

Supercomputing center in a beautiful, deconsecrated church

Cory Doctorow at 3:00 pm Tue, Jul 1, 2014

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Allison writes, "The Barcelona Supercomputing Center is not only gorgeous with its soaring ceilings, it also was an instrumental site for developing modern microchip technology."

Since 2005 the former church has been home to MareNostrum, one of the most powerful supercomputers in Europe that was instrumental in developing modern microchip technology. The giant machine is used to calculate the massively complex calculations involved in such fields of research as human genome mapping, astrophysics, and weather prediction. Physically the computer consists of a number of black computing stacks that are all encased in a giant glass box, which itself sits in the romantically-styled main hall of Torre Girona.

Rebuilt after the Spanish Civil War, the Torre Girona is a 19th century church that sits on the campus of the Polytechnic University of Catalonia. The space was actually in use as a Catholic church until at least until 1960, but was since deconsecrated and used for more functional purposes until finally being inhabited in full by the supercomputer and its attendant offices.

Barcelona Supercomputing Center

(Thanks, Allison!)



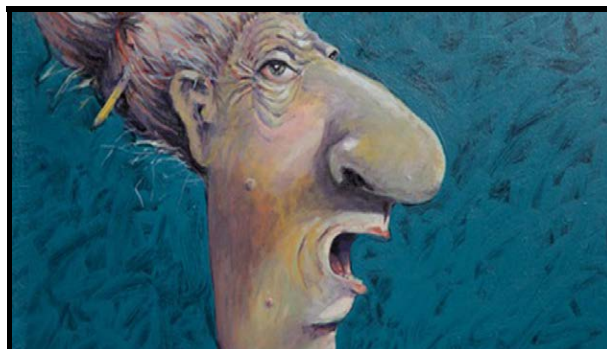
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