

House-Palace of Juan Jédler

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One of the most beautiful Renaissance architectural samples that have been bequeathed to us is this House-Palace, whose use and destination has been the subject of different investigations and interpretations, including even to say that it was built to store the mercury that came from the Almadén mines, managed by the Fugger family.

However, according to recent research, the construction could have been the house-palace of one of the factors that the Fugger lenders of King Charles I send to Almagro to manage their businesses, Juan Jédler. The function for which it was built would therefore be that of a family house, whose rooms still conserve the spatial distribution and elements that demonstrate it, in spite of the different reforms suffered by the building and the unfortunate rehabilitation intervention carried out in 1983, according to the opinion of some local researchers.

This House-Palace of Juan Jédler, as it is popularly known, was built in the first half of the 16th century and responds to the traditional Mudejar technique, synthesized with Renaissance architectural concepts. It is conceived as a large house, with a brick facade, rammed earth and masonry, an example of the Toledo style.

The building is organized around the central core formed by a square courtyard and two galleries with brick arches supported by limestone columns. Inside the building, it is worth highlighting the plaster decoration of the hall, the staircase, and some of its



rooms. Its spaces, which were conceived to represent the social condition of its dwellers, are topped with coffered ceilings and baseboards decorated with characteristic plant elements, used in other Renaissance buildings, such as the Palace in the nearby town of Viso del Marqués.

The current entrance door of the building was added in the 17th century, and it gives access to the hall that leads immediately to the courtyard, which along with the one in the Convent of the Asunción, is one of the most important examples of the Renaissance in Almagro.

The building has had different uses since its construction: private house of the Bringas family, later it became a house for different families, and a secondary school in the 1960s. After its rehabilitation, in 1984 it became the property of the municipal administration, housing various cultural services, fundamentally the headquarters of the Universidad Popular, an institution for adult education that generally do not grant academic degrees.

