



## Parque Central

VALENCIA | 2019

Defined by bold features and the use of water throughout, Parque Central distils the historical, cultural, and geographical features of Valencia into an engaging contemporary park and public space. The first phase (11.5ha) is comprised of a series of varied, multi-level gardens and re-purposed railway buildings that collectively serve as a focal point for a range of age groups and community uses.

The design acknowledges Valencia's unique position as a major trading and cultural centre in European history and its location between several ecological habitats. It is characterised with areas for art, activities, and community events that refer to three quintessential Valencian characteristics: Water, food, and the Mediterranean landscape.

Reference is made to the historical importance of Valencia as an artistic centre of earthenware and ceramics. The concept of 'bowls' (ullal in Valencian) manifests itself as concave depressions in the landscape created through sculpted landforms. They define six different character areas of the park that attract visitor to its diverse landscape experiences.

Water pools, jets, and channels welcome visitors to the park and encourage interaction and play. The colourful and sensory planting palette draws on the flora and fauna of the region and has become a vital new ecological component within the city. Materials such as marble, granite, and Calatorao limestone

typical of Valencia are used with compacted gravel for pathways throughout the park.

Developed over eight years, the first phase of the park has precipitated urban renewal in the adjacent urban district of Russafa, now popular with cafés, bars and boutique shops.

Following the construction of the remaining two phases over the coming years, the completed 23ha park will unite neighbourhoods that are currently divided by railway lines. The project was won in international competition in 2011, when Gustafson Porter + Bowman formed a joint venture with Valencia-based firms Nova Ingeniería and Grupotec engineers, and Barcelona-based architects Borgos Pieper.

AWARDS  
2021 Rosa Barba Finalist;  
Architectural Heritage Intervention Finalist  
2019 WAF Finalist, Urban Landscape; LI  
Dame Sylvia Crowe Finalist and Winner  
Large Scale Development  
2012 Shortlist, WAN Awards, Category:  
Urban Regeneration / Unbuilt  
2012 Commendation, MIPIM AR  
Future Projects Awards  
2011 Shortlist, WAF Awards,  
Category: Future Projects / Landscape

CLIENT  
Valencia Parque Central  
Alta Velocidad 2003 S.A.  
PROJECT DURATION  
2011-2019 (First phase)  
SIZE  
11.5ha (First phase)  
23ha (Total park)  
BUDGET  
€16m (First phase)

