

2021 - 2024, RENOVATION OF THE CHAPEL

LE CORBUSIER, RONCHAMP

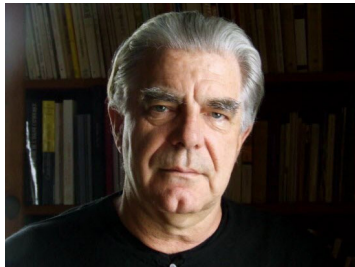


PRESS KIT 2021

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PRESS RELEASE SUMMARY



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Substantial renovation work at the Chapel of Notre-Dame du Haut

The hill of Notre-Dame du Haut is an outstanding place for architecture, where Le Corbusier rebuilt the Chapel of Notre-Dame du Haut in 1955 after it had been bombed to ruins in 1944.

It has been protected as a historical monument since 1967 and it was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2016, among 17 other architectural works by Le Corbusier. The Chapel of Notre-Dame du Haut will undergo significant renovation work from 2021 to 2024.

Repair work to preserve the site

Since being built in 1955, the Chapel of Notre-Dame du Haut has not undergone any repair of the concrete which has been damaged over time.

Various types of damage include : surface scaling (the surface mortar flakes off as a result of oxidized iron rods inside the reinforced concrete structure), structural cracks in the walls, lack of watertight integrity, fragile window glass.

All these elements will be largely overhauled everywhere in the Chapel. The repair works will also address water leaking problems in the two houses also built by Le Corbusier on the hill.

An ambitious undertaking

This extraordinary undertaking will take three years. Every outside wall will be treated, as well as the inside of the Chapel and the two houses. The complete project will be divided into five parts.

The first part of the renovation work, also called firm part, will deal mostly with restoring the Southern façade and the underpart of the hull of the roof. This part of the works will conserve the Pilgrim's Shelter and the Chaplain's House, which are scheduled to undergo later renovation work.

To guarantee the scientific expertise required to renovate a building of such international value, the Ministry of Culture set up a committee of experts including State services, curators and historical monuments specialists, members of laboratories specialized in renovation, the chief architect, the AONDH, and the Le Corbusier Foundation.

Funding

Given the significant cultural heritage of Le Corbusier's work, as an exceptional measure public funding will meet 90% of the total cost of the repair work: 50% will be funded by the DRAC, and 20% each from the Burgundy Franche-Comté Region and the Département of Haute-Saône. Funding this ambitious project goes beyond the usual needs of the site. To ensure it can fund the remaining 10% of the costs, the association which owns the Chapel has set up a fundraising partnership, with the help from the Fondation du Patrimoine. Such donations are necessary to make the repair programme possible.

Visiting the site during the renovation work

As soon as visitor safety can be assured at the site, the Porterie of Notre-Dame du Haut, which manages the hill, will offer a cultural guide allowing visitors to discover the renovation work and to visit the site in the best possible conditions.

« Restoration work is needed to preserve the site »



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THE HISTORY OF A UNIQUE SITE

Situated in the Southern part of the Vosges Mountains, in the [Département of Haute-Saône](#), the sanctuary of Notre-Dame du Haut is a major spiritual, architectural and popular tourist site in the Burgundy Franche-Comté region.

Le Corbusier's first visit

The building, which has been fairly well known from the 19th century, underwent successive transformations and extensions before it was finally burnt down after being struck by lightning in 1913. Rebuilding of the Chapel started in 1924 and was completed in the 1930's. It was destroyed again in 1944 as the Allies advanced and liberated the town of Ronchamp. [Le Corbusier, who was asked by the Sacred Art Committee of the Diocese of Besançon to rebuild it, arrived on the site in the Spring of 1950.](#)

Struck by the beauty of the place and assured of his total artistic freedom by the project managers, the architect set to work immediately. He drew the first sketches in May 1950, and André Maisonnier was entrusted with the drawing of the plans and the management of the building site. [The Chapel and the adjacent buildings were inaugurated on the 25th June 1955.](#)

The Chapel became famous worldwide very quickly, and visitors from around the world have come to Ronchamp ever since. Up to 70,000 tourists and pilgrims visit the site every year.

