



EMPOWERING YOUTH TO REDISCOVER EUROPE'S ARCHITECTURAL LEGACY

**R3.3 60 DIGITAL NARRATIVES
WITH THE KEY HISTORICAL
AND ARCHITECTURAL FACTS.**



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Deliverable Factsheet

Project Number:	2023-2-FR02-KA220-YOU-000174646
Project Acronym:	ArchTech
Project Title:	Empowering Youth to Rediscover Europe's Architectural Legacy
Output:	A3.3 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.
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Approved by:	All Partners
Abstract:	This document presents the digital narratives of the 60 buildings selected in R3.1. Each digital narrative is built according to a methodology that stems from the guidelines developed in R3.2 and that will be then implemented in the Building Alert ! app through the use of the Genially platform.
Keyword list:	Heritage Buildings; Civic Tech; Cultural Heritage; Social Memory; Digital App
Dissemination level:	Open Source; Public



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Partnership

Name	Role	Country
LUDICIUS INTERACTIVE SARL	Coordinator	France
C.I.P. CITIZENS IN POWER	Partner	Cyprus
INNOVATION HIVE	Partner	Greece
KLEMKA COLAB	Partner	Spain
UNIVERSITA TA MALTA	Partner	Malta

All Partner Logos



Revision History

Version	Date	Revised by	Revision
V1			
V2			





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INTRODUCTION

This document presents the 60 digital narratives that are built upon the key historical and architectural facts reported in the previous report, ‘A3.1 Research to develop Heritage buildings in partner cities, constructed between 1850 and 1960.’, of heritage buildings in Cyprus, France, Greece, Malta and Spain.

These narratives will be used to populate the content in the “Building Alert!” app and will represent the default heritage building information available for the 5 local maps, one per country.

The report forms part of the overall project, and may be used as a standalone document, and as a complement to subsequent Project activities.





Methodology

The leading principles of the digital narratives stem from concurring needs such as the focus on the cultural and historical value of the buildings, seen as living places and not just built artifacts, and the desire to inspire civic pride and engagement through youth active participation by tapping into personal experiences or in reported stories to make the narratives evolve, and by triggering the search and discovery of other built heritage in danger or simply forgotten.

The following is a method of narrative development for the ArchTech Project, which indicates how and what should be included. These narratives will accompany the heritage buildings within the A3.1 document (see Annex) and add value to the information, such as photographic visuals, mapping, and quantitative data.

Below are a series of guidelines that assist in the development of the narratives:

1. Showcase the Cultural and Historical Value

- Begin with a vivid introduction that situates the building within its historical or social context.
- Clearly describe its architectural features, date of construction, architects, and original function.
- Highlight any transformations in use or ownership through time, emphasising the building's evolving role in local life.
- Integrate verified historical facts with evocative language to help readers visualise the building's past and present significance.

2. Use Storytelling to Humanise Heritage

- Centre the narrative on people connected to the building: its builders, users, residents, or communities affected by its history.
- Include anecdotes or lesser-known stories that express personal, communal, or emotional attachment to the place.
- Maintain authenticity and accuracy while crafting a sense of discovery or emotional resonance.





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3. Encourage Civic Pride and Engagement

- Conclude each narrative with an appeal to collective responsibility, expressing why preservation matters.
- Suggest ways readers can engage (e.g. visiting the site, sharing stories, volunteering in protection initiatives, or contributing digital materials).
- Frame the heritage not as static relics but as living testimonies that rely on active community stewardship.

4. Foster Youth Participation and Collaboration

- Use inclusive and motivational language that invites young people to take part in documenting or interpreting the site.
- Encourage creative outputs (videos, voice-over maps, sketches, short documentaries) inspired by the building's heritage.
- Highlight examples of youth-led initiatives or co-created citizen projects where applicable.

5. Promote an Open, Evolving Narrative

- Leave space for continuity by proposing follow-up questions or exploratory prompts, e.g., “What remains unknown about this site’s early history?” or “Can you find other traces of this architect’s work nearby?”
- Invite users to expand the map by uploading new buildings or extra details (e.g. sources, memories, or photographs) linked to the heritage theme.
- Ensure the tone reinforces co-authorship and the evolving nature of heritage knowledge.

6. Keep the Narrative Accessible and Multimodal

- Write in concise, clear language suitable for both general and educational audiences.
- Combine text with photographs, audio testimonies, geolocated visuals, and archival extracts when available.
- Use short paragraphs or story segments to enhance readability on mobile devices.



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7. Maintain Ethical and Cultural Sensitivity

- Respect the privacy, cultural significance, and ownership rights of site information.
- Acknowledge sources and give credit to contributors wherever possible.
- Avoid sensationalising decay; instead, focus on meaningful appreciation and constructive preservation perspectives.





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

1. Malta

Santa Maria Addolorata Cemetery

Slide 1 Title + Hero Image

Elements to include:

- Santa Maria Addolorata Cemetery
- A Neo-Gothic Masterpiece of Memory
- Santa Lucija Avenue, Paola, Malta
- HERO IMAGE [MT_0101.jpg](#)

Slide 2: “Discover the Building” (Historical Overview)

Built between 1862 and 1869, Santa Maria Addolorata Cemetery stands on Tal-Ħorr hill, a sacred site with burial traditions stretching back to prehistoric times. Designed by visionary architect Emanuele Luigi Galizia, this neo-Gothic masterpiece cost £33,000 and was inaugurated in 1869. Galizia drew inspiration from cemeteries across Italy, France, and England, creating Malta's largest burial ground. Built entirely of distinctive beige limestone, the cemetery's design reflects mid-Victorian landscaped ideals with terraced mausolea, graded drives, and the iconic Chapel of Our Lady commanding the hilltop, its spire visible for kilometres across the island.

Video link MT_0102: [The Santa Maria Addolorata Cemetery Church Malta MT](#)

Slide 3 “Stories Behind the Walls” (Humanising the Heritage)

The cemetery's first burial tells a poignant story; Anna Magro, a pauper widow from Mosta with no relatives, was laid to rest in common grave number 1 in 1869, technically ineligible, as the cemetery was reserved for Catholics from Valletta, Floriana, and Cottonera. Yet her burial was approved because she had died in Floriana Hospital, a decision that foreshadowed the cemetery's future as a place of inclusivity. There are over 300,000 tombs, from simple headstones to elaborate family chapels belonging to old Maltese families. Many gravestones feature inscriptions in Italian, English, and Maltese, linguistic echoes of Malta's multicultural history.

Image link MT_0103: [MT_0103.jpg](#)

Slide 4 “From Yesterday to Today” (Transformation & Current Use)

For over a century, the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin administered this sacred space until 2011, when responsibility transferred to the Maltese government. The cemetery's role transformed dramatically in 1974 when Malta became a republic; what was once a Catholic-only burial ground opened to people of all faiths and denominations. Today, Addolorata





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reflects Malta's multicultural legacy, hosting graves from various religious communities alongside Commonwealth war memorial sections. The cemetery remains deeply active, with families visiting regularly to tend graves and leave flowers. A major restoration project beginning in 2022 marks the site's first comprehensive renewal in its 150+ year history.

Slide 5 “Why This Building Matters” (Civic Engagement)

The cemetery's full name, Santa Maria Addolorata, refers to Our Lady of Sorrows, reflecting the deep Marian devotion of the Maltese people. The site is rich in religious symbolism, with numerous statues and monuments, many in marble and bronze, depicting angels and other religious figures. These serve as guardians of the departed and reinforce the cemetery's role as a sacred landscape rather than merely a burial ground. Santa Maria Addolorata matters because it is a:

- Architectural Icon: One of the great neo-Gothic cemeteries of the world and a masterwork by Malta's visionary architect
- Cultural Tapestry: A living archive of Maltese identity, faith, and artistic expression through funerary design
- Historical Record: Preserves stories of those who shaped Malta across two centuries
- Memorial Significance: Honours Commonwealth soldiers and marks Malta's role in world history

Slide 6 “Get Involved!” (Youth Participation)

Here's how you can help preserve and celebrate Addolorata's heritage:

- Photograph the chapel, mausolea, and architectural details
- Record oral histories and family burial traditions
- Create digital art inspired by neo-Gothic stonework
- Document inscriptions and family stories
- Support restoration efforts and heritage advocacy

Slide 7 “Explore More” (Open, Evolving Narrative)

📖 What stories remain untold in Addolorata? Research your family's graves or interview relatives about burial traditions.

👉 How does cemetery design reflect society? Compare Addolorata's neo-Gothic style with other Victorian cemeteries.

🌍 Where else did Galizia's vision take shape? Explore other architectural works by Emanuele Luigi Galizia across Malta.

Slide 8 Credits & Sources



R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Text Author: UM

Resources:

- <https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/addolorata-cemetery>
- <https://timesofmalta.com/article/seven-secrets-from-the-addolorata-cemetery.745440>
- <https://timesofmalta.com/article/addolorata-and-our-cultural-heritage.613597>
- <https://jewish-heritage-europe.eu/longer-reads/spotlight/malta-jewish/>
- <https://www.maltatina.com/beautiful-neo-gothic-architecture-at-addolorata-cemetery/>
- <https://mymalta.guide/other-landmarks/addolorata-cemetery/>
- <https://tvmnews.mt/en/news/preserving-heritage-the-five-year-restoration-of-addolorata-cemetery/>
- <https://victorianweb.org/art/architecture/galizia/5.html>
- <https://www.visitmalta.com/de/blog/restored-cemetery-sign-marys-presence/>

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Borg, M. (1998). The Addolorata Cemetery: a study of a select number of funerary chapels of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century (Bachelor's dissertation).

Borg, M. (2001). The artistic relevance of the Santa Maria Addolorata cemetery, Malta 1870-1940 (Master's dissertation).





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Palazzo Ferreria

Slide 1 Title + Hero Image

Elements to include:

- Palazzo Ferreria
- “From foundry to family palace”
- [MT_0201.jpg](#)
- Republic Street, Valletta, Malta

Slide 2: “Discover the Building” (Historical Overview)

Palazzo Ferreria occupies one of the most prominent corners of Valletta, facing the Royal Opera House. Built in the late 19th century on the site of the Knights of St John's former foundry, it takes its name from this earlier industrial function. The palazzo blends Neo-Gothic and eclectic historicist motifs with traditional Maltese timber balconies, sculpted stone details and a richly articulated façade. Originally conceived as a private residence for the wealthy Scicluna family, it quickly became part of Valletta's commercial and civic life, standing as a threshold between the fortified city and the modern capital.

Slide 3 “Stories Behind the Walls” (Humanising the Heritage)

The story of Palazzo Ferreria is closely tied to the Scicluna family, influential Maltese bankers and entrepreneurs. Local anecdotes recall how the family commissioned the grand timber balconies not only as a status symbol but also as a way to watch processions entering Valletta. During the Second World War, the building and the surrounding area suffered bomb damage, yet the façade and much of its sculptural detail survived, becoming a familiar backdrop in wartime photographs. After the war, its ground floor hosted popular shops, tailors and ironmongers, becoming a daily meeting point for Valletta residents. For many Maltese, the palazzo is remembered less as an elite residence and more as the lively commercial heart at the city gate.

Slide 4 “From Yesterday to Today” (Transformation & Current Use)

In the late 20th century, the Maltese government gradually acquired Palazzo Ferreria, recognising its strategic position and architectural value. Its upper floors now host ministerial offices and public administration, while the ground floor continues to house shops and services that open directly onto Republic Street. Recent restoration campaigns have cleaned the limestone façade, repaired sculptural elements and repainted the timber balconies in traditional colours, revealing details that had been darkened by decades of exhaust fumes. Today, the building functions as a hinge between old and new Valletta: a historic palazzo that





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

still adapts to contemporary uses while framing the daily flow of residents, commuters and visitors entering the capital.

