Sant Pau
Art Nouveau
Site
Welcome

The Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site is a jewel of Modernista architecture and one of the main works of Lluís Domènech i Montaner. Built between 1902 and 1930, it was home to the Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau from 1916 to 2009.

In its time, it was a landmark in hospital construction: an open space, with beautiful freestanding buildings that were communicated by a network of tunnels and set in gardens, all to ensure the greatest comfort for the sick. It was declared UNESCO World Heritage in 1997.
In the course of its history as a hospital, there were many changes in the different pavilions. In 2009, once all the patients and medical services had been transferred to the new Hospital, the Art Nouveau Site underwent an unprecedented process of restoration for a heritage space. Of the 12 constituent pavilions, eight were completed.

The restoration process was guided by the recovery of the original spaces designed by Domènech i Montaner, the transformation of the pavilions into functional working spaces, and the application of criteria of sustainability and energy saving.
Historical dissemination and high-social-impact organisations

After over 80 years as a hospital, today the Art Nouveau Site is a space for historical and architectural dissemination. Moreover, it is home to leading organisations which work in the fields of innovation, sustainability, health and culture. Their objective is to make proposals to improve citizens’ living conditions. The pavilions occupied by these institutions are not open to visits.
Tour

Heritage spaces in the Administration Pavilion

Exhibition space

Historical recreation space

Interiors open for visits

Layout of the tunnels
1 Hypostyle Hall

This is a room with pillars which, in this case, bear the weight of the entire Administration building. Designed as a space of communication and distribution, during the hospital’s final years it housed the Emergency Services.

2 Sant Salvador Pavilion

This was the first pavilion to take in patients in 1916. Now restored to its original appearance, it is a space about the history of our institution and Domènech i Montaner.
Gardens

Nature was a vital part of the hospital's function. Plants and trees purified the air, fixed bacteria, influenced the climate, protected the space from wind, and conserved humidity, all with patient wellbeing in mind.

Operations House

Ceramics and sculpture combine harmoniously in this building. The names in the façade belong to distinguished doctors. The large hall with glazing in the part at the back was the principal operating theatre.
5 Sant Rafael Pavilion

An example of a nursing pavilion. Today, it is a historical recreation space that explains what a pavilion was like and how it functioned in the 1920s. The pavilion has not been restored.

6 Tunnels

The network of underground passages was an innovation in the hospital architecture of the time. These were the arteries through which supplies were brought into the site. In the northern part of the tunnels, an exhibition of period photographs recreates life at the Hospital at different times in its history.
7 The Puríssima Pavilion

This pavilion shows the original volume of the hospital buildings, as per the design of Lluís Domènech i Montaner. The space gives an idea of the complexity of the entire process of rehabilitating the pavilions. The photograph in the background shows a nursing ward in 1920.

8 The Administration Pavilion

This is the largest and most richly decorated building. The architect made it a unique, highly symbolic element in the architectural complex. Particularly noteworthy are the foyer with its colours and ornamentation, the principal stairway, and Domènech i Montaner Hall.
End of the visit

As you leave the Administration Pavilion you will see the magnificent mosaic around the building, the work of Francesc Lavarta and Mario Maragliano, that recounts the history of the Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau. The sculptures in the façade of the central volume are the work of a young Pau Gargallo.
The route of visits may vary depending on the use being made of the spaces.

The Art Nouveau Site is a non-smoking space. Thank you for not smoking here.

In order to keep the space in optimum condition, no food may be taken into the Site.

The Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site is owned by the Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau Foundation.

The proceeds from your visit will go towards the preservation and restoration of this heritage complex. You will also support healthcare activity, research and several social projects developed by the Hospital and its Foundation.

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