A private site

The site of the Hill of Notre-Dame du Haut has been privately owned by an association since 1799. As a consequence, today, the [Association Oeuvre Notre-Dame du Haut](#) (AONDH, association recognized as serving the public good according to the 1901 law) owns the land (17 ha) and building property, works by Jean Prouvé and works by Le Corbusier listed as Historical Monuments and 20th century Heritage. [The Chapel of Notre-Dame du Haut is an integral part of the 17 works by Le Corbusier which were inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List on July 17th 2016.](#)

The AONDH makes sure that the spiritual quality of the hill is respected and is in charge of the protection and of the dissemination of the architectural works. The association entrusts its management branch la Porterie de Notre-Dame du Haut with the task of organising the public reception and the cultural and tourist development of the site.



The figures of the Chapel :

The Southern façade is 33 meters wide
The Large Tower is 23 meters high
The Outside Choir is 15 meters high

Key figures

70,000 visitors a year
60% foreign visitors
108 different nationalities each year

ANTIQUITY

The site is occupied by the Romans for strategic reasons.

1799

The site is bought by about forty families from Ronchamp: the hill of Notre-Dame du Haut becomes private property.

1950

First visit of Le Corbusier on the hill.

1967

The Chapel is listed as Historical Monument.

1999

The Chapel of Notre-Dame du Haut is the first site in Franche-Comté to be designated a 20th century Heritage Site.

2006

AONDH and nuns of the order of St Clare meet Renzo Piano. The new project is launched.

2016

The Chapel is inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List among 17 other sites.

11th CENTURY

Oldest mention of a pilgrimage in Veneration of the Virgin Mary.

1944

The site is bombed to ruins at the Liberation.

1955

The new Chapel is inaugurated.

1975

Jean Prouvé builds the campanile.

2004

The Chaplain's House and the Pilgrim's Shelter are listed as Historical Monuments as well as the inside furniture and the Peace Pyramid.

2011

The monastery of St Clare and the Porterie designed by Renzo Piano are inaugurated.

WHY RENOVATION WORK ON THE CHAPEL ?

The Chapel of Notre-Dame du Haut by Le Corbusier, inaugurated on the 25th June 1955, has not undergone the appropriate repair of the concrete used in the middle of the last century, which has been damaged over time.

All buildings need permanent maintenance according to the evolution of their materials over time.

Various kinds of deterioration include :

Surface scaling : the surface mortar flakes off as a result of the corrosion of steel reinforcing.

Structural cracks are due to chemical reactions inside the materials used in the concrete mix or poor construction practices.

The Southern façade was made by projecting concrete on an iron framework. This technique was quite new at the time. It requires a deep understanding of how the concrete will react over time to the thermal stresses caused by extreme seasonal temperature variations.

Watertight integrity needs to be monitored at all times. The contact between different materials causes joints to be fragile.

The **window** panes are also fragile elements. The various glass types, the cold or hot technique used for the writings and drawings account for this fragility. They are also vulnerable to vandalism or accidents.

The building was repainted regularly until 1995.

As a consequence, the roughcast has been overloaded with paint and needs to be cleansed before receiving the matt white coating originally provided by whitewash.



RENOVATION SCHEDULE

The buildings

The renovation work will deal with the three main buildings of the site: the Chapel of Notre-Dame du Haut, the Pilgrim's Shelter and the Chaplain's House.

The Chapel was listed as Historical Monument only twelve years after it was built, on the 8th November 1967. The two adjacent buildings were listed as Historical Monuments on the 11th June 2004.

A first study made in July 2011 enabled to assess the cost of the renovation of the three buildings.

In January 2015, a series of studies examined the different techniques to cleanse the facing and to open the cracks, they identified the repair materials and studied how to protect the window panes. They made it possible to find renovation methods.

The renovation schedule is divided into five parts: 1 firm part and 4 optional parts.

