

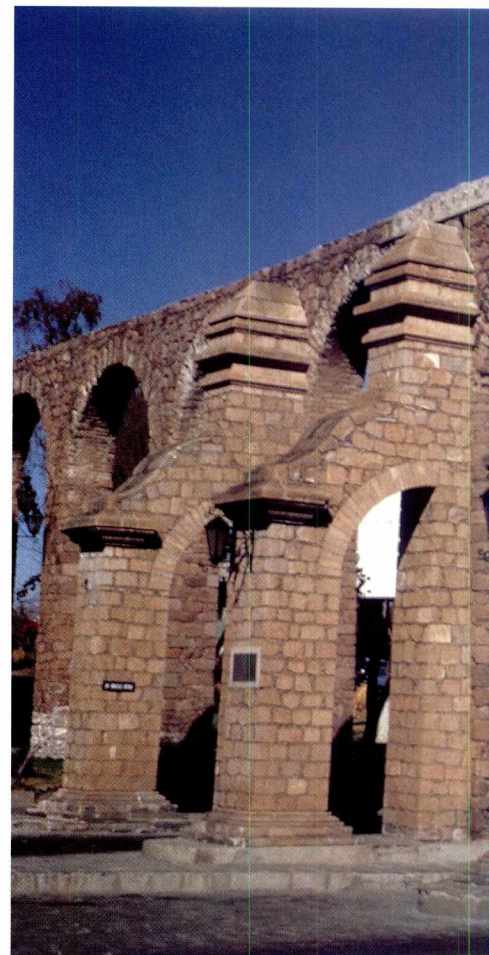
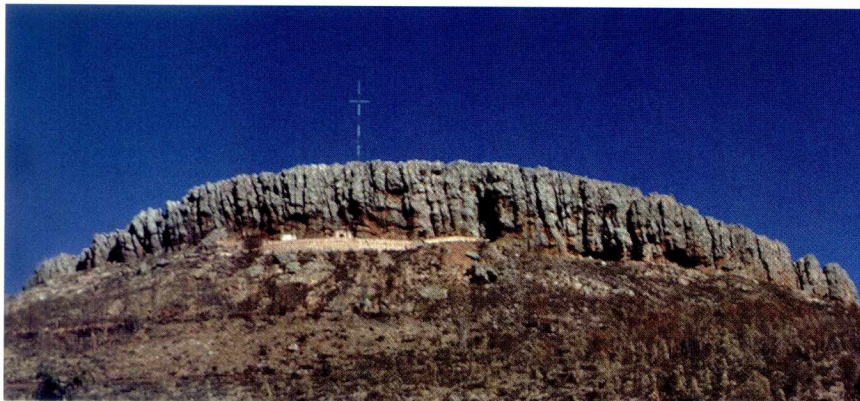


# Zacatecas

Baroque architecture carved in pink stone gives the city of Zacatecas its distinguishing magic, noble touch. The mid-eighteenth-century cathedral, described by historian Guillermo Tovar de Teresa as “the most beautiful and exuberant example of the baroque on Earth,” is one of the city’s many testimonials to architectural creativity and incessant cultural activity.

