



MONUMENTS IN

PARIS

MARCH 2015

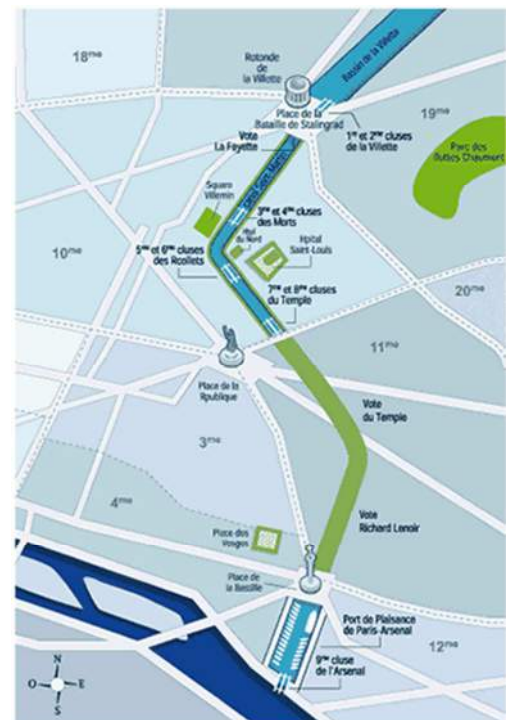


LE CANAL SAINT MARTIN



Canal Saint-Martin links the Bassin de la Villette to the Seine. It was opened in 1825, and comprises nine locks and two swing bridges.

Integrating such a project into an already-dense urban environment was quite a challenge, and construction work – which began in 1805 at either end of the canal – was not completed until 1825.

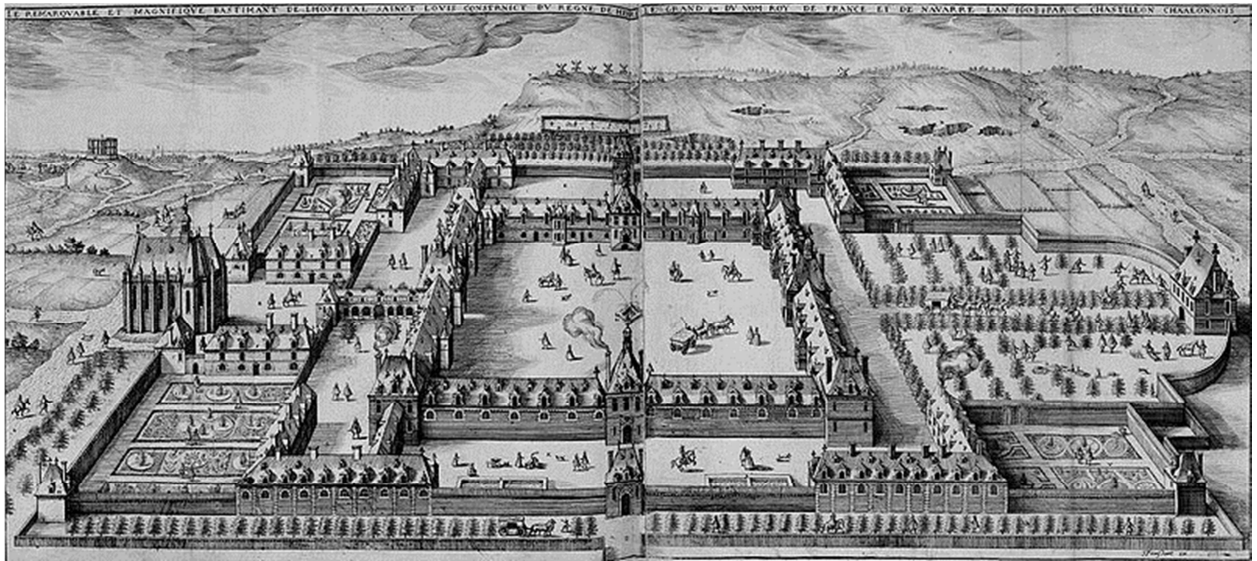


Covering the canal under Prefect Haussmann

Since the deeper trench and lower water surface robbed the quaysides of their usefulness, Haussmann decided to go the whole way and enclose the canal in a vaulted tunnel between Bastille and République. This operation, which resulted in the creation of Boulevard Richard-Lenoir, was conducted between 1860 and 1862.