The firm part Until October 2021

The firm part will mostly deal with renovating the Southern façade and the underpart of the hull of the roof. This renovation will start with the topographical plan of the volume of the building and the precise mapping out of the cracks. The assessment of the experiments which have taken place since 2015 will enable to validate or change the repair methods.

Later on, the cracks and the oxidized iron mesh will be treated. Watertightness will be restored

and reinforced. The facing will also be treated and painted to be more consistent with the original appearance.

It is to be noted that this part of the works will protect the Pilgrim's Shelter and the Chaplain's House, which are scheduled to undergo later renovation work.

Optional part 1 From November 2021 to July 2022

The Western and Northern façades as well as the turrets will be renovated. Cleansing, repair of the cracks, restoration of the watertightness of the window panes, painting.

Optional part 2 From August 2022 to June 2023

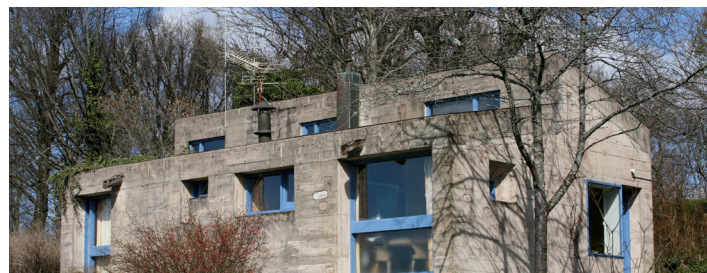
Renovation of the Eastern façade and of the South-West tower, repair of the large crack.

Optional part 3 From July 2023 to January 2024

The inside will be whitewashed.

Optional part 4 From February to August 2024

Pilgrim's Shelter and Chaplain's House
Providing watertightness and renovation of the woodwork.



« The complete project will be divided into five parts: 1 firm part and 4 optional parts. »



MANAGEMENT OF THE PROJECT

A committee of experts

A committee of experts was set up under the authority of the Conservation of historical monuments. It includes State services, curators and historical monuments specialists, members of laboratories specialized in renovation, the chief architect, the AONDH and the Le Corbusier Foundation.

The committee of experts recommends studies and surveys for a better understanding of the building in order to solve problems. The chief architect of historical monuments explains the results of the studies and suggests renovation methods to the committee of experts.

The role played by the Le Corbusier Foundation

The Foundation, in accordance with its statutes and its missions, has devoted all of its resources to the conservation, knowledge and dissemination of Le Corbusier's architectural and intellectual work.

In the committee of experts the Foundation is represented by its Director and by its architect, who is in charge of monitoring the work.

The Foundation appoints two experts, a historian of architecture specialized in Le Corbusier's work and an architect who has a good knowledge of the previous renovation works monitored by the Foundation.

The management committee

The management committee, directed by the Préfet, validates the funding after the renovation work has been presented by the chief architect and the committee of experts.

The management committee includes State Services : Direction régionale des Affaires culturelles of Bourgogne Franche-Comté, the authorities of the Région and the Département, the Fondation du Patrimoine, the chief architect, the committee of experts, and the contracting authority.



« The renovation work is managed by the Committee of experts, the Le Corbusier Foundation and the management committee. »



PRESENTATION OF THE FIRM PART

Preliminary work

This part of the works will start with three different elements.

The first one will consist in protecting the adjacent buildings, the Pilgrim's Shelter and the Chaplain's House, to provide temporary watertightness, before undergoing later renovation work in optional part 4.

The second one will consist in mapping very precisely the outside and inside volumes of the Chapel thanks to a drone.

The third one will consist in the preparation of the future works by assessing the experimental work already done and by observing the result of past renovations to understand their evolution since 2015.

Restoration of the Southern façade

The restoration of the Southern façade starts with the precise mapping of the cracks before treating the facing. To cleanse the facing, as a result of experimental work, the method will consist in taking off the surface layers with a chemical stripper and sanding down very finely the bottom layers.

