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Annual Open
House Europe
Activity
Report

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Year
3

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Barcelona
2025

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Open House Barcelona 2025

Introduction

General information about the event

Legal Name:	48H OPEN HOUSE BCN
Date:	October 25–26, 2025
Name:	48h Open House BCN
Type:	Open House festival
Number of buildings/areas included in the programme:	199 buildings, 8 itineraries, 7 cities
City:	Barcelona
Country:	Spain
Duration:	2 days

Festival participants

In total, Open House Barcelona 2025 attracted 76800 attendees.

In terms of volunteers, the festival had 335 men and 783 women: 1118 volunteers in total.

Open House Barcelona 2025 was organised by 5 men (3 permanent and 2 temporary) and 13 women (4 permanent and 9 temporary): 18 people in total.

Introduction

The 48h Open House BCN Festival 2025 (hereinafter referred to as Open House Barcelona 2025) was held between October 25 and 26 and gathered 76,800 people curious about architecture. The public's interest in architecture and the desire to access it through the festival, enjoying a cultural weekend party, has been growing stronger yearly.

The festival offered 207 activities in seven cities, including 136 buildings in Barcelona alone, 8 itineraries, 45 guided visits with architects, and 57 spaces never featured before in the festival programme. 1,118 volunteers were at the centre of all activities and led the visitors through these amazing spaces.

Under the title of 'Sent l'arquitectura' (Eng. Feel the Architecture, but in Catalan, the verb could be used in two ways: as 'to feel' or 'to hear'), the 16th edition delved into paying attention to everyday sensations and rediscovering the built environment through the senses. The idea was to not only look at design or appearance, but also to feel the impact places have on every person, as they embrace those within, giving them space to breathe and allowing them to be themselves.

This year, images were used to highlight sensations such as harmony, essence, pleasure, reflection, surprise, calm, well-being and warmth. In addition, a poet wrote verses about each of these sensations, and this project was shared through the festival's social media accounts. The general idea was to connect the public with architecture beyond materials, concepts and crafts.

Additional activities

For the third time, the festival joined the celebration of Barcelona Design Week and its global initiative to promote the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number 18, addressing design as a key element for the present and future of people. For this reason, the festival named Bloc4BCN— Espai Cooperatiu, within the Can Batlló grounds, as BUILDING 18, with the idea of emphasising the values and importance of design in this project.

The festival relied on sections to highlight programming themes for different target audiences. Once more, 'Open Petits' proposed a special game that consisted of finding small houses hidden in 11 different spaces across the participating cities. 'Open Kitchen' was transformed into 'Open Cuina' and offered three recipes specially designed for this year's festival.

The festival promoted architectural culture and the individual creativity of the public through photography and drawing, by means of two competitions and an itinerary. 'OPENGRAM' was a competition on Instagram that linked architecture, an artistic discipline that imagines and builds spaces for human use, and photography, a fundamental tool for disseminating, sharing and understanding it. 'OPEN FOTO' invited festival attendees to capture images of buildings participating in this edition of Open House Barcelona.

Finally, as a way of saying thank you for making the festival possible, architects and festival collaborators, friends and sponsors were invited to spend a few hours with the festival organisers on Saturday night, the halfway point of the festival, in one of this year's most special buildings: a gallery hidden in the old town in a former clergy hospital.

Activities for volunteers

This year, the architecture catalogue was revamped and transformed into a magazine, featuring practical tips, information about this year's theme and recommendations for weekend visits. Also included were some games and a visitor's passport that volunteers could fill out to be eligible for a prize during the closing party.

To offer a better experience for volunteers this year, the training was made more accessible for everyone. In addition to the general training, three more complementary training sessions were organised, distributed geographically. One of them also had an exclusive guided tour that aimed to motivate volunteers by offering a taste of what their festival weekend would be like.

Once again this year, volunteers received gratitude from the organisers in the form of a sticker on their credentials, indicating the number of editions they had volunteered for at the festival. Those who had been volunteering for 10 years received a prize.

Several gifts were raffled off among the volunteers: tickets for a boat trip around the city's bay; tickets to La Pedrera; discounts on tickets to various museums around the city; discounts at a major multi-product store (DIY, hardware, crafts and decoration); a water bottle for volunteers who had been with the festival for more than one edition; and a gift voucher from the festival's official bookshop.

After the festival, all volunteers received a diploma that certified their participation in the event. For some years now, architecture, design, history and tourism students have received university credits for volunteering. The organisation has agreements with ETSAV, ETSAB, EPSEB, UIC, UB, ESDAPC, Elisava and UAB.

Finally, all volunteers were asked to fill in an anonymous online survey so the organisers could learn more about the event and receive suggestions for the future.

Training of volunteers

Approximate number of attendees:

155



Volunteers training © Courtesy of 48h Open House BCN

The meeting took place at the Architecture School in Barcelona and lasted two hours, which was followed by another hour of casual networking and drinks. In the first hour, volunteers were divided into two training groups, depending on their roles during the festival. They received instructions on how the festival would operate and what their specific tasks would be. Afterwards, everyone gathered in the auditorium, where this year's theme was presented, after which there was a little play with improv actors.

Closing party for volunteers

Approximate number of attendees:
370



Volunteers party © Courtesy of 48h Open House BCN

On Sunday, the last day of the festival, a party was organised where everyone gathered, and the organisers thanked the volunteers for their support, discussed how the weekend went and said goodbye until next year. This year, the party was held at the Design Museum of Barcelona, and, as a special activity, volunteers who had been with the festival for 10 years were honoured. Along with some refreshments, a photo booth was set up related to this year's theme.

Integration of the Open House Europe programme

Buildings

Open House Barcelona 2025 had 2 buildings and/or guided tours from the festival's programme dedicated to showcasing the Open House Europe (OHEu) annual theme: Future Heritage.

List of buildings:

1. Hospital de Sant Pau
2. Montjuïc

Hospital de Sant Pau

1 guided tours that
attracted 10 visitors



Hospital de Sant Pau © Courtesy of 48h Open House BCN

The Hospital de Sant Pau, designed by Lluís Doménech i Montaner, was completed in 1930 and was declared a historic-artistic monument in 1978 and a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1997. The tour included the Casa de Convalecencia, one of the last works of Catalan modernism. The building, which was intended to house convalescent patients, is currently the headquarters of the Fundació Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. The tour included a visit to Kálida, a centre built in 2017 and designed by Miralles Tagliabue, which offers refuge to people with cancer, as well as their families and carers. Visits to the general site and to these specific buildings influenced the way architecture was viewed and understood by visitors from a heritage perspective.

Montjuïc

1 guided tours that
attracted **12** visitors

Montjuïc is home to different types of buildings, and on this guided tour, the focus was on three: the MNAC, the Barcelona Pavilion and Poble Espanyol. The first occupies the Palau Nacional, built for the 1929 International Exhibition; after a major renovation by Gae Aulenti in the 1990s, it now houses the Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya. The Barcelona Pavilion, a symbolic work of the modern movement, was designed as the German national pavilion for the 1929 International Exhibition in Barcelona by Mies van der Rohe and Lilly Reich. It was rebuilt in 1986 and is now the headquarters of the Mies van der Rohe Foundation. Opened in 1929, Poble Espanyol was created to bring together the architectural and cultural essence of the different towns and villages of the peninsula to impress visitors at the 1929 Barcelona International Exhibition. The Poble, an emblematic site in the city of Barcelona, includes 117 full-scale buildings that replicate constructions from fifteen Spanish regions. All styles are represented, from Romanesque to Baroque. Today, Poble Espanyol is a cultural facility open to the city where various family activities, concerts and exhibitions are held in the natural setting of Montjuïc. The purpose of this visit was to review the various renovations and updates made to the buildings of the 1929 Barcelona International Exhibition and their current uses, as well as to look at possibilities for the future.