Slide 5 “Why This Building Matters” (Civic Engagement)

Palazzo Ferreria matters because:

- Gateway Landmark: Marks the symbolic entrance into Valletta and frames first impressions of the city.
- Layered History: Encapsulates a journey from the Knights' foundry to the bourgeois residence to the public offices.
- Architectural Heritage: Combines stone carving, timber balconies and eclectic styling unique to Maltese streetscapes.
- Everyday Memory: Holds collective memories of shopping, meeting and passing through Valletta's city gate.

Slide 6 “Get Involved!” (Youth Participation)

Young people can help document and reimagine Palazzo Ferreria:

- Take a photo series showing how light, colour, and crowds change the façade across the day.
- Interview shop owners, workers and commuters about their daily relationship with the building.
- Create short TikTok or Instagram videos tracing a journey from the Triton Fountain through the palazzo's arcades.
- Sketch or digitally redraw its balconies and stone details as part of urban sketching walks.
- Map stories and memories linked to the city gate zone on the ArchTech platform.

Slide 7 “Explore More” (Open, Evolving Narrative)

🔧 What stories remain unsolved? Who worked in the original foundry, and how did the site change when it became a palazzo?

🏛️ How does it compare to nearby buildings? Look at City Gate, the Parliament, and the Opera House site to trace changing architectural tastes.

🏠 Where else can you find similar balconies? Hunt for other timber balcony compositions in Valletta and Floriana and photograph your favourites.

Slide 8 Credits & Sources

Text Author: UM

Resources:



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<https://archtech-project.eu/>



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- <https://axhotelsmalta.com/discover-activities-in-malta/history-culture/palazzo-ferreria-restored/>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palazzo_Ferreria
- <https://evendo.com/locations/malta/gzira/attraction/palazzo-ferreria>
- <https://evendo.com/locations/malta/birgu/landmark/palazzo-ferreria>
- <https://tvmnews.mt/en/news/inauguration-of-restoration-project-on-palazzo-ferreria/>
- <https://vassallohistory.wordpress.com/some-houses-in-valletta/>
- <https://www.florianalocalcouncil.com/category/heritage/>
- https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Palazzo_Ferreria

References:

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Robert Samut Hall

Slide 1 Title + Hero Image

Elements to include:

- Robert Samut Hall
- “Methodist worship and everyday congregants”
- [MT_0301.jpg](#)
- Floriana, Malta

Slide 2: “Discover the Building” (Historical Overview)

Completed in 1883, the Robert Samut Hall stands as one of Floriana's finest neo-Gothic treasures. Designed by British architect Thomas Mullet Ellis, this distinctive building originally served as the Floriana Wesleyan Methodist Church, a cornerstone of Malta's Protestant worship community. Its ornate exterior features towering Victorian Gothic towers, lobed pointed arches, English Gothic detailing, and decorative stonework in pale Malta limestone. Most remarkably, when it opened for worship on 18 March 1883, it became the first building in Malta to use electric lighting, a technological marvel that lit the chapel before street lamps illuminated the capital.

Slide 3: “Stories Behind the Walls” (Humanising the Heritage)

For nearly a century, the Methodist Church served as a refuge for diverse congregations. During the Second World War, the chapel opened its doors to British servicemen whose own places of worship had been destroyed in bombing raids, becoming a shelter for multiple denominations seeking spiritual solace in wartime. The building's subterranean hall accommodated worshippers and seekers during Malta's darkest hours. Local oral histories recall generations of families attending services here, finding community and identity in this Gothic sanctuary. After the war, memories of shared survival bound the community even tighter, this chapel represented resilience, faith, and cross-cultural solidarity.

Slide 4 “From Yesterday to Today” (Transformation & Current Use)

In the early 1970s, the Methodist Church was gifted to the Maltese government. On 4 April 1975, the building was inaugurated as a centre for cultural activities and renamed Robert Samut Hall in honour of Malta's national anthem composer. Today, it thrives as a premier venue for classical music, hosting the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra and cultural performances that echo through the Gothic arches where hymns once resonated. The interior retains the modest Methodist aesthetic, simple stained glass, and stately arches, but now reverberates with piano concertos, orchestral works, and choral performances. Two manual



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pneumatic Willis organs add historic richness to the acoustic palette. The transformation from sacred worship to artistic expression represents a seamless evolution of cultural meaning.

Slide 5 “Why This Building Matters” (Civic Engagement)

Robert Samut Hall matters because:


- **Architectural Significance:** A masterwork of Victorian neo-Gothic design and Malta's first building to employ electric lighting technology.
- **Religious Heritage:** Represents Protestant community history and interfaith solidarity, especially during WWII's trials.
- **Cultural Continuity:** Seamlessly transformed from chapel to concert hall, proving adaptive reuse as a sacred practice.
- **Acoustic Excellence:** Provides Malta's premier intimate venue for classical music and orchestral performance.


Slide 6 “Get Involved!” (Youth Participation)


Youth can explore and celebrate Robert Samut Hall's heritage:

- Photograph the Gothic towers, lobed arches, and stonework from multiple angles and lighting conditions.
- Record interviews with elderly Maltese about Methodist church memories and wartime experiences.
- Create social media content on the building's transformation from a chapel to a concert venue.
- Attend performances and document the concert experience through art and writing.
- Research Thomas Mullet Ellis and compare his architectural style across Malta and Britain.

Slide 7 “Explore More” (Open, Evolving Narrative)

 What wartime stories remain undocumented? Interview relatives about how diverse communities sheltered together during WWII bombing.

 How does architecture shape musical experience? Attend concerts and analyse how the Gothic interior affects acoustics and emotional response.

 Where else does Ellis's vision appear? Search for other Thomas Mullet Ellis buildings in Malta, Britain, and colonial territories.

Slide 8 Credits & Sources

Text Author: UM

Resources:





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- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Samut_Hall
- <https://www.visitmalta.com/en/attraction/robert-samut-hall>
- <https://www.florianalocalcouncil.com/2017/04/03/robert-samut-hall/>
- <https://airial.travel/attractions/malta/floriana/floriana-granaries-il-fosos-A2PIWuw6>
- <https://maltaguide.pro/robert-sammut-hall-floriana.html>
- <https://timesofmalta.com/article/neo-gothic-robert-samut-hall-to-be-restored.670729>
- <https://mymalta.guide/buildings/robert-samut-hall/>
- <https://www.florianalocalcouncil.com/category/heritage/buildings/>

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Fawthrop, E.H. (1963). The Floriana story: being an account of Methodism in Malta. Methodist Church: Malta





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Victoria Lines

Slide 1 Title + Hero Image

Elements to include:

- Victoria Lines
- Malta's 12km Defence Legacy
- [MT_0401.jpg](#)
- Malta

Slide 2: “Discover the Building” (Historical Overview)

The Victoria Lines are a 12-kilometre network of military fortifications built by the British Armed Forces between 1870 and 1899, spanning the entire width of Malta from Fomm ir-Riġ in the west to Madliena in the east. Strategically positioned along the Great Fault, a natural geological escarpment that divides northern from southern Malta, these fortifications combine multiple defensive elements: three polygonal forts (Mosta, Bingemma, Madliena), batteries, infantry parapets, searchlight emplacements, and interconnecting stop-walls. Named to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897, the Lines represent a sophisticated Victorian military engineering solution that exploited natural geography and emerging technology to defend Malta's Grand Harbour from invasion.

Slide 3 “Stories Behind the Walls” (Humanising the Heritage)

Though never tested in combat, the Victoria Lines embody the anxieties and ambitions of Victorian imperial defence. Local communities watched the fortifications rise, understanding them as both protection and a symbol of British military power. During the Second World War, while Malta endured bombardment, the Victoria Lines stood as a backdrop to island life, soldiers patrolled them, civilians sheltered in nearby areas, and the masonry walls weathered direct hits. Oral histories preserve memories of children playing among the stone parapets, of soldiers marching the ridge line during alert phases, of the fortress landscape as intimate geography rather than distant strategy.

Slide 4 “From Yesterday to Today” (Transformation & Current Use)

After independence, the Victoria Lines transitioned from active military defence to a heritage landmark. For decades, they fell into disrepair, accumulating vegetation and debris, vulnerable to vandalism and environmental weathering. Beginning in the 1990s, conservation efforts gradually began reclaiming the Lines, clearing vegetation and stabilising stonework. Today, an ongoing restoration programme, managed by the Restoration Directorate using traditional stone techniques, systematically repairs sections across the island, recovering original construction methods and materials. The Victoria Lines are being reimaged as a



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continuous accessible walking trail linking Fomm ir-Riħ to Pembroke, transforming a Victorian military barrier into a living landscape of heritage tourism, environmental education, and community engagement.

Slide 5 “Why This Building Matters” (Civic Engagement)

Heritage enthusiasts, NGOs, and some local councils now champion the Victoria Lines as a candidate World Heritage landscape, organising clean-ups, guided walks, and research projects that combine archival work with field exploration. Volunteers gather to clear rubbish from trenches, cut back invasive growth around forts, and mark safer paths along exposed sections, small acts of care that reassert the line’s value in the present rather than only as a relic.

- Engineering Masterwork: A singular solution combining geography, technology, and strategy into an unprecedented 12km defensive system.
- Geological Significance: Traces the Great Fault, revealing Malta's natural history and strategic landscape as lived heritage.
- Military Heritage: Embodies Victorian imperial defence strategies and Britain's Mediterranean military dominance.
- Living Landscape: Transforming from military barrier to accessible trail fostering community connection, environmental awareness, and national identity.

Slide 6 “Get Involved!” (Youth Participation)

Youth can explore and celebrate the Victoria Lines heritage:

- Hike sections of the Lines and document landscape changes, geology, and restoration work through photography.
- Interview elders about wartime memories, childhood adventures, and community experiences on the Lines.
- Create social media content celebrating the restored trail and Victorian engineering innovation.
- Map oral histories and personal stories onto the ArchTech platform linked to specific fortification sites.
- Sketch architectural details of forts, parapets, and stop-walls to preserve design knowledge.

Slide 7 “Explore More” (Open, Evolving Narrative)

👉 What wartime experiences remain undocumented? Record family stories from relatives who lived and played along the Lines during WWII bombing.





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🌿 How does geology shape military strategy? Study the Great Fault and compare British fortification choices with earlier Knights' defensive lines.

🛠️ What preservation challenges remain? Research current restoration efforts and contribute your skills to documenting the project.

Slide 8 Credits & Sources

Text Author: UM

Resources:

- <https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/victoria-lines>
- <https://beseeingyou.world/maltas-defencive-structures-tell-history/>
- <https://culture-malta.org/the-victoria-lines-2/>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victoria_Lines
- <https://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/1114/>
- <https://tvmnews.mt/en/news/restoration-of-victoria-lines-in-gharghur-will-be-completed-next-year/>
- <https://timesofmalta.com/article/the-victoria-lines-trail.708484>
- <https://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2023-02-13/local-news/80-000-spent-on-ongoing-Victoria-Lines-restoration-works-in-Gharghur-6736249651>
- <https://timesofmalta.com/article/The-Victoria-Lines-revisited.662884>

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Culture Malta (2025). *The Victoria Lines*. [online] Culture-malta.org. Available at: <https://culture-malta.org/the-victoria-lines-2/> [Accessed 9 Dec. 2025].

Murdock, R. (2015). *Exploring Malta's Victoria Lines | Ryan Murdock*. [online] Ryan Murdock - Writer, Traveller, Reader of Books. Available at: <https://ryanmurdock.com/2015/04/malta-victoria-lines/> [Accessed 9 Dec. 2025].

Soler, A. (1988). *The Victoria Lines and its fortifications* (Bachelor's dissertation).





