



colònia **güell**  
santa coloma de cervelló



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



World  
Heritage  
Convention

# Colonia Güell

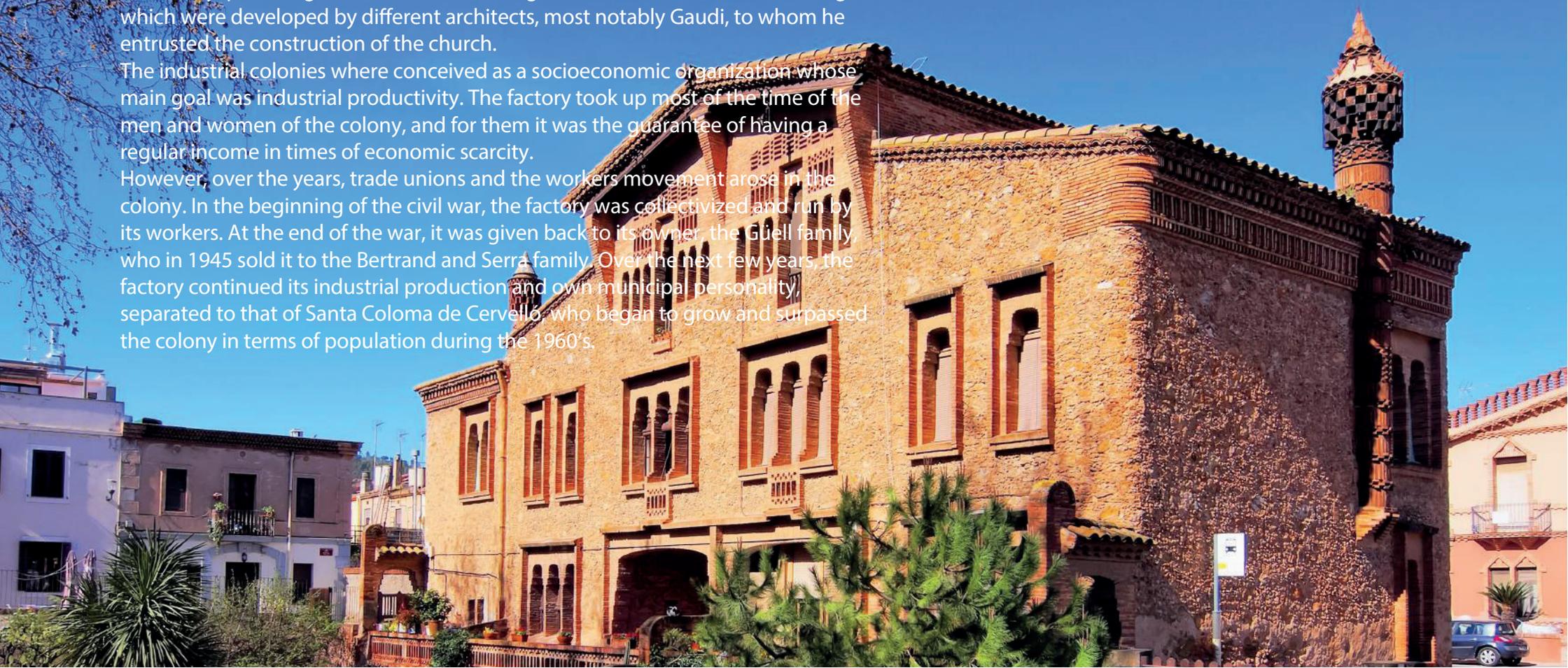


The construction of the Colonia Güell, located in Santa Coloma de Cervelló, began in 1890 at the initiative of the entrepreneur Eusebi Güell. The interest of escaping the social conflicts arisen in the city, made the new industry to be conceived within the framework of an industrial colony; with the housing of the workers next to the factory, within the property, constituting an urban nucleus with its own social and economic life though overseen by the company.

In contrast to most industrial colonies in Catalonia, Eusebi Güell worked to improve the social conditions of his workers and applied his cultural patronage in the colony, providing it with cultural and religious facilities of a modernist design which were developed by different architects, most notably Gaudi, to whom he entrusted the construction of the church.

The industrial colonies were conceived as a socioeconomic organization whose main goal was industrial productivity. The factory took up most of the time of the men and women of the colony, and for them it was the guarantee of having a regular income in times of economic scarcity.

However, over the years, trade unions and the workers movement arose in the colony. In the beginning of the civil war, the factory was collectivized and run by its workers. At the end of the war, it was given back to its owner, the Güell family, who in 1945 sold it to the Bertrand and Serra family. Over the next few years, the factory continued its industrial production and own municipal personality, separated to that of Santa Coloma de Cervelló, who began to grow and surpassed the colony in terms of population during the 1960's.



# Gaudi's Crypt



In 1898, Eusebi Güell, commissioned the architect Antoni Gaudí the project of a church for the textile estate of Santa Coloma de Cervelló. Over the next few years, Gaudí carried out various preliminary studies which culminated in a model which was placed in a pavilion located in the hill where the building would later be erected.

