

HORTA MUSEUM

PRESS PACK

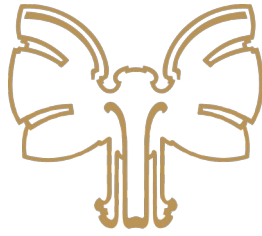
SECRETS OF THE STUDIOS / ART NOUVEAU DECORATION

SECRETS OF THE STUDIOS:

OPENING OF THE DRAWING STUDIO

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM 2 JULY 2020





MUSÉE HORTA
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HORTAMUSEUM
SINT-GILLIS

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Exhibition furniture by Reuse
Lighting by Henriette Michaux and Cédric Jadin

The Museum is supported by the local authority of Saint-Gilles,
the Brussels-Capital Region, and the Fonds Baillet Latour

St Gilles Gillis



RÉGION DE BRUXELLES-CAPITALE
BRUSSELS HOOFDSTEDELIJK GEWEST
BRUSSELS-CAPITAL REGION



A TANDEM EXHIBITION
Secrets of the studios / Art Nouveau decoration



Il n'y a d'urgent que le décor
Pierre Loti

In spring 2020, the Horta Museum will immerse itself in the creative processes of late 19th century artists and architects. It will exhibit over 80 drawings (61 of them previously unpublished) by designers such as William Morris, Henry van de Velde, Josef Hoffmann, and Charles Rennie Mackintosh. The works in question, all designs for fabric or wallpaper, will be displayed as a large fresco—a kind of herbarium—of motifs and decorative ornaments. Every stage of the creative process will be illustrated, from the first pencil-stroke to the finished work.

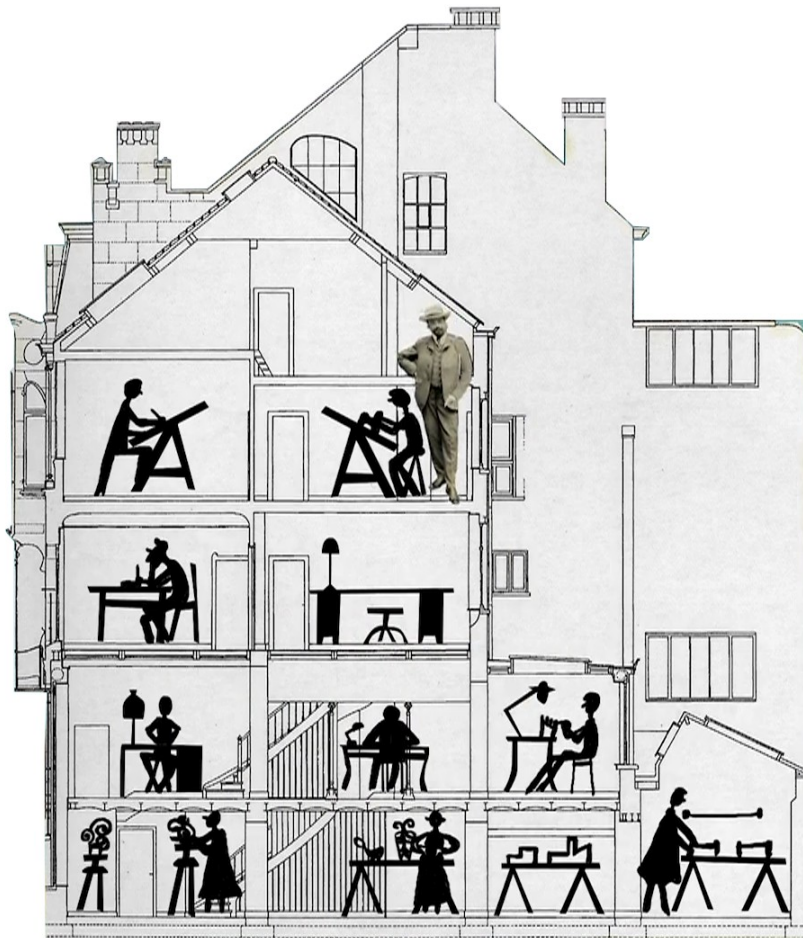
At the same time, the room originally occupied by Horta's team of draughtsmen will be opened up permanently to the public, providing the perfect opportunity for a display of metalwork and casts, 60 in all, that give a sense both of Horta's approach to ornament and of his method of working. Stepping into these painstakingly restored and adapted surroundings, visitors will find themselves at the very heart of the building that was creative home to the master of Art Nouveau.