Palazzo Parisio

Slide 1 Title + Hero Image

Elements to include:

- Palazzo Parisio
- From Knight's Lodge to Baroque Treasure
- [MT_0501.jpg](#)
- Naxxar, Malta

Slide 2: "Discover the Building" (Historical Overview)

Palazzo Parisio began as a hunting lodge built in 1733 by Grand Master António Manoel de Vilhena, a visionary leader responsible for many of Malta's finest buildings. Set on the outskirts of Naxxar as an escape from Valletta's formality, the original lodge embodied the leisure aspirations of the Knights of St. John. In 1898, the Marquis Scicluna acquired the property and transformed it between 1900 and 1907 through ambitious renovations designed by architect Carlo Sada. The result seamlessly blended Art Nouveau façades with a richly ornamented Sicilian Baroque interior. Today, the palazzo stands as a Grade 1 scheduled monument, described as "a miniature Versailles" for its gilded ballroom and ornate decoration rivalling European grand palaces.

Slide 3 "Stories Behind the Walls" (Humanising the Heritage)

Grand Master de Vilhena's hunting lodge whispers tales of aristocratic retreat and leisure in an island under monastic rule. After the French occupation in 1798, the building briefly served as military barracks before returning to residential use. The Parisio family, its original namesakes, used the lodge as a summer retreat, while the Scicluna family's 1898 acquisition marked the beginning of its transformation into an ostentatious statement of wealth and refined taste. Generations of Maltese families recall visiting the palazzo for celebrations and formal events, observing its glittering chandeliers and frescoed ceilings. The gilded ballroom, with its unique design, one of only two such examples in Malta, became the setting for countless memories, from weddings to grand dinners. Local oral histories preserve recollections of servants, gardeners, and celebration participants who shaped the palazzo's lived experience.

Slide 4 "From Yesterday to Today" (Transformation & Current Use)

In recent decades, Palazzo Parisio transitioned from an exclusive private residence to a dynamic public venue. Baroness Christiane Ramsay Scicluna and her descendants took the initiative to open the gardens and palazzo to the public, transforming a closed aristocratic space into accessible cultural heritage. Today, the palazzo and its 60+ species botanical





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gardens operate as a museum, wedding venue, and cultural gathering space. The 18th-century orangery and stone grotto, originally designed to cultivate citrus for the household, have been preserved as period testimonies to the Knights-era horticultural practice. The palazzo now thrives as a venue for heritage, gardening, culinary arts, and celebration.

Slide 5 “Why This Building Matters” (Civic Engagement)

Palazzo Parisio matters because:

- Architectural Synthesis: Blends Knights-era simplicity with 19th-century Sicilian Baroque and Art Nouveau modernism.
- Artistic Heritage: Contains one of only two gilded ballrooms in Malta and frescoes, sculptures, and chandeliers rivalling European palatial interiors.
- Garden Legacy: Italianate gardens preserve century-old horticultural practices and botanical diversity, recognised by Grandi Giardini Italiani.
- Democratic Space: Transformed from an exclusive aristocratic retreat to a publicly accessible venue fostering community celebration and cultural engagement.

Slide 6 “Get Involved!” (Youth Participation)

Young people can celebrate and preserve Palazzo Parisio's heritage:

- Photograph the Art Nouveau façade, gilded ballroom details, and garden ornaments across seasons and light conditions.
- Interview family members or gardeners about memories of celebrations, visits, or work experiences at the palazzo.
- Create social media content celebrating the gardens, botanical diversity, and architectural opulence.
- Document plant species, garden design, and heritage conservation techniques through drawing or digital art.
- Research the Scicluna and Parisio families and their role in Maltese cultural patronage.

Slide 7 “Explore More” (Open, Evolving Narrative)

📖 What family stories linger in this palazzo? Research aristocratic families and the private lives hidden behind ornate façades.

🏰 How did the Knights' leisure spaces evolve? Compare this hunting lodge to other Grand Master residences and retreats across Malta.

🏛️ What makes a gilded ballroom unique? Explore the two examples in Malta and analyse their architectural significance.

Slide 8 Credits & Sources





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Text Author: UM

Resources:

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Royal Ex-Naval Hospital Bighi

Slide 1 Title + Hero Image

Elements to include:

- Royal Ex-Naval Hospital Bighi
- Malta, the Nurse of the Mediterranean
- [MT_0601.jpg](#)
- Kalkara, Malta

Slide 2: “Discover the Building” (Historical Overview)

The Royal Naval Hospital Bighi stands as one of Malta's most significant Victorian medical complexes, built between 1830 and 1832 on the site of former palazzo gardens overlooking the Grand Harbour. Designed by Colonel Sir George Whitmore of the Royal Engineers and built by Maltese architects Salvatore and Gaetano Xerri, the hospital cost £20,000, an enormous sum that reflected its strategic importance to British imperial defence. The three-building complex features austere Doric columns, high-ceilinged wards for improved ventilation, and innovative infrastructure designed for naval casualties. The central building, bearing the inscription of George IV, commanded panoramic views of the harbour and Mediterranean approaches. The hospital's founding purpose was explicit: to serve as "an Hospital for the sick and wounded Mariners in the service of the King."

Slide 3 “Stories Behind the Walls” (Humanising the Heritage)

From its opening in 1832, Bighi Hospital became a sanctuary for maritime wounded during Mediterranean conflicts. During the Crimean War (1854–1856), the hospital transformed into an advanced medical station treating casualties from the battlefield, establishing Malta as the "Nurse of the Mediterranean." During World War I, the hospital released 200 beds to accommodate thousands of Allied soldiers from the catastrophic Dardanelles campaign (1915–1916), where nurse Florence Nightingale's legacy lived through Scottish sisters tending the dying. Local memories preserve stories of soldiers marching along corridors, doctors performing surgical innovations, and families waiting anxiously for news of wounded loved ones. The hospital's first director, John Liddell (1827–1844), pioneered medical protocols that influenced naval medicine across the Empire. Generations of Maltese medical staff, orderlies, and support workers shaped this institution into a beacon of care during humanity's darkest hours.

Slide 4 “From Yesterday to Today” (Transformation & Current Use)

The Royal Naval Hospital Bighi closed in 1970 following British military withdrawal from Malta, marking the end of its 138-year operational history. In 2010, the complex was transformed





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into the headquarters of Heritage Malta, the national agency for cultural preservation, conservation science, and museum operations. The Bighi Cot Lift, a Victorian-era electric elevator constructed in 1903 to transport wounded soldiers 25 metres from sea-level docks to hospital wards, now stands as an engineering monument to industrial innovation. Contemporary transformation includes the Esplora Interactive Science Centre, which blends heritage interpretation with modern educational engagement. Conservation laboratories within Bighi conduct restoration work on Malta's archaeological treasures and national patrimony. A permanent exhibition commemorates the hospital's wartime service through medical artefacts, nursing uniforms, and wartime photographs. Today, Bighi embodies adaptive reuse: a colonial military facility transformed into a democratic space for scientific learning, cultural conservation, and community engagement.

Slide 5 “Why This Building Matters” (Civic Engagement)

Royal Ex-Naval Hospital Bighi matters because:

- **Medical Innovation:** Pioneer of Victorian naval medicine and humanitarian care, influencing protocols that shaped imperial medical practice.
- **Engineering Marvel:** The Bighi Cot Lift represents 19th-century technological achievement and remains one of Malta's earliest electric installations.
- **Wartime Heritage:** Witnessed catastrophic conflicts from Crimea to World Wars, embodying Malta's role as a Mediterranean medical hub.
- **Contemporary Purpose:** Transformed from a military institution to democratic spaces for heritage conservation, scientific education, and national identity.

Slide 6 “Get Involved!” (Youth Participation)

Youth can explore and celebrate Bighi Hospital's heritage:


- Document the Doric architecture, the Bighi Cot Lift, and harbour vistas through photography across seasons and times of day.
- Interview family members about wartime hospital experiences, medical careers, or restoration work at Bighi.
- Create social media content on medical innovation, restoration science, and the building's transformation.
- Visit Esplora's medical history exhibition and document artefacts, uniforms, and wartime stories through sketching or writing.
- Research naval medicine during the Crimean War and World Wars, connecting global history to local heritage.


Slide 7 “Explore More” (Open, Evolving Narrative)






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 What wartime medical stories remain untold? Interview elders about family members treated at Bighi, surgeries witnessed, or nurses encountered.

 How did the Bighi Cot Lift work? Research Victorian engineering, electricity, and hydraulics, tracing technological innovation in colonial infrastructure.

 What restoration work is underway today? Visit Heritage Malta's conservation labs and document how restoration preserves national patrimony.

Slide 8 Credits & Sources

Text Author: UM

Resources:

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R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Villa Roseville

Slide 1 Title + Hero Image

Elements to include:

- Villa Roseville
- An Artistic Gem of the Early 20th Century
- [MT_0701.jpg](#)
- Attard, Malta

Slide 2: “Discover the Building” (Historical Overview)

Built in two phases, the ground floor in 1912 and the first floor in 1921, Villa Roseville was designed as a summer residence for Dr W. Briffa. This rare Art Nouveau masterpiece showcases North Italian and French influences, featuring distinctive floral-sculpted window surrounds, delicate painted motifs, and Egyptian-inspired interior patterns. Designed by architect Alessandro Manara, it stands as one of Malta's finest examples of early 20th-century architectural style, combining European artistic movements with local vernacular traditions. Its decorative elements and authentic preservation make it historically invaluable to Malta's cultural heritage.

Slide 3 “Stories Behind the Walls” (Humanising the Heritage)

Villa Roseville holds fascinating and mysterious stories within its walls. Built for Dr Briffa's family, the villa witnessed the passage of numerous residents who cherished it as a sanctuary and gathering place. Local legend speaks of the family's tragic losses in the 1930s and beyond, events that became woven into Attard's folklore. Despite these tales, the villa endured, standing as a steadfast reminder of early 20th-century elegance. Today, current residents and staff at the nursing home create new narratives, transforming the historic villa into a space of care, warmth, and community, where the building's storied past continues to embrace those seeking comfort and dignity in their later years.

Slide 4 “From Yesterday to Today” (Transformation & Current Use)

After decades of abandonment and neglect, Villa Roseville underwent comprehensive restoration beginning in 2008. The meticulous restoration work, approved by cultural authorities and completed in 2010, preserved its architectural authenticity while adapting it for contemporary use. Today, the villa operates as CareMalta's Roseville retirement home, providing air-conditioned rooms and 24-hour nursing care for elderly residents. This adaptive reuse is a triumph of heritage conservation, allowing the building to serve the community while maintaining its structural and artistic integrity. Situated adjacent to the beautiful San



R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Anton Gardens and Palace, the villa continues to grace Attard's urban landscape as a living monument to both past grandeur and present compassion.

Slide 5 “Why This Building Matters” (Civic Engagement)

Villa Roseville is irreplaceable. As one of Malta's few authentic Art Nouveau villas, it represents a unique moment when European artistic movements influenced Maltese architecture. Its preservation protects our collective memory, celebrating the refined aesthetic tastes of early 20th-century society. The building enriches Attard's identity, contributing to its historic character and cultural significance. Without careful stewardship, such gems risk deterioration or demolition. Protecting Roseville means preserving not just a building, but a portal to our past, reminding us of craftsmanship, beauty, and the stories of those who lived and worked within its walls.




Slide 6 “Get Involved!” (Youth Participation)

Help preserve and share Villa Roseville's story:

- Visit the villa and photograph its architectural details
- Record interviews with residents about their memories and experiences
- Create social media content showcasing the building's beauty
- Sketch or illustrate the distinctive Art Nouveau features
- Support local heritage conservation initiatives

Slide 7 “Explore More” (Open, Evolving Narrative)

Discover deeper connections to Villa Roseville:

-  What other Art Nouveau buildings exist in your local area?
-  Can you find historical photographs of Villa Roseville from the 1920s?
-  How has the building's artistic style influenced modern Maltese architecture?

