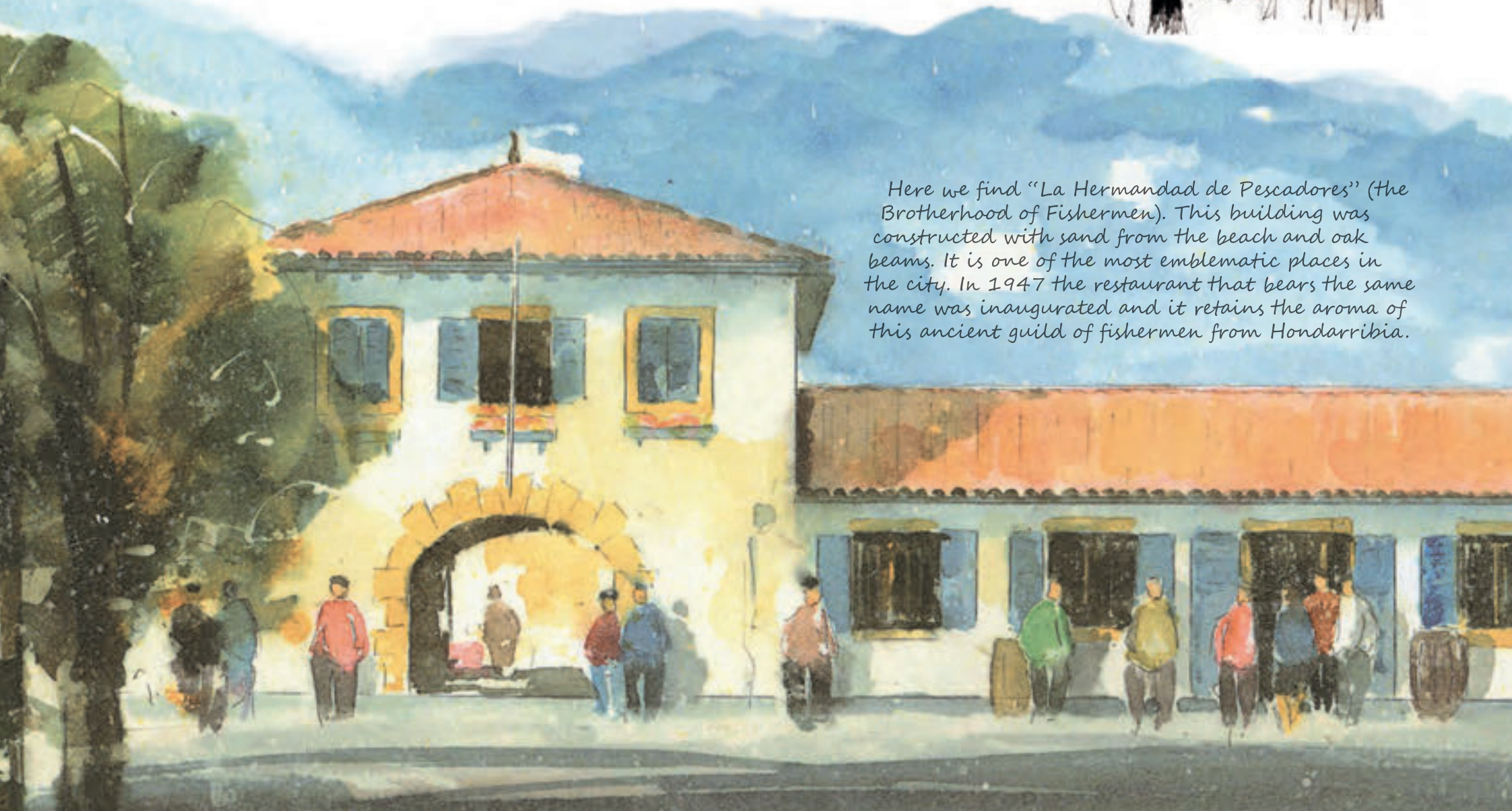


In the first historic data of Hondarribia there already appears a small fishing settlement.

“La Cofradía de Mareantes de San Pedro” (The fisherman’s Guild of Saint Peter), officially founded in 1361, although it is previously known of its existence, as its first ordinances were written in Gascon. Then, the whale of the coat of arms of the city shared the sea with the fishermen of Hondarribia.