The cracks will be opened on a narrow width with a milling machine to reach the iron rods or the iron mesh and apply anti-corrosive coating.

The cracks will be sealed first with a flexible joint sealant against water leaking and then with finishing mortar similar to the facing. The

painting will provide watertightness and the matt white aspect of whitewash.

Restoration of the underpart of the hull of the roof:

The most frequent problem with reinforced concrete is surface scaling. It is caused by the swelling of oxidized iron rods when they are too close to the surface. Indeed, hairline cracks cause leakage problems which reach and oxidize the iron mesh. The problem is treated with limited renovation after having applied anti-corrosion coating to the iron.



FUNDING OF THE RENOVATION WORK

Given the significant cultural heritage of the buildings, the management committee with all its members, local, regional and State Services-Services directed by the Préfet of Haute-Saône, has been working since 2017 to identify the renovation schedule and the funding.

Along with the State, the local and regional authorities conserve this cultural heritage.

All the partners are fully aware of the importance of this unique architectural site and give their unreserved support to the conservation works.

As an exceptional measure public funding will meet 90% of the total cost of the repair work :

50% will be funded by the DRAC
20% each from the Burgundy Franche-Comté Region and the Département of Haute-Saône.

The association which owns the Chapel is to fund the remaining 10% cost.

The total cost of the renovation works will reach 2.3 million euros.

As a result, the cost paid by the association will be 230,000 euros.



SPONSORSHIP

The main sponsors

CGPA

CGPA Group provides Professional Indemnity Insurance. Committed to preserving and showcasing cultural heritage, CGPA has wished to support the Association de l'Oeuvre Notre-Dame du Haut to renovate the Southern façade by funding €30,000 in 2017.

Crédit Agricole

The Crédit Agricole of Franche-Comté and the Crédit Agricole-Pays de France Foundation are committed to local and regional development by rolling out initiatives favoring local heritage as well as economic and social welfare everywhere in France. As an exceptional measure, in 2020 they supported the site for €50,000 in funding, of which €25,000 are attributed to the renovation project.

Other sponsors

For other investments and projects necessary to keep the Hill of Notre-Dame du Haut alive, firms and private individuals have been supporting the Association de l'Oeuvre de Notre-Dame du Haut for many years.

Among the firms, Vétoquinol, Lisi, Grande Distillerie Peureux, Cristel, Centre Leclerc de Lure, Pépinières Guillaume, Hommes & Méthodes, Velleminfroy, Medi Service are to be noted.

Becoming a donor or a sponsor?

Funding this ambitious project goes beyond the usual needs of the site. Such donations are necessary to make the repair programme possible.

To ensure it can fund 10% of the renovation costs, the association which owns the Chapel has set up a fundraising partnership, with help from the Fondation du Patrimoine.

The Fondation du Patrimoine has been supporting the Association de l'Oeuvre Notre-Dame du Haut since 2016 by organizing fundraising campaigns soliciting firms and private individuals. After funding the preliminary studies, it aims now at funding the works themselves.

A subscription has been started for the firm part:

On the Internet

www.fondation-patrimoine.org/43707

By cheque to Fondation du Patrimoine-chapelle de Ronchamp

Fondation du Patrimoine
14 rue Violet 25000 Besançon

It is also possible to send your donation directly to the AONDH

By cheque to AONDH :

AONDH

13 rue de la chapelle 70250 Ronchamp

By bank transfer

IBAN FR76 1250 6700 5256 5265 3811 673
AGRIFRPP 825

Donation receipts will be sent.

VISITING THE SITE DURING THE RENOVATION PROJECT ?

Is it possible to visit ?

Visitors will be allowed on the Hill of Notre-Dame du Haut during the whole period of renovation work, as soon as it can be opened to the public. For the time being as on every cultural site, no visitor is allowed according to the government decision to stop the COVID19 pandemic.

Safety measures ?

To respect the work of all the people who are renovating the Chapel, it is important to pay attention to the safety measures recommended by the Porterie staff when buying your entrance ticket.