Slide 8 Credits & Sources

Text Author: UM

Resources:

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R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Balluta Buildings

Slide 1 Title + Hero Image

Elements to include:

- Balluta Buildings
- Limestone Beauty: Art Nouveau's Masterpiece
- [MT_0801.jpg](#)
- St Julian's, Malta

Slide 2: “Discover the Building” (Historical Overview)

Built in 1928 for Marquis John Scicluna, Balluta Buildings represent the pinnacle of Art Nouveau architecture in Malta. Designed by visionary architect Giuseppe Psaila, this luxurious apartment block overlooks the picturesque Balluta Bay. Constructed from local limestone, the building showcases three connected blocks connected by elegant verandas, featuring distinctive vertical arched openings. With 20 spacious apartments boasting high ceilings, columns, and traditional Maltese tiles, it was among Europe's most beautiful residential buildings. Now a Grade 1 monument, Balluta Buildings stands as a testament to Malta's architectural heritage and remains an icon of early 20th-century elegance.

Slide 3 “Stories Behind the Walls” (Humanising the Heritage)

When Balluta Buildings opened its doors, it welcomed Malta's elite and European aristocracy. The apartments were designed for those who appreciated refined living, with sweeping sea views across Balluta Bay, intricate ironwork of uncertain attribution (possibly by Psaila himself), and lavish interior décor. For decades, these homes represented aspiration and cultural prestige. The building transformed the lives of those who lived and worked within its limestone walls, residents enjoyed stunning vistas, while shopkeepers at street level served the local community, creating a vibrant social fabric that endured through generations.

Slide 4 “From Yesterday to Today” (Transformation & Current Use)

Over nearly a century, Balluta Buildings evolved from exclusive luxury apartments to treasured family homes. Rent control protected residents, ensuring continuity within the community. However, this stability came at a cost, the building suffered gradual deterioration, with dark crusts accumulating beneath cornices and decorative elements. From 2025 onwards, sensitive restoration work has begun, respecting the building's natural aging while removing damaging deposits. Today, Balluta Buildings continue to serve as residential and retail space, connecting past and present. Its story exemplifies adaptive reuse, a heritage building remaining alive, inhabited, and integral to St Julian's vibrant streetscape.

Slide 5 “Why This Building Matters” (Civic Engagement)





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As one of the finest surviving Art Nouveau examples in the Mediterranean, losing it would erase a distinctive voice from our urban landscape.

- Architectural Heritage: Psaila's masterpiece deserves protection
- Community Memory: Generations of stories within these walls
- Identity: A symbol of Maltese craftsmanship and elegance


Slide 6 “Get Involved!” (Youth Participation)


Be part of preserving Malta's architectural heritage:


- Photograph the building's details and share on social media
- Create short TikTok or Instagram videos showcasing its beauty
- Sketch or draw the building's architectural elements
- Record stories from residents and community members
- Map it: Contribute to cultural heritage databases

Slide 7 “Explore More” (Open, Evolving Narrative)

Continue your discovery of Balluta Buildings and Malta's architectural landscape:

 What untold stories remain hidden within these apartments? Who were the residents, and what memories do they hold?

 Can you find other Art Nouveau buildings designed by Giuseppe Psaila across Malta?

 How has restoration changed the building's presence in St Julian's? What do community members notice?

Slide 8 Credits & Sources

Text Author: UM

Resources:

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- <https://timesofmalta.com/article/restore-historic-villa-value.1032977>





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- <https://evendo.com/locations/malta/harbour-area/landmark/balluta-buildings>





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Lascaris War Rooms

Slide 1 Title + Hero Image

Elements to include:

- Lascaris War Rooms
- Malta's Hidden Command Centre
- [MT_0901.jpg](#)
- Valletta, Malta

Slide 2: “Discover the Building” (Historical Overview)

Located 150 feet beneath the Upper Barracca Gardens in Valletta, the Lascaris War Rooms represent a masterpiece of military engineering. Constructed between 1940 and 1943 during the Siege of Malta, this underground complex was built by expanding historic tunnels originally used as slave quarters during the Knights Hospitaller period. The facility housed Britain's combined war headquarters, featuring mechanically ventilated chambers and sophisticated communication systems. Its strategic importance lay in coordinating the defence of Malta against Axis aggression and directing all offensive Mediterranean operations, making it one of World War II's most crucial command centres outside Britain.

Slide 3 “Stories Behind the Walls” (Humanising the Heritage)

Within these underground chambers worked approximately 1,000 service personnel, from officers commanding operations to radio operators and code-breakers. These dedicated professionals endured dim lighting, mechanical ventilation, and the weight of knowing their decisions determined the fate of Malta and the Mediterranean theatre. Personnel operated the world's first wide-area ground-controlled interception system, the Dowding System, tracking aircraft and coordinating fighter defence. The rooms witnessed pivotal moments: Operation Husky's planning in 1943 with General Eisenhower present, the Suez Crisis alert of 1956, and the tension of the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962. Stories of courage, innovation, and sacrifice echo through these tunnels, told by veterans and preserved through meticulous restoration efforts.

Slide 4 “From Yesterday to Today” (Transformation & Current Use)

After World War II, the War Rooms served as headquarters for the Royal Navy's Mediterranean Fleet and later as NATO's strategic communication centre for intercepting Soviet submarine movements (1967–1977). The facility closed in 1977, remaining hidden from public view for decades. In 2009, Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna (Malta Heritage Trust) acquired the complex and began comprehensive restoration work. Today, over €2 million invested in restoration has returned the War Rooms to their authentic WWII state. The underground





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complex now operates as a museum, featuring detailed reconstructions of the RAF Fighter Operations Room, Artillery Operations Room, and Cypher Rooms, complete with period equipment and waxwork figures. This adaptive transformation preserves critical military heritage while welcoming thousands of annual visitors to witness history beneath the streets of Valletta.

Slide 5 “Why This Building Matters” (Civic Engagement)

The Lascaris War Rooms are irreplaceable testimony to Malta's pivotal role in World War II and the Cold War. This complex demonstrates technological ingenuity, strategic brilliance, and human resilience during humanity's darkest hour. Without preservation, we risk losing tangible connections to the sacrifices made by countless service members. The War Rooms embody Malta's identity as a Mediterranean crossroads where global conflicts intersected. They teach us about leadership, communication systems, and the price of freedom. Protecting this site ensures future generations understand the island's strategic importance, appreciate the Dowding System's revolutionary innovations, and honour the memory of those who served. This living museum transforms abstract history into a powerful, immersive experience.

Slide 6 “Get Involved!” (Youth Participation)

Bring Malta's military heritage to life:

- Visit the War Rooms and document underground architecture through photography
- Record oral histories from WWII veterans or their families
- Create digital content exploring the Dowding System and radar innovations
- Sketch or illustrate the operations rooms and historical equipment
- Volunteer with Malta Heritage Trust's restoration and visitor programmes

Slide 7 “Explore More” (Open, Evolving Narrative)

Deepen your understanding of wartime Malta:

- ✂ What strategic role did Malta play in the Mediterranean theatre beyond defence?
- 📡 How did the Dowding System revolutionise air defence technology?
- 🌐 Which other WWII command centres still exist, and how do they compare?

Slide 8 Credits & Sources

Text Author: UM

Resources:

- <https://www.lascariswarrooms.com/history-and-stories>
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Cisk Brewery

Slide 1 Title + Hero Image

Elements to include:

- Cisk Brewery
- From Industrial Heritage to Creative Landmark
- [MT_1001.jpg](#)
- Mrieħel, Malta

Slide 2: “Discover the Building” (Historical Overview)

The Cisk Brewery's story begins in 1929 when the Scicluna family, inspired by the casual nickname "Cisk" (derived from cheques introduced by Marquis Giuseppe Scicluna in the 1840s), began manufacturing Pilsner and Bavarian-style lager beers. In 1948, the Malta Export Brewery merged with Simonds Farsons Limited to form Simonds Farsons Cisk Limited. The iconic brewery building in Mrieħel, constructed in 1950 and designed by Lewis V. Farrugia (himself an architect), stands as one of Malta's finest Art Deco industrial structures. Built with reinforced concrete, it pioneered modern manufacturing techniques while embodying architectural elegance. For decades, it remained the heart of Malta's beer production, symbolising industrial progress and entrepreneurial vision during the island's post-war development.

Slide 3 “Stories Behind the Walls” (Humanising the Heritage)

Within the Cisk Brewery worked generations of skilled workers and visionary leaders who transformed a small island's industrial landscape. Engineers, brewmasters, and production staff perfected their craft, creating a product that became synonymous with Maltese identity. The brewery witnessed Malta's industrialisation, the introduction of soft drinks like Kinnie in 1952, and the launch of automated bottling lines in 1974. Former employees recall the pride of working in this modernist building, the camaraderie on the production floors, and the craftsmanship embedded in every bottle. The brewery also became a cultural landmark during national celebrations and a source of community employment. Today, retired workers return to The Brewhouse to share memories and celebrate their contributions to this iconic institution, keeping the human stories alive alongside the industrial machinery.

Slide 4 “From Yesterday to Today” (Transformation & Current Use)

Recognising the building's heritage value and potential for contemporary use, Simonds Farsons Cisk embarked on a transformative €12+ million regeneration project beginning in 2013. Led by internationally renowned architect Ian Ritchie and local firm TBA Architects, the project respectfully adapted the Grade 2 listed building for modern purposes. Today, The



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Brewhouse functions as a vibrant creative workplace, cultural venue, and visitor attraction. Historic brewing equipment has been preserved and repurposed, fermentation chambers transformed into event spaces, and the original 1950s brewhouse reimagined as a microbrewery and heritage museum. The Farsons Brewery Experience showcases the complete production journey, while the Cisk Tap rooftop bar offers sweeping views. This adaptive reuse represents Malta's largest private-sector industrial regeneration project, winning multiple international awards for rehabilitation and conservation.

Slide 5 “Why This Building Matters” (Civic Engagement)

The Cisk Brewery is an irreplaceable testimony to Malta's industrial heritage and entrepreneurial spirit. As a pioneering Art Deco structure and symbol of post-war modernisation, it embodies national identity and pride. The building represents technological innovation (automated production systems), architectural excellence (reinforced concrete design), and family entrepreneurship across four generations. Without preservation, we risk losing tangible connections to Malta's journey toward industrialisation and economic independence. The brewery teaches us about craftsmanship, business vision, and the power of brands to unite communities. Protecting this site ensures future generations understand how industrial heritage can be reimagined for contemporary purposes, inspiring similar projects across the Mediterranean. The Brewhouse demonstrates that heritage conservation and modern innovation are not contradictory, they are complementary.




Slide 6 “Get Involved!” (Youth Participation)

Help preserve and celebrate Cisk Brewery's legacy:

- Visit The Brewhouse and photograph its Art Deco architecture and industrial design
- Record oral histories from retired Farsons employees and their families
- Create social media content exploring the brewery's role in Maltese culture
- Sketch or illustrate the original brewing equipment and machinery
- Support cultural events and initiatives hosted at The Brewhouse venue

Slide 7 “Explore More” (Open, Evolving Narrative)

Discover deeper connections to Malta's industrial past:

-  What other post-war industrial buildings shaped Malta's economic development?
-  How did Cisk become synonymous with Maltese national identity?
-  How does The Brewhouse exemplify sustainable adaptive reuse in heritage conservation?

Slide 8 Credits & Sources

Text Author: UM



R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Resources:

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- <https://www.farsons.com/en/group-heritage>
- <https://www.guidememalta.com/en/the-story-behind-cisk-the-iconic-maltese-beer>
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- <https://www.maspawards.com/portfolio/rehabilitation-and-conservation-award-winner-2023/>

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Farrugia, M. (n.d.). The Farsons Experience. [online] Available at: <https://www.um.edu.mt/library/oar/bitstream/123456789/16510/1/The%20Farsons%20Experience.pdf> [Accessed 10 Dec. 2025].