Festival activities

La Capell

La Capell was, for the second time, the festival's official bookshop, and, as a result, it curated a selection of books aligned with this year's theme. The selection was made visible in the physical space of the bookshop, and, in addition, the festival's ambassadors shared their favourite books from those choices. The compilation was intended to be accessible to all audiences, with the intention of giving all users of the bookshop access to the festival's theme and to the festival itself. The bookshop, for its part, sought to promote this collaboration on its social media accounts and was responsible for distributing the festival map among its customers.

Patrimonis Futurs

attracted **50** people live
and **110** views online

'Patrimonis Futurs' (Eng. Future Heritage) was a roundtable discussion that invited reflection on the role of heritage in building a shared future. In the context of European cities, where architectural layers from different eras coexist in shared urban spaces, the event addressed several key questions: which aspects of the past have been chosen to be preserved and highlighted? Which aspects have been relegated or deemed controversial? How do current values and lifestyles shape these decisions? It took place on June 17 as part of the Architecture Weeks programme, at the Miró Foundation library. The discussion was moderated by Marc Aureli Santos, architect specialising in heritage and president of

ARQUIN-FAD. The guest speakers: Gemma Serch, architect and expert in heritage; Josep Maria Boronat, architect and president of AADIPA (the Association of Architects for the Defence and Intervention in Architectural Heritage); Montserrat Villaverde, art historian and professor and researcher at ETSALS; Antoni Ribas, cultural journalist for the ARA newspaper.

Link:

<https://youtu.be/H4R91QsYOc4?si=4Z5URSrly7deDqr9>

Different audiences at the local Open House festival

Experience in attracting non-native participants

In Catalonia, there are two official languages: Catalan and Spanish. For this reason, both local administrations and organisations appeal to and work to promote these languages, and for immigrants to know and understand them. Likewise, the association that organises the Open House Barcelona festival is committed to the protection and dissemination of Barcelona's cultural heritage. In this sense, language is a fundamental part of this legacy, so all the information and documentation about the festival were in the two official languages. The organisers left the option open for the volunteer guides to prepare tours in the official language in which they expressed themselves best, but even so, there still remained problems with the public preferring one or the other. Incorporating a third language, distant from the city, was not easy when already having difficulties with the local languages.

Experience in attracting people with special needs

Since 2018, the festival organisers have been working with associations that bring together people with disabilities, and each tour or itinerary this year was organised in conjunction with them. The president of one of these associations has become an ambassador of the festival and has accompanied the process and shared feedback every year. In addition, information about the festival was published in the cultural agenda of these associations.

Distribution

Additional digital content

The Open House Barcelona 2025 theme, participating cities, programme sections and competitions were presented in a video released to the public on World Habitat Day, the first Monday in October. The video emphasised thinking about architecture from the perspective of all the senses and sensations, beyond what could be seen.

Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WHGfmSsc-hA>

The festival's website is the result of constant research to find languages and ways of explaining architecture. Through this process, the website has been shaped as a compilation and timeless repository of media (audios, videos, texts) created by architects, authors, experts and members of associations that have transmitted their knowledge with emotion and commitment to the city and its architecture. The collected media: podcasts about buildings and itineraries recorded by architects, experts and members of associations; 360° videos recorded by students of Campus La Salle— Ramon Llull University; a collection of historical photographs; videos of 'Enmarcamos la arquitectura', a series in which a selected architect explains their work alongside a filmed tour of the building; a map with geolocated media that functions as a search engine for works of architecture.

Link:

<https://radiomediaraq.openhousebarcelona.org>

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Open House Praha 2025

Introduction

General information about the event

Legal Name:	Open House Praha, z. ú.
Date:	May 12–18, 2025
Name:	Open House Praha
Type:	Open House festival
Number of buildings/areas included in the programme:	123
City:	Prague
Country:	Czech Republic
Duration:	7 days

Festival participants

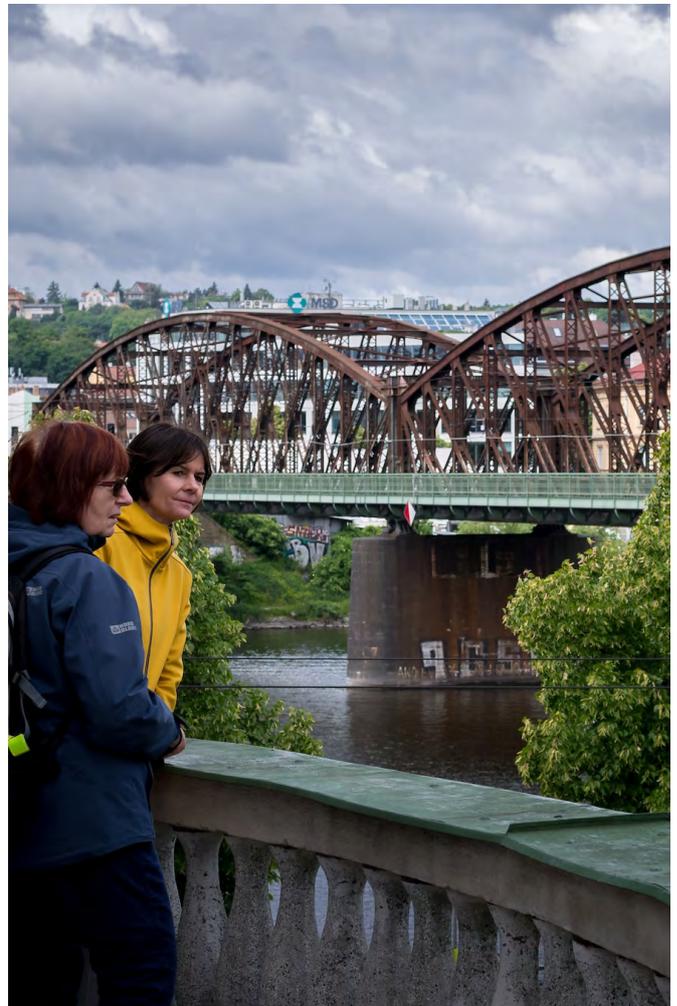
In total, Open House Praha 2025 attracted 104500 visits, with a rough estimate of 14800 unique visitors.

In terms of volunteers, the festival had a distribution of 34.3 % men and 64.5 % women.

Open House Praha 2025 was organised by 2 men and 8 women: 10 people in total.

Introduction

The 11th annual Open House Praha (OHP) festival took place on May 12–18, 2025 and received more than 104500 visits to the opened buildings. This year's festival title was 'Past Heritage, Future Challenges', with two main areas of focus: railways and schools. This was reflected not only in the selection of buildings but also in the accompanying week-long programme of more than 70 events, including lectures, exhibitions, film screenings, guided city walks and a cycling tour. This year's guest curator, architect Osamu Okamura, prepared a discussion series titled 'Schools for Future Generations'. Taking place during the festival weekend, it showcased examples of smart, sustainable and energy-positive revitalisation projects, newly constructed schools such as the Secondary Vocational School on Českobrodská Street, the green pavilion of the Czech University of Life Sciences' Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences in Suchdol, and one of the first municipal outdoor kindergartens—Milíčův dům Nursery School in Žižkov. Another highlight from the weekend programme was the Hodža Villa in Smíchov, built in the 1920s and now serving as the residence of the Luxembourg Embassy. There was strong interest in tours of the constructivist Dunaj Palace and the functionalist EGAP Palace. Many visitors also headed to the motive power depot near Prague's Masaryk Station and saw the exhibition of historical photographs and plans for the new railway museum. As in past years, the festival programme included special tours



Vila na Libušince. Photo by Hanka Krejbichova © Courtesy of Open House Praha, z. ú.

for people with hearing impairments and vision loss, English-language tours, tours for children and other activities for young visitors. This year, around 650 volunteers participated. To help visitors decide where to go, the festival offered a free app. It included not only a list of buildings but also approximate waiting times, a map and an interactive chat. The app also allowed users to purchase tickets for tours and walks organised by OHP throughout the year.

