

## 8. Modernista Complex of Sant Pau

### **MUNICIPALITY**

Barcelona

### **HEADING**

The Modernista complex of Sant Pau, work of Lluís Domènech i Montaner and declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, has been transformed into a knowledge, innovation and research centre, as well as a new attraction for tourists, after an exhaustive restoration. Today, the buildings, put up between 1902 and 1930, are functional and sustainable spaces.

### **IDENTIFYING DETAILS**

Of the twelve pavilions in the Modernista complex, six have already been restored and reform is under way in a further two. Over 70 million euros have been invested over a four-year period. The landscaped area has been restored and the complex equipped with a geothermic system for the buildings' heating and air conditioning. The built surface area takes up 35,505 square metres, with 27,718 square metres of gardens.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

After a century of use as the Hospital of Santa Creu and Sant Pau, the Modernista complex has undergone one of the most ambitious reforms of a heritage property known to date. Begun in autumn 2009, the reform has restored the artistic wealth of this complex, unique in Europe.

The process, which obeyed strict criteria of sustainability, has equipped pavilions built in the early twentieth century with the most advanced technologies to provide working spaces fit for the twenty-first century.

The Modernista complex is now a knowledge, research and innovation campus, headquarters for several major international organisations. All these institutions are both engaged in their own programmes and setting up systems for collaboration in shared initiatives, studies and projects. Planned to respond to some of the global challenges to twenty-first century society, these span the areas of sustainability, health and education, with Barcelona as a "brand" and in line with the history and philosophy of Sant Pau. The United Nations Institute, Casa Àsia, GWOPA, the WHO Barcelona office, the UN-Habitat's Cities Resilience Profiling Programme, the European Forest Institute (EFI) and GUNI are already established in three of the complex's pavilions.

During 2013 significant progress has been made in the restoration both of the pavilions and the outdoor spaces.

In late February 2014, the Modernista complex opened its doors with a knowledge centre, a cultural initiative which includes both activities and a programme of visits, and offers heritage spaces suitable for congresses, seminars and courses.

### **PROJECT ADDRESS**

[www.santpaubarcelona.org](http://www.santpaubarcelona.org)

### **RESPONSIBLE**

Jordi Bachs i Ferrer, Managing Director, Hospital of Santa Creu and Sant Pau Private Foundation