



Real Club Náutico
San Sebastián

Real Club Náutico de San Sebastián

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English

Brief History

The **Real Club Náutico de San Sebastián - RCNSS** (Royal Yacht Club of San Sebastian) was founded in 1896 and for more than 100 years has been one of the clubs which contribute to San Sebastián's identity.

In 1896 a select group of Donosti yachtsmen founded the **Real Club Náutico de San Sebastián**, which was at that time the summer residence of the Spanish Court. Its first installations were situated on a large diving platform anchored in the Concha Bay. In 1905 they moved to dry land and purchased a fish factory right on the Concha seafront, where it still is today.

On this fish factory the present building was built. It was a project of architects Aizpurua and Labayen and was

considered a jewel of Rationalist Architecture. Sailing was very important and yachtsmen from Europe and America came

the famous International Regattas were organized.

In 1951 and 1955 the RCNSS organized the most important transoceanic regatta of the time: the Havana-San Sebastián yacht race.

The Club continues with its nautical activities in its Sailing, Canoeing and Diving sections with courses for beginners and advanced in its schools and also at competition level organizing races and attending races away.

On the international level it is famous for the Armada Cup Race, which takes place every two years between the towns of Plymouth and San Sebastián, the only international yacht race in the Basque Country.



AL REAL CLUB NAUTICO DE
SAN SEBASTIAN
EN SU CENTENARIO, ASI COMO AL
CENTENARIO DEL HERMOSO DIABLO
CON LA CIUDAD CON LAS OLAS Y
CON LA MAR.

Lithograph by Eduardo Chillida to
celebrate the centenary of the
RCNSS

to the regattas attracted
by the social and sporting
level. In 1929 and 1930



Canoeing School 2008/09



Sailing School 2008/09



Yacht Regatta



Optimist Beginners Regatta



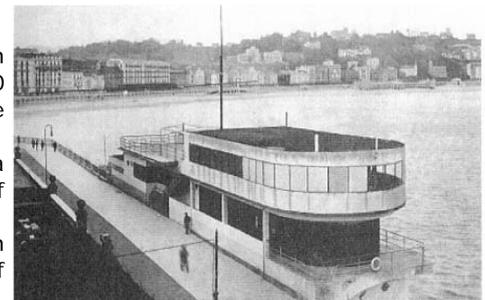
Section of Sub aquatics

The Building

The social club building of the RCNSS was built in 1928-1929 from plans by the architects José Manuel Aizpurua and Joaquín Labayen.

From the start it was considered an outstanding artistic and architectural piece and today is regarded as a jewel of

rationalism worldwide. In December 2000 the Basque Government declared it a Building of Cultural Interest with the category of "Monument".



The RCNSS's building circa 1929

www.rcnss.com

The Building and Rationalism

The present building of the Royal Yacht Club situated near the port and the town hall was built on the former headquarters of the club: "the sweet box", on the ground floor.

According to various architecture magazines of the time it is a "Boat to get away from the outside world and home where the eyes and spirit can rest". "Here one feels good: nothing hurts".

In accordance with the design of the architects Aizpurua and Labayen, it is a rupturist work, which has unleashed passions since its construction to now.

The building resembles a moored boat but its lines have been treated in a rationalist style in which windows replace

the walls and it is finished off with a mast, railings, port-holes etc which make it feel as well from the inside as if we are on a boat.

The idea of the building is prior to Le Corbusier's Villa Savoye and at the time caused a great impact in the town. It was built

in only 9 months and just after its inauguration in 1929 it appears in publications sometimes as an isolated piece and at others as part of something larger. At the moment it is one of the best examples of the Rationalist movement that still remains.

It is a pioneering work of its time, in which the horizontal reigns inside and out and with special attention paid to the varied colouring.

This building demonstrates the extraordinary rigour acquired by Aizpurua and Labayen regarding the architectural style. Situated in a magnificent natural setting the building dominates and watches over the bay and the entrance to the port of San Sebastian.



View of the building of the RCNSS from the Port of San Sebastián today

The RCNSS today

Today the yacht club is still situated in its original headquarters and has sporting sections of sailing, canoeing, diving and deep-sea fishing. It also participates in Bridge and Canasta competitions. Currently it has 1300 members who take part in its various activities in some way.

The sailing and canoeing schools ensure a future generation of sportsmen and women and our teams train throughout the year for the various federate competitions. At the moment there are almost 100 boys and girls taking part in the club's sports activities. In summer the club organizes jointly with San Sebastián's town hall, courses of sailing dinghies, yachts and canoeing which serve as reserves for the competition teams of the club. There have also been special sailing courses for people with disabilities.

The club also manages 130 anchorages situated in the bay, which have become part of the scenery in Donosti in the summer.

The regatta teams, both dinghy and yachts participate in various competitions throughout the year. The RCNSS also organizes together with other local clubs and with the collaboration of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the championship of "mark and release of tunids" so as to contribute to the study of these species.

The Section of Sub aquatic Activities, although smaller, keeps up its activity all year round even if the conditions in the Bay of Biscay are not ideal for the practice of this sport. The club has 5 complete diving suits and a compressor to fill the bottles.

The club organizes the veteran's crossing of the bay between the

jetties of the island and the yacht club, which takes place in August, the swimming race around the bay in collaboration with the Swimming Federation in September and the traditional last dip of the year on 31 December.

As far as the club's facilities are concerned, apart from the historic building which houses the headquarters, gym, changing rooms, mini-fronton, lounges, bar-restaurant, offices etc, there is also a building next to the Aquarium which serves as a base for the sailing and canoeing schools with changing rooms, storerooms etc. We also have a stowage storehouse in Calle Mari where the boats are kept.

The RCNSS is a member of the Spanish Association of Royal Yacht Clubs and maintains contact with 40 other yacht clubs from around the world.