The construction of the temple began in 1908. However, the ambitious project, which foresaw a church with two naves, lower and upper, topped by different towers and a 40 meters high central dome, would remain unfinished.

In 1914 the Güell family decided to stop financing the church and Gaudí abandoned the project.

In November 1915 the bishop of Barcelona consecrated the lower nave, the only one to have been built, which made the church be popularly known as Crypt.

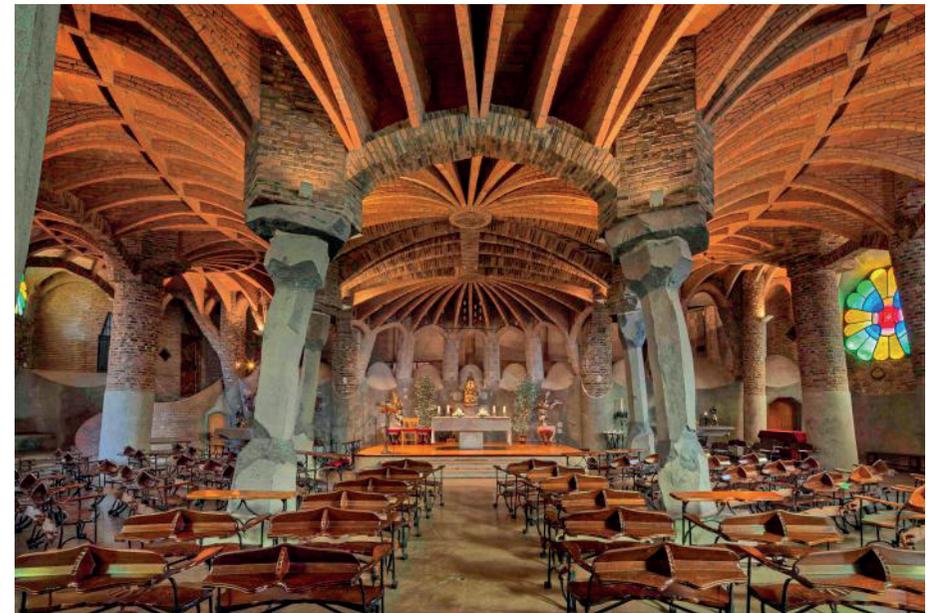
Between 1915 and 1917 a new architect closed off the nave.

Even though the church remained unfinished, the church is a culminating point of Gaudí's works. This construction includes for the first time practically all of his architectural innovations.

In the church we can see Gaudí created the nave's single space without using buttresses, flying buttresses or supporting walls. This was possible thanks to a combination of leaning pillars and catenary arches which also result in the hyperbolic paraboloid shape of the perimeter walls. This same integrative spirit is reflected in the fusion of the building with the environment –the levels of the naves are adapted to the hill's slope and the materials and colors used similar to those of the surrounding vegetation-.

All of these elements constitute a set of original solutions which answer to the desire for synthesis between structural planning, construction techniques, and architectural shapes.

The Crypt was declared World Heritage Site by the UNESCO in 2005



# Permanent Exhibition



Located in the Colony's old cooperative, it offers a global vision on what the estate was and how its people lived. The permanent exhibition has five areas: Industrial colonies, the Factory, the people, the Colonia Güell, and Gaudi's Crypt. Each area has its own elements amongst which stands out a reproduction of the polifunicular model Gaudi designed to have a 3D image of the church's structure. This technique, invented by Gaudi to build the crypt, would be profusely used to build the Sagrada Familia.



# Services for Companies



The Colonia has various singular spaces, both in and outdoor, available to companies, professionals, entities and general public to celebrate conferences, receptions, dinners, expositions, conventions,...

- Interpretation Center (Permanent Exhibition)
- Meeting Rooms
- Crypt's porch
- Interior of the Crypt
- Terrace
- Old wine cellars

\*We also have available space for marquees and other temporary constructions.



# Spaces: Rooms In The Exhibition Centre



FOUR AVAILABLE SPACES INSIDE THE PERMANENT EXHIBITION, LOCATED ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE INTERPRETATION CENTRE, THE OLD COOPERATIVE



# Spaces: Model Room



ROOM OF THE POLIFUNICULAR MODEL OF THE PERMANENT EXHIBITION, LOCATED ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE INTERPRETATION CENTRE, THE OLD COOPERATIVE



# Spaces: Old Cellar



THE OLD CELLARS OF THE COLONY CONSIST OF TWO COMUNICATED SPACES AND SEVEN MODULES. SINGULAR SPACE FOR ITS ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES.