Additional activities

‘Forgotten Stations, Future Paths’ exhibition

Approximate number of attendees:
5100+



This year’s festival visuals featured an iconic Prague landmark that no longer exists, the Prague-Těšnov Station, one of Central Europe’s most beautiful railway stations. 2025 marked 150 years since its opening and 40 years since its demolition by the Communist Party to make way for a major highway. To commemorate the station, the festival, together with other partners, prepared the ‘Forgotten Stations, Future Paths’ exhibition, featuring historical photographs of the now-demolished railway station alongside revitalisation plans for other abandoned railway stations and spots in Prague. The exhibition was installed at the motive power depot at Masaryk Station, where the first steam train arrived in Prague 180 years ago. There was a great interest in the exhibition among the general public and the Czech media.

Lokomotivni depo Masarykova nadrazi. Photo by Radoslav Vnencak
© Courtesy of Open House Praha, z. ú.

'Look AROUND You!' cycling tour, Vršovice Railway Promenade and Nusle route

Approximate number of attendees:

25



Vrsovicka promenada cykloprojizdka. Photo by Michaela Pankova © Courtesy of Open House Praha, z. ú.

This guided cycling tour introduced participants to the planned Vršovice Railway Promenade: a linear park that will reconnect Vršovice with the Zahradní Město districts along an abandoned rail corridor. During the guided ride, architect and transport urbanist Tomáš Cach, the project's lead author, explained the long-prepared plans. Along the route, he outlined how the disused track will be transformed into a lively promenade for walking, cycling and skating, while

simultaneously honouring its industrial past. Bridge trusses, rails, sleepers and even old semaphore signals will be repurposed as sculptural or functional features. Cach stressed that the project balances heritage preservation with forward-looking urban design, promising Prague a generous ribbon of public space for recreation, active travel and sport. Visitors were able to rent free bicycles from the Rekola company, which was the festival partner.

Station 6 guided tour

Approximate number of attendees:
40



Stanice 6. Photo by Katerina Cervena © Courtesy of Open House Praha, z. ú.

As part of the accompanying programme, two guided tours shed light on Station 6, the former Prague-Bubeneč railway station now reborn as a cultural and community centre in Prague 6. Councillor for Culture, Jan Lacina, who championed the project, led participants through the refurbished interiors. He outlined key design decisions and recounted the debates that shaped the station's future. The landmark building, protected as a heritage monument, underwent a sensitive restoration by architect Ondřej Tuček, who was the guide

of the second tour and explained which original features had been preserved. Attendees discovered how Prague 6 played a decisive role in converting the long-neglected depot into a vibrant public venue that now hosts exhibitions, workshops and neighbourhood events. The visit highlighted Station 6 as a successful example of adaptive reuse, demonstrating how historic railway architecture can be repurposed to serve contemporary cultural and community needs.

Activities for volunteers

Training of volunteers

Approximate number of attendees:
300



Skolení dobrovolníků. Photo by Jan Jiranek
© Courtesy of Open House Praha, z. ú.



Domov pro seniory Chodov. Photo by Michal Cernohorsky © Courtesy of Open House Praha, z. ú.

In the first half of May, a training was held for the entire volunteer team in the premises of the New Town Hall of the Prague City Council. Participants were introduced to the general functioning of the organisation and all operational aspects of the festival, and provided with all the necessary information, including instructions on how to use the festival app. This part was led by the main coordinator of volunteers, Renat Hajnová.

In the second part of the training, new guides from the ranks of volunteers were given a basic overview of guiding skills, architectural interpretation and festival tours. This part of the training was led by an experienced guide and art historian, Markéta Čejková.

Following last year's positive experience, Open House Praha continued its cooperation with crisis communication trainers, with around 60 volunteers participating. This training was conducted over four sessions for volunteers who took on important roles during the festival, such as managing buildings with higher visitor interest and longer waiting times, as well as the information centre.

Training for volunteers was not mandatory, which is why it was supplemented by a detailed volunteer manual where all the necessary information could be found. Despite this, several volunteers were still poorly or insufficiently informed. The biggest challenge for future editions is figuring out how to ensure that all important information reaches every volunteer.

Volunteer gathering

Approximate number of attendees:

350



Dobrovolnicka afterparty. Photo by Eva Moricka © Courtesy of Open House Praha, z. ú.

On Sunday, after the end of the festival, dozens of volunteers gathered for a small get-together over beer, sharing their initial experiences and emotions. It was a unique opportunity to capture fresh impressions of the festival. About a month after the festival, OHP's traditional garden afterparty was held, where volunteers were thanked for their work and were able to

talk more about their experiences and gain inspiration for future editions. This event also strengthened new friendships that had begun to form among the volunteers during the festival. It's an annual event that the whole team looks forward to, always held in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

Additional benefits

In the weeks leading up to the festival, teams of volunteers had the opportunity to visit several buildings/venues that were going to be open to the public in advance. They also received vouchers for food and unique volunteer t-shirts. Additionally, throughout the year, tours of some of the festival buildings/venues were organised and various guided walks were offered to volunteers. With some volunteers, collaboration continued even after the festival. For example, several volunteers helped with writing texts about the buildings, fundraising and organising year-round events for the public, among other things. For example, one of OHP's volunteers, a high school student, developed the festival app. This became one of the first steps in building his career and founding a startup. He even received an award for an inspiring act of volunteering.

The unique atmosphere within the community of volunteers is also worth mentioning—some of the volunteers already knew each other and were happy to return to a familiar environment. This shows how the festival helps to create new friendships that often last beyond the festival itself.



Prague Castle Hartigovska Garden. Photo by Valeria Semenova
© Courtesy of Open House Praha, z. ú.

Integration of the Open House Europe programme

Buildings

Open House Praha 2025 had 14 buildings and/or guided tours from the festival's programme dedicated to showcasing the Open House Europe (OHEu) annual theme: Future Heritage.

Additional information on how the buildings have been marked:

[Festival Catalogue](#)

Website: [Open Generations](#)

Website: [Schools for Future Generations](#)

List of buildings:

1. Secondary Vocational School—Vocational Training Centre & Grammar School
2. Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences, Czech University of Life Sciences
3. Braník Brewery

Secondary Vocational School—Vocational Training Centre & Grammar School

12 guided tours that attracted 230 visitors



Secondary Vocational School – Vocational Training Center & Grammar School. Photo from building's archive © Courtesy of Open House Praha, z. ú.

The revival of the 1970s Secondary Vocational School on Českobrodská Street, Hrdlořezy, shows how an outdated floor plan can host cutting-edge sustainability. Architects Pavel Šulc, David Nývlt, Patricia Sičáková and Karolína Vojáčková remade the site into Central and Eastern Europe's most advanced public building, now energy - and carbon-positive. Smart insulation, photovoltaics and battery storage let it export power; an on-

site treatment plant and rainwater harvesting cut water demand. Lights, temperature and ventilation adjust automatically, with classrooms pre-conditioned 30 minutes before lessons. Roof gardens and vegetated walls tame heat and add biodiversity. The building itself doubles as a teaching tool: by simply using it, students intuitively absorb principles crucial for a climate-resilient future.

Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences, Czech University of Life Sciences

14 guided tours that attracted 280 visitors



Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences, Czech University of Life Sciences. Photo from building's archive © Courtesy of Open House Praha, z. ú.

The DRNH studio adopted a plant-based climate strategy for the new Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences at the Czech University of Life Sciences in Suchbát. While the facade echoes the rhythm of the 1960s original, its materials and detailing are thoroughly contemporary. Along the sunny south face, the team erected a steel trellis that supported fast-growing bamboo—the living screen shades lecture rooms, provides informal seating terraces, carries monitoring equipment and offers a test bed for botanical research. Greenery has also

colonised the rooftop, letting students observe first-hand how vegetation can replace energy-hungry mechanical systems. Completed in 2020, the 'green pavilion' finally gave the faculty a dedicated home and became Europe's first purpose-built centre for the teaching of tropical agriculture with state-of-the-art infrastructure. The project later won an Adaptterra Award for showing how intelligent use of plants can improve microclimate and reduce operational energy in the face of climate change.

