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CONGRESO DE
LOS DIPUTADOS

**Asociación
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de Artes Decorativas

CONGRESO INTERNACIONAL DE ARTES DECORATIVAS EN INSTITUCIONES PARLAMENTARIAS

Congreso de los Diputados, 1 y 2 de marzo de 2023

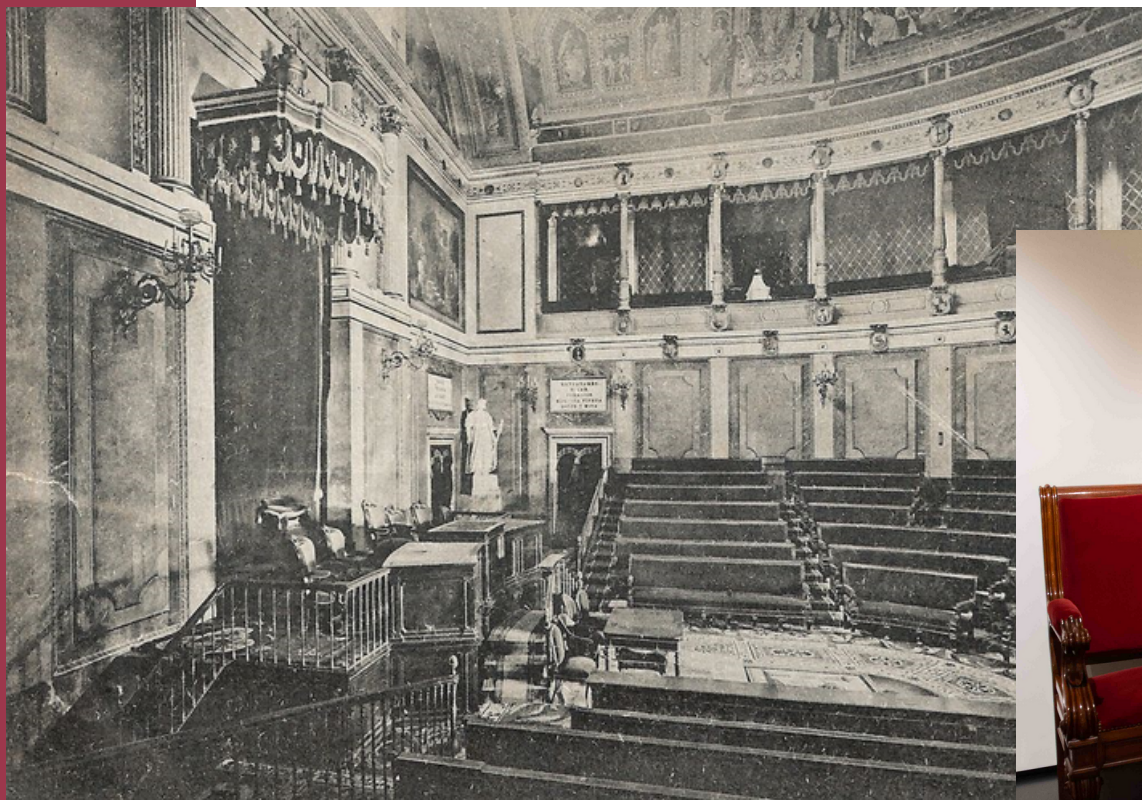
English edition



Seats in the Hemicycle

Among the original furniture of the Congress of Deputies at the time of the inauguration of its definitive headquarters in 1850, the set of seats in the session room, made of mahogany wood by the cabinetmaker Martín Kexel and upholstered in red velvet, stands out. There were two models, one curved and the other straight. A set of the latter have been preserved and are currently placed in different areas of the palace. Over the years they have undergone various reforms, such as the installation of a removable seat, or the upholstery in winter and the grille in summer. They have also lost a folding desk they had at the back so that the deputies could write.

