

'PARK GÜELL, NATURE AND WORK OF ART'

## A photographic look at Gaudí's great urban project in Barcelona

*Dos de Arte Ediciones, a publishing house specialized in art and architecture, presents the book 'Park Güell, nature and work of art', a photographic, high quality perspective of the great development project of Antoni Gaudí and his patron, which ended up turning into one of the symbols of Barcelona's identity. The book, in deluxe, hardback edition, trilingual (Spanish, Catalan and English) and a handy format, includes more than 130 photographs on its 72 pages.*

What is nowadays the most visited park in Barcelona as well as a World Heritage Site by Unesco, was at the beginning a development project near to Barcelona designed at the start of the 20th century but far away from the hubbub of the city centre, on a hillside overlooking the sea. The plan, inspired by the garden city projects that were originating in England at the time in order to recuperate contact lost with nature, failed as a development project, but allowed Gaudí to freely devise all the common spaces of the unfinished urbanization, leaving the city with a large fifteen hectare space in which architecture and nature blend and complement each other to perfection.

'Park Güell, nature and work of art' covers every nook and cranny of the park with general images that enable the reader to observe the connection between architecture and vegetation that Gaudí sought in his project and detailed photographs that show the spectacular colour of the ornamental solutions designed by the architect, with special attention paid to the many artistic examples of 'trencadís' work, the cladding of ceramic fragments of different colours and textures that Gaudí devised for his works and which Park Güell is a paradigmatic example of.

After a brief introduction in which the origins of the park are explained, the reasons for its commercial failure and its transformation into a municipal public park, 'Park Güell, nature and art' dedicates five chapters to the photographic description of each one of the zones of the development project: the main entrance, flanked by two buildings bursting with imagination; the stairway, with the famous 'trencadís' dragon; the market place and the square, with its long, winding serpentine bench, a masterpiece of colour and form; the routes, whose viaducts of tilted columns elegantly get over the unevenness of the land; and the Gaudí House Museum, one of the two properties that ended up being constructed out of a total of 60 which made up the original project.

Each one of these chapters starts off with a concise introduction that, like the epigraphs and shorter comments on more concrete elements in the park, appear in the three languages already mentioned (Spanish, Catalan and English).

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### **Park Güell, Nature and work of art**

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