Braník Brewery

38 guided tours that
attracted 770 visitors



Braník Brewery – Dance Art Center. Photo by Eva Mořická © Courtesy of Open House Praha, z. ú.

Sustainability and respect for resources and limited urban space are also characterised by conversion, i.e. the transformation of buildings for a purpose other than their original use. The reconstruction of the Braník Brewery proves that it is possible to create an inspiring learning environment even from a building that was formerly used for brewing beer. The listed building has been transformed into the Dance Art Centre, which houses a number of artistic institutions such as a conservatory, ballet companies, agencies and others. A

conservatory preparatory school has also been established on the site, and other community activities take place there. Milan Melicher's design, in accordance with the requirements for conservation, did not interfere in any way with the volume of the original building and, in addition, many of the original features were repaired or retained. The site, with its distinctive genius loci, serves its purpose of facilitating creative activities perfectly, and the aesthetics of the neo-Renaissance building create an inspiring, stimulating environment.

Festival activities



Prague Schools of Tomorrow. Photo by Moricka Eva © Courtesy of Open House Praha, z. ú.

The School as a Power Plant

Approximate number of attendees:

15

This panel discussion explored how schools can go beyond education to become role models in sustainability and climate action. Experts shared practical examples of how outdated school buildings have been transformed into energy-efficient, eco-friendly spaces. The audience learned how modern technologies—such as smart heating, thermal insulation, waste and rainwater recycling, and sustainable landscaping—are helping schools operate as energy-active buildings. These innovative solutions not only reduce environmental impact but also serve as real-life teaching tools for students.

Prague Schools of Tomorrow

Approximate number of attendees:

25



Learning Through Play. Photo by Moricka Eva © Courtesy of Open House Praha, z. ú.

This presentation showcased the new generation of school buildings and what sets them apart from traditional designs. The event presented winning architectural proposals from recent competitions, highlighting how modern schools can promote inclusion, connect generations and transform urban spaces. The discussion revealed how new schools serve both as educational facilities and as vibrant community hubs and green urban oases.

Learning Through Play

Approximate number of attendees:
15



Yacht club children. Photo by Dusan Vondra lowres © Courtesy of Open House Praha, z. ú.

This public debate focused on the future of school architecture and its influence on students and teachers. Participants discussed how educational spaces can support sustainability and convey cultural values, aligned with modern teaching methods. The event covered designing energy-efficient schools and the importance of including greenery like indoor gardens and green roofs. Attendees explored how school environments shape learning and development. The debate began with a short film about the innovative Reggio school in Spain, designed by architect Andrés Jaque from the Office for Political Innovation. This project illustrated how architecture can impact education and foster children's connection to their surroundings. The discussion inspired fresh ideas about creating sustainable, engaging and supportive school environments for the 21st century.

Open Generations: School of Life

Approximate number of attendees:
200



Yacht klub deti. Photo by Dusan Vondra lowres © Courtesy of Open House Praha, z. ú.

During the Open House Praha 2025 festival weekend, visitors enjoyed an interactive trail created by students from the Arts Management Department at the University of Economics in Prague. The trail connected generations through creative tasks and shared experiences for children, parents and grandparents. The route passed through educational institutions in Prague's Dejvice and Suchbátka districts, featuring playful challenges focused on memory, architecture, history and creativity. Participants were encouraged to pause, reminisce, ask questions and share stories in buildings rich with history. Visitors could start at any stop, where they received a booklet to record completed tasks. Completing at least three tasks earned a small prize and entry into a draw for the main prize. The event successfully brought together people of all ages, fostering learning and connection through exploration and conversation.

Different audiences at the local Open House festival



Domov palata. Photo by Dusan Vondra lowres © Courtesy of Open House Praha, z. ú.

Open House Praha 2025 had 100 guided tours across 11 buildings for English speakers that attracted 2000 people. Additionally, there were 6 tours in Czech Sign Language with simultaneous translation for visitors with hearing loss and 6 tours for visitors with vision loss, featuring 3D models, tactile maps and texts in braille.

Experience in attracting non-native participants

This year's promotion for English-language tours remained consistent with last year's, featuring an attractive English version of the Open House Praha website, which provided key information for the English-speaking community. The festival's mobile application also offered a full English programme and all other features, including the map. An English section was once again prepared in the festival's printed guide. Efforts expanded to include the Ukrainian community by preparing descriptions of each building in Ukrainian, which were made available on-site. A new partner, the portal Vinegret, helped promote the event to this audience. The information centre operated daily from 10:00 to 18:00 during the festival. Volunteers

provided tips for buildings that offered tours in English and answered other questions related to the programme. Some buildings in the city centre naturally attracted visits from tourists who passed by. Additionally, an English-only newsletter was distributed, highlighting English-friendly tips. Although only a few accompanying events in the week were fully accessible to expats, new offerings such as film screenings and movement performances helped diversify the programme for international visitors. The festival itself operated with a special team of volunteers who were not Czech natives.

Experience in attracting people with special needs

In cooperation with various partners, specialised tours for people with disabilities were created and accessible, barrier-free spaces were clearly marked in the programme. For the eighth year, visitors with hearing impairments were able to explore selected buildings through six guided tours interpreted in Czech Sign Language, organised in partnership with the Institute of Deaf Studies at Charles University and the Czech Union of the Deaf. Simultaneous transcription was also provided for those who do not use sign language. A dedicated landing page featuring basic information in Czech Sign Language was accessible via an icon on the festival's homepage. For the sixth year, visitors with vision loss enjoyed guided tours in six buildings, supported by specially trained volunteers. Haptic floor plans and urban maps were prepared with the expert help of the Teiresiás Centre at Masaryk University and ELSA CTU, while Czech Blind United (SONS ČR) provided route descriptions and transportation details. New 3D building models, created by the festival itself thanks to its new printing machine, were also used. Volunteers were trained by experts from the Teiresiás Centre and ELSA CTU.

Additionally, in partnership with Rytmus—from client to citizen, individuals with intellectual disabilities joined the festival's volunteer team again. Supported by care workers, they helped coordinate visitor flow and engaged directly with visitors, enriching the



Zamek Troja Galerie hl mesta Prahy. Photo by Ivan Benes © Courtesy of Open House Praha, z. ú.

communal experience. The programme was promoted through collaborating organisations, specialised websites and media outlets, including an invitation in Czech Sign Language made by students and coverage on Czech national television.

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Rome
2025

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Open House Roma 2025

Introduction

General information about the event

Legal Name:	Open City Roma
Date:	May 24–June 1, 2025
Name:	Open House Roma
Type:	Open House festival
Number of buildings/areas included in the programme:	220 buildings, 60 tours, 40 events
City:	Rome
Country:	Italy
Duration:	9 days

Festival participants

In total, Open House Roma 2025 attracted 35000 attendees: 14000 men and 21000 women.

In terms of volunteers, the festival had 145 men and 432 women: 571 volunteers in total.

Open House Roma 2025 was organised by 2 men and 7 women: 9 people in total.

Introduction

The 13th edition of Open House Roma (OHR) showcased the rich architectural heritage of the city. The doors of over 220 buildings were opened to the public, offering a unique opportunity to explore Rome's diverse architectural treasures, with 60 guided tours taking place and 40 events, such as workshops and exhibitions, being organised. This year's festival received an exceptional response, attracting thousands of visitors once again. The festival was made possible thanks to the dedication of 570 volunteers and a team of 9 organisers who worked tirelessly to ensure everything ran smoothly.

The main theme of OHR 2025 was 'Future Heritage', which helped bring together and develop further the various themes the festival had been exploring for years. This theme was chosen, in accordance with the Open House Europe (OHEu) annual theme, to highlight the importance of environmentally conscious design and the city's ability to adapt and thrive amidst modern challenges. Throughout the festival, this theme was incorporated by featuring buildings and projects that exemplified sustainable practices, as well as through hosting talks and workshops focused on resilience and eco-friendly development.

