

## The Foundation

The Foundation, created by César Manrique and a group of friends in 1982, was officially inaugurated in 1992. It is a private, non-profit, self-financed cultural foundation engaging in the promotion of artistic, environmental and cultural activities.

Within the framework of the Foundation's goals, special attention is paid to the plastic arts and the creation and conservation of architectural compositions in harmony with the natural environment.

To meet its objectives, the César Manrique Foundation furthers exchange programs in the fields of art, the environment and culture, devoting attention both to creation and reflection in an active and dynamic atmosphere.

Conceived not only as an exhibit and conservation hall, but also as a centre for study and debate, the Foundation is responsible for the conservation, analysis and exhibition of César Manrique's works.

## The Foundation headquarters

The artist's impressive home, the domestics' quarters and the garage now house the Foundation's headquarters. These areas were remodelled by César Manrique himself to condition them for their new function as a museum and as the infrastructure for the Foundation's administration.



The first structures to be seen off to the left, just inside the entrance gate, are the institution's offices. These facilities used to be the residence halls for the artist's personal staff.

The house is built on a 3,000 m<sup>2</sup> lot, the site of a lava flow from the volcanic eruptions which took place between 1730 and 1736. Upon his return from New York in 1966, César Manrique decided to take

up permanent residence in Lanzarote. And during that very year he embarked upon this domestic architectural project.

The two-story building, built over five very large natural volcanic bubbles or lava caves, has a floor space of 1,800 m<sup>2</sup>, 1,200 m<sup>2</sup> of terraces and gardens and a 2,900 m<sup>2</sup> parking lot.

The upper floor is modeled after traditional Lanzarote architecture but manages to incorporate modern and practical elements such as large windows, open spaces, etc., without compromising the harmony of the structure. On this floor we find the main parlour, the kitchen (where graphic works are now displayed), a sitting room ("Espacios" [spaces] hall), a guest room, the artist's bedroom (currently called the "Bocetos" [sketches] hall) and a spacious bathroom which is now filled with abundant plant life.

The basement level incorporates the five natural volcanic bubbles which César Manrique connected by means of small passageways bored into the lava flow basalt and conditioned as living quarters. The cave in the centre houses an unexpected recreational area, including a pool, small dance floor, oven, etc., all decorated with abundant plant life. The final chamber visited before exiting the building is the painter's former studio which was enlarged when the building was remodelled for the inauguration of the Foundation. César Manrique's paintings are currently exhibited in this room.

The service area (snack bar and store) are located in the former garage.

From an artistic standpoint, the Taro de Tahiche has two fundamental characteristics: the harmonic synthesis between a modern conception of architectural space and traditional Lanzarote architecture; and the extraordinary dialogue established between the building and its surrounding environment, in a unique relationship characterized by communication and respect. The Foundation headquarters' beauty, originality, symbolic value and spirituality make it an essential cultural asset in its own right.

## The Museum

The undisputed artistic significance of the building itself is of even greater relevance in the framework of Manrique's work as a whole,

considering that it encompasses practically all of the essential characteristics of the artist's integrative approach to ART-NATURE/NATURE-ART.

Today, the building is used basically as a museum. The reforms, almost all of which were carried out by César Manrique himself, were intended to convert the building into a museum open to the public.

The basic structure of the original building remains unchanged. The reforms were primarily concerned with: "cleaning" the walls and arrangement of interiors to accommodate the hanging of paintings



and the placement of sculptures; the connection between the building's two floors which, since March 1992, consists of an exterior basalt staircase built to facilitate visits to the museum by establishing

a tour circuit; an outside entrance to the main hall and the "Espacios" room and an enlargement of the artist's former studio to accommodate the exhibition of a selection of his paintings. The outside garden, including a pond and a mural, was completed between late 1991 and early 1992.

The museum houses the Foundation's contemporary art collection which belonged to its founder. It is a small sample of contemporary art from the Canary Islands and includes three halls dedicated to César Manrique: works involving the environment ("Spaces"); sketches for his murals, designs, mobile sculptures and ceramics ("Bocetos"); and adjacent to the exit there is an ample selection of his paintings ("Manrique Collection").

## The Visit

The museum tour is carefully planned for a convenient and enjoyable visit. The intention is to ensure a smooth flow of visitors

despite the fact that the building was designed as a house to be lived in and not as a museum to be visited. Consideration of this provides a new perspective from which to appreciate the building.

The following is a brief description of the tour to aid visitors. Outside, before entering the house, two of César Manrique's sculptures are exhibited: one mobile from the *Juguetes del viento* [Wind toys] series, and *El triunfador* [The winner].

