



Cotton House Hotel

The splendour in which the city's merchant class used to live is evident in the old HQ of the cotton guild. Within the emblematic 1879 building, designed by Elies Rogent, Lázaro Rosa-Violán has married original neoclassical features – geometric tiles, boiserie panelling and fine ceiling frescoes (above) – with contemporary furnishings and artworks. The crowning glory is a 1957 spiral staircase (opposite) suspended from

the roof by metal rods. Rooms have huge beds and fine cotton, of course; those on upper floors offer monochrome interiors and look out over the calmer courtyard side. You'll find Catalan cuisine at Batuar (T 93 450 5046), a regal afternoon tea in the library lounge, and a rooftop pool with views of Sagrada Família, best at sunset. *Gran Via de les Corts Catalanes 670, T 93 450 5045, www.hotelcottonhouse.com*