Inside the cast studio, Horta Museum. Copyright Bastin & Evrard

OPENING OF THE DRAWING STUDIO

We should not forget that what is now the Horta Museum was not just the great architect's private residence but also his studio. It was therefore in this building that his many architectural projects took shape. From his private study, sketches were dispatched to the drawing studio, where a dozen or so young architects-in-the-making scaled them to size. The drawings were then sent down to the basement, where sculptors made casts of them. The casts were dispatched, without further modification, to the various craftsmen, to ensure faithful execution of the designs. Casts were made of almost every detail—door-handles, column heads, chair-backs.



Cross-section of Victor Horta's studio.

Production: Kelzang Ravach and Marion Castéra

Concept: Elisabeth Horth and Cristina Marchi.

THE CASTS

The Museum is currently home to an extraordinary long-term loan: a collection of almost 500 casts rescued by Jean Delhay after the death of Victor Horta and subsequently deposited here by the Art & History Museum in Brussels. When the studio became a museum, the second floor remained closed and was used as a storage area. Now, however, thanks to a highly innovative display-system, the casts can be preserved and protected whilst allowing the public to view a selection of the finest pieces—to get a glimpse, in effect, of Horta at work.

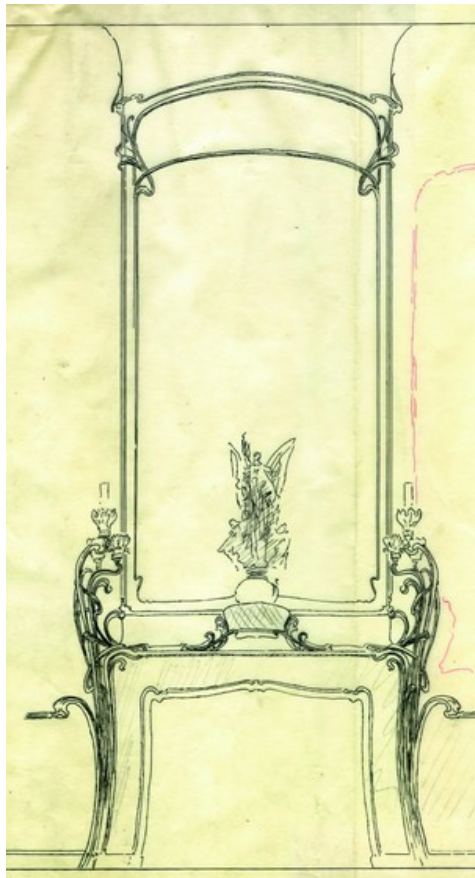


*Cast for woodwork at the Hôtel Solvay.
Deposited by the Art & History Museum, Brussels.*

A RENEWED SETTING

In this area, the exhibition aims to strike as even a balance as possible between heritage, aesthetics, and education. As well as introducing the public to Horta's way of working, taking them from initial sketch through to finished product, it will present them with a repertoire of forms favoured by the architect and, finally, bring in other buildings, comparing designs, casts, and finished works.

Architecturally speaking, the large glazed bay of the drawing studio is particularly eye-catching from outside. This room, facing north and with a very high ceiling, offered ideal conditions for the work of scaling up Horta's sketches. That said, it was also a place where discipline was expected: Horta had the windows fitted with hammered glass to stop the draughtsmen being distracted by events outside. It is still as luminous a spot as ever, where visitors can either go with the flow of Horta's lines and curves or learn more about the great architect's work.



*Elevation of a fireplace for the Hôtel van Eetvelde.
Brussels, private collection.*

DIARY DATES

From 19 March 2020, the Museum will open up the cast studio to the public. At the same time, visitors will have the opportunity to view a superb exhibition on European Art Nouveau decoration, to be staged in the Museum's exhibition room.



Victor Horta, detail of a fire tool, c.1900

SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS

SUPPORT

The Fonds Baillet Latour is supporting the 'Victor Horta's Worlds' programme, which runs from 2018 to 2022. The restoration of the drawing studio is part of this 5-year programme.



PARTNERS

ART & HISTORY  MUSEUM



Visitor information

Horta Museum

Rue Américaine, 27
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Belgium

www.hortamuseum.be

+32 2 543 04 90
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Getting here

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

Opening times

14.00 to 17.30 Tuesday to Friday incl.

11.00 to 17.30 Saturday and Sunday

Last entry 17.00

Mornings are reserved for group visits.

The interior of the Museum's is made up of 11 half-floors arranged around a narrow central staircase. Because the whole of this structure has listed status, we are unable to welcome visitors with reduced mobility to all areas. A virtual tour is, however, available on application at the ticket-counter.

Closing times

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

Prices

Admission to the exhibition is free, but the
following charges apply for access to other areas:

Adults – 10.00 €

Students (18+) – 5.00 €

Seniors, Belgian jobseekers, residents of Saint-Gilles – 6.00 €

Primary and secondary school children/children 6 to 18 years – 3.00 €

Article 27 – 1.25 €

ICOM, OKV concessions, press-card holders, disabled visitors – free