Among the most popular buildings were the historic Palazzo della Marina and Palazzo dell'Aeronautica, both of which attracted large crowds due to their architectural significance and extraordinary openings with guided tours.

Additionally, the Vela di Calatrava construction site, the Orizzonte Europa Building and Casa



Bernini e Borromini la Strada del Barocco. Photo by Simone Galli ©
Courtesy of Open City Roma

Studio Luigi Serafini drew significant interest, reflecting the public's curiosity about Rome's past and future.

The visits to private apartments accompanied by their designers once again proved to be a great success in this edition, and all 27 apartments included in the programme were fully booked. Guided tours, workshops and exhibitions continued to be very popular. These activities resonated with visitors because they provided both educational value and engaging experiences, allowing people to connect more deeply with the city's architectural landscape.

Additional activities

The festival's event programme featured topics ranging from archaeology to the Renaissance, from the baroque to the contemporary and included the opening of construction sites and locations that were usually not accessible to the public. In addition to the main theme of 'Future Heritage', four special sections offered visitors the opportunity to explore the city from different thematic perspectives.



Bernini e Borromini la Strada del Barocco.
Photo by Simone Galli © Courtesy of Open City Roma

Jubilee and the city

12 activities that
attracted **625** participants



Piazza Pia. A historical and pedestrian reconnection. Photo by Carlo Casalinis © Courtesy of Open House Roma

This section was dedicated to the ongoing Rome Jubilee, aimed at showing how the Jubilee had transformed—and continues to transform—the city throughout history. Since 1300, the Jubilee has been shaping Rome not only in its spiritual dimension but also as a catalyst for urban changes, opportunities for renewal and architectural challenges.

Public housing

16 activities that
attracted 890 participants



Ponte Dell'Industria. Photo by Carlo Casalini © Courtesy of Open City Roma

This section invited visitors to discover how public housing had shaped Rome's urban landscape throughout the 20th century. Starting with the early projects of the Istituto Case Popolari, such as the San Saba district in 1907, it moved through the suburbs of the 1930s, including Tufello and San Basilio, and reached the experimental developments of the 1980s, like Vigne Nuove and Corviale, which, at the time, were undergoing significant revitalisation efforts.

Heroic engineering

11 activities that attracted
1030 participants



Multisensory tour of the Drugstore Museum. Photo by OCR © Courtesy of Open City Roma

This section was devoted to the major structural innovations of Italy's economic miracle, a period during which the works of engineers such as Luigi Nervi, Riccardo Morandi, Sergio Musmeci, Silvano Zorzi, Giulio Krall and many others made a fundamental contribution to the advancement of modern engineering at the international level.



Visita multisensoriale al Drugstore Museum. Photo by Giulia Natalia Comito © Courtesy of Open City Roma

This section invited visitors to a multisensory exploration of architecture, making its beauty accessible to all. It featured tactile tours, multisensory pathways, activities for individuals on the autism spectrum and guided visits in Italian Sign Language (LIS), turning diverse ways of experiencing the world into a shared wealth of perception. It was also part of the STRAordinario project, winner of the 8x1000 grant from the Waldensian Church and supported by the Charlemagne Foundation within the Periferia Capitale programme.

Activities for volunteers

Training of volunteers

Approximate number of attendees:
621

In 2025, the training programme for Open House Rome volunteers unfolded over four sessions, hosted by the architecture faculties of the city's three main universities—Tor Vergata, Sapienza and Roma Tre—with the goal of preparing and inspiring new participants to take part in the festival.

The first session, held at each University on different days and times, introduced the Open House project, offered a preview of the upcoming programme and outlined the various volunteer roles. This distributed format made participation easier for both students and the general public, allowing everyone to choose the venue and time that best suited their schedule.

The second session was held at the auditorium of the Faculty of Architecture at Roma Tre University and focused on hands-on training. The specific tasks of each role were explained in detail, and volunteers received their kits and informational materials (pins, maps and t-shirts). The session also offered practical guidance on how to lead guided tours, with tips on storytelling and group management, while assistants received specialised training on the organisational and logistical aspects of the sites.

Before the event, all volunteers also had the opportunity to visit their assigned sites—a



Volunteers © Courtesy of Open City Roma

mandatory step for guides and optional for assistants—sometimes accompanied by members of the Open House Roma staff. These visits allowed them to familiarise themselves with the spaces, meet the sites' representatives and prepare thoroughly for the festival's unique experience of welcoming the public and sharing the story of the city's heritage.

Integration of the Open House Europe programme

Buildings

Open House Roma 2025 had 30 buildings, 12 events and 8 guided tours from the festival's programme dedicated to showcasing the Open House Europe (OHEu) annual theme: Future Heritage.

List of buildings:

1. La Vela di Calatrava: tra ambizione e rinascita
2. Porto Fluviale Rec House
3. Horti Sallustiani

Open House Roma 2025 reflected on the many possible meanings of the concept of future heritage, offering in its programme visits to a wide variety of projects that provided opportunities to reflect on how the city could face transformations capable of generating value for the future. The selection included projects in strategic areas that, thanks to recent interventions and after years of waiting, had regained an urban role; urban regeneration initiatives carried out with the participation of citizens in the design process, addressing conditions of severe decay; industrial sites converted through design solutions that balanced preservation and progress; historic and archaeological assets enhanced or repurposed in line with the development needs of a city looking toward the future; and new projects or major redevelopments in which environmental sustainability was a fundamental principle of realisation. Events and tours were, for the most part, spontaneously proposed by architecture firms, creatives and associations in response to the presentation of the OHEu annual theme, introduced through the customary invitation letter and the social media open call.

La Vela di Calatrava: tra ambizione e rinascita

18 guided tours that attracted 474 visitors



La Vela di Calatrava. Photo by @giorgiopasqualini © Courtesy of Open City Roma

Despite being peripheral compared to the other activities and difficult to reach, the Vela attracted great public interest, with all visiting slots fully booked. Visiting the construction site of the Vela was a great opportunity to discuss the future of heritage, as the building was supposed to play a central role in the area where it was conceived, but it has only recently begun to regain a role in the city. Originally designed as the 'City of Sport' by Santiago Calatrava, it remained unfinished since 2005,

becoming a symbol of architectural ambition and neglect. The Demanio Agency, owner of the area since 2021, launched an important project for the Rome Jubilee 2025 to complete the building, develop a park and provide services. After 20 years, this abandoned monumental structure is being made accessible to citizens, initiating a process of regeneration for the area, which still awaits further intervention to complete the second phase of the project, currently under study.

Porto Fluviale Rec House

2 guided tours that
attracted **58** visitors



Fluviale Rec House. Photo by Carlo Casalini © Courtesy of Open City Roma

In addressing the theme of 'Future Heritage', several key urban regeneration initiatives stood out, such as the long-awaited Porto Fluviale RecHouse: the restoration of the former Magazzini Directorate of the Commissariat in Rome. This project will transform a historically protected building, long occupied, into public housing and community service spaces, with a strong focus on social inclusion. The restoration will carefully enhance the

building's historical character, removing incongruous additions to restore spatial coherence while combining preservation with adaptation. The intervention will emerge from a collaborative, multidisciplinary approach, thoughtfully balancing respect for memory with contemporary use. The different needs of users will find a balance, giving the city a space for community interaction and neighbourhood development.

Horti Sallustiani

2 guided tours that
attracted **58** visitors



Horti Sallustiani. Photo by Horti Sallustiani © Courtesy of Open City Roma

When dealing with the theme of 'Future Heritage', the development needs of a city that looks to the future must be considered in accordance with the inestimable historical heritage that needs to be protected and enhanced. Built by Caesar in 70 BC and brought to their peak by the historian Sallustius, the Horti Sallustiani were monumental gardens of the Roman nobility. Buried in 1870 during the construction of the

modern district, they lie about 14 meters below the current street level. Restored in the 1990s to preserve their historical value, they now host concerts, conferences and events, and are open to the public only on private occasions. Visiting these exceptional spaces offered an opportunity to reflect on the importance of active heritage conservation, allowing for compatible reuse without compromising value.