1850 seat, 1970 seat and today's seats



FURNISHING THE CONGRESS OF DEPUTIES
Historical furniture second half of the 19th
century



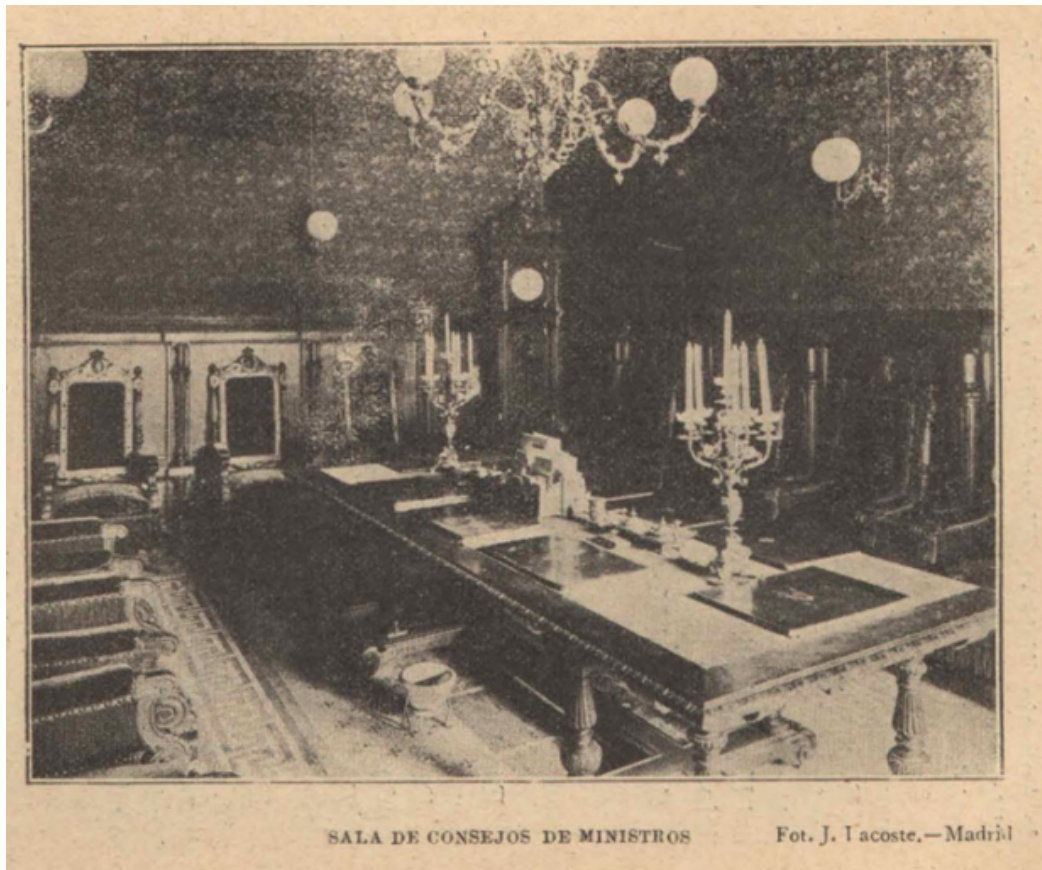


Ministers' Room

Ministers' Room

The Ministers' Room, which has maintained its location on the first floor of the palace unchanged, changed its decoration and furniture in 1884. The cabinetmaker Antonio Jorge was in charge of making the large meeting table with the upholstered tabletop and the 13 complementary armchairs with arms; the President's chair was higher and decorated with a carving in relief of the coat of arms of Spain on the top, while the others were carved with the initials C and D intertwined. These same initials were used on the upper part of the clock case. The style of the ensemble is historicist, mixing motifs from past eras, and has been preserved in its entirety, although with different upholstery.

Clock, meeting table, President's armchair and two Ministers' armchairs from 1884.





Library

In 1890, the interior designer Frigral was commissioned to decorate the Library's Reading Room with a large central table, around which were historicist-style chairs in wood upholstered in leather with embossed decoration and bronze flower-shaped nails in relief. The set was complemented by armchairs in the same style and materials.

