

SEMINAR ON TILE VAULTING SPANISH ARCHITECTURE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (MIT)

Please join us for a special presentation on the history and mechanics of tile vaulting in Spanish architecture. Leading architects Antoni Gaudí and Rafael Guastavino designed hundreds of structural tile vaults, though this construction system had been in use for centuries earlier. Two leading experts on Spanish architecture will discuss these significant works of Mediterranean heritage, followed by a discussion moderated by MIT Professor John Ochsendorf.

Thursday, March 16
4:30-6:00
MIT Room 3-270

On the origins of tile vaulting and its expansion in Spanish architecture

Prof. Mercedes Gómez-Ferrer
Universidad de Valencia

Tile vaulting was widespread in the Aragon Crown during the fifteenth century. This technique started to be used in medieval architecture in the Valencian area in the second half of the fourteenth century and because of its many advantages was soon used in other areas. An overview of its origin and expansion will be provided, traveling from the Mediterranean to Nueva Granada across the Atlantic.

On the mechanics of tile vaulting and the myth of cohesion

Prof. Santiago Huerta Fernandez
Universidad Politécnica de Madrid

Because of its unique constructive properties, architects and engineers have been fascinated with the structural behavior of tile vaulting for centuries. This presentation covers the history of tile vaulting from the standpoint of construction and technology. Widespread misunderstanding about the structural behavior of tile vaults continues to have repercussions for architectural heritage as well as new construction today.



Faculty host: John Ochsendorf (jao@mit.edu)

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