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Basilica of Christ the King

Slide 1 Title + Hero Image

Elements to include:

- Basilica of Christ the King - Bażilika Kristu Re
- A Monument of Faith and Community Spirit
- [MT_1101.jpg](#)
- Paola, Malta

Slide 2: “Discover the Building” (Historical Overview)

The Basilica of Christ the King in Paola represents one of Malta's most ambitious ecclesiastical projects. Construction commenced on 24 February 1924, following the 1923 designation of land in the town centre, and was completed in 1959, a 36-year labour of faith. The church was dedicated to Christ the King following Pope Pius XI's proclamation of the Universal Feast in 1925. Designed by renowned Maltese architect Ġużè Damato and executed by architect Filippo Tortell, the basilica showcases a magnificent blend of Baroque and Neoclassical architecture. Its Latin cross configuration extends 83 metres in depth and spans 26–42 metres in width, dominated by an iconic dome rising 60 metres, visible from across the island. The edifice features 18 columns of 9.7 metres height and 24 columns within the dome, symbolising architectural ambition during Malta's post-war period.

Slide 3 “Stories Behind the Walls” (Humanising the Heritage)

Within the basilica's walls are woven stories of community dedication and spiritual devotion. Maltese craftsmen, stonemasons like Vincenzo Costa and the Cassar brothers, labourers from the dry docks, and artisans invested decades in this monumental undertaking. The first Mass was celebrated on 15 July 1928, celebrated within a partially completed structure open to the sky, yet already profound in its spiritual presence. Parishioners witnessed the church's gradual transformation during Malta's formative post-war years, gathering for celebrations, sacraments, and moments of collective prayer. The basilica became a beacon of faith and continuity through economic change and social transformation. Residents recall the pride of their parish, the remarkable sound of the newly inaugurated organ, Malta's largest, and the memory of generations baptised, married, and laid to rest within its sacred spaces. Every stone reflects the community's unwavering commitment to building something eternal.

Slide 4 “From Yesterday to Today” (Transformation & Current Use)

The basilica was officially consecrated by Archbishop Michael Gonzi on 3 June 1967, eight years after construction completion, marking recognition of its spiritual and architectural significance. On Palm Sunday, 5 April 2020, Pope Francis elevated the parish church to Minor



R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Basilica status, honouring its heritage and importance. Today, continuous restoration efforts ensure the basilica's preservation for future generations. Recent investments include a €400,000 government-funded restoration project targeting the bell tower and portico, addressing weathering damage and structural vulnerabilities. The basilica now houses Malta's largest organ, installed in recognition of its musical and liturgical importance. Contemporary use balances heritage conservation with vibrant parish life, hosting regular worship, special liturgical celebrations, and cultural events. The establishment of Fondazzjoni Bażilika Kristu Re in 2025 demonstrates a continued commitment to maintaining this monument while engaging the community in its stewardship and interpretation.

Slide 5 “Why This Building Matters” (Civic Engagement)

The Basilica of Christ the King is an irreplaceable testimony to Malta's faith, architectural aspiration, and community solidarity. As one of the Mediterranean's monumental churches, it represents the post-war period's optimism and spiritual renewal. The building's iconic dome, visible from across Malta, symbolises the island's religious identity and cultural continuity. Without preservation, we risk losing not just a structure but a sacred space connecting generations to their shared heritage. The basilica teaches us about collective effort, artistic achievement, and the enduring power of faith to unite communities. It demonstrates that monumental architecture born from grassroots commitment endures longer than that built by edict alone. Protecting this basilica ensures future generations experience the spiritual transcendence, architectural splendour, and community pride embedded within its walls. This living monument continues to inspire reverence, contemplation, and pride in Maltese identity.

Slide 6 “Get Involved!” (Youth Participation)

Help preserve and celebrate the Basilica's sacred heritage:

- Photograph the basilica's distinctive dome, portico, and architectural details
- Record oral histories from parishioners and community members
- Create digital content exploring the basilica's spiritual and cultural significance
- Sketch or illustrate the church's architectural elements and sacred spaces
- Volunteer with Fondazzjoni Bażilika Kristu Re for restoration and visitor programmes

Slide 7 “Explore More” (Open, Evolving Narrative)

Discover deeper connections to Malta's religious heritage:




What architectural influences shaped this basilica's distinctive design?



How did local craftspeople contribute their skills and dedication to this project?



R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

 What other monumental churches in the Mediterranean share similar construction timelines?

Slide 8 Credits & Sources

Text Author: UM

Resources:

- <https://churchtrailsmalta.com/church/parish-church-of-christ-the-king/>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basilica_of_Christ_the_King,_Paola
- <https://www.visitmalta.com/en/attraction/christ-the-king-church>
- <https://christthekingbasilica.com/about/>
- <https://www.virtualmalta.com/christthekingbasilicapaola>
- <https://church.mt/restorationpaolaparish/>
- <https://mapy.com/en/?id=148508841>
- <https://lovinmalta.com/news/government-to-fund-restoration-of-paola-parish-bell-towers-and-basilica/>
- <https://tvmnews.mt/en/news/largest-organ-in-the-country-inaugurated-at-the-basilica-of-christ-the-king-in-paola/>
- <https://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2025-09-15/newspaper-lifestyleculture/Fondazzjoni-Bazilika-Kristu-Re-Malta-launched-6736273118>

References:

Bonett, M. (2025). The life and works of Guzè Damato: case study of Christ the King church, Paola and Saint John the Baptist Church, Xewkija. *Um.edu.mt*. [online] doi:<https://www.um.edu.mt/library/oar//handle/123456789/7095>.





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Qala Primary School

Slide 1 Title + Hero Image

Elements to include:

- Qala Primary School
- A Modernist Masterpiece of Mediterranean Education
- [MT_1201.jpg](#)
- Qala, Gozo

Slide 2 “Discover the Building” (Historical Overview)

The Qala Primary School, designed by internationally acclaimed architect Joseph G. Huntingford and inaugurated by Prince Philip on 27 April 1960, stands as a groundbreaking example of International Style modernism in Malta. Huntingford, assigned to Gozo between 1951 and 1961, created multiple educational buildings that embodied contemporary architectural principles. The Qala school represents his masterpiece, a progressive response to the 1946 Education Act that mandated new, purpose-built primary schools across Malta. Constructed in the early 1960s, the building exemplifies cutting-edge pedagogical design with open-plan teaching spaces, innovative classroom arrangements, and integration with the surrounding landscape. Architects have consistently described it as one of the few Maltese buildings perfectly aligned with international architectural movements of its era. The school represents post-independence Malta's optimistic investment in education and modernity.

Slide 3 “Stories Behind the Walls” (Humanising the Heritage)

For generations, Qala Primary School has been the educational centre of the village. Children climbed its modernist stairs, played in its courtyards, and discovered knowledge within its spatially innovative classrooms. Teachers pioneered educational methods in an environment designed to inspire curiosity and collaboration. The school community, students, educators, parents, and villagers, created memories within a building that embodied the island's post-war aspirations. Notable alumni recall formative years spent here, connections forged during playtime, and teachers whose influence shaped their futures. The school became part of Qala's identity, a symbol of educational access and social progress. In 2011, refurbishment works modernised facilities, including artificial turf sports areas, upgraded technology, and resource libraries refurbished by community volunteers. Despite architectural controversies surrounding partial modifications in 2006, the building endured as a cherished educational landmark maintained through dedicated stewardship and continuing investment.



R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Slide 4 “From Yesterday to Today” (Transformation & Current Use)

The school's journey reflects Malta's educational evolution. Originally among the first purposely-built primary schools in small villages, replacing accommodation within large townhouses, Qala Primary has continuously adapted while retaining its core architectural identity. The 2006 partial restructuring, though controversial and prompting strong objections from the Chamber of Architects, preserved significant portions of the original building. Contemporary restoration efforts (2010s onward) have focused on sustainable modernisation: interactive whiteboards for technology integration, enhanced sports facilities, upgraded clinic services, and community-led resource library improvements. Today, Qala Primary School continues functioning as a vibrant educational institution serving the village community. Its dual role, as both active school and architectural heritage asset, demonstrates adaptive reuse in practice.

Slide 5 “Why This Building Matters” (Civic Engagement)

Qala Primary School is an irreplaceable testimony to mid-20th-century architectural innovation and educational idealism. As one of Malta's rare International Style buildings aligned with contemporary European and international design movements, it represents architectural ambition during a transformative period. The school demonstrates how modernist principles can serve humanistic purposes, creating inspired learning environments for children. Without preservation, we risk erasing evidence of this era's progressive thinking and design excellence. The building teaches us about pedagogical innovation, the power of quality architecture to enhance education, and post-independence Malta's cultural confidence. Its architectural merits, recognised internationally but contested locally, illuminate ongoing tensions between heritage protection and practical contemporary needs. Protecting Qala Primary ensures future generations appreciate modernist architecture, understand educational history, and recognise that heritage encompasses diverse periods and styles. This school represents a different but equally significant facet of Mediterranean architectural heritage.

Slide 6 “Get Involved!” (Youth Participation)

Help preserve and celebrate Qala Primary School's modernist legacy:

- Photograph the school's distinctive modernist architecture and design elements
- Record oral histories from former students, teachers, and community members
- Document the building's architectural features and spatial innovations
- Create social media content exploring post-independence educational ideals
- Support heritage advocacy and architectural conservation initiatives





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Slide 7 “Explore More” (Open, Evolving Narrative)

Discover deeper connections to Malta's modernist heritage:

- 🏠 What other International Style buildings did Joseph Huntingford design in Gozo?
- 📖 How did post-1946 educational reforms transform school architecture in Malta?
- 🏛️ How does Mediterranean modernism compare to European International Style movements?

Slide 8 Credits & Sources

Text Author: UM

Resources:

- <https://timesofmalta.com/article/architects-object-to-demolition-of-gala-school.67522>
- <https://gozo.news/21102/gala-primary-school-celebration-day-inauguration-of-works/>
- <https://www.buildingsofmalta.com/gala-gala-primary-school>
- [https://www.um.edu.mt/library/oar/bitstream/123456789/53285/1/Education5\(3\)full.pdf](https://www.um.edu.mt/library/oar/bitstream/123456789/53285/1/Education5(3)full.pdf)
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_G._Huntingford
- <https://heritagemalta.mt/app/uploads/2024/07/Annual-Report-2023.pdf>
- <https://kamratalperiti.org/wp-content/uploads/tA036.pdf>
- <https://heritagemalta.mt/app/uploads/2022/01/annual-report-2010.pdf>
- <https://gozo.news/19169/minister-dolores-cristina-pays-a-visit-to-gala-primary-school/>
- <https://timesofmalta.com/article/demolition-of-architectural-gem-starts.59157>
- <https://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2006-03-25/local-news/Chamber-Of-Architects-condemns-demolition-of-school-in-Qala-89073>





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

2. Greece

National Archaeological Museum of Athens

SLIDE 1 - National Archaeological Museum of Athens

Subtitle: *A Palace of Ancient Memory in the Heart of Modern Athens*
City: Athens, Greece
Typology: National Museum
Style: Neoclassical (19th century)

HERO IMAGE [GR_0101.jpg](#)

SLIDE 2-Discover the Building

Rising proudly in the centre of Athens, the National Archaeological Museum is one of the most important cultural landmarks in Greece, and one of the world's great museums of antiquity. Constructed between 1866 and 1889, it was designed by architects Ludwig Lange and Panagis Kalkos in the neoclassical style, symbolising the rebirth of the modern Greek state and its connection to the ancient past.