Library Chair from 1890

Office of the President of the Congress of Deputies

Located on the ground floor of the Palace of the Congress of Deputies, in the same area currently occupied by the rooms of the Presidency, its decoration was entirely remodelled by Amaré Hermanos/Casa in 1907. The walls were upholstered with embroidered fabrics and relief carvings were added to the doors. The floor was made of fine wood marquetry. On one of its fronts there was a large fireplace with the front framed by two caryatids, and above it the bust of Agustín Argüelles and two candelabra. These last two pieces and the bust have been preserved, as well as the office table, the presidential armchair and four armchairs in neo-Renaissance style in carved wood.

Armchair, writing desk and two visitor chairs from 1907



President's Reception Room

Located on the first floor of the palace, in the area currently still occupied by the rooms of the Presidency, it was a room dedicated to conferences between the President and the Deputies or other personalities. It was redecorated in 1907 by Lissarraga & Sobrinos/Casa. The furniture was made up of two and four-seater sofas, a display cabinet and a corner support, all lacquered in white in neoclassical style with appliques in gilded bronze. In the centre, in the same style, a hexagonal table in mahogany wood with gilded bronze appliques and a marble top. All the furniture has been preserved.

Two-seat sofa, octagonal table and display cabinet from 1907



Members' Visiting Room

Located on the first floor of the palace, it was decorated by Lissarraga & Sobrinos/Casa in 1907. The style chosen for the decoration was Empire, with mahogany wood and gilded bronzes. The furniture was made up of several sofas, some armchairs, chairs and a showcase table, all combined. The first two types were with upholstered seat and back. The chairs, however, only had upholstery on the seat, the back being openwork with diagonally crossed crossbeams forming a circle in the centre. In the centre of the room was a table of mahogany wood with applied gilt bronzes and the rectangular top in marble. The walls were carpeted with the same type of fabric as the furniture. In this room there was also the astronomical clock. Currently, all this furniture is kept scattered.

Armchair, two chairs and showcase table from 1907



Parliamentary Secretaries' Office

Located on the ground floor of the palace, next to the presidential rooms, it was decorated by Lissarraga & Sobrinos/Casa in 1907. The choice of the neoclassical style is justified by the fact that this room contains the so-called table of the Cortes de Cádiz, which is known as such because it is easily recognisable in the portrait of President Ramon Lázaro de Dou y de Bassols (President from 24 September 1810 to 23 October 1810). The portrait was painted by Juan Antonio Benlliure y Gila in 1914. The table was accompanied by four swivel armchairs upholstered in leather, two on each of the long sides of the table. The walls were lined with a mahogany wood boiserie with geometric marquetry in light wood, with a large embossed iron chimney bell with a coat of arms in relief, which no longer exists. A clock case was also designed to match the decoration, which is still preserved today in the same space, as are the boiserries. The four swivel armchairs and the table of the Cortes de Cádiz are now located in the main foyer.

Two swivel armchairs from 1907



Office of the Chief Secretary

Located on the ground floor of the palace, next to the Parliamentary Secretaries' Office, it was decorated by Lissarraga & Sobrinos/Casa in 1907. The style of the decoration is modernist, in oak wood with marquettes of geometric motifs. All the walls were lined with a boiserie of the same wood and on the same style, with cabinets and enclosures. The doors with stained glass windows and the ornaments and embellishments of iron embellished in modernist style. On one of its short fronts was located a fireplace with enamelled bricks at the front and at the top, a shelf with a mirror. The table and the office armchair stand out, an auxiliary table and six chairs, all in oak wood. All furniture is preserved.

Side table and chair from 1907



Art déco three-piece suite

From the purchase of the Banco Exterior de España building, now known as Expansion III, several sets of three-piece sets have been preserved, consisting of a sofa, two armchairs and a small table, all in the Art déco style, from a European workshop from around 1930-40. One of them has been chosen as an example, in which the upholstery practically covers the entire piece of furniture, leaving an area of the wood visible. The small table, in root-veneered wood, is a so-called nesting table with a lobed top, which houses four small triangular tables.