Here we find “La Hermandad de Pescadores” (the Brotherhood of Fishermen). This building was constructed with sand from the beach and oak beams. It is one of the most emblematic places in the city. In 1947 the restaurant that bears the same name was inaugurated and it retains the aroma of this ancient guild of fishermen from Hondarribia.





The first historical data on whale hunting indicates that the Basque fishermen were pioneers in this art of fishing. The first documentation dating back to the 31st of December 1200 A. D. in which the King Alfonso VIII requested a whale from the fishermen every year. Although there isn't too much data, it seems that whale hunting was deeply rooted in the lives of our fishermen.

The sea unites quite a lot, even when a profession such as fishermen derive a passion for the sport of rowing.

That's why today it is also the "storeroom" for the trophies and flags won by the "Ama Guadalupekoa" rowing boat.





The hardware store Berrotarán is one of the oldest establishments in the city, in the Matxin Arzu street. Here you will find all the household goods you need.

“Lendabisico echea”, this sign confirms that this was the first house to be built in the street, formerly “Ensanche Aguinaga”, which was, of course, the first expansion (ensanche).





The dock which is located in Kai Zaharra which, according to legend was inaugurated in 1859 to receive the emperor Napoleon III and the empress Eugenia. Both of them spent the summer in Biarritz, "the other side of Hondarribia" and the texts of the time speak of Eugenia de Montijo's love of the sea.

Serapio Múgica claimed that the French emperors visited Hondarribia on two occasions while Luis de Uranzu reported that once the empress tried to get to Hondarribia but she was prevented by a storm. Both of them are right, as it is now known that Napoleon III and Eugenia visited the city on five occasions; they did so on their yacht Pelican and on La Mouette.

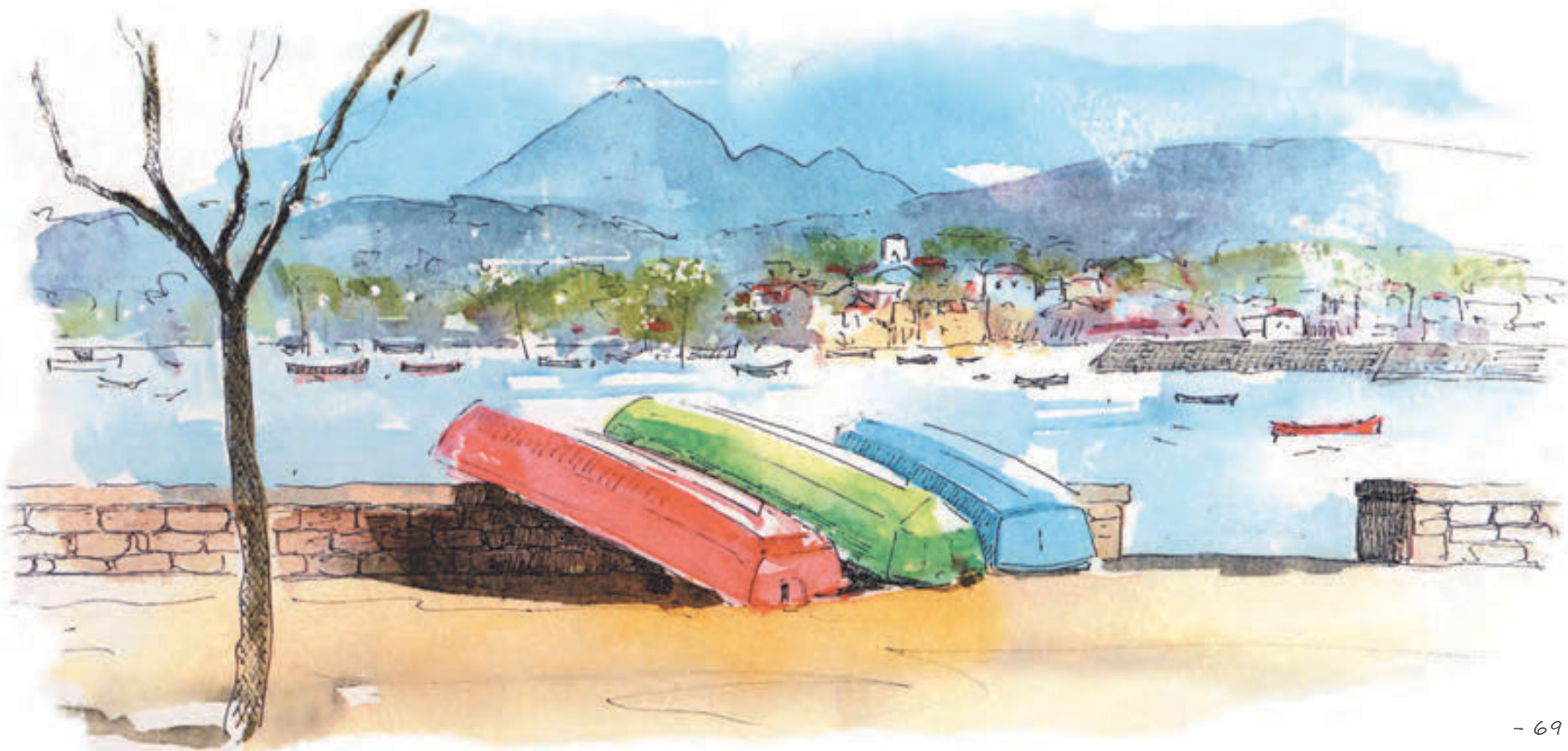
This church replaces a previous one, the primitive temple that was located in Madalen street. The oldest veteran fishermen from there tell that the image that gives its name to the church was moved here in a solemn procession in 1923.