# Spaces: Interior of the Crypt



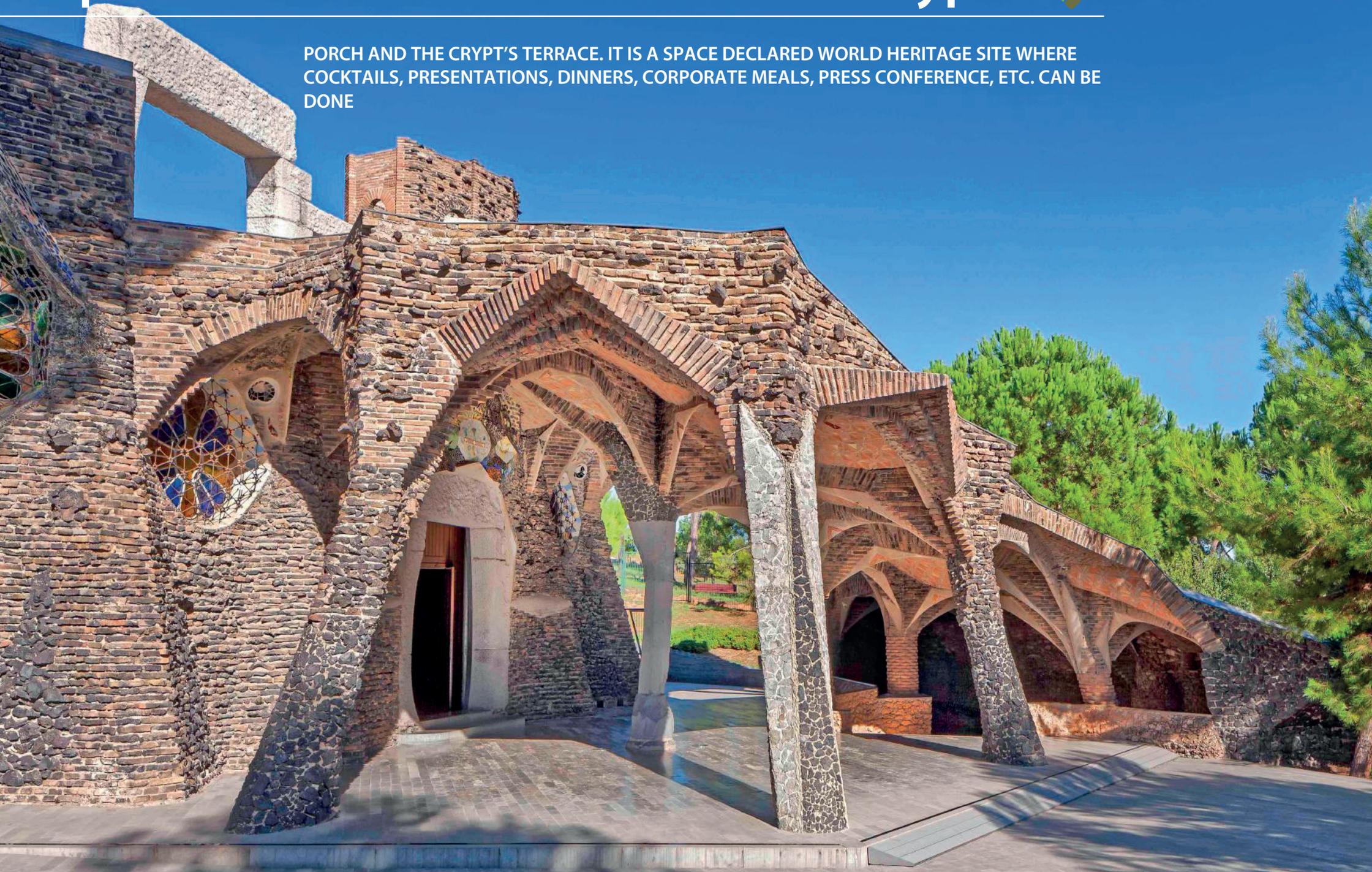
INTERIOR OF GAUDI'S CRYPT. THIS IS A SPACE DECLARED WORLD HERITAGE SITE WITH RESTRICTIONS OF USAGE. IT IS POSSIBLE TO MAKE PRESENTATIONS, CONCERTS AND RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES. IT IS NOT ALLOWED TO HAVE A MEAL INSIDE



# Spaces: Porch and Terrace of the Crypt



PORCH AND THE CRYPT'S TERRACE. IT IS A SPACE DECLARED WORLD HERITAGE SITE WHERE COCKTAILS, PRESENTATIONS, DINNERS, CORPORATE MEALS, PRESS CONFERENCE, ETC. CAN BE DONE



# General Information



## Tourist Services:

- Guided Visits
- Audioguides
- Theatricalized Visits
- Rooms for organized events, conferences, and professional
- VIP visits (when the crypt is closed off to the public)

## General services:

- Rest Areas
- Parking for vehicles and buses
- Bathrooms

## How to get here: Only 20 minutes away from Barcelona

- Access from road B-2002 between Sant Boi de Llobregat and Santa Coloma de Cervelló. From the C-31 (direction Sant Boi de Llobregat), the C-32 (exit 53), A2, and A7 (Direction Sant Boi de Llobregat)

- Ferrocarriles de la Generalitat de Catalunya (FGC) from Plaza Espanya. Lines S8, S4 and S33. Destination station: Colonia Güell





Information and renting of spaces:

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