



Güell Pavilions and Garden

Barcelona, Spain

The Güell Pavilions in Barcelona's Pedralbes neighborhood are an early work of the modern master Antoni Gaudí (1852–1926). The pavilions and the garden were designed at the behest of Eusebi Güell, who would become the young architect's most important patron, and were built between 1883 and 1887. Gaudí designed two pavilions, a stable, and a gatekeeper's lodge on either side of an elaborate wrought-iron gate that led into the expansive Güell estate. The design was inspired by the myth of the Garden of the Hesperides, which, in a poetic retelling by Jacint Verdaguer that was popular with Gaudí and the Güell family, was interwoven with the history of the origin of the Catalan people. The buildings contain many elements of Gaudí's signature building style, including parabolic arches and Catalan vaulting, and are topped by lanterns faced with *trencadís*, or fragments of colored ceramic tiles.

After Güell's death the estate was converted into a palace for the Spanish Royal Family. The site was later acquired by the University of Barcelona during its expansion into this area in the 1950s, and it now forms part of the Avinguda Diagonal campus of the university. Public access to the garden has been limited, but a new master plan prepared by the university and the city's Municipal Institute of Urban Landscape and Quality of Life provides for improved access to the site by visitors and expanded use for university events. Repairs to the structures are necessary, and a project to rehabilitate the roof of the stable is already underway with funding from the Spanish Ministry of Education. More resources are needed to implement this well-conceived plan for the benefit of all citizens of Barcelona, and the millions who visit this enchanting city every year.