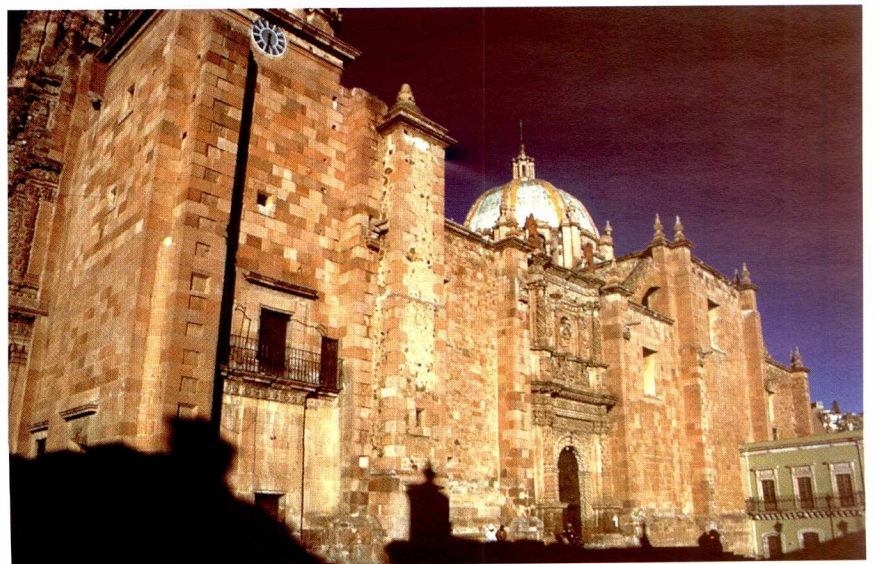


The city proper of Zacatecas has been preserved just as it evolved from its founding until 1914 due to an unfortunate fact of history: after the revolutionaries took Zacatecas in 1914, about five of every six of its inhabitants abandoned the city. For almost 45 years there was no construction at all; but there was also no destruction of houses or buildings abandoned in the historic downtown area.





As the population began to grow again, a very advanced legislation was passed for the protection and conservation of the city's monuments. Passed in 1965 on the initiative of the illustrious Zacatecan Federico Sescosse, state laws have since protected both buildings and their surroundings, specifying, unlike other legislation nationwide, that all original period "buildings and follies" alike are to be preserved in the historic center.

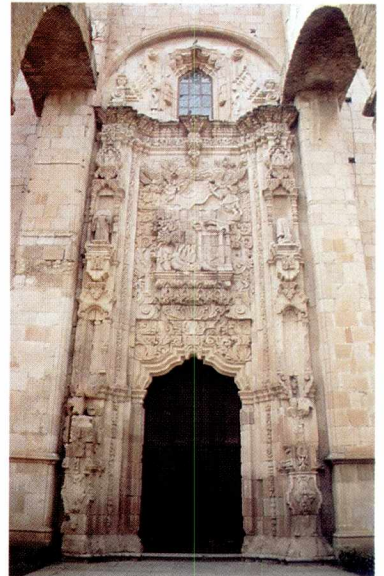


Churches and convents built in the heyday of colonial times, together with public buildings and private residences, put their distinctive stamp on the city.

The chapel-sanctuary of Our Lady of Protection on La Bufa Hill, the city's oldest, built in 1739, and the former churches of San Francisco and San Agustín, are only a few examples.



The Santo Domingo Church.



Side entrance to the former San Agustín Church.



The Chapel-sanctuary of Our Lady of Protection on La Bufa Hill.



Fountain located on Juan de Tolosa Street.



The cathedral.

Declared a World Heritage Treasure by the UNESCO in 1993, Zacatecas proudly unfolds 450 years of history in streets, plazas and buildings. Later generations have protected and preserved the marvels wrought by the flow of riches from the city's mines in the past for the enjoyment of natives and visitors alike.



The San Francisco Cloister at the Guadalupe Museum.

The museums are part of everyday life, living and breathing spaces always within reach of the city's inhabitants, where they go to enjoy the marvelous unfolding of the architecture, art and culture the centuries have bestowed on their city and that its inhabitants have placed in dignified, regal surroundings. Its treasures go from priceless examples of old art, like at the vicerooyal gallery of the Guadalupe Museum, probably the most complete in Latin America, to representative pieces of universal art, crafts and Mexican and foreign art work.

Text: *Elsie Montiel.*

Photography: *Dante Barrera.*



Zacatecano Museum.



Mask on exhibit at the Rafael Coronel Museum.



The Pedro Coronel Museum's facade.



Rafael Coronel Museum, located at the former San Francisco Church.