The last of the local fleet of wooden boats the Mariñel is in the old dock. It's 21.30 m. In length and was built in the Muruaga shipyard in Bermeo in 1985 and was launched the same year. This is a "bonito" fishing boat of classical lines whose hull is made of quality wood. Nowadays it is very difficult and expensive to build a wooden hull of similar characteristics.



It is the boat that brings back memories. When you look at it you feel the breeze of the Cantabrian Sea, breathe thousands of leagues sailed and imagine the fishermen casting their nets into the ocean, trying to catch a piece of the sea.



The landscape and its paths

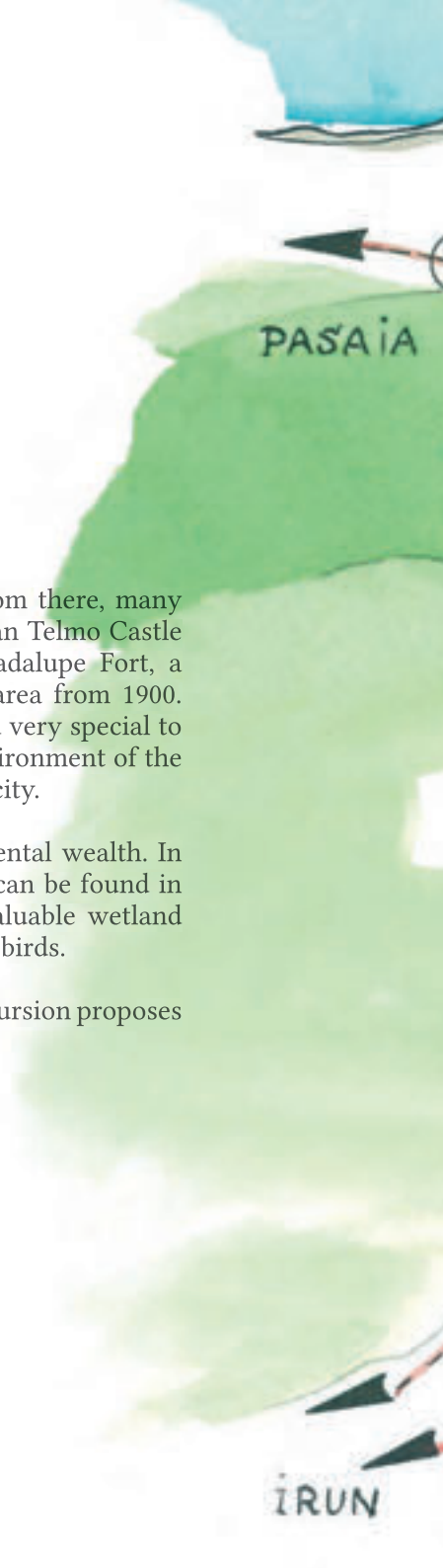
The greenest part of Hondarribia hasn't anything to envy the rest. It doesn't have streets but its paths are just as evocative and hoard many stories as well as mysteries. Perhaps we can find Redbeard or Venus here. Everything is possible in this incomparable spot.

The sea is still the one that splashes the history at every bend. And that back in time, Hondarribia had two port locations. One was the outer anchorage of Asturiaga and the other the inner dock of the Puntal. From the 1st century A. D. the cornice became an important means of communication and trade route. The navigation then was the cabotage, the boats didn't lose sight of the coast and stopped during the night. For this reason there existed a number of ports such as the anchorage Asturiaga in Hondarribia.