L'HÔPITAL SAINT LOUIS

The hospital Saint Louis was founded by King Henry IV (1553–1610) on May 17, 1607 to decongest the Hôtel-Dieu de Paris during the plague. He named it St. Louis in memory of Louis IX, who died of the plague that devastated Tunis in 1270.



The master builder, Claude Vellefaux, also built the "Place des Vosges".



LA PLACE DE LA REPUBLIQUE

The location of the Place corresponds to the bastion of the gate of the Temple in the wall of Charles V (raised between 1356 and 1383). Decorated in 1811 with a fountain called the Château-d'Eau, designed by Pierre-Simon Girard, it took its current shape under the Second French Empire as part of Baron Hausmann's city renovation scheme.

In 1879, a competition, to design a great monument devoted to the newly proclaimed Third Republic, was won by the Morice brothers, Léopold Morice for the statuary and relief-panels of historic scenes, and his architect brother Charles Morice for the base.



On January 11th, a huge manifestation on the “Place de la République” against terrorist acts at the Charlie Hebdo newspaper and in a Jewish market.



LE CENTRE BEAUBOURG



The Pompidou Centre, also known simply as Beaubourg, is all about modern and contemporary 20th-century art. Thanks in part to its vigorous schedule of temporary exhibitions, it has become the most visited cultural sight in Paris. The design of the Pompidou has drawn critical comment since construction began in 1972.

To keep the exhibition halls uncluttered, the architects put the building's 'insides' on the outside, with each duct, pipe and vent painted its own telltale colour: elevators and escalators are red, electrical circuitry yellow, plumbing green and air-conditioning blue.



After a massive renovation during 1998-99 the center has a stunning reworked facade on the west side, an expanded exhibition space, and a new cinema, restaurant and cybercafé - plus new facilities for dance, theatre, CD and video. Two floors are dedicated to exhibiting some of the 40,000-plus works of the Musée Nationale d'Art Moderne, France's national collection of 20th-century art. The top floors have a magnificent view of Paris, and place George Pompidou below attracts street performers, musicians and artists.

L'HÔTEL DE VILLE



The Hôtel de Ville de Paris has been the seat of the Paris City Council since 1357. The current building, with a neo-renaissance style, was built by architects Théodore Ballu and Edouard Deperthes on the site of the former Hôtel de Ville which burnt down during the Paris Commune in 1871.

The building is decorated with 108 statues, representing famous Parisians. Thirty other statues represent French cities. The clock at the central tower is adorned with several feminine sculptures representing the Seine River, the city of Paris, 'Work' and 'Education'.

The Square

From 1310 on, the Place de Grève was the square where most of the executions in Paris took place.

Here people were beheaded, quartered, cooked up or burned at the stake. In 1792, a guillotine was installed. It would prove itself useful during the French Revolution.



The last execution took place in 1830, after which the square was renamed Place de l'Hôtel de Ville.

The square was later enlarged to its current size by Baron Haussmann, as part of his modernization of Paris.