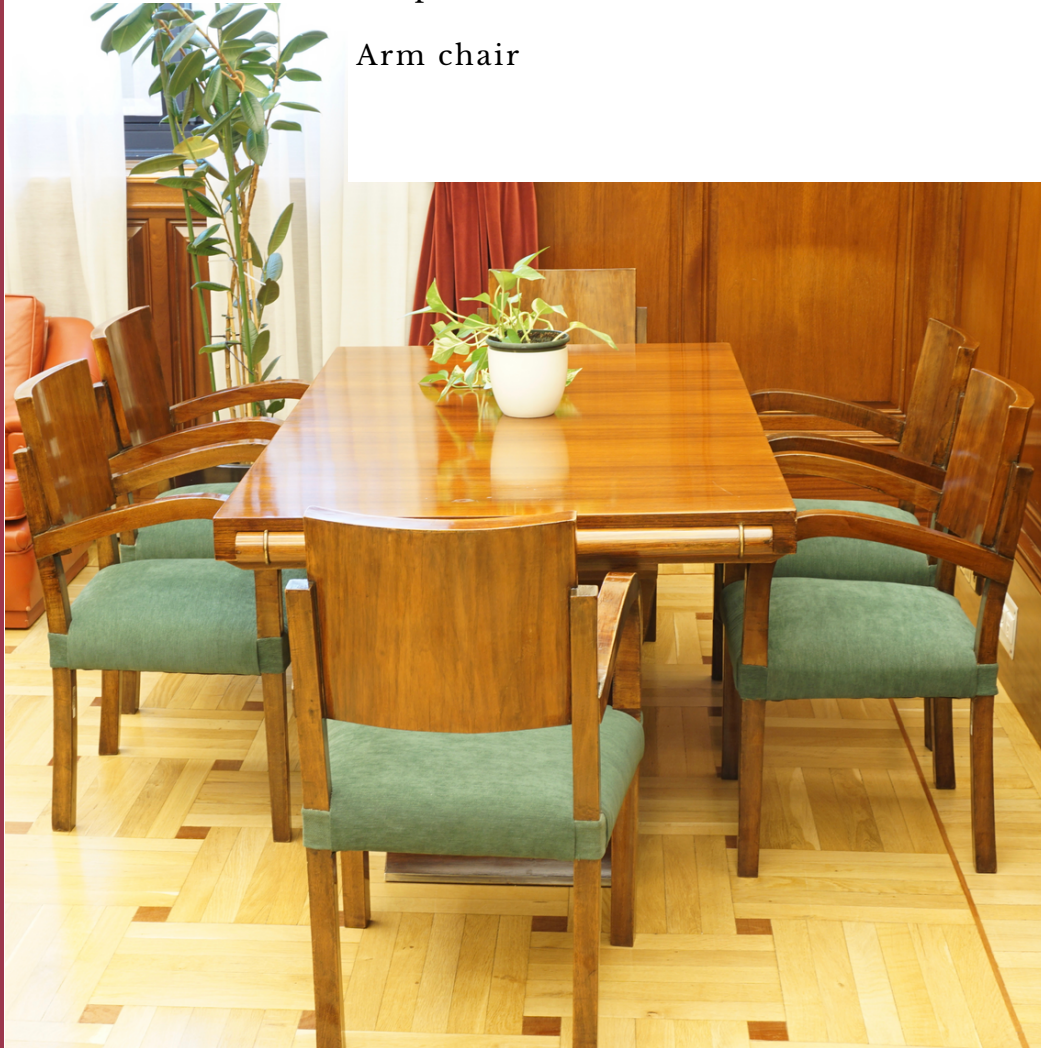
Three armchairs, two armchairs and coffee table



Set of table and six Art déco chairs

From the purchase of the Banco Exterior de España building, now known as Expansion III, a set of a table and six chairs in veneered wood from a European workshop in the 1930s has been preserved. The table with its rectangular tabletop rests on a highly original foot formed by curves and counter-curves. The chairs, of which we can see an example here, have square legs which, in the case of the front ones, extend in curves, also forming the arms, and in the case of the rear ones, they extend to the backrest, which is convex and quadrangular in shape. The seat is upholstered in fabric.