The Higer lighthouse can be visited nowadays, from there, many boats and whales were sighted. There is also the San Telmo Castle with the mysterious legend of a pirate. The Guadalupe Fort, a fortification prepared to defend the surrounding area from 1900. The Chapel of Guadalupe, is a place of worship and very special to the people of Hondarribia. Everything is in the environment of the Jaizkibel Mountain, and the highest "tower" in the city.

The greenest area is also an example of environmental wealth. In fact, the best examples of marshland in Gipuzkoa can be found in Hondarribia. Seventy hectares of a unique and valuable wetland which are an important refuge for many migratory birds.

You don't need to know how to fly, but what this excursion proposes is another trip back in time in every respect.





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JAIZKIBEL

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THE FISHERMEN'S
QUARTER

THE HISTORIC
OLD CITY

10

1. The Guadalupe Chapel
2. The Guadalupe Fort
3. The Lighthouse
4. The San Telmo Castle
5. The Fishing Port
6. The Beach
7. The Yacht Harbour
8. The Cantabrian Sea
9. The Bidasoa River
10. The Old Dock



The San Telmo Castle was also called the Watchtower, the Higer Castle and the "Pirates Castle", but no Redbeard was ever the owner of this place. In fact it was built against the pirates.

This place was already used in the Roman era or even before, in spite of not having this on record. Right in the Cape Higer is where the Asturiaga anchorage was found, whose location was excellent for the protection from the strong winds.

On the door it says and which reads as follows "ad reprimenda piratarum latrocinia".



From the 1800s the written documents and activities related to Cape Higer increased. In fact, a document exists and thanks to it the existence of a lookout is known, dedicated to both the sighting of whales as well as lighting a fixed light for the orientation of the boats on the winter nights.

The second Carlist war destroyed that first lighthouse. Higer was used as a landing place for weapon caches by the Carlists, but it was also the scene of battles.

The lighthouse that guides the fishermen home is located on the Jaizkibel Mountain. The Higer lighthouse shows the way home and is one of the best windows of the city. To watch the sunset from here is a must.

During Holy week in 1926 the ruins of the Chapel of San Telmo, located at the top of Cape Higuer, had an unusual number of visitors. The curious thing about those days is that there were archaeological excavations which were looking for an alleged temple dedicated to the goddess Venus, devoted to the sea. The promoter of this assumption was the German professor Adolf Schulten, a prestigious Spanish scholar of the time.



It is a space full of mystery and history. It is a fortification from the year 1900. It was prepared for 69 cannons and everything necessary to defend the territory after the Carlist wars.

Shooting galleries, covered walkways, parade ground, trenches or interior communication tunnels will transfer you to other times. Here the time has also been stopped.

In 1994 the Fort of Guadalupe was named as a cultural asset with the category of monumental site.

The Guadalupe Fort.

The people of Hondarribia speak of the "Kalima" or of the "Txapela" that the Jaizkibel Mountain sometimes wears. It is its especial weather message. Without isobars, just looking at Jaizkibel you can guess the weather.



The Virgin of Guadalupe protects the people of Hondarribia on land and at sea, in sieges and shipwrecks. She is the patron of the city.

The Chapel of Guadalupe was mentioned for the first time in 1526 when the navigator Juan Sebastián Elcano donated six gold ducats to the Virgin.



On the day of San Marcos, 25th of April, the godmothers give their godchildren an "Opilla" (a sponge cake decorated with coloured hard boiled eggs) only until they get married. Traditionally the "Opilla" is eaten in the fields of Guadalupe after being blessed.





The Errandonea Farmhouse

But The Jaizkibel Mountain keeps more secrets. Its impressive geology, its funeral monuments from prehistoric times, the paths that the pilgrims take towards Santiago, its watchtowers and lookouts let us see a deep bright green where the imposing vegetable plots are carefully cultivated by the farmers.

It is the other Hondarribia that lives, coexists and prevails.

Don't forget it.



The Santiagotxo Chapel



*And so, with your feet on the ground and the view of the infinite horizon of the sea,
Hondarribia captivates you. It introduces you to a far away journey, where you can
imagine yourself as a bold knight or a robust fisherman. The lighthouse guides the way.*

It is a round trip.

Come back whenever you want, this is also your home.







EUZKO LEGBILTZARIA



ARMA PLAZA
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