

#### The Tower

The tower was rebuilt by the Park for Peace Corporation, following testimonies of survivors, in the place of the foundations of the wooden structure of 11 Mt height that originally held a water tank. The DINA used "the tower" as a lock up, fitting cells or "drawers" on top of each other and above them a viewpoint. This was the last known location of many prisoners who were seen here for the last time before they disappeared from Villa Grimaldi.

#### Photographic Laboratory

Used as a dark room by the DINA, it wasn't demolished by the agents before leaving the Villa. Today it is fitted out as a dressing room for the artists performing in the Theatre for Peace.

#### Hall of Memory

It is known that the DINA used these premises for falsification of documents and car plates used by the Cuartel Terranova's agents. This building was not destroyed and from 2004 it hosts an exhibition which showcases objects that personify

the victims. It was inaugurated by the relatives of the disappeared detainees. It represents a moving tribute to those who are no longer with us.

#### Swimming Pool

This is part of the original structure of the Park. It was a recreation space for the DINA guards and agents. It was also used by DINA to torture and to hide prisoners during the research commissions' visits of the International Red Cross and similar organisations.

#### Quintero Rails Monument

This is a cube shaped monument. Inside are exhibited the rails extracted from the sea bed in Quintero Bay. The rails were used to weight down bodies of victims which were then thrown into the sea to hide the evidence of the crimes committed.

These rails were discovered as part of the criminal investigation to elucidate the disappearance of prisoners from Villa Grimaldi, known as the case "Calle Conferencia". Later on, the rails were given for custody and exhibition to the Villa Grimaldi Park for Peace Corporation.



#### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Access by public transport:** Buses 513 y D09

**Opening times:** Monday through Sunday, from 10:00 to 18:00 hours.

**Guided tours:** Prior registration at: educacionvg@gmail.com, educacion@villagrimaldi.cl

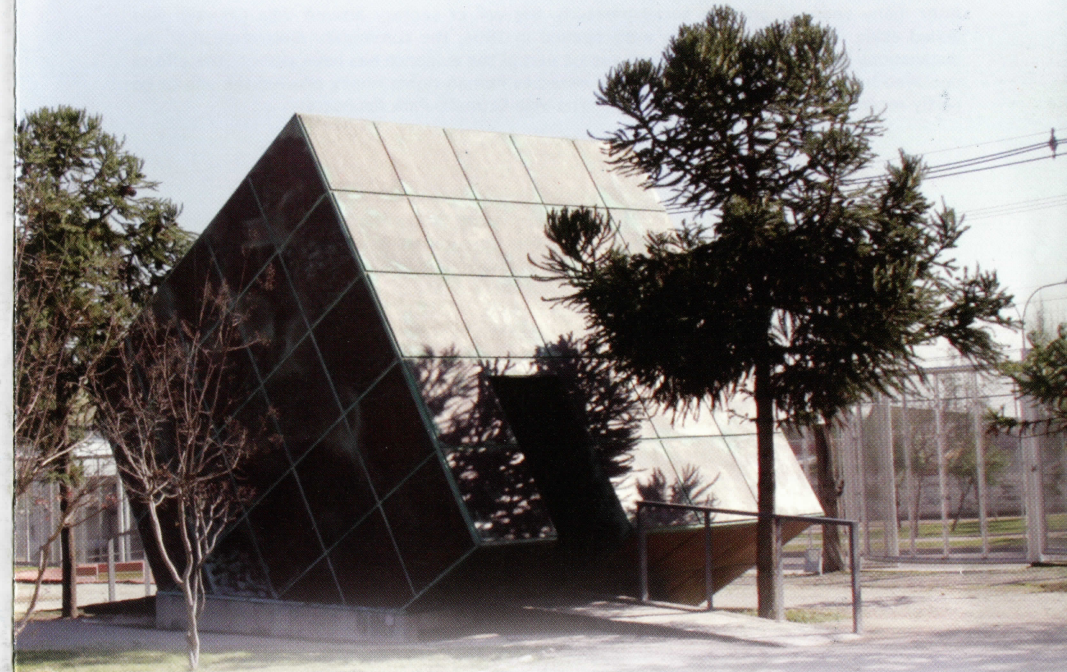
**Further details:** www.villagrimaldi.cl

**Donations:** Current Account Number 62-37333-4, Banco Santander.

**RUT:** 73.296.600-5, name: Corporación Parque por la Paz Villa Grimaldi.

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# Villa Grimaldi PARK for PEACE



#### HISTORICAL MONUMENT

Villa Grimaldi's past is inextricably bound up in the conflicts and disturbances of Chilean history. This memorial site stands as a condemnation against intolerance and cruelty, but also as a monument to the struggle for truth and reparation. Between 1973 and 1978, during the military dictatorship, this site was used as a torture and extermination centre. Later on, relatives of the victims, ex detainees and other stakeholders, have made it into a frontier in the fight for the respect and defence of human rights and for the preservation of the memory in Chile.