LA MADELEINE

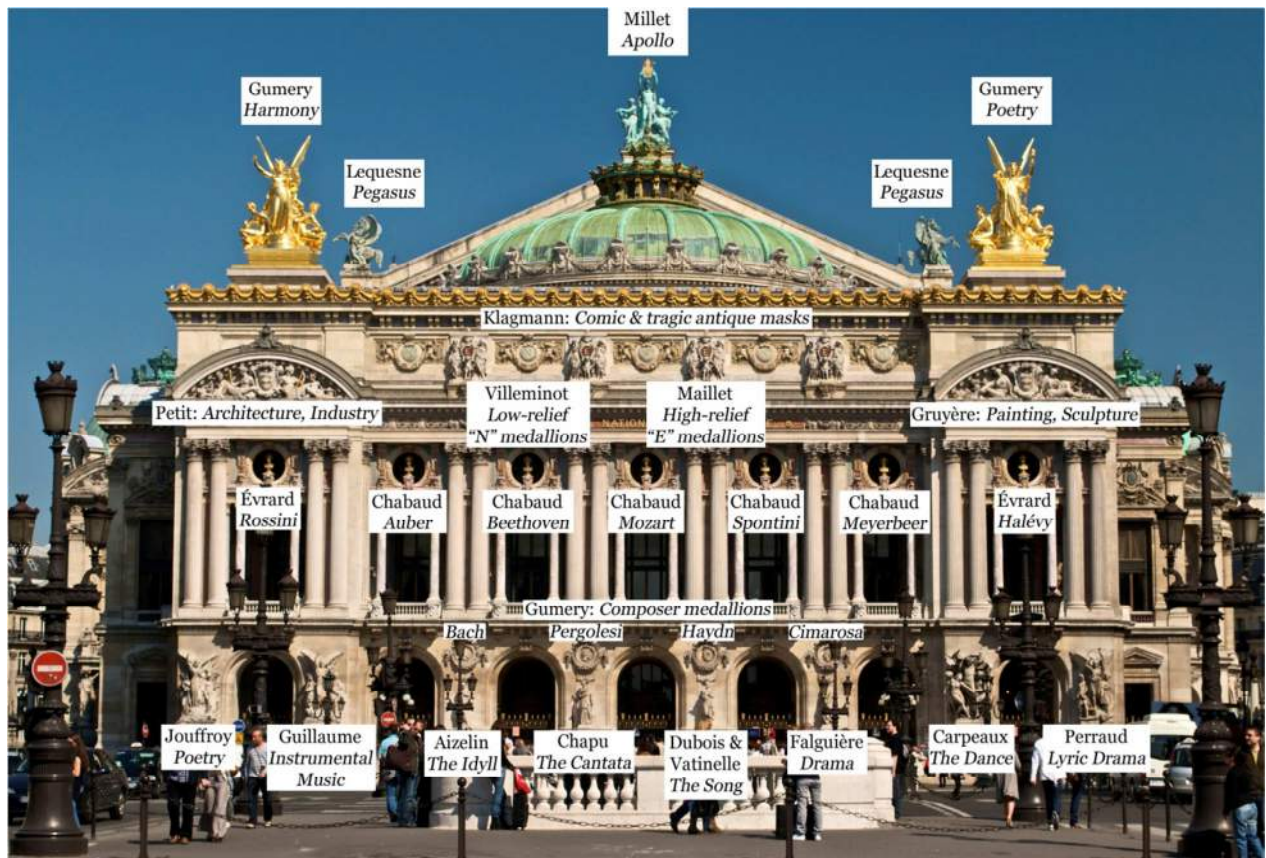
L'église de la Madeleine is a Roman Catholic church.



The Eglise de la Madeleine is situated between Place de la Concorde and the Palais Garnier opera house, in Haussmannian Paris. Its construction started in 1764 and finished in 1842. Its appearance is atypical of that of a religious building, in the form of a Greek temple without any crosses or bell-towers. Napoleon wanted it to be a pantheon in honor of his armies. Before entering through the two monumental bronze doors, you can admire the Corinthian columns which surround the building. Inside, there are sculpture, paintings and the famous neo-Byzantine mosaic created by Charles-Joseph Lameire. The magnificent church organ was designed by Aristide Cavaillé-Coll. Throughout the year, both day and night, the church programmes quality classical music concerts.



L'OPERA GARNIER



It was Napoleon III who decided in 1858 to create a new “Imperial Academy of Music and Dance”. A competition was launched to designate the architect in charge of the project and, against all odds, it was Charles Garnier, a young and little known architect, who won the project in face of seasoned architects like Violet le Duc.

Influenced by baroque art, Charles Garnier conceived a building clearly reflecting the Italian trend of the end of the 16th century, but which also brings together several different styles.

Typical of the Napoleon era, the Palais Garnier contains numerous points of interest. On its exterior, for example, it exhibits several sculptures on its main façade including two groups in gilded bronze located on top of the building.

LA PLACE DE LA CONCORDE



The Place de la Concorde, which is the largest place in Paris, is situated along the Seine and separates the Tuileries Gardens from the beginning of the Champs Élysées. It is in the 8th arrondissement, or district, of the city. Jacques Ange Gabriel, Louis XV's architect, began construction in 1754 and completed it in 1763. It was thus called the Place Louis XV. The place formed an octagon bordered by large moats that no longer exist. In contrast to older places that were closed, la Place de la Concorde, largely open, served as an intersection as well as a decoration.

With respect to urban accomplishments, it is the greatest achievement of the Enlightenment in the capital.

The Luxor Obelisk is a 23 metres (75 ft) high Egyptian obelisk standing at the center of the Place de la Concorde. The Luxor Obelisk is over 3,000 years old and was originally situated outside of Luxor Temple in Egypt, where its twin remains to this day.



