





## **MEDINACELI** 4\* - *Pl. Duc de Medinaceli, 8 Barcelona*

Long time ago, where nowadays is found Duque de Medinaceli Square, it was located Sant Francesc Convent. A great architectural ensemble built in the 13th century as a tribute to the passage of the Saint through Barcelona, which covered the currently square until Ramblas.

In the middle of 1835, it took place the day known as “Quema de los Conventos” (Burning of Convents). Sant Francesc Convent suffered during years the causes of the fire, and the community of monks that occupied the building were expelled and the building was abandoned. In 1836, it was used as a jail and a barrack, a year after it was completely demolished. Once demolished, the lands were distributed and a part of them were dedicated to build private buildings of the Council of Barcelona.

In this context, in 1848 Pere Villoch bought the number 7 of the Square and, a few years later, expanded his acquisition with the number 8, building later Casa Villoch.

The date that appears carved in the stone in one of the sides of the interior courtyard, makes evidence that the most part of the work of the house was made in 1852. The building that the architect Francesc Ubach designed to Pere Villoch is an example of the neoclassical residential architecture of the middle of the 19th century in Barcelona.

Completely building the new plant without structural constraints apparently in a plot of regular geometry, it develops the structural resources and characteristics of the architecture in this period.

The structural characteristics of this building can also be identified with other houses of the same Duque de Medinaceli Square, especially houses 5 and 6, built practically at the same time than the house of Pere Villoch.