Villa Grimaldi is one of the few places of its kind in Latin America. It was used as a clandestine detention, torture and extermination centre by the State. It has since been recovered, preserved and opened to the public. In 2004, The National Monuments Council, declared Villa Grimaldi Park for Peace an Historical Monument, acknowledging its pertinence for the memory of the Chile of today, and for future generations.





## WHAT HAPPENED HERE

The history of this site, goes back to the beginning of the 19th century, when Peñalolén was agricultural land and houses were built here and used for recreational purposes. By the mid 20th century, the site became the property of Emilio Vasallo, who opened a restaurant that became a meeting place for artists and intellectuals. Vasallo named the place Villa Grimaldi.

After the military coup of 1973 the site was taken over by the National Intelligence Directorate (DINA), and under the name "Cuartel Terranova" was one of the clandestine torture, detention and extermination centres during the 1973-1978 period. It is estimated that around 4500 political prisoners passed through this secret detention centre. 229 of them are disappeared detainees whose whereabouts are still unknown.

After many years of growing social pressure, the veil of secrecy around Villa Grimaldi was pulled aside. But when the doors were opened in 1994, the community discovered that the installations have been destroyed, and a large part of the evidence has been erased. The efforts deployed by many different organizations linked to human rights finally allowed the site to be partly reconstructed in 1997, as it is now: The Villa Grimaldi Park for Peace.

## CORPORATION

On the 13 July 1996, the Villa Grimaldi Park for Peace Corporation was founded with tens of members and minimal financial resources. The Corporation is a non profit entity, whose main aim is the preservation of the historical memory of Villa Grimaldi and the promotion and diffusion of a pro human rights culture. With these aims, the Corporation carries out and supports cultural, social, political, and research events.

The Corporation also fulfils the task of administering the present Villa Grimaldi Park for Peace, a national property that the Ministry of National Assets transferred to the Corporation as a gratuitous loan, for 50 years.

## PARK AND INSTALLATIONS

The Park for Peace sits on a surface of 10.200 m2., and host in its gardens, centenary trees, wild birds, sculptures and water fountains. It has a "Theatre for Life", with capacity for 50 seats; and the "Hall of Memory" that hosts a testimonial collection made by relatives of the victims.

The artistic works developed by the Park recollect the views of the ex prisoners. Given that it was common practice to keep them blindfolded to stop them from identifying their jailers, they could only distinguish fragments of their surroundings. That fragmented reality was represented by artists with pieces of coloured floor tiles. This is the reason why the signs are made up out of ceramic mosaics plaques at the floor level.

## HISTORICAL TRACES AND MEMORIALS

### Steps of the Old House

After the destruction of Villa Grimaldi by the DINA, at the end of the 1980s, only some rubble was left as evidence that a house of national historical importance had been standing there.

Ten years after the inauguration of the Park, remains of the stairs and cobblestones of the exterior floor of the house were found. Architectural traces intimately linked to the histories of Chilean men and women who stepped on these stairs between the darkness of horror and indignity. Today the steps are recovered and exhibited to the visitors.



### Scale Model of Cuartel Terranova

This is located at the place where the old house of the administration stood up. The construction of the model was based on the witnesses account of ex prisoners and in photographs of the place prior to the military coup.

### Old Entrance Gate

This was the entrance point of the vehicles that transported the detainees. On the 22nd March 1997, in a ceremony that was led by the relatives of the victims, this access gate was permanently closed so that never again will anyone pass through. The gate's key was symbolically given for its custody, to the Jesuit priest Jose Aldunate, who was one the key players in the fight for recovering the site.

### The Birch Courtyard

These trees are part of the present landscape design and were planted on an area previously used by the DINA to improvise prisoner's cells. At present instead of cells, there is a grid of trails of bricks that surround the birch trees. The layout has maintained the space proportions of the narrow passages that were on the site and through which the prisoners circulated.

### Trail of Memory

Lateral tour that crosses the whole of the cells that were known as "Chile houses", "CORVI houses", "women cells" and "torture rooms".

### Solidarity Bench; Arched Wall

Wall of short height used as a bench by the prisoners. It offered a unique instance of meeting point, and now it remains as a witness to friendship and companionship gestures that were engraved forever on the memory of the survivors.

### Ombu Tree

Amongst the species of Chilean flora planted to build the Park, the old standing Ombu was kept. Its branches served to the torturers as support for the hanging of people. This Ombu survived the destruction of the site, and today it is called according to the original meaning of its name in the native language of the Argentinean Pampa: Tree of hope.

### Wall of Names

Built in stone, it contains engraved on a metal plaque, the names of victims of the Villa. It is a ceremonial place for the relatives and a place of meditation and silence.

### Roses of Villa Grimaldi Memorial

A place that pays tribute to the women disappeared detainees, politically executed and dead by political violence during the dictatorship. This rose garden is located in the original place, as - according to Vasallo, the last owner - an original rose garden was planted, which many prisoners refer to in their testimonies. Each rose has a plaque with the name of the victim. A nameless plaque remembers the unknown woman victim.