Just outside the house, there is a small patio area with a view of the openings in the roofs of two of the bubbles. The bones and other unearthed objects that decorate this small area are typical of César Manrique's artistic flair.

Once inside, visitors walk directly into what was once the main parlour of the house; the large bubble in the centre holds the contemporary art collection ("Personal Collection") (1), with works by Guerrero, Gerardo Delgado, Farreras, Sempere, Chirino, Soto, Equipo Crónica, Zóbel, Pedro González...



Part of the graphic collection is exhibited in the small area located next to the entrance: Picasso, Tàpies, Miró, Chillida...

Proceeding from the main parlour, the visitor comes to an outside area that leads on to a room exhibiting some of César Manrique's works involving nature. Before entering be sure to take in the impressive panoramic view of the 18th century lava flow on which the house is built, taking special notice of the swimming pool built in a roofless (the roof had collapsed) lava tube.

The room which goes by the name "Spaces" (2) exhibits the drawings, projects and photographs of the works involving nature planned or carried out by César Manrique.

A wide corridor, exhibiting part of the Foundation's collection of contemporary art from the Canary Islands, leads back to the main parlour, where more paintings are to be found.

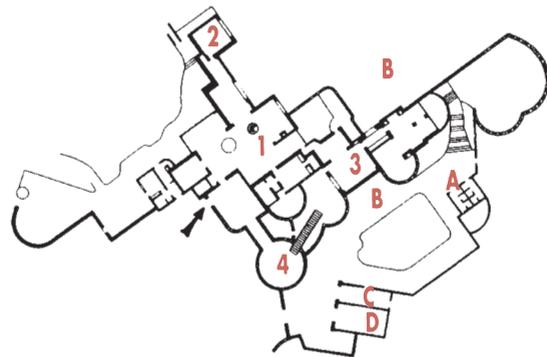
On the other side of this room the visitor will find the “Sketches” (3) room, formerly the artist’s bedroom. Here the artist’s drawings, notes, mural sketches, sculptures, ceramics and designs are on display for the public.

From this room an impressive basalt stairway (4) leads down to the bottom floor where the visitor will find five natural volcanic bubbles which César Manrique managed to connect by a series of passageways burrowed in the lava. The fountain bubble (5) opens on to the white bubble (6) which is connected to the red one (7): located directly underneath the main parlour, it was used as a central hallway. From here visitors proceed to the pool (8) which could be seen from above at the beginning of the tour. The next room is the black bubble (9), which is supported by four solid black pillars, and after that the yellow bubble (10) at which point visitors enter what used to be the painter’s studio and is now the exhibit hall for the permanent collection of the artist’s painting (“Manrique Collection”) (11). After contemplating César Manrique’s plastic art and gazing through the impressive window that looks out onto a strip of lava, creating the illusion that the building extends beyond, visitors are invited to stroll through the garden. The huge mural exhibited there, in which the artist used volcanic rock for the outline and tiles for the inner parts of the design, was completed in 1992.

Before leaving the Foundation’s headquarters, visitors may wish to relax for a while in the snack bar or go to the art shop for information or a souvenir of their visit to the César Manrique Foundation. Once the tour is over, knowing that they have had the opportunity to see and feel the inside and outside of what was originally intended to be not a museum but a home, will undoubtedly add yet another dimension to their warm memories of a thoroughly enjoyable visit.

### Upper level

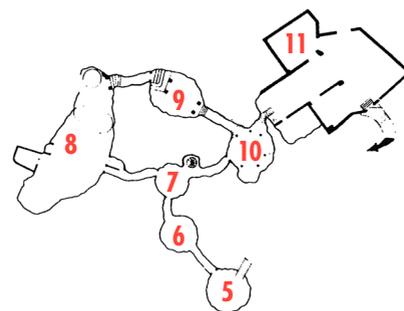
1. Private collection. 2. Spaces. 3. Sketches. 4. Stairway to volcanic bubbles.



Facilities: A. W.C. B. Terraces. C. Cafeteria. D. Book store.

### Underground level

5. Fountain bubble. 6. White bubble. 7. Red bubble. 8. Pool. 9. Black bubble. 10. Yellow bubble. 11. Painting by César Manrique.



### Hours

Every day (including holidays)  
from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM

### Services

The Foundation has a bookstore, shop, cafeteria and parking lot.

### Recommendations for your visit

Please do not touch the paintings.

Photographs may be taken,  
but the use of flash and tripod is not authorised.

No pets allowed.

Please keep children at your side.

If you require any information, please consult with the museum guides.

The César Manrique Foundation thanks you for your patronage. The proceeds from the sale of museum tickets, bookstore and shop sales are used to fund its artistic, cultural and environmental activities. You are cooperating with a self-supporting cultural institution.



Printed on recycled paper

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