The museum's clean lines, tall columns, and symmetrical façade echo the visual language of classical Greek temples, presenting the building itself as a monument to history. Originally conceived to house and protect Greece's most valuable archaeological treasures, it gathered artefacts from excavations across the country: sculptures, pottery, jewellery, and objects from all eras of Greek civilisation.

Today, the building remains a cultural anchor for Athens, linking the vibrant life of the city with the timeless heritage of its ancestors.

SLIDE 3-Stories Behind the Walls

For many Athenians, the museum is more than a collection of masterpieces; it is a landmark woven into the everyday rhythm of the city. Older residents recall Sunday strolls through its gardens, where children played among palm trees while parents rested on the marble benches. Generations of students have vivid memories of school trips filled with excitement, standing for the first time in front of the gold Mask of Agamemnon or the haunting bronze statue of the Antikythera Youth.





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Local archaeologists still speak about the “magic evenings” of the 1960s and 70s, when the museum hosted small community events, bringing together scholars, artists, and neighbourhood families. One retired guard remembers: “Every night, after closing, it felt like the statues were breathing again, keeping watch over the city.”

These everyday stories remind us that heritage is not only ancient, it is also deeply personal.

SLIDE 4 -From Yesterday to Today

Over the past century, the National Archaeological Museum has evolved continuously, expanding its galleries and adapting its infrastructure to modern cultural needs. Major renovations in the late 20th and early 21st centuries improved conservation facilities, reorganised collections, and introduced new educational spaces designed for young learners and international visitors.

Today, the museum functions as both a research centre and a vibrant public space. Behind the scenes, conservators restore fragile artefacts using cutting-edge technology, while in the exhibition halls, visitors encounter interactive displays, family-friendly workshops, and temporary exhibitions that connect ancient stories with contemporary themes.

The museum stands as a bridge between archaeology, science, and civic life , a place where Greece’s past continues to inspire future generations.

SLIDE 5-Why This Building Matters

The National Archaeological Museum is not only a keeper of Greece’s cultural memory, it is a symbol of the country’s identity. If it were lost, Athens would lose a physical, emotional, and intellectual link to millennia of human creativity.

The building protects irreplaceable artefacts that shaped European history, but it also preserves collective memories: childhood visits, community gatherings, research breakthroughs, and moments of inspiration.

By safeguarding this museum, we protect more than objects , we protect the stories, values, and knowledge that define Greece. Its preservation reminds us that heritage is a living resource, one that strengthens communities and enriches civic life.

SLIDE 6 -Get Involved!

Young people can bring new energy to this historic museum. Here’s how you can participate:





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

- Photograph details of statues, pottery motifs, or architectural elements
- Create short videos comparing ancient technologies with modern ones
- Interview elders about their memories of visiting the museum
- Sketch your favourite artefact and share it with your class
- Explore archives or digital collections to uncover hidden stories
- Add your own impressions to the ArchTech map

Your creativity helps keep the museum’s story alive and evolving.

SLIDE 7 - Explore More (Open Questions)

Points for Reflection

Use this section to prompt personal reflection or short group discussion on the role of public spaces in society. The questions are intended to encourage critical thinking.

- Which artefact in the museum tells a story that still feels relevant today?
- Can you find traces of ancient Greek design in other buildings around Athens?
- How might this museum look and function 50 years from now?

Invite

users:

“Add your findings, photos, and reflections to the ArchTech platform and help expand this evolving narrative.”

SLIDE 8 - Credits & Sources

Text Author: Innovation Hive

Sources

Historical sources consulted:

Publicly available historical information on the National Archaeological Museum





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

- Create short videos linking the Zappeion to the Olympic Games or modern public events
- Interview older family members about their memories of exhibitions or celebrations there
- Sketch the central courtyard and imagine how it was used in the past
- Explore historical photos to see how the building's role has changed over time
- Add your own observations and creative work to the **ArchTech map**

Your perspective helps keep the Zappeion's story alive and relevant.

SLIDE 7 - Explore More (Open Questions)

Points for Reflection

Use this section to prompt personal reflection or short group discussion on the role of public spaces in society. The questions are intended to encourage critical thinking.

- Why do you think the Zappeion was designed as an open, public building?
- How should historic public spaces adapt to future social and cultural needs?

Invite

users:

"Add your findings, photos, and reflections to the ArchTech platform and help expand this evolving narrative."

SLIDE 8 - Credits & Sources

Text Author: Innovation Hive

Sources

Hellenic Olympic Committee. (2021). *The Zappeion and the Olympic legacy*. <https://hoc.gr>

Hellenic Parliament Foundation. (2018). *Neoclassical architecture and public space in modern Greece*. Athens.

Kostof, S. (1995). *A history of architecture: Settings and rituals*. Oxford University Press.

Plantzos, D. (2014). *Archaeologies of the classical: Reconsidering the Greek past*. Edinburgh University Press.

Zappeion Megaron. (2023). *History of the Zappeion Hall*. <https://www.zappeion.gr>

Zappeion Hall, *Photo: Wikimedia Commons*





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Academy of Athens

SLIDE 1 - Academy of Athens

Academy of Athens
Subtitle: A Temple of Knowledge and Enlightenment
City: Athens, Greece
Typology: Academic Institution / Monumental Building
Style: Neoclassical (19th century)

HERO IMAGE: [GR_0301.jpg](#)

SLIDE 2 - Discover the Building

Located on Panepistimiou Street, forming part of Athens' famous "Neoclassical Trilogy," the Academy of Athens is one of the most refined expressions of classical architecture in modern Europe. Construction began in 1859 and was completed in 1885, following designs by the Danish architect Theophil Hansen and funded by benefactor Simon Sinas.

Inspired by ancient Greek temples, particularly the Ionic order, the building embodies the ideals of knowledge, harmony, and intellectual pursuit. Its slender columns, sculpted pediments, and symbolic statues directly reference classical philosophy and science, presenting learning as a civic and moral foundation of society.

From its very conception, the Academy was intended to serve as a modern continuation of Plato's Academy, linking ancient wisdom with contemporary scholarship.

SLIDE 3 - Stories Behind the Walls

For many Athenians, the Academy of Athens is associated with quiet dignity rather than everyday bustle. Students passing by often pause to admire its statues, Athena, the goddess of wisdom, and Apollo, the god of light and knowledge, standing as silent guardians of learning.

Older residents recall moments when the building became a focal point for national ceremonies, academic honours, and public recognition of scientific and artistic achievement. One former university lecturer recalls:

"Walking past the Academy always reminded me that knowledge is something sacred, something to be approached with respect."



R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

These personal reflections reveal how the Academy has shaped not only academic life, but also the intellectual atmosphere of the city itself.

SLIDE 4 - From Yesterday to Today

Although completed in the 19th century, the Academy of Athens officially began operating as Greece's highest research institution in 1926. Since then, it has evolved into a central pillar of national scientific, cultural, and academic life.

Today, the Academy supports research across the sciences, humanities, and fine arts, while continuing to host lectures, awards, and public discussions. Behind its monumental façade, scholars engage in contemporary research that addresses modern challenges, from technology and ethics to culture and sustainability.

The building thus remains both timeless and active: a historic monument that continues to produce new knowledge.

SLIDE 5 - Why This Building Matters

The Academy of Athens is more than an architectural masterpiece; it is a symbol of the value placed on education, reason, and critical thought. If it were lost, Athens would lose a powerful visual and intellectual reminder of the role knowledge plays in shaping democratic societies.

Its presence reinforces the idea that learning is not confined to classrooms, but is a public good, worthy of monumental expression. The Academy stands as a reminder that ideas, research, and dialogue are as vital to a nation as its physical infrastructure.

Preserving it means protecting the cultural foundations of intellectual freedom and progress.

SLIDE 6 - Get Involved!

Young people can connect with the Academy of Athens in creative and reflective ways:

- Photograph the statues and symbols decorating the building
- Research the meanings behind Athena and Apollo and present them visually
- Create a short video linking ancient philosophy to modern education
- Sketch the building and label its symbolic elements
- Explore famous scholars associated with the Academy
- Add your insights and creative work to the **ArchTech map**

Your curiosity helps keep the spirit of learning alive.





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

SLIDE 7 - Explore More (Open Questions)

Points for Reflection

Use this section to prompt personal reflection or short group discussion on the role of public spaces in society. The questions are intended to encourage critical thinking.

- Why do you think ancient temple forms were used for modern academic buildings?
- How does architecture influence the way we value knowledge?
- What might a “temple of knowledge” look like in the digital age?

Invite

users:

“Add your findings, photos, and reflections to the ArchTech platform and help expand this evolving narrative.”

SLIDE 8 - Credits & Sources

Text Author: Innovation Hive

Sources

Academy of Athens. (2023). *History and mission of the Academy*. <https://www.academyofathens.gr>

Hansen, T. (1860). *Architectural designs for the Athenian Trilogy*. Vienna Archives.

Kostof, S. (1995). *A history of architecture: Settings and rituals*. Oxford University Press.

Plantzos, D. (2014). *Archaeologies of the classical: Reconsidering the Greek past*. Edinburgh University Press.

Travlos, J. (1993). *Neoclassical architecture in Greece*. Ministry of Culture Publications.

Academy of Athens, Photo by Thomas Wolf (www.foto-tw.de), CC BY-SA 3.0 DE





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Benaki Museum

SLIDE 1 - Benaki Museum

Benaki										Museum
Subtitle:	A	Living	Story	of	Greek	Culture	Through	Time		
City:				Athens,						Greece
Typology:		Museum	of	Art		and				Culture
Style:	Neoclassical urban mansion (19th–early 20th century)									

HERO IMAGE: [GR_0401.jpg](#)

SLIDE 2 - Discover the Building

Situated on Vasilissis Sofias Avenue, opposite the National Garden, the Benaki Museum occupies a refined neoclassical mansion that reflects the cosmopolitan character of Athens in the late 19th century. Built in the 1860s and later adapted for museum use, the building combines elegance, restraint, and functionality, blending seamlessly into the city's historic urban fabric.

Originally the family home of Antonis Benakis, the museum was donated to the Greek state in 1930 to house his extensive collections. Unlike monumental public buildings designed to impress through scale, the Benaki Museum invites visitors through a more intimate architectural language, one that mirrors the continuity of everyday life and culture.

The building itself sets the tone for the museum's mission: to present Greek history not as distant antiquity, but as a living, evolving story.

SLIDE 3 - Stories Behind the Walls

For many Athenians, the Benaki Museum feels familiar and welcoming. Visitors often recall their first encounters with traditional costumes, household objects, or religious artefacts that echoed stories told by grandparents. School visits introduced generations of students to the idea that history is found not only in statues and temples, but in textiles, tools, and daily rituals.

Former staff members speak of the museum as a "house of stories," where objects quietly connect the past with personal memory. One long-time visitor reflects: *"At the Benaki, you don't just learn history, you recognise pieces of your own family's past."*

These experiences highlight the museum's unique ability to connect national heritage with individual identity.



R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

SLIDE 4 - From Yesterday to Today

Since opening to the public in 1931, the Benaki Museum has continuously evolved. While the main building focuses on Greek culture from antiquity to the 20th century, the Benaki network has expanded to include multiple museum sites across Athens, covering modern art, Islamic art, toys, photography, and archives.

Today, the museum is a dynamic cultural institution that combines exhibitions, research, education, and contemporary dialogue. Digital archives, inclusive programmes, and temporary exhibitions allow visitors to engage with heritage in new and meaningful ways.

The Benaki Museum stands as a bridge between tradition and innovation, showing how museums can remain relevant in a changing society.

SLIDE 5 - Why This Building Matters

The Benaki Museum is vital because it preserves the continuity of Greek culture across centuries. If it were lost, Athens would lose a space that tells history from the perspective of everyday life, not only through great events, but through objects that shaped how people lived, worked, and expressed themselves.

