



Ayuntamiento
de TABERNAS



HERMITAGE OF SAN SEBASTIÁN
(15TH-16TH C.)

TABERNAS
land 

A simple rectangular building with a single nave, thick brick, masonry and mud walls with hardly any window openings. According to some researchers, it was built on the site of an old synagogue between the 15th and 16th centuries. It is a small building, practically free-standing, with a width of 7.15 m, a length of 11.85 m and a lateral cornice height of 5.30 m. The roof is made up of a belfry and a belfry with a roofing system.

The roof consists of a barrel vault with transverse arches supported by pillars attached to the wall. The side walls are made up of half-painted arches that form niches.

The niche at the back of the nave housed the image of San Sebastián, patron saint of the municipality. There is a small dome on pendentives above the chancel of the building.

The construction typology of the hermitage of San Sebastián is that of a simple rectangular box building.

The hermitage is built with a base of brick, brick and masonry caissons. It is a simple building, enriched by the decorative use of bricks in the window openings and the door in the main façade, framed by a segmental arch in brick.

The wall structure of the single-domed bell tower above the pinion extends the height of the chapel vertically. This architectural element avoids ostentation and maintains the harmony of the simplicity of the building's exterior.

Inside the chapel, the roof is a barrel vault with transversal arches supported by pillars attached to the wall. The side walls have semicircular arches that form niches. The wide walls of the building give it an airtight character, also due to the lack of light entering the interior. The niche at the back of the nave houses the image of San Sebastián, the patron saint of the municipality. There is a small dome on pendentives above the presbytery of the building.

One of the few known documentary references to the hermitage is from the Ensenada land registry of 1752, which listed the properties owned by the hermitage. Among them was a house in the Fuente neighbourhood, adjacent to the hermitage, which served as a dwelling for the hermit in charge of looking after it, and a piece of unirrigated land in the pago de la torreta.

The festivity of San Sebastián, patron saint of the municipality, is celebrated on 20 January. On that day, a mass is held in honour of San Sebastián in the parish church of Nuestra Señora de la Encarnación and a procession with the image of the Christian martyr saint from the church to the hermitage neighbourhood. This festive day culminates with the tasting of migas, a typical dish from Tabernas, in honour of the patron saint.

