

# Belloch: architecture, nature and technology in dialogue

Programme of activities - Parc de Belloch

Barcelona  
World Capital  
of Architecture  
2026

12.03 – 20.10  
2026



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# Manuel Baldrich, a rare example of Catalan rationalism



Parc de Belloch (from bello loco, meaning “beautiful place”) is an extensive campus of more than 200 hectares, located 30 km north of Barcelona. A historic ecological corridor, it is now home to its own urban tree nursery and to the activities of a group of companies, including Santa & Cole and urbidermis.

The campus’s central complex, designed in 1964 by the architect Manuel Baldrich, is a rare example of 1960s Catalan rationalism and served as an educational residence for almost 30 years. Baldrich designed the school buildings, communal facilities and sports courts, all linked by a system of generous covered porches that lend unity to the ensemble, facilitating movement and strengthening the sense of belonging to the surrounding landscape.

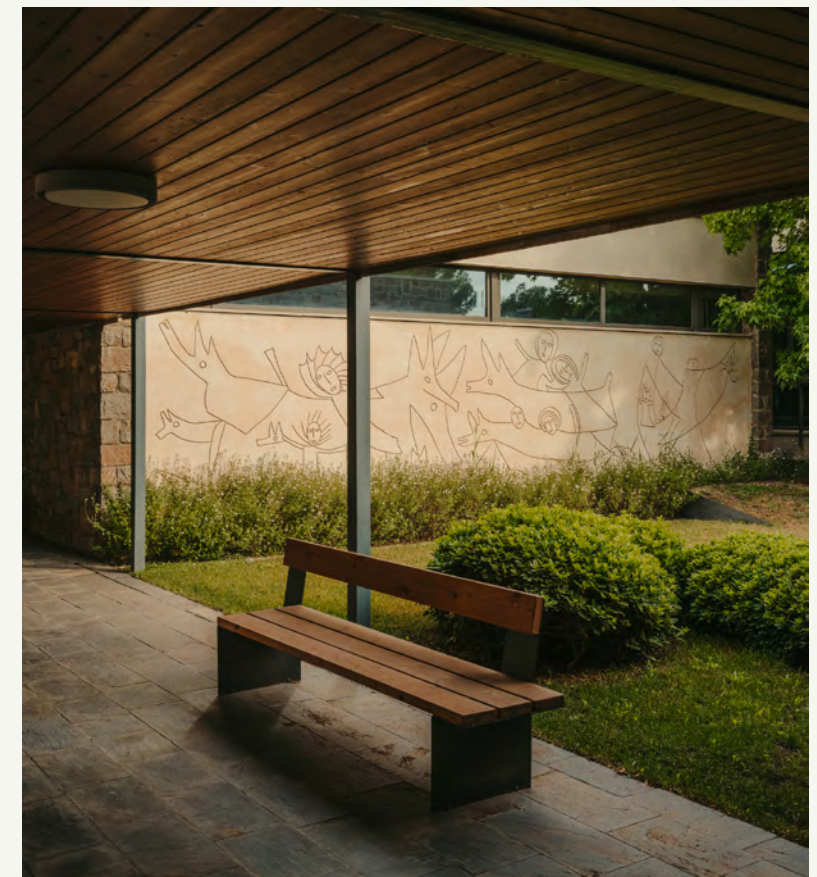
For Baldrich, it was essential to create spaces for meeting, cool and well ventilated, where conversation and harmonious coexistence could flourish. The central square, framed by the teaching blocks and residences, the dining hall, the church and the porches themselves, forms a true landscaped forum, a point of meeting and orientation for residents and visitors alike, crowned by the church bell tower, the centre of gravity of this great esplanade.

Architecture and nature come together in a privileged setting at the foot of the Montseny massif.

The architect, who also designed much of the furniture, worked with the sculptor Josep Maria Subirachs to incorporate his artworks into the church; with the painter Albert Ràfols-Casamada, who created pictorial works for the church’s perimeter stained-glass windows; and with Parvine Curie (*nom de plume* Arlette Marti), who produced sgraffito on some of the complex’s exterior walls. Developed in line with the principles of modern architecture, the project was resolved with great skill in terms of proportion, layout and materiality, and with meticulous attention to the design of the outdoor spaces and their pedestrian routes.







## Santa & Cole and urbidermis in Belloch

After years of disuse, the Intramundana Group acquired the property, moving in in 2003 and commissioning Parc de Belloch to promote and manage it, serving a community of companies based around a central campus of approximately 10 hectares. True to its pedagogical vocation, this exceptional architecture, in the heart of nature, is now presented as a knowledge park focused on management, design and ecology.

Intramundana, based in the building closest to the entrance, limited itself to minor interior alterations to suit its needs, showing the utmost respect for the original construction and bringing back to life a series of rooms that seemed to have stood still in time.

Later, in 2006, the studio Batlle i Roig carried out a more substantial intervention to adapt the buildings and outdoor spaces, an upgrade that enhanced the site's identity and heritage value.

At Belloch, design objects, furniture and urban lighting are produced, and the trees best suited to cities are grown in the Belloch Forestal nursery. Work is carried out without haste: prototypes and narratives are developed, art is exhibited, and many visitors are welcomed, bringing fresh perspectives.

The rooms, corridors and galleries that once housed teaching, and the comings and goings of pupils in the post-war years, now underpin the arguments and ideas that lead us to imagine the cities of the future, and to publish design objects, books and art.