Its collections safeguard collective memory, linking ancient, Byzantine, Ottoman, and modern periods into one coherent narrative. More importantly, the museum encourages empathy and understanding by reminding visitors that culture is built through shared experiences.

Protecting the Benaki means protecting the human dimension of history.

SLIDE 6 - Get Involved!

Young people can actively engage with the Benaki Museum in creative ways:

- Photograph traditional objects and research their original use
- Create short videos connecting historical clothing or tools with modern equivalents
- Interview family members about objects similar to those in the museum
- Sketch an artefact and write a short story inspired by it
- Explore the Benaki digital collections to find lesser-known items
- Share your discoveries and reflections on the **ArchTech map**

Your creativity helps transform history into a living conversation.





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

SLIDE 7 - Explore More (Open Questions)

Points for Reflection

Use this section to prompt personal reflection or short group discussion on the role of public spaces in society. The questions are intended to encourage critical thinking.

- Which everyday object best represents Greek culture across time?
- How do personal belongings become part of national history?
- How should museums balance tradition and modern expression in the future?

Invite

users

“Add your findings, photos, and reflections to the ArchTech platform and help expand this evolving narrative.”

SLIDE 8 - Credits & Sources

Text Author: Innovation Hive

Sources

Benaki Museum. (2023). *History and mission of the Benaki Museum*. <https://www.benaki.org>

Hamilakis, Y. (2007). *The nation and its ruins: Antiquity, archaeology, and national imagination in Greece*. Oxford University Press.

Korka, E. (2012). Museums and collective memory in modern Greece. *Museum International*, 64(1–4), 72–83. <https://doi.org/10.1111/muse.12006>

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UNESCO. (2015). *Museums as spaces for cultural dialogue*. UNESCO Publishing. <https://unesdoc.unesco.org>

Benaki Museum, Photo by Palickap, CC BY-SA 4.0





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

The Apollo Theatre

SLIDE 1-Apollo Theatre

Apollo									Theater
Subtitle:	A	Stage	for	Art,	Society,	and	Modern	Greek	Culture
City:				Athens,					Greece
Typology:		Theatre	/		Performing		Arts		Venue
Style:	Neoclassical with theatrical interior influences (19th century)								

HERO IMAGE: [GR_0501.jpeg](#)

SLIDE 2 - Discover the Building

Located in the historic centre of Athens, the Apollo Theatre emerged during a period when the modern Greek state was shaping its cultural identity through architecture and the arts. Built in the late 19th century, the theatre reflects the strong European influences that shaped Athens' urban development after independence.

Its neoclassical façade conveys balance and elegance, while the interior was designed to enhance acoustics, visibility, and intimacy between performers and audience. Inspired by Italian opera houses and classical theatrical traditions, the Apollo Theatre was conceived as a space where music, drama, and social life could converge.

From the outset, the building symbolised Athens' aspiration to participate actively in the European cultural scene while cultivating its own artistic voice.

SLIDE 3 - Stories Behind the Walls

For generations of Athenians, the Apollo Theatre has been associated with first encounters with opera, theatre, and live performance. Older residents recall dressing formally for evening performances, when attending the theatre was a social ritual as much as an artistic experience.

Actors and musicians often speak of the unique atmosphere backstage, a mix of nervous anticipation and shared passion. One veteran performer remembers: *"Every time the curtain rose, you could feel the history of the stage beneath your feet."*

These memories remind us that theatres are living spaces, shaped by the emotions, voices, and creativity of those who pass through them.

SLIDE 4 - From Yesterday to Today



R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Over time, the Apollo Theatre adapted to changing artistic trends and audience expectations. While its early programme focused heavily on opera and classical performances, it gradually embraced modern theatre, contemporary music, and experimental productions.

Renovations ensured the preservation of its architectural character while improving technical facilities and audience comfort. Today, the Apollo Theatre continues to host performances that bring together tradition and innovation, supporting both established artists and emerging talent.

The theatre remains an active cultural landmark, proving that historic performance spaces can evolve without losing their soul.

SLIDE 5 - Why This Building Matters

The Apollo Theatre matters because it embodies the social power of the performing arts. If it were lost, Athens would lose a space where collective emotions, joy, reflection, tension, and inspiration- have been shared for over a century.

Beyond its architectural value, the theatre represents access to culture, dialogue through art, and the importance of public spaces dedicated to creativity. It reminds us that culture is not only preserved in museums, but also created live, night after night.

Protecting the Apollo Theatre means protecting the city's artistic heartbeat.

SLIDE 6 - Get Involved!

Young people can connect with the Apollo Theatre through creative exploration:

- Photograph architectural or decorative details of the auditorium
- Create short videos about the role of theatre in society today
- Interview actors, musicians, or audience members about their experiences
- Write a short scene inspired by the theatre's history
- Sketch the stage or seating arrangement and imagine past performances
- Share your reflections and creations on the **ArchTech map**

Your voice helps keep the performing arts alive and meaningful.

SLIDE 7 – Explore More (Open Questions)

Points for Reflection





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Use this section to prompt personal reflection or short group discussion on the role of public spaces in society. The questions are intended to encourage critical thinking.

- Why do live performances create stronger emotional connections than recorded ones?
- How does theatre architecture influence the audience's experience?
- What role should historic theatres play in the digital age?

Invite

users:

"Add your findings, photos, and reflections to the ArchTech platform and help expand this evolving narrative."

SLIDE 8 - Credits & Sources

Text Author: Innovation Hive

Sources

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<https://unesdoc.unesco.org>

Theatron Apollon in Syros island- *Photo: Wikimedia Commons*



R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Presidential Mansion

SLIDE 1 - Presidential Mansion

Presidential Mansion	(Presidential Palace)
Subtitle: Power, Continuity, and the Public Face of the Greek State	
City: Athens,	Greece
Typology: Official State Residence	
Style: Neoclassical (early 20th century)	

HERO IMAGE: [GR_0601.jpg](#)

SLIDE 2 - Discover the Building

Located opposite the National Garden and overlooking Syntagma Square, the Presidential Mansion is one of Athens' most discreet yet symbolically powerful buildings. Constructed between 1891 and 1897, it was designed by architect Ernst Ziller as the Crown Prince's Palace, reflecting the restrained elegance of late neoclassical architecture.

Unlike monumental public buildings meant to impress through grandeur, the Presidential Mansion was designed with balance, proportion, and dignity in mind. Its symmetrical façade, simple decorative elements, and controlled scale express authority without excess, reinforcing the values of stability and continuity.

Over time, the building transitioned from royal residence to the official home of the President of the Hellenic Republic, adapting its meaning as Greece's political system evolved.

SLIDE 3 - Stories Behind the Walls

For many Athenians, the Presidential Mansion is associated with ceremony and ritual. Daily guard changes by the Evzones attract visitors and locals alike, turning the surrounding space into a shared point of observation and respect.

Older residents remember moments of political transition, state visits, and national commemorations linked to the building. One passer-by recalls: *"You don't enter the Presidential Mansion often, but you always feel its presence, calm, serious, and watchful."*

These stories reveal how the building functions not only as a seat of authority, but also as a familiar landmark embedded in the city's collective consciousness.

SLIDE 4 - From Yesterday to Today





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Originally conceived as a royal residence, the building's role changed significantly following the abolition of the monarchy. In 1974, it became the Presidential Mansion, symbolising the establishment of the Hellenic Republic.

Today, it hosts official ceremonies, diplomatic receptions, and national commemorations. While its interiors remain largely inaccessible to the public, the building continues to play an active role in shaping Greece's political and ceremonial life.

The Presidential Mansion stands as a living reminder that architecture can adapt to new democratic meanings while preserving historical continuity.

SLIDE 5 - Why This Building Matters

The Presidential Mansion matters because it represents institutional stability and democratic legitimacy. If it were lost, Athens would lose a key symbol of governance and national unity.

Its significance lies not in spectacle, but in its function as a space where state authority is exercised with restraint and respect. The building embodies the idea that power should be visible, accountable, and grounded in history.

Preserving it means safeguarding the architectural expression of Greece's modern democratic identity.

SLIDE 6 - Get Involved!

Young people can engage with the Presidential Mansion through observation and reflection:

- Photograph architectural details and the surrounding public space
- Research the symbolism of the Evzones and the guard ceremony
- Create a short video about how architecture represents authority
- Sketch the building and imagine how its role changed over time
- Compare the Presidential Mansion with other European state residences
- Share your reflections on the **ArchTech map**

Your perspective helps connect civic architecture with democratic values.

SLIDE 7 - Explore More (Open Questions)

Points for Reflection





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Use this section to prompt personal reflection or short group discussion on the role of public spaces in society. The questions are intended to encourage critical thinking. Points for Reflection

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Use this section to prompt personal reflection or short group discussion on the role of public spaces in society. The questions are intended to encourage critical thinking.

- Why do governments choose neoclassical architecture for official buildings?
- How does architecture influence public trust in institutions?
- Should state buildings be more open and accessible in the future?

Invite

users:

“Add your findings, photos, and reflections to the ArchTech platform and help expand this evolving narrative.”

SLIDE 8 - Credits & Sources

Text Author: Innovation Hive

Sources

Hellenic Parliament Foundation. (2019). *Architecture and political symbolism in modern Greece*. Athens.

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Presidential Mansion, Photo by Tilemahos Efthimiadis / Flickr



R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Municipal Theatre of Piraeus

SLIDE 1 - Municipal Theatre of Piraeus

Municipal Theatre of Piraeus
Subtitle: A Cultural Beacon of the Port City
City: Piraeus, Greece
Typology: Theatre / Performing Arts Venue
Style: Neoclassical (late 19th century)

HERO IMAGE: [GR_0701.jpg](#)

SLIDE 2 - Discover the Building

Dominating Korai Square in the heart of Piraeus, the Municipal Theatre is one of the most impressive neoclassical theatres in Greece. Designed by architect Ioannis Lazarimos and completed in 1895, the building reflects the economic prosperity and cultural ambitions of Piraeus during a period of rapid growth.

Its monumental façade, featuring Corinthian columns, sculpted pediments, and balanced proportions, conveys dignity and civic pride. Inspired by the great European opera houses of the time, the theatre was conceived as a cultural landmark for the port city, a place where art, society, and urban life could converge.

From its opening, the building symbolised Piraeus' desire to establish itself not only as a commercial hub, but also as a centre of culture and intellectual life.

SLIDE 3 - Stories Behind the Walls

For generations of Piraeus residents, the Municipal Theatre has been a place of first encounters with theatre, opera, and music. Older locals recall evenings when the square outside filled with people dressed for the occasion, turning performances into major social events.

Artists speak of the theatre's strong presence and distinctive atmosphere, shaped by its proximity to the sea and the constant movement of the port. One long-time resident recalls: *"The theatre was our window to the world, ships brought goods, and the stage brought ideas."*

These personal stories reveal how the building became a cultural anchor for a city defined by movement and exchange.





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

SLIDE 4 - From Yesterday to Today

Throughout the 20th century, the Municipal Theatre of Piraeus experienced periods of intense activity as well as decline. Changing cultural habits and urban pressures led to years of limited use, putting the building at risk.

A major restoration project, completed in the early 21st century, revived the theatre and returned it to public life. Today, it hosts a wide range of performances, from classical theatre and opera to contemporary productions, concerts, and educational programmes.

The building now stands as a powerful example of how historic cultural infrastructure can be successfully reintegrated into modern urban life.

SLIDE 5 - Why This Building Matters

The Municipal Theatre of Piraeus matters because it embodies the cultural identity of a port city shaped by openness, diversity, and exchange. If it were lost, Piraeus would lose a key symbol of its civic memory and artistic heritage.

Beyond its architectural value, the theatre represents access to culture for local communities and the belief that art should be part of everyday urban life. It reminds us that cultural institutions can strengthen social bonds and civic pride.

Preserving it means preserving the cultural voice of Piraeus.

SLIDE 6 - Get Involved!