Festival activities

Opening lecture

Approximate number of attendees:

250

An inaugural conference for Open House Roma 2025 was held at Villa Aurelia, a 17th-century building in the heart of Gianicolo Hill. During the conference, the theme of 'Future Heritage' was explored through a lecture by Dr Beniamino de' Liguori Carino, Secretary General of the Adriano Olivetti Foundation, on Adriano Olivetti's ideas in the fields of architecture and urban planning, and how these represent an essential legacy for future generations. Afterwards, the key features of the festival's 2025 edition were presented. The conference concluded with a visit to the villa and its gardens, followed by a toast to mark the official start of the festival.

Activities for children

Approximate number of attendees:

180

As part of OHR 2025, 4 workshops and 2 tours centred on the theme 'Future Heritage' were offered specifically for children and their families, providing engaging and educational experiences, with activities designed to bring them closer to the values of sustainability and the reuse of heritage. The workshops explored ecological design, object reuse and design processes inspired by protecting the planet. Through play, participants were encouraged to reflect on urban and living spaces, imagining a more liveable and welcoming city for everyone. Meanwhile, the walks offered an opportunity to reflect on the future of natural heritage, its preservation and more mindful ways of enjoying it.

Different audiences at the local Open House festival



Casa Studio Luigi Serafini. Photo by Carlo Casalini © Courtesy of Open City Roma

Open House Roma 2025 had 10 guided tours for English speakers and 23 Buildings with English-speaking guides who could lead the tour in both Italian and English, if requested. These tours attracted approximately 265 attendees. Additionally, there were 12 Italian Sign Language (LIS) tours, 3 tours for adolescents on the autism spectrum, 1 exhibition by an artist with autism, 5 multisensory tours, and 2 tours with tactile and LIS support.

Starting in January 2025, OHR organised a 30-hour training course for multisensory guides, who then led the multisensory visits during the festival. The models and educational materials used in the tours were created through workshops held at the Liceo Artistico and the Accademia Italiana in Rome, where students took an active part in the project.

Experience in attracting non-native participants

The 10 buildings offering tours in English were carefully selected to provide international visitors with a rich and varied experience. Priority was given to centrally located buildings, where tourist traffic is highest, and collaborations were established with academies, cultural institutes and international organisations naturally able to attract a global audience. This year, the festival placed special emphasis on English-language tours in architecture studios and private homes where hosts were eager and able to participate. Foreign volunteers, as well as those preparing for the Open House Volunteer Exchange Programme, played a key role in leading these tours, helping to make the experience truly welcoming and accessible for an international public.

The website was updated to include more detailed information about language-specific activities, along with a filter to make them easy to find. General information about the festival was provided in English both on social media and in the MapZine (the festival's printed map distributed in 10000 copies). The festival's info point also served as an essential contact point for international visitors. To expand the languages offered, the involvement of site managers was crucial in enhancing both the range of activities and the inclusivity of the programme.

Experience in attracting people with special needs

Open House Roma 2025 ensured accessibility through clear information on its website about mobility access and a dedicated section titled 'Inclusive City'. The website was updated with detailed accessibility information and new filters to help users find inclusive activities and those suitable for people with mobility impairments. The 'Inclusive City' section was also highlighted in the MapZine.

'Inclusive City' proposed a multisensory approach to architecture to make Rome's heritage a shared and accessible resource for everyone. Activities included tactile visits, mixed tours for participants with vision loss, visits for people on the autism spectrum, and guided tours in Italian Sign Language (LIS). Audio-video tools and architectural models were also provided to ensure broader accessibility.

By ensuring access to culture for all, the programme highlighted experiencing architecture through all senses, not just sight, with listening and touch offering visitors a more direct understanding of spaces. Visits were accessible to both people with disabilities and those without, fostering rich exchanges and active participation. The multisensory experience not only enabled access for those with specific needs but also enriched everyone's understanding of heritage.

The initiative was carried out in collaboration with the Museum association, who specialise in visits for people with vision loss; the Unione Italiana Ciechi helped to promote the festival's initiatives; the Fateci Posto association supported the activities for young people on the autism spectrum; and the Segni di Integrazione cooperative organised the tours in Italian Sign Language.

'Inclusive City' was also developed in collaboration with the Special Superintendency of Rome, MIC, the Capitoline Superintendency, the Department of Social Policies and Health, Sapienza University of Rome, Museo Vite di IMI, Academy of Fine Arts of Rome, INAIL, and the German Academy at Villa Massimo. 'Inclusive City' was part of the STRAordinario project, which takes place throughout the year and was selected as a winner of the 8x1000 grant from the Waldensian Church. It was also supported by the Fondazione Charlemagne within the 'Periferia Capitale' programme.

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Open House Valencia 2025

Introduction

General information about the event

Legal Name:	Academia Europea del Paisaje Urbano
Date:	October 24–26, 2025
Name:	Open House Valencia
Type:	Open House festival
Number of buildings/areas included in the programme:	71 buildings, 20 guided tours
City:	Valencia
Country:	Spain
Duration:	3 days

Festival participants

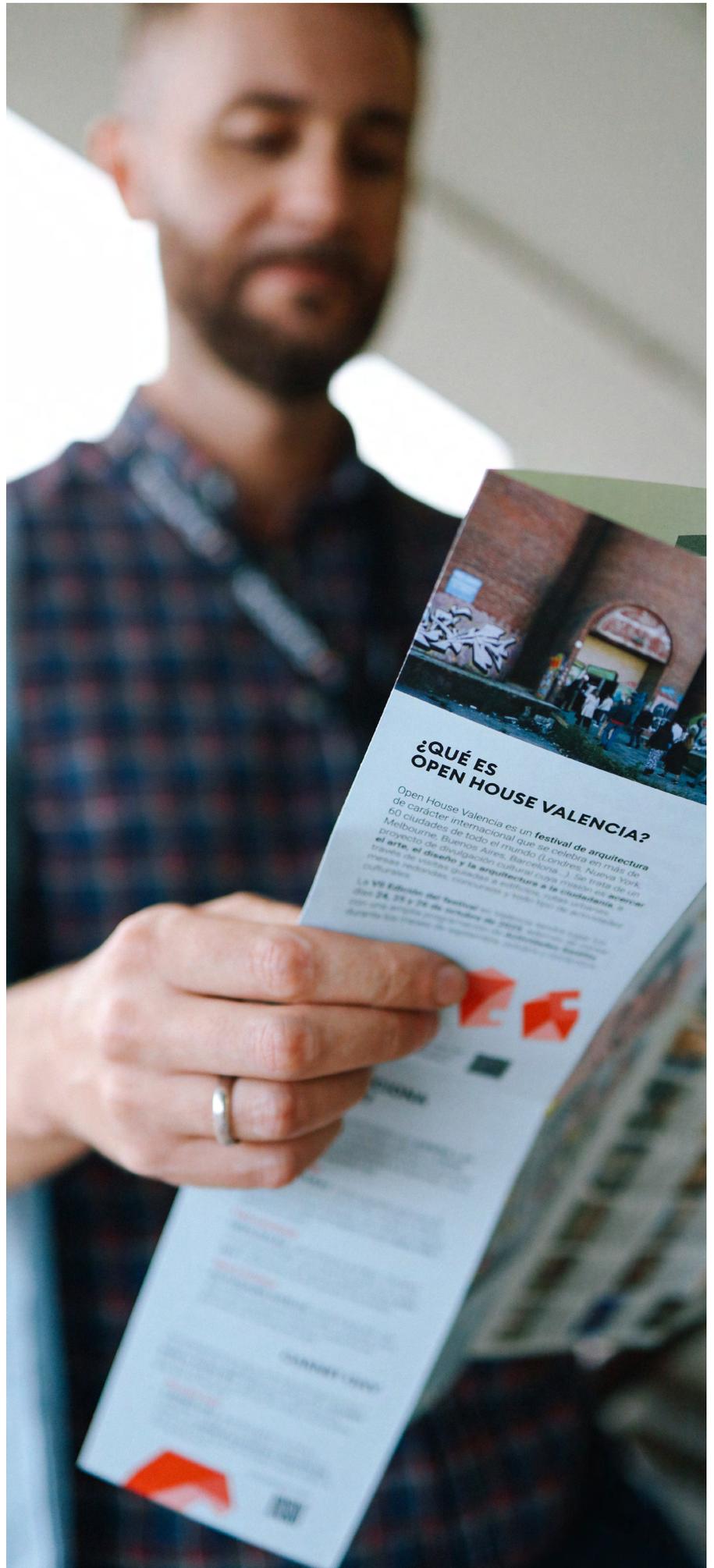
In total, Open House Valencia 2025 attracted 15,688 attendees: 6,746 men and 8,942 women.

