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## 10 Traditional Festivals Around the World: A Good Excuse to See New Architecture

09:30 - 13 January, 2017 | by [Victor Delaqua](#) | Translated by [Rory Stott](#)

We experience our cities daily through ordinary acts, whether it's commuting, looking for a quiet place, having lunch downtown, or even exercising. However, one of the most exceptional ways to experience the different roles of a city's urban space is through traditional festivals, rooted in local cultures presented through different clothing, culinary arts, dances and other arts.

Through these festivals, one can see the uses and the demands of the urban public space, in which cultural actions offer new ways to take over the city - at a time when the streets are no longer just a transit space and become a space of leisure and residence, overtaken by a different atmosphere.

### Falles

March 19 / Valencia, Spain



MarianoLight - The Stargate - 2015

This party was born from burning leftover wood from carpentry workshops in Valencia, Spain. The Valencians transformed this burning into a huge event that occupies the whole city. The festival features the "Falles," large wooden sculptures whose name derives from an old Catalan word meaning torches. These are often designed after satirical themes or show traces of their culture and local history, and are burned on the last day of the party, the day of the *cremà*, on the day of Saint Joseph.

The festival begins a few days before, but the must-see day is the 14th when *la planta* takes place. On the 17th there's a beautiful flower offering and on the 18th is the great *nit del foc*, when there is an unforgettable spectacle of Fireworks on the River Turia - a river that also hosts the [City of Arts and Sciences](#), the controversial project by [Santiago Calatrava](#).

