

Antoni Gaudí

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A photograph of Antoni Gaudí (1852–1926) at the age of twenty-six.

Buildings of Imagination

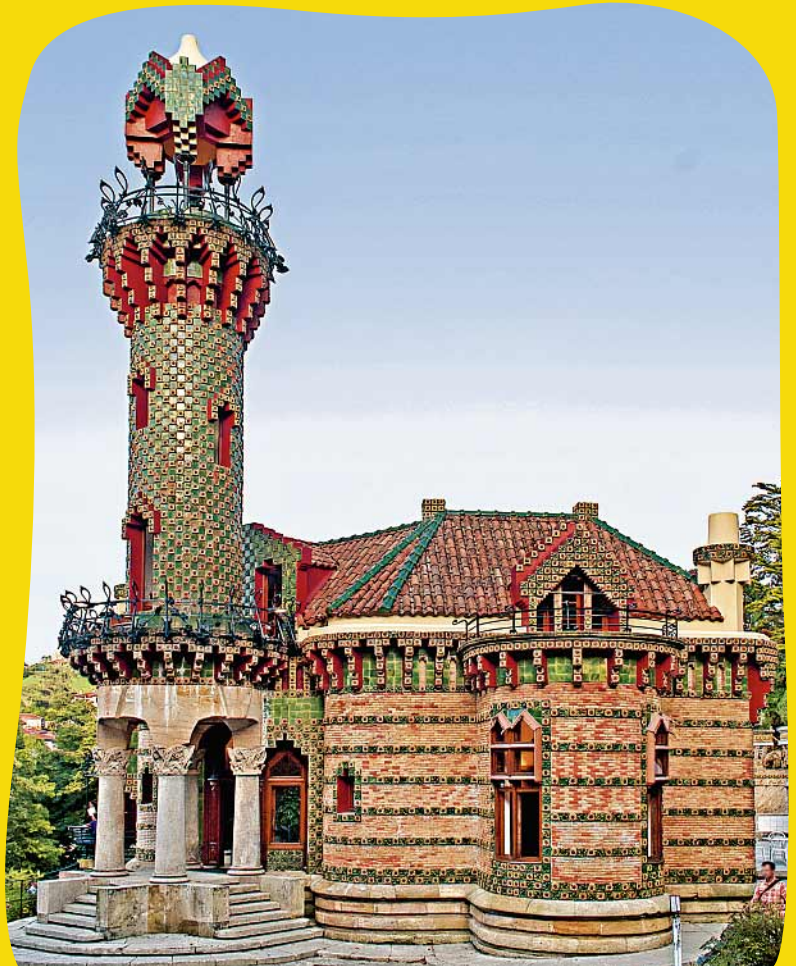
This is the artist **Antoni Gaudí**. There are no longer very many photographs of him, even though he was a famous Catalan architect.



Catalonia is a region in northeastern Spain. Its capital is Barcelona, where most of Gaudí's buildings can be found.

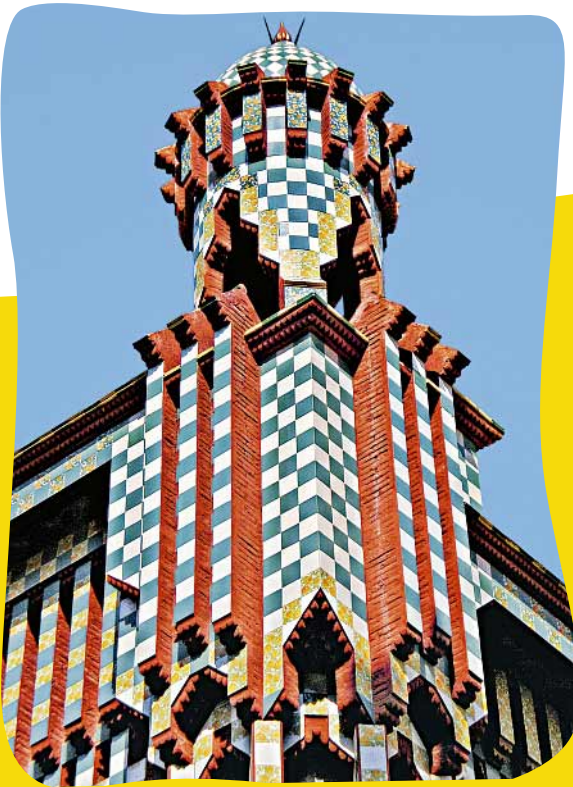
Antoni Gaudí was born around 170 years ago in the city of Reus. His father was a coppersmith and Antoni was the youngest of five children. He was sickly all his life and he often went wandering around the countryside to improve his health.

When he later studied **architecture in Barcelona** and then became an architect he took much of his inspiration from the **forms of nature**. The designs for his buildings were very imaginative. With their curving lines, colors, and patterns, they often seemed like strange plants.



