

# SPAIN

## Works of Antonio Gaudi

### Brief description

Seven properties built by the architect Antoni Gaudí (1852–1926) in or near Barcelona testify to Gaudí's exceptional creative contribution to the development of architecture and building technology in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Parque Güell, Palacio Güell, Casa Mila, Casa Vicens, Gaudí's work on the Nativity façade and Crypt of the Sagrada Família cathedral, Casa Batlló, and the Crypt in Colonia Güell represent an eclectic, as well as a very personal, style which was given free reign in the design of gardens, sculpture and all decorative arts, as well as architecture.

### 1. Introduction

**Year(s) of Inscription** 1984, 2005

**Agency responsible for site management**

- Generalidad de Cataluña

### 2. Statement of Significance

**Inscription Criteria** C (i), (ii), (iv)

### Justification provided by the State Party

(1983):

(i) These major works by Antonio Gaudí y Cornet (1852-1925) are masterpieces of man's creative genius.

(iii) They are extremely rare and unique.

(vi) They are examples of works of the great period of Catalan culture from the late nineteenth century to the early twentieth century.

(2004): (i) The works by Gaudí now being put forward for inclusion on the World Heritage List are supreme pieces by this brilliant creator. That is, masterpieces of human creative genius. The origin of the exceptional nature of his work as a whole is a vitality that enabled him to express feelings, thoughts, images, experiences and above all the knowledge of the times he lived in, the close of the 19th century and the opening of the 20th. Gaudí's oeuvre unites art and technique in such a way that these two components cannot be separated, because he was at one and the same time an

architect, a builder, an artist, a structural engineer and a craftsman whose objective was to create a total work of art.

(ii) The works by Gaudí give evidence of different influences and, at the same time, they are a model for the future architects and artists who were to shape the 20th century. In effect, in him we find the influences of John Ruskin (revival of mediaeval architecture), the Pre-Raphaelites and William Morris (revival of traditional crafts), Viollet-le-Duc (use of Gothic style as a response to new architecture) and the Symbolists (architecture linked to natural forms).

But also, Gaudí's architecture became a model for the Rationalists (they saw Gaudí as the great builder of structures, the geometrician), the Expressionists (they considered Gaudí as the best representative of the notion of the total work of art), the Surrealists (they taught that Gaudí was the architect who better represented the world of imagination through unexpected forms) and the avant-garde movement in general (Gaudí's forms and techniques were an anticipation of many of the essential forms and techniques of the 20th century: collage, grattage, abstract sculpture, assemblage, new symbolisms, ...).

(iii) The works by Gaudí bear a unique and exceptional testimony to the architectural heritage of the 1900. They are unique and extremely rare. Although they are usually classified as masterpieces of the Modernism/Modern Style, all of them are unique pieces made by a wonderful mind, which has created his own style, as they cannot be compared to the works of their contemporaries. In fact Gaudí is considered as a rare avis and perhaps because of this the 20th century's most creative architect.

(vi) The works by Gaudí are directly associated with the great cultural period that took place in Catalonia between the late 19th century and the early 20th century. In fact, they are among the main examples of the architecture of that time.

### As provided in ICOMOS evaluation

(1984): ICOMOS recommends the inclusion of Guéll Park<sup>1</sup> on the World Heritage List based on criteria (i), (ii) and (iv).

- criterion (i): It is a unique artistic achievement, truly representative of Antonio Gaudí's work.

<sup>1</sup> There is no separate evaluation for Casa Mila and Palacio Güell.

- criterion (ii): The Park has exerted a great influence on the development of contemporary art, notably through Picasso and Miro.

- criterion (iv): It is an eminent and well-preserved example of the ideal garden-cities dreamed of by the urbanists of the end of the 19th century.

ICOMOS would, however, call attention to the necessity of assuring the preservation of the whole of this exceptional work by Gaudí, which is now threatened because of the fragility of some of its materials (in particular the ceramic facings) and notes with satisfaction the complementary nomination of the Casa Mila and the Palacio Güell to the World Heritage List (May 9, 1984).

