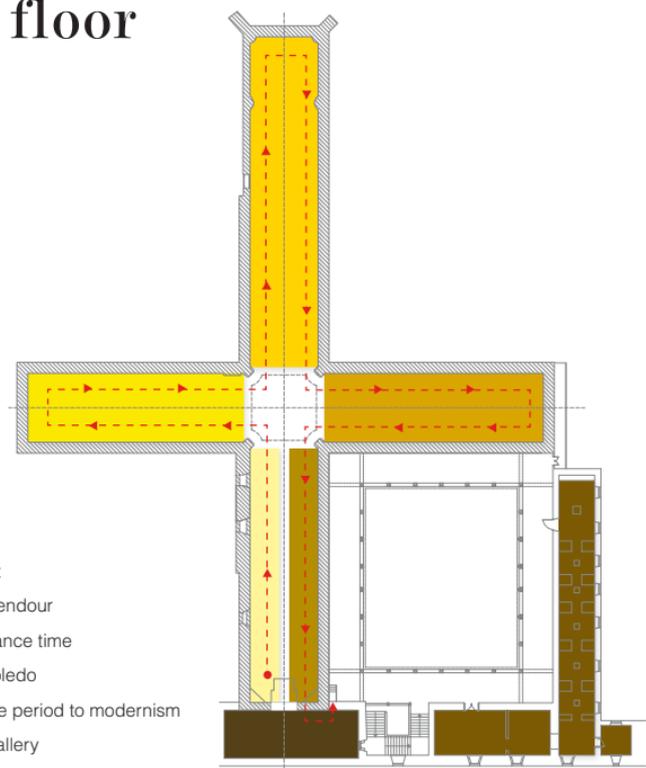


First floor



- Starting point
- Medieval splendour
- The Renaissance time
- A Greek in Toledo
- From baroque period to modernism
- Carranza's gallery
- Golden Fleece gallery



museums of Castilla-La Mancha

museum of Santa Cruz

Opening hours:

Monday-Saturday: 10:00 - 18:30 h

Sundays: 10:00 - 14:00 h

Address:

C/ Miguel de Cervantes, 3, 45001 Toledo

Tel.: 925 221 036



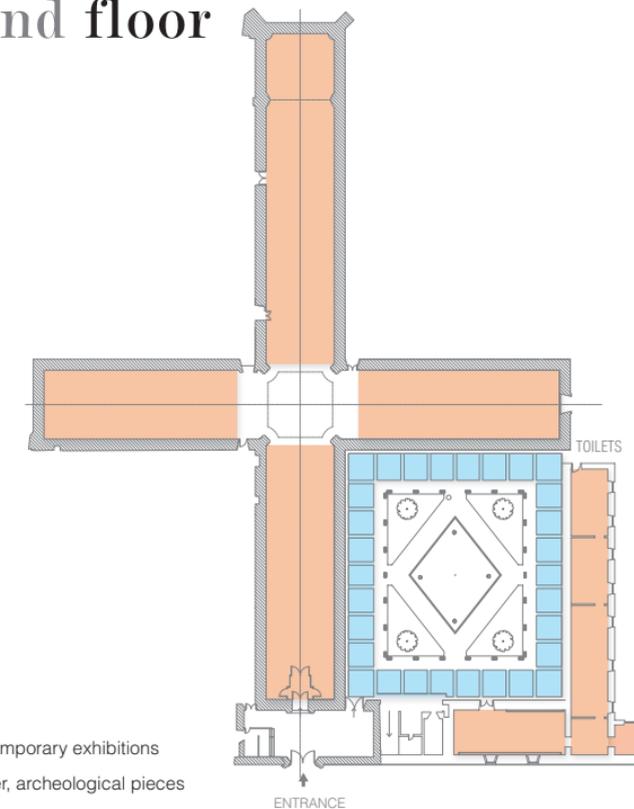
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THE GOVERNMENT OF CASTILLA-LA MANCHA

museums of Castilla-La Mancha

Museum of Santa Cruz



Ground floor



- Gallery for temporary exhibitions
- Noble cloister, archeological pieces



The **Museum of Santa Cruz** owes its name to the building it occupies, the old hospital of Santa Cruz which was built by Cardinal Mendoza at the beginning of the 16th century. Considered to be one of the earliest architectural gems of the Spanish Renaissance, it was designed by figures such as Antón and Enrique Egas and Alonso de Covarrubias, among others. It was the last of these who built the monumental staircase leading to the upper gallery of the cloister.

The beginnings of this museum date back to the middle of the 19th century when the State took its first steps in the conservation of Cultural Heritage. The current museum was created in 1961 and since 1985 the Museum of Santa Cruz has been managed by the Junta de Comunidades de Castilla-La



Mancha. Today visitors are able to once again enjoy the exhibition displaying the permanent collection which was inaugurated at the end of 2010. Some of the best pieces in the Museum have been selected for this exhibition, many of which come from the city of Toledo or the surrounding areas.



The visit begins on the lower floor. The Noble Cloister houses a series of pieces from the Neolithic to the Renaissance all linked to funerals. Here you can also see an excellent Roman mosaic with a maritime theme which was taken from a Roman villa.

The upper floor houses the main art objects of the permanent collection of the Museum. The itinerary covers the four wings of the Greek cross floorplan. The pieces are presented in chronological order from

Prehistory to the 20th century: lithic instruments, **Bronze age ceramics**, Iberian offerings, Roman statues, Islamic texts, mediaeval furniture and other masterful works from the Spanish and European Renaissance, including masterpieces by Domenikos Theotocopuli, El Greco, depicting the town of Toledo in the background.

The exhibition closes with baroque artists of the stature of Luca Giordano and José de Ribera and contemporary figures such as Vicente Cutanda and Alberto Sánchez, a prominent sculptor from the avant-garde of the 20th century. To end with the visit, the museum offers the visitor the Vicente Carranza's collection of ceramics, one of the finest collections of Spanish ceramic work.

The collection on display at the Museum of Santa Cruz provides a good overview of the development of artistic sensibilities and how human

beings have evolved from primitive utilitarianism to the lasting representation of ideas and sentiments through fragments of ephemeral materials. All this has helped to make Santa Cruz the cultural institution which is most closely-linked to the city of Toledo, **Santa Cruz is without doubt the Museum of Toledo.**

*Roman Mosaic, Vega Baja (Toledo)
4th C. AD*

*Doménikos Theotokópoulos, El Greco
(Candia 1541-Toledo 1614)
La Verónica with the Santa Faz (Around 1580)
Oil on canvas*

*Frans Francken II
(Antwerp 1581-1642)
The Original Sin
Oil on copper*

*Vicente Cutanda y Toraya
(Madrid, 1850-Toledo 1925)
Ensueño or Virgen Obrera (1897)
Oil on canvas*