The Villa Quijano (1883–85) in Comillas is covered with colorful ceramic tiles.

If you were to **stroll through the city** and its surrounding area you would see **many impressive buildings** he designed.



The Casa Vicens (1883–88) is characterized by stark forms and intense colors.



In the Casa Milà (1906–10) natural ventilation makes air conditioning unnecessary.



The roof of the Casa Batlló (1904–06) is supposed to look like the scales of a dragon.

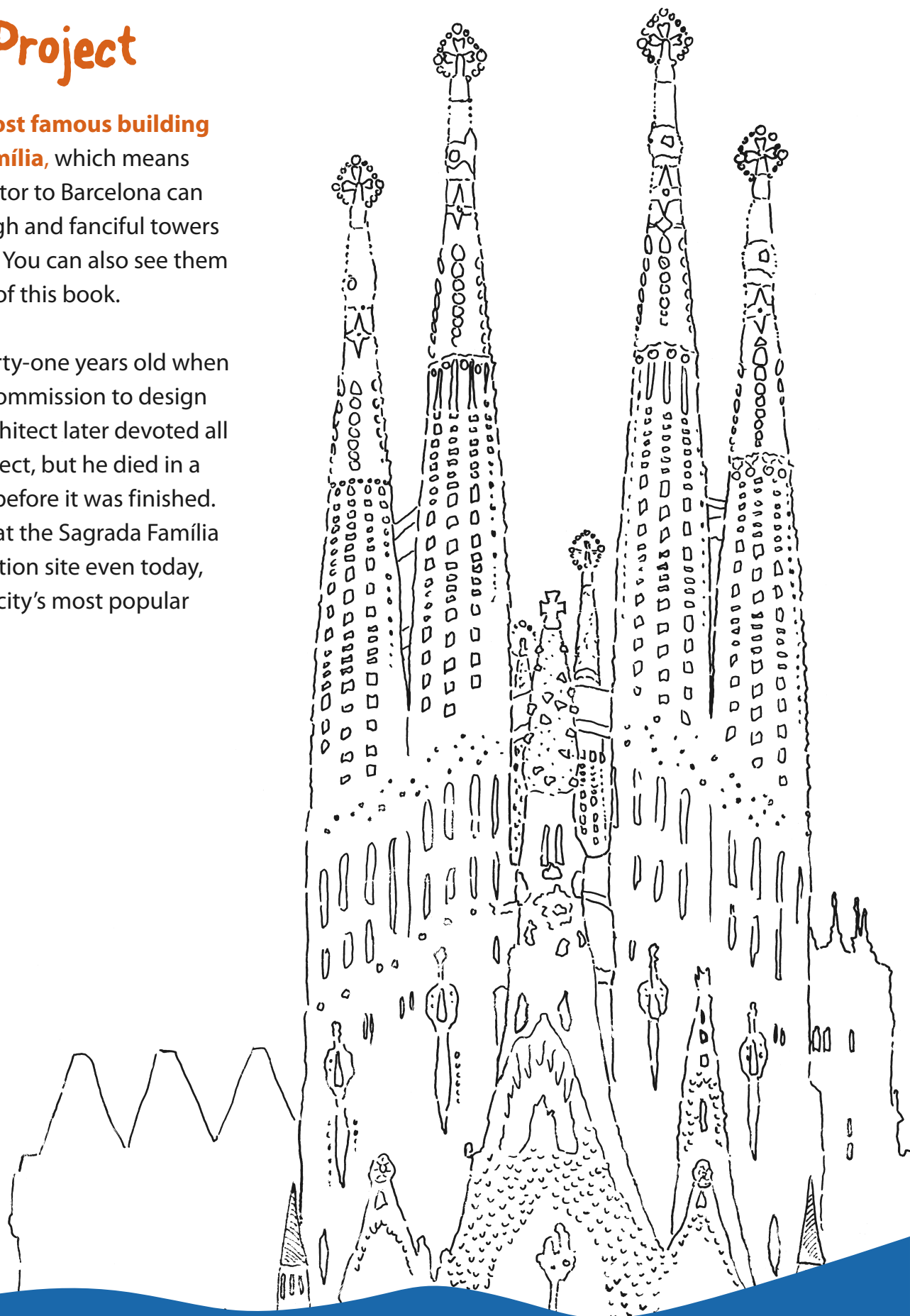
Gaudí designed the bishop's palace in Astorga (1889–93).



A Great Project

Antoni Gaudí's most famous building is the Sagrada Família, which means "Holy Family." A visitor to Barcelona can see the church's high and fanciful towers from very far away. You can also see them on the front cover of this book.

Gaudí was only thirty-one years old when he was given the commission to design the church. The architect later devoted all his time to the project, but he died in a streetcar accident before it was finished. Despite the fact that the Sagrada Família remains a construction site even today, it is still one of the city's most popular attractions.



**Here you can color the church with your favorite colors
and finish it any way you like.**

