



(Rafael Solaz, A. 2006)

59. Victoria Thermal Springs

Throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries, establishments arose around thermal springs and in coastal areas, boosted by the hygienist movements and growing concern for public health. Thermal tourism thus emerged, especially among the new bourgeoisie class interested in this summer concept.

The Victoria Thermal Springs are part of a series of buildings designed for leisure and health erected along the coast, set apart from the historic centre of the neighbourhood, and linked to the summer area for the Valencian bourgeoisie. The entrance to the building is on Eugènia Viñes Street, which preserves the iron Termas Victoria sign, a name given in honour of Queen Victoria Eugenia, wife of Alfonso XIII.

Francisco Alfonso Ibarra initially built pavilions that could be dismantled on the seafront. In 1917, the facilities were extended and consolidated according to a project by Gerardo Roig, which included changing rooms and sinks for hot baths and seawater steam showers on the ground floor; a glass-enclosed restaurant stands out on the upper level. The same author completed an extension project in 1925, the image that has remained until today.

It consists of a main rectangular body with two storeys with the east façade in the shape of a butt, flanked to the south by a smaller, three storey construction, and a grand exterior staircase with three sections attached to the north façade leading to the first floor.

The classical design stands out for its austere ornamentation, mainly focused on the great cornice around the perimeter of the building, the pilasters protruding from the wall and a split frontispiece (now disappeared) that topped the main body; the treatment of the secessionist-style openings that unify the building stand out in contrast.