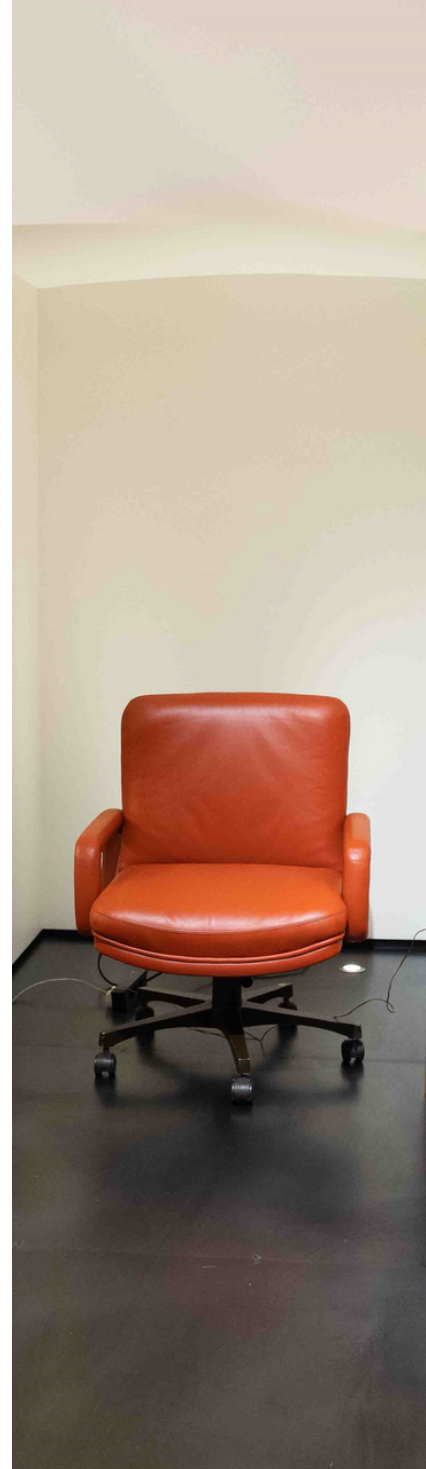
Arm chair



Constitutional Hall furniture

In 1980, upon completion of Expansion I of the Congress of Deputies building, one of the spaces to be decorated was the Constitutional Hall, which was designed by the decorator Sáenz de Santamaría. The set of seating furniture consisted of stools, fixed armchairs and swivel armchairs on wheels, upholstered in orange-dyed leather, one of which is exhibited here. In addition, he designed all the fixed tables to form concentric circles, with the tabletop in light beige leather and embossed in gold. He also designed a set of consoles veneered in root wood, with a rectangular tabletop with rounded corners.

Swivel chair and stool from 1980



Fifth floor dining room furniture

Upon completion of Expansion I of the Congress of Deputies building, the decoration of the dining room and coffee shop on the fifth floor was commissioned, which was carried out by Casa y Jardín in 1980. The seating furniture consisted of armchairs with armrests imitating bamboo wood, one of which can be seen here, upholstered in imitation leather. The dining tables, serving consoles and side tables were made of lacquered wood.

Armchair, side table and 1980s pewter lamp





Side tables and table lamps for different spaces

On completion of Expansion I of the Congreso de los Diputados building, Casa y Jardín decoration house made small side tables in 1980 with a quadrangular tabletop supported by straight legs, using the root wood veneer technique. On top of these tables were table lamps with silver-plated lampshades and hexagonal tin feet decorated with two types of decoration, one in the form of hemispheres and the other with an embossed Spanish coat of arms, probably designed by Paco Muñoz or his son Javier Muñoz, owners of Casa y Jardín, who commissioned them from artisans in Pedraza (Segovia).

Side table of veneered root wood and pewter lamp

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Archivo del Congreso de los Diputados
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