## The transformative power of architecture through Manuel Baldrich and our vision of the city

Manuel Baldrich was an architect of great vision, yet little recognised. He embraced the principles of the Bauhaus, with a clear focus on functionality and simplicity, and a preference for clean, straight lines in his designs. The union of art with craftsmanship and industry is expressed particularly clearly in his work, as shown by his collaboration at Belloch with artists such as Albert Ràfols-Casamada and Parvine Curie.

We share with Manuel Baldrich a belief in the transformative capacity of architecture, urbanism and landscape design. Like him, we believe in the power of nature and of connected spaces to promote:

Spaces that foster harmonious coexistence.  
More connected cities.  
The wellbeing of people, flora, fauna and the night sky.  
Emotions channelled through contact with trees and nature.

With our proposal, we aim to open our headquarters at Parc de Belloch to reflect on the past and future of architecture, urbanism and landscape design in our cities, through the work of Manuel Baldrich and our vision of the city of the future, which brings nature and technology together.







# Programme of activities

## Manuel Baldrich and the Belloch School

Architecture

Conference dedicated to Manuel Baldrich. The session, led by Marc Cuixart, author of his biography, reviews the architect's thinking and body of work, with the participation of Mònica Fornt, Baldrich's granddaughter. The dialogue reflects on the contemporary relevance of the principles of rationalism and their relationship with architecture, context and everyday use, taking the Belloch School as its central reference. The event concludes with a visit to the Belloch School.

Activity organised with the collaboration of Santa & Cole.

12.03

18h - 20h  
[Belloch, La Roca del Vallès](#)

[Reserve your spot](#)

## Trees in the city

Nature

A roundtable with an open debate on the role of trees in the contemporary city, with the participation of professionals from diverse disciplines. The session addresses the function of trees in wellbeing, thermal comfort and biodiversity, as well as the challenges associated with their implementation and management. An open forum for professionals and the wider public to rethink trees as essential green infrastructure within the public realm.

25.03

18h - 20h  
[Belloch, La Roca del Vallès](#)

[Reserve your spot](#)

## Urban anthropology: space, community and coexistence

Technology

A conversation on how urban spaces shape human relationships, identity and a sense of community in the contemporary city. The session explores architecture and urbanism as cultural and social tools capable of fostering more inclusive forms of coexistence, incorporating a gender perspective and the cross-cutting role of technology in the way the city is designed and inhabited.

28.04

18h - 20h  
[Belloch, La Roca del Vallès](#)

[Reserve your spot](#)

## Materials and landscape

Nature

A roundtable on the impact of materials on contemporary architecture and the shaping of the urban landscape. The session addresses the relationship between natural and industrial materials, life cycles, and new construction systems as responses to environmental challenges. An interdisciplinary dialogue to rethink materiality as a key tool for moving towards more sustainable and responsible construction models.

14.05

18h - 20h  
[Belloch, La Roca del Vallès](#)

[Reserve your spot](#)



Technology and the city:  
urban innovation

Technology

16.09

18h – 20h  
[Belloch, La Roca del Vallès](#)

A conversation on the role of innovation and technology in responding to the challenges of the contemporary city. Drawing on diverse perspectives and concrete experiences, the session examines how technology can activate new models of collaboration, improve urban management, and generate social, environmental and collective impact when it is coherently integrated into urban processes and the city’s context.

[Reserve your spot](#)

Direct action:  
climate shelters

Nature

10.10

18h – 20h  
[Castell de l’Oreneta Park, Barcelona](#)

A participatory workshop to explore how vegetation and trees can improve thermal comfort in the city. Through the planting of a small climate shelter, the activity highlights green spaces as essential infrastructure for reducing temperatures, enhancing wellbeing and addressing the effects of climate change.

An activity aimed at the general public and families.

[Reserve your spot](#)

Guided tour of the  
Belloch School

Architecture

19.05 / 07.07 / 20.10

18h – 20h  
[Belloch, La Roca del Vallès](#)

We propose opening Belloch to the public on specific dates throughout the year, with guided tours of the Escola de Belloch, currently home to Santa & Cole and urbidermis.

The site can be visited on **May 19, July 7, and October 20.**

Also, the Belloch Forestal nursery will be open year-round through pre-arranged visits available on request.

[Reserve your spot](#)

[Access all activities via our Eventbrite profile.](#)

If you have any questions about the registration process, email us at [comunicacion@urbidermis.com](mailto:comunicacion@urbidermis.com)

How to get there

Parc de Belloch  
Carretera C-251, km 5,6  
08430 La Roca del Vallès (Barcelona)

Access by public transport – Rodalies de Catalunya

Parc de Belloch can be reached via the Rodalies network, R2 Nord line, from Barcelona to Cardedeu.

From Cardedeu station, Belloch can be reached by taxi.

Access by private vehicle

From Barcelona, Parc de Belloch can be reached via the AP-7 (approx. 40 km), taking exit 12A – La Roca del Vallès.

The site has designated parking areas available.

[View location on Google Maps](#)





**urbidermis & Belloch Forestal**

Parc de Belloch, Carretera C251, km. 5,6  
08430 La Roca del Vallès (Barcelona)

+34 938 61 91 00

[comunicacion@urbidermis.com](mailto:comunicacion@urbidermis.com)

[urbidermis.com](http://urbidermis.com)

[Instagram](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[Pinterest](#)

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