

HORTA MUSEUM

PRESS RELEASE

VICTOR HORTA'S MAISON DU PEUPLE:

A THREE-DIMENSIONAL RECONSTRUCTION

PROGRAMME OF TALKS, 18 DECEMBER 2019 AT 19H

AUDITORIUM VICTOR BOURGEOIS

PLACE FLAGEY 19 – 1050 BRUSSELS

VIEWINGS AT THE HORTA MUSEUM FROM 19 DECEMBER 2019

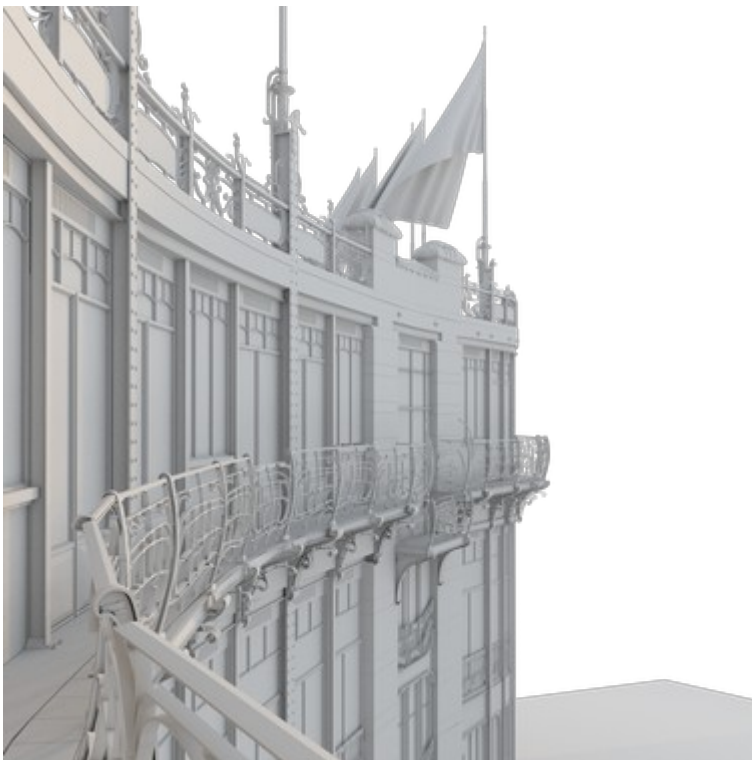


Ernst Wasmuth, plate from Neubauten in Brüssel, 1899. Horta Museum archives.

In the context of the Brussels landscape, the now-vanished Maison du Peuple has left a symbolic gash that has only slowly healed over, despite the passing of the decades. It is a lost presence sensed by countless residents of Brussels, an intriguing enigma to foreign visitors, and a case-study in the history of European architecture.

Although the Horta Museum concentrates its activities on the architect's World-Heritage-listed house and studio, the whole of Horta's creative endeavour—as architect, planner, teacher, and thinker—falls within its wider ambit. The Museum's research centre, archives, library, education service, and information centre are open to all—young and old, those in need of special care or with reduced mobility, students and researchers. Research is a natural part of the Museum's activities.

In a partnership bringing together the museological and academic worlds, the Museum has been working with the Laboratoire Alice at ULB's La Cambre-Horta Faculty of Architecture, alongside professors Denis Derycke and Michel Provoost and their students. This collaboration, begun in 2015, will come to fruition in December 2019 with the unveiling of a partial 3D reconstruction of the Maison du Peuple. Drawing on new technology and university know-how, this joint endeavour by students, their teachers, and the Museum's conservators has resulted, after several years of painstaking work, in the creation of 3D reconstructions of the building's exterior façades and internal spaces, the latter including the staircases, the top-floor performance hall, the Matteotti Room, and the Grand Café.



Laboratoire Alice, detail of the façade (draft), 2019.

Allowing multi-angle viewing and colour adjustment, the digital reconstruction offers visitors a new way of accessing information, either via a digital guided tour of the interior or in a more personal exploratory journey, via touchscreens. Forming a perfect complement to the very fine model of the Maison du Peuple displayed in the sculpture workshop, the reconstruction is presented in a short (ten-minute) screening on the same floor or via touchscreens in the information centre.

The work done by the students at the Laboratoire Alice has led to a number of important scientific discoveries concerning the design and construction of the Maison du Peuple. Contributing to the scientific research is of prime importance to the Museum, but sharing the findings is just as much of a priority.

You are cordially invited to the world première of the virtual tour of the Maison du Peuple, to be held on 18 December at 19.00 in the Victor Bourgeois Auditorium, La Cambre Faculty of Architecture, Place Flagey, Brussels. There will also be an opportunity to learn more about the research behind the film and the educational project of which it forms a part.

Contributors:

Charles Picqué & Benjamin Zurstrassen

Président de l'asbl Musée Horta — Conservateur du Musée Horta

Claire Fontaine & Michel Provost

Specialist in the conservation and restoration of mural paintings
Architectural engineer and professor in the La Cambre-Horta Faculty of Architecture, ULB

Denis Derycke & Jean Trottet

Architect and professor in the La Cambre-Horta Faculty of Architecture, ULB
Researcher at the Laboratoire Alice, La Cambre-Horta Faculty of Architecture, ULB



Laboratoire Alice, view of the Matteoti room (draft), 2019.

To be followed by a screening of the 3D reconstruction with piano accompaniment.



MUSÉE HORTA
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HORTAMUSEUM
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PARTNERSHIP AND SUPPORT

The project to reconstruct the Maison du Peuple is part of the 5-year programme 'Victor Horta's Worlds', supported since 2018 and until 2022 by the Fonds Baillet Latour.

Its aim is to identify and develop dedicated digital tools.

Our partners on the digital project are the Laboratoire Alice (Faculté d'architecture La Cambre-Horta, ULB), its teaching staff—Denis Derycke, Jean Trottet, and Michel Provoost—and their students.



Fund Fonds
Fonds Baillet Latour

Practical informations

Horta Museum

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Access

Trams 81, 92, 97 (place Janson) / Bus 54

Opening times

14h to 17h30, from Tuesday to Friday inclusive.

11h to 17h3 on Saturday and Sunday.

Last admission : 17h00.

The morning is reserved for group visits.

The Horta Museum's interior comprises eleven half-storeys structured around a narrow central stairwell. As the layout is an integral feature of this listed building, we are unable to receive visitors with limited mobility.

Closed days and public holidays

Every Monday, January 1, Easter Sunday, May 1,
Ascension Day, July 21, August 15, November 1, November 11, December 25

Fees

Admission to the exhibition is free of charge.

the fees for the Museum visit are as follows :

Adults – 10.00 €

Students (aged 18 and over) – 5.00 €

Senior citizens, jobseekers (Belgian nationals only) and residents of Saint-Gilles- 6.00 €

Primary and secondary schoolchildren, children aged from 6 to 18 – 3.00 €

Article 27 – 1.25 €

ICOM and OKV cardholders, members of the press, people with disabilities - admission free.

