

'PARK GÜELL, A MAGICAL AND ENIGMATIC PLACE'

The best images of Gaudí's and his patron's great development project

The best images of Antoni Gaudí's and his patron's great development project, which ended up converting into one of Barcelona's emblems of identity, can be enjoyed in 'Park Güell, a magical and enigmatic place', a book with 144 pages and a handy squared format, with more than 170 high quality photographs that immerse the reader in the ingenious Catalan architect's original universe of shapes, colours and textures.

What is today the most visited park in Barcelona and a Unesco World Heritage Site, was formerly an urban development project near to Barcelona at the start of the 20th century but far from the hubbub of the city centre, on a hillslope that overlooked the sea. The plan, inspired by the garden cities originating in England at the time that aimed to recuperate contact with nature, failed as an urban development project, but meant that Gaudí could devise with great liberty all the common spaces of the unfinished urbanization, leaving the city with a large space measuring 15 hectares in which architecture and nature blend and compliment each other to perfection.

With 'Park Güell, a magical and enigmatic place' Dos de Arte Ediciones, a publishing house specialized in art and architecture, describes every corner of the park with general images that allow the reader to observe the connection between architecture and vegetation that Gaudí sought in his project and also close-up 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 along with the reasons for its commercial failure and transformation into a municipal public park, 'Park Güell, a magical and enigmatic place' dedicates six chapters to the photographic description of each one of the zones of the development project, each one of them headed by a concise descriptive text: 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 with 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 sixty which originally made up the project.

Park Güell, A magical and enigmatic place

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