LE MUSEE D'ORSAY



In 1871 the railway company of Orleans bought the site. Victor Laloux had the duty to integrate the station in the urban middle class setting. Only two years were necessary to finish the construction which was inaugurated during the Universal Exhibiton of 1900. The railway passed by Nantes, Bordeaux, and Toulouse. In 1939, the lines were abandoned and the station took little by little the appearance of a sales room, of a theatre, or was used as a movie setting... The building was saved from destruction thanks to a new interest in the architecture of the middle of the 19th Century. It has been a Historical Monument since the 8th March, 1978. The museum opened on the 1st December, 1986. This museum of arts is devoted to paintings and sculptures. However, photography, architecture, arts and decoration and the whole artistic production from 1848 to 1914 are also present.



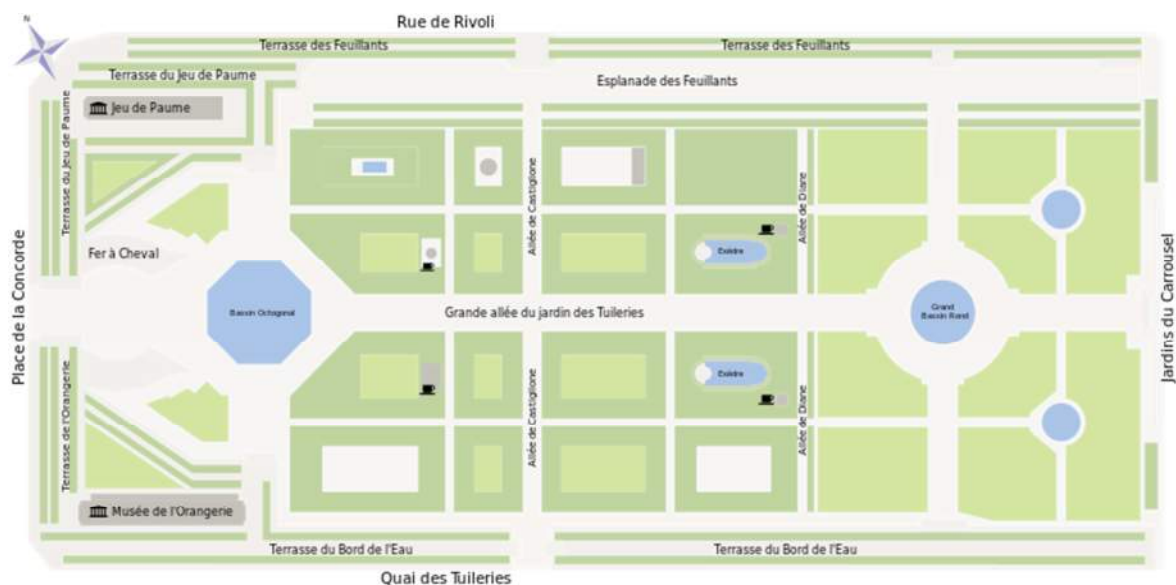
LE JARDIN DES TUILERIES

The Tuileries Garden is a public garden located between the Louvre Museum and the Place de la Concorde in the 1st arrondissement of Paris.



Created by Catherine de Medicis as the garden of the Tuileries Palace in 1564, it was eventually opened to the public in 1667, and became a public park after the French Revolution. In the 19th and 20th century, it was the place where Parisians celebrated, met, promenaded, and relaxed.

The Tuileries Gardens were one of the first to open to the public, and have served as a prototype for public gardens across Europe. Even at that time, the gardens boasted cafes and kiosks, places where people of all social classes could meet and relax.



LE LOUVRE



The Louvre is one of the world's largest museums and a historic monument. The Louvre is the world's most visited museum, and receive more than 9.7 million per year.

It was originally built as a fortress in the late 12th century under Philip II. Remnants of the fortress are visible in the basement of the museum. The building was extended many times to form the present Louvre Palace. In 1682, Louis XIV chose the Palace of Versailles for his household, leaving the Louvre primarily as a place to display the royal collection. It's during the French Revolution that the National Assembly decreed that the Louvre should be used as a museum to display the nation's masterpieces.

The Louvre Pyramid is a large glass and metal pyramid, surrounded by three smaller pyramids, in the main courtyard (Cour Napoléon) of the Louvre Palace. The large pyramid serves as the main entrance to the Louvre Museum. Commissioned by the President of France François Mitterrand in 1984, it was designed by the architect I. M. Pei.