In terms of volunteers, the festival had 104 men and 287 women: 391 volunteers in total.

Open House Valencia 2025 was organised by 7 men and 9 women: 16 people in total.

Introduction

In 2025, Open House Valencia (OHV) held its seventh edition with a wide range of activities focused on architecture, the city and its citizens. The festival ran from October 24 to 26 and included more than 70 buildings, over 20 guided urban routes, technical visits, exhibitions, talks, workshops, satellite events and other cultural activities. Together, these events attracted more than 15,690 visits during the weekend.



Additional activities



Open walk. Photo by Nastassia Tarusava © Courtesy of Academia Europea del Paisaje Urbano

Open Walks

The number of Open Walks increased compared to previous editions, offering a richer and more diverse selection of guided tours throughout Valencia. Each walk was designed to be dynamic and immersive, helping participants connect with the city's architectural layers, history and transformation processes.

Approximate number of attendees:

477

The success of these routes came from their ability to tell architectural stories in a relatable and engaging way. All routes were fully booked shortly after opening, confirming that the interest in this type of experience continues to grow year after year.

Municipios Invitados

Approximate number of attendees:

7,813



Municipios Invitados. Photo by Nastassia Tarusava © Courtesy of Academia Europea del Paisaje Urbano

This year, Open House Valencia strengthened its regional reach through the Municipios Invitados programme, with the participation of Lliria, Xàtiva, Manises and Cocentaina. These municipalities joined the festival by opening emblematic buildings, organising guided tours and hosting cultural activities in parallel to the main programme in the city of Valencia.

Each year, this territorial expansion generates increasing interest and engagement from both local institutions and the public. The presence of new municipalities has deepened the festival's roots across the region, encouraging new voices to join the conversation on architecture and urban space. It also reinforces Open House Valencia's commitment to decentralisation and inclusion, creating new opportunities to highlight diverse architectural heritages and local identities beyond the urban core.

'Open Talks'

Approximate number of attendees:

362



Open Talks. Photo by Nastassia Tarusava © Courtesy of Academia Europea del Paisaje Urbano

This edition's 'Open Talks' series explored current topics in architecture, urbanism and cultural heritage, offering space for exchange and dialogue among experts and the public. Each talk focused on timely themes such as adaptive reuse, living in protected heritage buildings and the relationship between architecture and community life.

These sessions were well-attended and encouraged relevant, open conversations that reflected wider social concerns linked to the built environment today.

'Calles del Cabanyal' exhibition and 'Ilustración arquitectónica en el Cabanyal' workshop

Approximate number of attendees:

20 (workshop)



Creative Cathedral TRUDI © Courtesy of Academia Europea del Paisaje Urbano

This new activity took place in the heart of El Cabanyal, one of Valencia's most emblematic and culturally rich neighbourhoods. The exhibition featured artistic interpretations of the district's streets and architecture, while the workshop invited participants to create their own illustrations under professional guidance. Both components reflected the spirit of the neighbourhood and allowed the public to connect with its urban and human identity.

As an addition to the exhibition, the artist, Pere López, dedicated a specific section to buildings that had been opened to the public during previous Open House editions, offering visual continuity in line with the festival's mission and reinforcing the connection between collective memory and architectural heritage.

Activities for volunteers

Training of volunteers

First session

Approximate number of attendees:

30

The first training session for Open House Valencia 2025 volunteers took place on May 28 at Aula Magna of the Centre Cultural La Nau. With over 30 participants, the event served as the starting point for preparing the volunteer team for this year's festival. The agenda focused on two core themes: communication and event management.

The session opened with a welcome from Volunteer Coordinator Roque de la Cruz, followed by the first workshop, 'How to Overcome Fear of Public Speaking', led by journalist and oratory trainer Paco Grau. This engaging talk provided attendees with the practical tools to communicate clearly and confidently in front of large audiences.

After a short break, the second session, 'The Art of Producing Perfect Events (Spoiler: They Do Not Exist)', was delivered by Marta Dalmau of Gente de Bien. This dynamic workshop used audiovisual stimulation and real-life scenarios to explore the complexities of event production, encouraging volunteers to reflect on problem-solving, teamwork, and flexibility.

The session ended with a relaxed networking moment to share impressions.



Volunteer Training © Courtesy of Academia Europea del Paisaje Urbano



Second session

Approximate number of attendees:

50

The second volunteer training session for Open House Valencia 2025 took place at the beginning of September at the Universidad Europea. The event began with a presentation by the OHV volunteer coordination team, who introduced the festival and explained the roles and responsibilities of volunteers. The session familiarised attendees with the values and structure of the event, while creating a sense of belonging from the very start.

The second part of the session was led by psychologist Paloma Rey Cardona, who delivered a workshop titled 'How to interact with visitors and manage difficult situations'. Drawing from her professional experience, she offered practical tools for dealing with the public, maintaining a positive attitude and handling unexpected challenges calmly and effectively. The workshop was designed to prepare volunteers emotionally and socially for their role during the festival.

The session concluded with an informal moment to encourage conversations and build a stronger sense of community among participants.

Third session

Approximate number of attendees:

50

The third volunteer training session took place at the end of September at the School of Architecture in Valencia—ETSA. The session began with a general introduction by the OHV volunteer team, who presented the project to both returning and new volunteers. They explained the mission of the festival and encouraged participation by highlighting the importance of volunteers in delivering a welcoming and smooth experience for visitors.

The core part of the session was the workshop, titled 'Role Workshop: What is your role in the festival?', led by the OHV volunteer coordination team. The workshop provided a practical explanation of the two main roles during the festival: access control and guiding. Attendees learned how to manage queues, welcome visitors and handle minor incidents as part of the access control role. Those interested in guiding were shown how to accompany visitors inside buildings and communicate information clearly and confidently.

The training also introduced the new digital visitor tracking tool and allowed participants to meet their zone coordinators, helping build familiarity and team spirit ahead of the festival.

The evening concluded with an informal social moment to exchange ideas and strengthen the sense of community. One of the key achievements of this session was increasing the volunteers' confidence in managing different visitor profiles and enhancing their understanding of the logistics behind the event.

Volunteer Welcome Event

Approximate number of attendees:
280



Volunteer Welcome Event. Photo by Nastassia Tarusava © Courtesy of Academia Europea del Paisaje Urbano



Volunteer Welcome Event. Photo by Nastassia Tarusava © Courtesy of Academia Europea del Paisaje Urbano

The Volunteer Welcome Event marked the official kick-off of the Open House Valencia 2025 festival. Held at La Terminal Hub, the festival's central headquarters this year, the session was designed to energise and prepare the entire volunteer team before the weekend's activities.

The event served as both a motivational and a practical meeting. Volunteers were reminded of key points regarding their participation, roles and responsibilities. It was also a space to resolve any last-minute questions, clarify logistics and introduce the coordination team and zone leads.

Each participant received their official volunteer kit during the event, including the festival t-shirt and all necessary materials for their tasks. The session fostered a sense of belonging and enthusiasm, ensuring that everyone felt confident and connected. This gathering played a crucial role in aligning the team, making sure they were fully prepared to welcome the public and represent the spirit of OHV 2025.