(2005): Gaudí's work represents a continuous strive for innovation and perfection. At the same time, in the history of architecture, some of the projects stand out as being more significant than the others, being recognized as the most representative. Taking note that the Convention is not intended to ensure the protection of all properties of great interest, but only for a select list of the most outstanding of these from an international viewpoint, and while recognizing the interest of all the nominated monuments for the creative career of Gaudí, the most outstanding are taken to be: Gaudí's work on Sagrada Familia, Casa Vicens, Casa Batlló, and the Crypt in Colonia Güell. These properties are also those that have best preserved their integrity and authenticity, and certainly merit being added to the already inscribed properties.

*Recommendation with respect to inscription*

ICOMOS recommends that the World Heritage Committee [...]

2. Approves the extension regarding the following buildings: the Nativity façade and Crypt of Sagrada Familia, Casa Vicens, Casa Battlo, and the Crypt in Colonia Güell, and inscribes the property on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (i), (ii), and (iv)*:

*Criterion (i)*: The work of Antoni Gaudí represents an exceptional and outstanding creative contribution to the development of architecture and building technology in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

*Criterion (ii)*: Gaudí's work exhibits an important interchange of values closely associated with the cultural and artistic currents of his time, as represented in el Modernisme of Catalonia. It anticipated and influenced many of the forms and techniques that were relevant to the development of modern construction in the 20th century.

*Criterion (iv)*: Gaudí's work represents a series of outstanding examples of the building typology in the architecture of the early 20th century, residential as well as public, to the development of which he made a significant and creative contribution.

**Committee Decision**

Bureau (1984): The Bureau furthermore felt that the other works of Gaudí, even though not inscribed on the World Heritage List, should receive the best protection possible.

Session (2005): Decision: 29 COM 8B.47

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents **WHC-05/29.COM/8B, WHC-05/29.COM/8B.Add 2** and **WHC-05/29.COM/INF.8B.1**,

2. Approves the extension of **Parque Güell, Palacio Güell and Casa Mila in Barcelona, Spain** to include the Works of Antoni Gaudí, notably the following buildings: the Nativity façade and Crypt of Sagrada Familia, Casa Vicens, Casa Battlo, and the Crypt in Colonia Güell, on the basis of the cultural criteria (i), (ii), and (iv):

*Criterion (i)*: The work of Antoni Gaudí represents an exceptional and outstanding creative contribution to the development of architecture and building technology in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

*Criterion (ii)*: Gaudí's work exhibits an important interchange of values closely associated with the cultural and artistic currents of his time, as represented in el Modernisme of Catalonia. It anticipated and influenced many of the forms and techniques that were relevant to the development of modern construction in the 20th century.

*Criterion (iv)*: Gaudí's work represents a series of outstanding examples of the building typology in the architecture of the early 20th century, residential as well as public, to the development of which he made a significant and creative contribution.

- Statement of Significance adequately defines the outstanding universal value of the site

**Boundaries and Buffer Zone**

- Status of boundaries of the site: adequate
- Buffer zone: adequate

**Status of Authenticity/Integrity**

- World Heritage site values have been maintained

### 3. Protection

#### Legislative and Administrative Arrangements

- State legislation: Spanish Historic Heritage Law
- Autonomous community legislation
- Catalan Cultural Heritage: cultural assets of national interest; the Government of Catalonia has established the “cultural one per cent”, the creation of the Inventory of Catalan Cultural Heritage aims to encourage awareness of this heritage as a logical consequence of gradually achieving these aims; the Cultural Heritage Advisory Council is set up as a consultative body of the public authorities on matters relating to heritage in order to ensure that the objectives laid down by the Law are achieved
- Municipal level: Metropolitan General Plan on Urban Planning (PGOM); By laws on Protecting the Historical and Artistic Architectural Heritage of the City of Barcelona; Planning Regulations in the Special Plan on Protecting the Architectural Heritage of the city of Barcelona. Among other things, the Byelaws establish four categories of protection (A, B, C and D)
- Other related legislation: Law on Tourism in Catalonia
- The protection arrangements are considered sufficiently effective

### 4. Management

#### Use of site/property

- Visitor attraction

#### Management /Administrative Body

- Levels of public authority who are primarily involved with the management of the site: national; regional; local
- The current management system is sufficiently effective
- Park Güell is managed by Barcelona City Council including the Department of Architecture, the Municipal Institute of Parks and Gardens and the Barcelona Institute of Culture
- Casa Milà is managed by The Fundació Caixa Catalunya
- Park Güell and Casa Milà have a coordinator on a full-time basis