LA PLACE DES VOSGES



The Marais district spent a long time as a swamp and then as agricultural land, until in 1605 King Henry IV decided to transform it into a residential area for Parisian aristocrats. He did this by building Place des Vosges and arraying 36 symmetrical houses around its square



perimeter. The houses, each with arcades on the ground floor, large dormer windows, and the requisite creepers on the walls, were initially



built of brick but were subsequently constructed using timber with a plaster covering, which was then painted to look like brick. Duels, fought with strictly observed formality, were once staged in the elegant park in the middle. From 1832-48 Victor Hugo lived at a house at No 6, which has now been turned into a municipal museum.

LA CATHEDRALE NOTRE DAME



One of the most notable monuments in Paris (and in all of Europe for that matter) is the Notre Dame Cathedral. This Catholic treasure is over 800 years old. It is located on a small island called the Ile de la Cite in the middle of river Seine. The cathedral is considered to be one of the finest examples of French Gothic architecture.

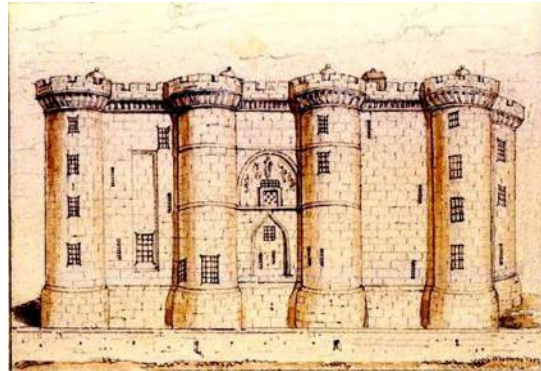
The naturalism of its sculptures and stained glass are in contrast with earlier Romanesque architecture. The building of the cathedral was completed over the course of 200 years; it was started in 1163 during the reign of King Louis VII and was completed in 1345.

Also inside the Notre Dame Cathedral, among so many historical artefacts, is the notable 17th century organ with all of its parts still functional. There are also drawings, plans and engravings which showed the old and hidden mysteries of several of the church developments and how the city of Paris came into being.



LA PLACE DE LA BASTILLE

The Bastille was a fortress in Paris. It was built to defend the eastern approach to the city of Paris from the English threat in the Hundred Years' War. Initial work began in 1357, but the main construction occurred from 1370 onwards, creating a strong fortress with eight towers.



The fortress was declared a state prison in 1417. Louis XIV used the Bastille as a prison for upper-class members of French society who had opposed or angered him. From 1659 onwards, the Bastille functioned primarily as a state penitentiary; by 1789, 5,279 prisoners had passed through its gates. Under Louis XV and XVI, the Bastille was used to support the operations of the Parisian police, especially in enforcing government censorship of the printed media.

On 14 July 1789 the Bastille was stormed by a revolutionary crowd. Seven remaining prisoners were found and released and the Bastille's governor, Bernard-René de Launay, was killed by the crowd. The Bastille was demolished ; souvenirs of the fortress were transported around France and displayed as icons of the overthrow of despotism.



Today, the July Column, a monumental column commemorating the Revolution of 1830 stands in the center of the Place. It celebrates the "three glorious" days of 27–29 July 1830 that saw the fall of King Charles X of France and the commencement of the "July Monarchy" of Louis-Philippe, King of the French. It was built between 1835 and 1840.

HAUSSMANN'S RENOVATION OF PARIS



Haussmann's renovation of Paris was a vast public works program commissioned by Emperor Napoléon III and directed by the prefect of the Seine, Georges-Eugène Haussmann between 1853 and 1870. It included the demolition of crowded and unhealthy medieval neighborhoods, the building of wide avenues, parks and squares, the annexation of the suburbs surrounding Paris,

and the construction of new sewers, fountains and aqueducts. Haussmann's work met with fierce opposition, and he was finally dismissed by Napoleon III in 1870; but work on his projects continued until 1927. The street plan and distinctive appearance of the center of Paris today is largely the result of Haussmann's renovation.

The most famous and recognizable feature of Haussmann's renovation of Paris are the Haussmann apartment buildings which line the boulevards of Paris. Street blocks were designed as homogeneous architectural wholes. He treated buildings not as independent structures, but as pieces of a unified urban landscape.