Is the tour unchanged ?

The visitor will discover the Pilgrim's Shelter, the Chapel by Le Corbusier, the campanile by Jean Prouvé, the oratory of St Clare monastery by Renzo Piano. Guided tours, digital tours or guiding maps translated into 9 languages will be offered, thanks to different devices.

Guided tours of the renovation work?

Guided tours and talks will be scheduled during the renovation work. Information about the programme will be given in the Spring of 2021. To receive the dates, please leave your contact details to Jennifer Carmagnat, Communication Service of La Porterie.

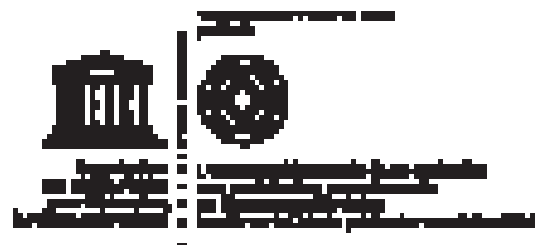
Opening times ?

The opening times of the site are liable to change as safety regulations may evolve.

To be informed in real time of the opening times, please consult the website of the Hill by clicking on "informations pratiques" (useful information).



FIND THE PROGRAMME ON COLLINE-NOTREDAMEDUHAUT.COM BY CLICKING ON "ACTUALITES" (ONGOING EVENTS)





OUR APPOINTMENTS WITH THE PRESS

Press conferences.
Would you like to take part?

Send your contact details to
communication@collinenotredameduhaut.com

Find the ongoing events on the website

www.collinenotredameduhaut.com
Click on « Une chapelle en chantier » (a Chapel
undergoing renovating work)

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The Association Oeuvre Notre-Dame du Haut (AONDH, association recognized as serving the public good according to the 1901 law) owns the land (17 ha) and the works by Le Corbusier (the Chapel of Notre-Dame du Haut, the Peace Pyramid, the Pilgrim's Shelter and the Chaplain's House).

The whole site is protected by copyright. Copyright was registered in Vesoul on the 6th January 1956.

Consequently, using pictures of works by Le Corbusier or Jean Prouvé (whether in Ronchamp or elsewhere) must be allowed by the Société des Auteurs dans les Arts Graphiques et Plastiques:

ADAGP 11, rue Berryer 75008 PARIS (www.adagp.fr)

COPY TO

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Launching of the renovation work January 2021

Renovation work of the Chapel on Notre-Dame du Haut, 2021-2024

On the 10th February 2021, launching of the renovation work on the Southern façade of the Chapel of Notre-Dame du Haut in Ronchamp designed by Le Corbusier.

On the 10th February 2021, Albizzati company will set up the scaffolding on the Wall of Light of the Chapel of Notre-Dame du Haut in Ronchamp, starting substantial renovation work on this symbolic building designed by Le Corbusier.

This first part of the project will take about six months and will mostly deal with the cracks, the watertightness and the concrete surface of the Southern façade.

Significant renovation for an extraordinary building

Since 2015, an important study of the building has been carried out by a committee of experts including specialists, members of the AONDH, of the Le Corbusier Foundation and of a research laboratory for historical monuments.

This study has made it possible to find very precise renovation methods. The restoration will be supervised by the association which owns the site (AONDH) and the chief architect of

historical monuments, Richard Duplat.

A €2.3-million project

This substantial renovation project will cost €2.3 million. As an exceptional measure, public funding will meet 90% of the total cost of the repair work.

50% will be funded by the DRAC, a regional state service, and 20% each from the Burgundy Franche-Comté Region and the Département of Haute-Saône. The remaining 10% of the cost will be funded by the association which owns the Chapel.

Fundraising and commitment of the Fondation du Patrimoine.

In order to raise the necessary funds to start the renovation work, the AONDH has received help from the Fondation du Patrimoine.

Professional sponsors and private individuals can support the project directly from the Fondation du Patrimoine website.

Other sponsors, such as the Crédit Agricole, have gone into action to support this ambitious project.



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