### 5. Management Plan

- No information provided

### 6. Financial Resources

#### Financial situation

- Palau Güell is closed to visitors because it is currently undergoing restoration work. In view of this, details of the budget would not be useful
- Casa Milà: Foundation contribution, own income
- Park Güell: funding (2004) from Barcelona City Council; Municipal Institute of Parks and Gardens and Institute of Culture. Other assistance includes funding from the Ministry of Culture. 1987 -1992
- The funding for Casa Milà and Park Güell is considered sufficient

### 7. Staffing Levels

Rate of access to adequate professional staff across the following disciplines:

- Good: conservation, management, promotion, education, visitor management
- Park Güell: interpretation: good, Casa Milà: promotion: average
- Park Güell has access to specialist gardening staff, number of staff: 11
- Casa Milà: number of staff: 56

### 8. Sources of Expertise and Training in Conservation and Management Techniques

- Palau Güell: Complementary and specific training is provided for staff conducting visits and safety and security

### 9. Visitor Management

- Palau Güell:  
Visitor statistics: available, not provided, 2004, admission ticket sales  
Visitor facilities: Reception point; guided tours
- Park Güell:  
Visitor statistic available, not provided.  
Visitor facilities: Information Centre; Gaudi House Museum; toilets, bars and parking facilities
- Casa Milà:  
Visitor statistics: 869,640 (2004)

Visitor facilities: cultural centre, permanent exhibition; guided tours; educational centre, travelling exhibition, bookshop. Facilities as lifts, toilets, online admission ticket sales, car park for coaches, disabled access

- Tourism/visitor management plan; organisations include the Barcelona Tourist Office, the Directorate General for Tourism of the Government of Catalonia and Barcelona City Council. The Directorate General for Tourism of the Government of Catalonia is responsible
- [http://www.gencat.net/turistex\\_nou/home.htm](http://www.gencat.net/turistex_nou/home.htm)  
Turisme de Catalunya offers a wide range of information on tourist attractions in Catalonia, especially Gaudí

### 10. Scientific Studies

- Palau Güell: Risk assessment; Studies related to the value of the site; Monitoring exercises; Archaeological surveys; Studies on the structure, safety and security, installations, colour, the environment, etc. are now being carried out. As a consequence of these studies, the property will remain closed for some years
- Park Güell: Visitor management studies, geological studies for the stability of the ground
- Casa Milà: visitor management studies

### 11. Education, Information and Awareness Building

- An adequate number of signs referring to World Heritage site
- World Heritage Convention Emblem used on some publications (Palau Güell: not provided)
- Adequate awareness of World Heritage among: visitors, local communities, businesses, local authorities
- Park Güell: activities for schools, families and the general public, an Interpretation Centre
- Casa Milà: Seminars, Educational Service, permanent exhibition, publications
- Web site available:  
Palau Güell:  
<http://www.diba.es/palauquell/index.htm>.  
The Web site is managed by Barcelona Provincial Council, the owners of the building  
Park Güell: available  
Casa Milà:  
<http://obrasocial.caixacatalunya.es/osocial/main.html?idioma=3>

### 12. Factors affecting the Property (State of Conservation)

#### Reactive monitoring reports

- N/A

### Conservation interventions

- Palau Güell: conservation, restoration works, scientific studies on the structure and behaviour of the materials. Bibliography
- Casa Milà: restoration projects on facades and interiors; rehabilitation works, restoration of paintings etc.
- Present state of conservation: good

### Threats and Risks to site

- Palau Güell: Visitor/tourism pressure; specific issues: tourism pressure during the International Gaudí Year. It is likely that when the building reopens after the completion of the restoration works, measures to control visits will be put in place to safeguard the property from large numbers of visitors; structural problems and other problems arising from the behaviour of the materials employed
- Casa Milà: Visitor pressure

### 13. Monitoring

- Formal monitoring programme
- Measures taken/planned: The monitoring of the state of conservation of cultural assets is laid down in the legislation on cultural heritage. There are also cases as architectural work must be authorised by those in charge of cultural heritage. Responsibility: town and city council

### 14. Conclusions and Recommended Actions

- Main benefits of WH status:  
Palau Güell: conservation, social  
Park Güell and Casa Milà: conservation, social, economic, management
- Strengths of management: restoration and conservation, raising awareness of Gaudí's work