

## **THE BERRO FOUNTAIN: A COUNTRY HOUSE AND SINGULAR PARK IN CONTEMPORARY MADRID (LANDSCAPE, MEMORY AND KNOWLEDGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT)**

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Urban space has been built at the expense of rural space, a reality that the youngest public does not know, reducing its relationship with it to punctual leisure (and with it the essential function of the rural throughout the history of the human being).

Even on the part of those young people who may have grandparents who had once worked in the fields, the rural is manifestly remote and linked to hard work and restlessness about the crops. The time in which the rural population had a very notable presence does not exist in the worldview of the youngest, including the teachers in training, although behind the reality and urban epidermis the memory of the rural environment emerges.

This text tries, on the one hand, to focus on the evolution of the Quinta de La Fuente del Berro and its closest surroundings, highlighting the traces and memory of the rural environment of the Madrid neighborhoods of Las Ventas and La Fuente del Berro, standing out, on the other hand, the educational potential of this area of the eastern expansion of the Spanish capital.

Beyond understanding space as physical reality, and even immutable, we must conceptualize it as a scene of multiple realities and, likewise, as a dynamic reality. If we put the focus on urban space, we must explain it, in my opinion, from the point of historical caesura implied by the industrialization process, a reality that has been experienced belatedly in the Spanish case. An industrialization that meant a concentration of the working class with specific needs of various kinds (let's think about housing,

health, education, leisure, etc.), which had the effect of expanding the boundaries of those urban spaces that acted as the epicenter of attraction of that process.

The Quinta de la Fuente del Berro and its transformations over time explain this process, an issue that we present in this text, as well as its didactic potential for spatial knowledge and the passage of time with its epicenter in the capital of Spain.