

news

Escofet celebrates 125 years of inspirational design

Spain, as visitors will know, is in a league of its own when it comes to street furniture. And one company in particular has been at the forefront of transforming public spaces into fantastic places.

Escofet, founded in 1886, has its roots in the Modernist period and has always championed modern design that everyone can enjoy. 'What distinguishes us is our creativity and our constant dialogue with architects and designers,' says Enric Pericas, a director at the Barcelona-based company. 'Our ethos is to put art into industry and we see ourselves as the intersection between architect, project and product.'

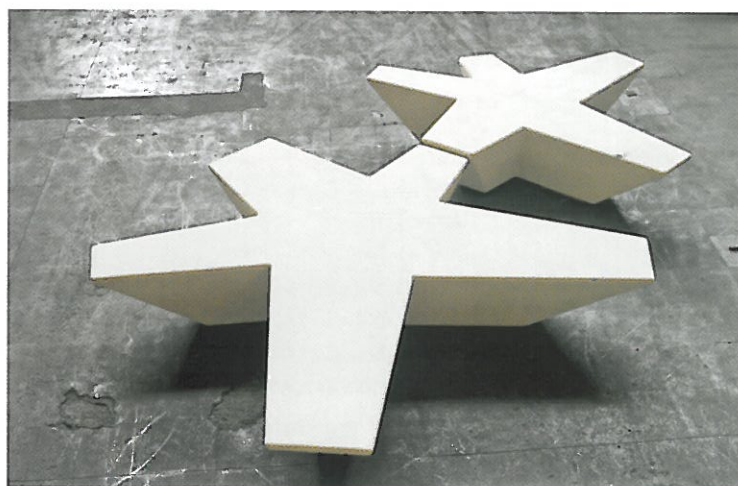
Escofet began life as a tile manufacturer, but today its products include seats, benches, planters, lighting, drinking fountains and complete streetscapes. Many are made from reinforced cast stone or compacted reinforced concrete, but the company also works with steel. All of its products are distinctive and, crucially, are constructed to last for many decades - Escofet has no truck with in-built obsolescence.

It has worked with architects throughout its life and cites Antonio Gaudí among its early collaborators - he designed between 1904 and 1906 the apple green hexagonal



tile that can be seen in Casa Batlló in Barcelona. More recently it has commissioned pieces from Toyo Ito, David Chipperfield, Ricardo Bofill and Manuel Ruisánchez.

As to whether Escofet will be thriving in 2136, Enric Pericas says for sure - as long as the powers that be continue to value and invest in the public built environment.



Above right: Up seat, both by Lena planters by Manuel Ruisánchez architects are based on the geometry of a slanted cone
Above: Flor bench and **Below:** Blow

Up seat, both by Mansilla + Tuñón
Right: Play yellow drinking fountain by Serra & delaRocha **Left:** Sillarga seats by Gonzalo Milá/Juan Carlos Inés

"The cities of northern Europe are catching on to the importance of the culture of the public space."

Enric Pericas



spanish

furniture, textiles, lighting

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summer 2011

Pull up a chair

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