



Barcelona
2026
Capital Mundial
de l'Arquitectura



Symposium Monuments and urban environments in large cities of the 21st century



*Learning from Gaudí about his social, sustainable and
healthy architecture*

BARCELONA 7-9 OCTOBER 2026



The UNESCO World Heritage Statutes stipulate special protection for architectural heritage monuments and the open spaces and gardens in their immediate surroundings. In addition, in a wider area, the so-called “buffer zones” are defined, which grant special respect to the monument. Likewise, care must be taken to ensure that its important sight lines or viewing spaces remain free. Therefore, it is necessary to have a management plan that guarantees the preservation of the original monument for future generations.

In this context, in the years 2021 and 2022, some study days took place under the title of "Parvis d'églises et aménagement paysagers" at the headquarters of the Institut National d'Histoire de l'Art (Paris), organized by the Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne and the École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Versailles. The Gaudí Research Institute (TGRI) was invited to inaugurate the closing day of these sessions. This year 2026 TGRI has inaugurated the conference in Paris by the same organizers entitled "L'eau dans la ville".

Within the framework of “Barcelona 2026 UNESCO-UIA World Capital of Architecture”, TGRI continues these studies by organizing this symposium. During which international specialists will meet to lecture and debate on the urban planning problem of monuments located in the middle of large cities that has numerous aspects (social, economic, sustainability, political). The program includes other architectural outreach activities, with special attention to the Gaudí Year that we are also celebrating.



Wednesday 7

11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Governor's Palace in Ciutadella (Barcelona)

Guided tour of Gaudí's interventions in Ciutadella Park
4-8 p.m.

Historic building of the University of Barcelona

First session: **Sustainable urban planning**

Keynote speaker: **Jean-François Cabestan**

Heritage architect, director of the "Housing and Heritage" seminar at the National Institute of Art History in Paris, professor at the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, co-founder of the Atelier de Transformation des Patrimoines, member of ICOMOS in 20th century heritage, of DoCoMoMo and of the Old Paris Commission. Historian **Montserrat Julià**, vice-president of SOS Monuments (Association for the Civic Defense of Cultural Heritage) will also participate in this session.



Thursday 8

11 a.m.-1 p.m.

The Gaudí Research Institute (Colònia Güell)

Open day

4-8 p.m.

Parc Sanitari Sant Joan de Déu (St. Boi Llobregat)

Guided tour of Gaudí's garden

Second session: **Healthy urban planning**

Keynote speaker: **Olga Dyakova**

PhD in the Department of Medical Cell Biology at the University of Uppsala (Sweden) who leads a research group on the mental health benefits of Gaudí's biomimetic principles, the other researchers are Dra. Karin Nordström from the Flinders Health Research Institute at Flinders University (Adelaide, Australia) and Dr. Christian Benedict from the Department of Pharmaceutical Biosciences at Uppsala University.





Friday 9

11 a.m.-1 p.m.

The Gaudí Research Institute (Colònia Güell)

Guided tour of the Colonia Güell

4-6 p.m.

Bella Aurora Labs (Colònia Güell)

Third session: **Social urbanism**

Keynote speaker: **Pere Jordi Figuerola Rotger**

Historian, museologist, and co-founder of TGRI. He served as the curator of the Barcelona Church's cultural heritage for 40 years. In various publications, he has explored the social dimension of Gaudí and his cooperative spirit—an influence that shaped his protégé Cèsar Martinell, the leading figure behind agricultural cooperative wineries. Architect **Attilio Oliveras Ley** will also speak; he participated in the initial urban planning project for Colònia Güell following the closure of the factory.



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