Party for volunteers

Approximate number of attendees:

220



Party for volunteers. Photo by Nastassia Tarusava © Courtesy of Academia Europea del Paisaje Urbano

The closing party also took place at La Terminal Hub. It gathered almost all the volunteers and collaborators who had participated in the festival. The event was designed as a relaxed and celebratory evening to thank everyone for their contribution and to close the seventh edition of the festival together. Short speeches were given by members of the organisation, expressing gratitude to the volunteers for their essential work and enthusiasm throughout the event.

The atmosphere was informal, with music and drinks, creating space for participants to share experiences and reflect on the weekend's success. The gathering helped to strengthen the sense of community among volunteers and collaborators, reinforcing the collective spirit that defines the festival. It was a simple yet meaningful moment to celebrate the shared effort behind Open House Valencia and to recognise the importance of teamwork and connection.

Additional benefits

This year, thanks to an agreement with the Polytechnic University, Open House Valencia volunteers were able to obtain academic credits for their participation in the festival. This initiative allowed for the students' volunteer hours to be formally recognised as part of their academic training, encouraging greater engagement with the festival and reinforcing the educational value of their contribution.

Integration of the Open House Europe programme

Buildings

Open House Valencia 2025 had 16 buildings and 5 guided tours from the festival's programme dedicated to showcasing the Open House Europe (OHEu) annual theme: Future Heritage.

List of buildings:

1. Turia Campus
2. Vinival winery
3. Industrial heritage route through El Marítimo

Turia Campus

Attracted **267** visitors



Turia Campus © Courtesy of Academia Europea del Paisaje Urbano

The project, developed for Universidad Europea, transformed the Old San Juan Bautista Asylum into a modern urban campus while preserving the original structure's essence. Key architectural elements, such as the restored nolla mosaic tile floors and the discovery of a Spanish Civil War air-raid shelter, were thoughtfully maintained and highlighted, reinforcing the site's historical and cultural value.

The intervention followed heritage conservation guidelines and prioritised artisanal restoration techniques, ensuring that local traditions were preserved. By incorporating versatile learning and social spaces while adapting to present-day academic needs, the campus offered a model of how existing heritage could evolve into meaningful architecture for the future.



Vinival winery. Photo by Nastassia Tarusava © Courtesy of Academia Europea del Paisaje Urbano

The Vinival winery is a landmark of the Patacona area in Alboraya and has long formed part of the collective memory of the city. For generations, its brick silos stood visible from the main road, silently accompanying the expansion of Valencia's metropolitan area.

The current redevelopment project proposes a new neighbourhood around the preserved winery, placing the historic structure at the heart of a network of public spaces. While the rehabilitation of the building has been

well received for protecting an emblematic structure, the involvement of a major private developer has sparked debate. Some question whether this regeneration truly prioritises local needs or primarily serves private interests.

Nonetheless, the project highlights the potential of integrating architectural heritage into new models of urban growth and raises important questions about preservation, identity and the role of different actors in shaping the city.

Industrial heritage route through El Marítimo

1 guided tour that attracted 29 visitors



El Marítimo. Photo by Nastassia Tarusava © Courtesy of Academia Europea del Paisaje Urbano

The industrial heritage route through the El Marítimo district explored a layer of Valencia's past often overlooked in traditional narratives of the city. Moving along what was once a railway line—now transformed into Calle Serrería—the walk traced a landscape shaped by 20th-century industrial growth.

From the former Matadero and Estación del Cabanyal to the iconic Bodegas Vinival and the old Cervezas El Águila factory, participants were invited to reflect on the coexistence of decay, memory and transformation.

These buildings, many of which are now defunct or repurposed, continue to mark the cityscape as silent witnesses to a key moment of economic and urban expansion.

The route sparked important questions about what to preserve, what to reinvent and how to ensure that fragments of the working city are not lost in contemporary urban development. It offered a valuable occasion to reflect on the built environment as a narrative of collective identity, resilience and change.

Festival activities



Open talk © Courtesy of Academia Europea del Paisaje Urbano

Open Talk: (Sobre)vivir en una vivienda patrimonial

Attracted **35** visitors

Residents and professionals discussed their lived experiences in some of the most emblematic buildings in Valencia, including Espai Verd, Finca Roja and Santa María Micaela. The debate explored how living in heritage architecture affects daily life, regulations and emotional attachment to place. The direct link between personal narratives and the broader question of preserving heritage made this one of the most thoughtful and well-received discussions of the festival.

Open Talk: Espacios que hablan: del pasado industrial al presente cultural

Attracted **32** visitors

This Open Talk explored the transformation of Nave Ribes into a vibrant cultural centre. The conversation brought together experts from architecture, heritage and cultural management to discuss how spaces like this one evolve and take on new roles in the city. Nave Ribes served as a starting point for a broader reflection on the rehabilitation of other buildings in the area, showing how adaptive reuse can preserve physical memory while generating new social value. The discussion highlighted the challenges and opportunities of working with large industrial structures and how such projects can activate communities and foster public use.

This event was selected because it offered a clear example of how the architectural past is not static but continues to speak through new functions and meanings. It invited participants to think about the long-term life of buildings and how cultural reuse can serve both memory and the future.

Open Workshop: Children's Workshops—'Pequeños arquitectos' and 'Rascacielos: retos de altura'

Attracted **50** visitors
(25 for each workshop)



Children's Workshops. Photo by Nastassia Tarusava © Courtesy of Academia Europea del Paisaje Urbano

This year, the festival placed special emphasis on educational activities. Two workshops allowed young participants to interact with architectural ideas in a playful and hands-on way.

In 'Pequeños arquitectos', children built models of the rehabilitated Nave 3, learning about structure and spatial design. The 'Rascacielos: retos de altura' workshop challenged them to build tall structures. These activities not only introduced architecture to younger audiences but also strengthened the family-friendly dimension of the festival.

Different audiences at the local Open House festival



Guided tours. Photo by Nastassia Tarusava © Courtesy of Academia Europea del Paisaje Urbano

Open House Valencia 2025 had 2 guided tours for Valencian speakers that attracted 230 people. Additionally, 1 guided tour was adapted for people with disabilities. The festival had 3 Open Talks on the topic of access and inclusion.

Experience in attracting non-native participants

Valencia is a bilingual region, with both Spanish and Valencian recognised as official languages. For this reason, Open House Valencia pays special attention to linguistic diversity. This year, the festival expanded its offering of routes, explanations and presentations in Valencian, reflecting its commitment to promoting and protecting local culture and identity.

Some of the invited municipalities conducted all their activities in Valencian, contributing to the wider presence of the language in their cultural spaces.

In parallel, one of the festival's routes and several building tours were conducted in English to cater to international visitors and non-native residents. These locations were selected for their strong architectural appeal and the ability to communicate visually, even with minimal verbal explanation.

Challenges included ensuring that all sites were properly staffed with multilingual volunteers, especially given the growing interest from diverse audiences. While no formal partnerships were established with organisations supporting foreign residents, the contribution of international volunteers helped create a welcoming environment.

Experience in attracting people with special needs

In 2025, Open House Valencia took an important step toward improving accessibility and inclusion by formalising a collaboration agreement with AMMEC (Mica-Mino Conductive Education Association), a local organisation supporting individuals with functional diversity. Although there was an initial plan to create an inclusive walking tour co-designed with AMMEC, unforeseen circumstances meant that the activity could not be carried out as intended.

Despite this, the partnership marks a significant milestone for the festival, as it opens the door to future initiatives developed with the insight and expertise of those who understand accessibility best. The original proposal had been tailored specifically for children and families often excluded from mainstream cultural programming, aiming to adapt both pace and communication to their needs.

Although the event did not take place, the process of co-creation allowed the OHV team to begin identifying key barriers and opportunities for improvement. This first step has already deepened the team's awareness and will guide the integration of inclusive practices in future editions of the festival.

Partner festivals



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