Young people can engage with the Municipal Theatre of Piraeus in creative ways:

- Photograph architectural details and the surrounding square
- Create short videos linking the theatre with the history of the port
- Interview residents about memorable performances or events
- Write a short scene inspired by the life of Piraeus
- Sketch the façade and imagine the theatre on its opening night
- Share your ideas and creations on the **ArchTech map**

Your creativity helps keep the theatre connected to the city's present and future.

SLIDE 7 - Explore More (Open Questions)

Points for Reflection





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Use this section to prompt personal reflection or short group discussion on the role of public spaces in society. The questions are intended to encourage critical thinking.

- How does a port city influence the kind of culture it produces?
- Why were theatres considered essential civic buildings in the 19th century?
- How can historic theatres attract younger audiences today?

Invite users:

“Add your findings, photos, and reflections to the ArchTech platform and help expand this evolving narrative.”

SLIDE 8 - Credits & Sources

Text Author: Innovation Hive

Sources

Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports. (2022). *Historic theatres of Greece*. Athens.

Kostof, S. (1995). *A history of architecture: Settings and rituals*. Oxford University Press.

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MUNICIPAL THEATRE OF PIRAEUS. *Photo by George Pachantouris/Getty Images*





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Kapodistrian University of Athens

SLIDE 1 - National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens						
Subtitle:	The	Foundation	of	Modern	Greek	Higher Education
City:			Athens,			Greece
Typology:	University	/		Academic		Institution
Style:	Neoclassical (19th century)					

HERO IMAGE: [GR_0801.jpg](#)

SLIDE 2 - Discover the Building

Situated on Panepistimiou Street, at the centre of Athens' historic and intellectual axis, the main building of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens forms part of the iconic Neoclassical Trilogy, alongside the Academy of Athens and the National Library. Designed by Danish architect Theophil Hansen and completed in 1864, the building reflects the cultural and educational aspirations of the newly established Greek state.

Its harmonious proportions, Ionic columns, and richly painted interior decorations draw inspiration from ancient Greek architecture while expressing the ideals of enlightenment, learning, and civic responsibility. Conceived as the first university of the modern Greek state, the building was designed to embody the belief that education is central to national progress.

From its earliest days, the university stood as a symbol of intellectual renewal and social advancement.

SLIDE 3 - Stories Behind the Walls

For generations of Athenians, the University of Athens has been closely associated with student life, public debate, and social change. Former students recall gathering on the steps of the building, where ideas were exchanged and friendships formed, often against the backdrop of major historical events.

Professors and alumni speak of the building as a place where academic knowledge intersected with civic engagement. One graduate remembers: *"Studying here made you feel part of something larger, not just a university, but the story of modern Greece itself."*

These memories highlight how the university has shaped both personal journeys and collective identity.



R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

SLIDE 4 - From Yesterday to Today

Founded in 1837, the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens has continuously evolved alongside Greek society. While the historic building once housed most academic activities, the university gradually expanded across multiple campuses to accommodate growing disciplines and student populations.

Today, the university is an internationally recognised institution, active in research, innovation, and global academic networks. The historic building remains a symbolic and ceremonial centre, hosting academic events, public lectures, and cultural activities.

It stands as a reminder that universities are living institutions, rooted in history yet constantly adapting to contemporary challenges.

SLIDE 5 - Why This Building Matters

The University of Athens matters because it represents the role of education in shaping democratic, informed societies. If it were lost, Athens would lose a powerful symbol of intellectual freedom, critical thought, and social progress.

The building embodies the idea that learning is a public good, worthy of architectural prominence at the heart of the city. It reflects the belief that knowledge, dialogue, and education are essential to national development.

Preserving it means safeguarding the architectural and symbolic foundations of Greek higher education.

SLIDE 6 - Get Involved!

Young people can engage with the University of Athens in meaningful ways:

- Photograph murals, columns, and symbolic details of the building
- Research the figures represented in the painted friezes
- Create short videos about student life across different historical periods
- Interview alumni or professors about their experiences
- Sketch the building and annotate its academic symbols
- Share your reflections on the **ArchTech map**

Your engagement helps connect education with lived experience.

SLIDE 7 - Explore More (Open Questions)





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Points for Reflection

Use this section to prompt personal reflection or short group discussion on the role of public spaces in society. The questions are intended to encourage critical thinking.

- Why were universities designed as monumental buildings in the 19th century?
- How does academic architecture influence learning and debate?
- What should a university building represent in the digital age?

Invite

users:

“Add your findings, photos, and reflections to the ArchTech platform and help expand this evolving narrative.”

SLIDE 8 - Credits & Sources

Text Author: Innovation Hive

Sources

Kostof, S. (1995). *A history of architecture: Settings and rituals*. Oxford University Press.

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National and Kapodistrian University of Athens- *Photo: Dominick Vietor / Pixabay*





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Athens War Museum

SLIDE 1 – Athens War Museum

Athens		War		Museum
Subtitle:	Memory,	Conflict,	and	the Cost of Freedom
City:			Athens,	Greece
Typology:		Military	History	Museum
Style:	Modernist / Monumental (20th century)			

HERO IMAGE: [GR_0901.jpg](#)

SLIDE 2 - Discover the Building

Located near the centre of Athens, close to major civic and cultural institutions, the Athens War Museum stands as a powerful reminder of Greece's long and complex military history. Founded in 1975, the museum was designed to house and present artefacts spanning from antiquity to the modern era, within a purpose-built structure that prioritises clarity, order, and symbolic gravity.

Unlike neoclassical buildings that draw directly on ancient forms, the War Museum adopts a more restrained architectural language. Its solid volumes, clean lines, and controlled geometry convey seriousness and respect, reflecting the weight of the subject matter it contains.

The building itself prepares visitors for reflection, presenting war not as spectacle, but as a defining force that shaped the nation's history.

SLIDE 3- Stories Behind the Walls

For many Athenians, the War Museum is associated with school visits that marked a first confrontation with difficult chapters of history. Veterans and their families often visit quietly, pausing before uniforms, medals, and photographs that recall personal sacrifice and collective struggle.

Some visitors remember relatives pointing out familiar regiments or battles, turning exhibitions into deeply personal moments. One visitor recalls: *"Walking through the halls, I realised history wasn't distant, it was something my grandparents lived through."*

These individual memories transform the museum into a space of remembrance, where national history and family stories intersect.



R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

SLIDE 4 - From Yesterday to Today

Since its establishment, the Athens War Museum has expanded its collections and educational role. What began primarily as a repository of military artefacts has evolved into a space for historical interpretation, research, and public learning.

Today, the museum hosts permanent and temporary exhibitions, educational programmes, and commemorative events. Outdoor displays of aircraft and artillery coexist with carefully curated indoor galleries that address strategy, daily life during wartime, and the human consequences of conflict.

The museum continues to adapt, seeking to engage younger generations while encouraging critical reflection on war and peace.

SLIDE 5 - Why This Building Matters

The Athens War Museum matters because it preserves the collective memory of struggle, resistance, and survival. If it were lost, Greece would lose an essential space for understanding the sacrifices that shaped its modern state.

Beyond weapons and uniforms, the museum safeguards stories of courage, loss, and resilience. It reminds visitors that freedom and sovereignty came at a human cost, and that remembering this cost is a civic responsibility.

Preserving the museum means preserving historical awareness and respect for those who lived through conflict.

SLIDE 6 – Get Involved!

Young people can engage with the Athens War Museum thoughtfully and creatively:

- Photograph symbolic objects that represent different historical periods
- Create short videos reflecting on how war affects everyday life
- Interview family members about memories of wartime or military service
- Sketch an artefact and research its historical context
- Compare military technology from different eras
- Share reflections and findings on the **ArchTech map**

Your engagement helps transform remembrance into understanding.

SLIDE 7 - Explore More (Open Questions)



R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Points for Reflection

Use this section to prompt personal reflection or short group discussion on the role of public spaces in society. The questions are intended to encourage critical thinking.

- How should museums present difficult and painful histories?
- What can younger generations learn from past conflicts?
- How can memory contribute to peace rather than division?

Invite

users:

“Add your findings, photos, and reflections to the ArchTech platform and help expand this evolving narrative.”

SLIDE 8 - Credits & Sources

Text Author: Innovation Hive

Sources

Athens War Museum. (2023). *History and collections of the War Museum*. <https://warmuseum.gr>

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Athens War Museum, Photo: Colin Cooke, "FG-695 at Athens War Museum (2019)," licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Royal Palace of Athens

SLIDE 1 - Royal Palace of Athens

Royal Palace of Athens
Subtitle: From Monarchy to Democracy at the Heart of the City
City: Athens, Greece
Typology: Royal Residence / State Building
Style: Neoclassical (19th century)

HERO IMAGE: [GR_1001.jpg](#)

SLIDE 2 - Discover the Building

Standing prominently at Syntagma Square, the Royal Palace of Athens is one of the most symbolically charged buildings in the country. Constructed between 1836 and 1843, it was designed by Bavarian architect Friedrich von Gärtner as the residence of King Otto, the first king of modern Greece.

The building's austere neoclassical design reflects the political and economic realities of the newly established Greek state. Its simple geometry, symmetrical façade, and restrained decoration convey authority, order, and permanence rather than royal extravagance.

Conceived as a focal point of the new capital, the Royal Palace was meant to express continuity with classical antiquity while asserting the presence of modern state power in the urban landscape of Athens.

SLIDE 3 - Stories Behind the Walls

For Athenians, the Royal Palace has long been associated with moments of national significance. Older generations recall historic demonstrations and political gatherings in Syntagma Square, where the palace formed a silent backdrop to public expression and civic action.

Many remember the changing of the Evzones at the nearby Tomb of the Unknown Soldier as part of everyday life in the city. One resident recalls: *"No matter what was happening in the country, the palace was always there, watching history unfold from the square below."*

These collective memories highlight how the building became deeply embedded in the social and political life of Athens.



R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

SLIDE 4 - From Yesterday to Today

Originally built as a royal residence, the palace underwent several transformations as Greece's political system evolved. Following the abolition of the monarchy, the building was repurposed and, since 1935, has served as the seat of the Hellenic Parliament.

Today, the former Royal Palace functions as a central institution of Greek democracy. While its exterior still reflects its royal origins, its interior now hosts parliamentary debates, decision-making processes, and democratic governance.

The building stands as a powerful example of how architecture can adapt to changing political values while maintaining historical continuity.

SLIDE 5 - Why This Building Matters

The Royal Palace matters because it embodies Greece's political journey from monarchy to democracy. If it were lost, Athens would lose a vital symbol of institutional transformation and civic identity.

Its significance lies not only in its architecture but in its role as a witness to constitutional change, public protest, and democratic development. The building reminds citizens that political systems evolve, but the spaces where power is exercised remain deeply meaningful.

Preserving it means preserving the physical setting of modern Greek democracy.

SLIDE 6 - Get Involved!

Young people can engage with the Royal Palace in reflective and creative ways:

- Photograph the façade and its relationship with Syntagma Square
- Research key historical events that took place in front of the palace
- Create short videos explaining how buildings change meaning over time
- Sketch the palace and annotate its architectural features
- Compare the Royal Palace with other European former royal residences
- Share your reflections on the **ArchTech map**

Your engagement helps connect architecture with democratic history.

SLIDE 7 - Explore More (Open Questions)

Points for Reflection





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Use this section to prompt personal reflection or short group discussion on the role of public spaces in society. The questions are intended to encourage critical thinking.

- How does architecture reflect political power and change?
- Why do some former royal buildings become democratic institutions?
- How should public squares and state buildings interact today?

Invite

users:

“Add your findings, photos, and reflections to the ArchTech platform and help expand this evolving narrative.”

SLIDE 8 - Credits & Sources

Text Author: Innovation Hive

Sources

Hellenic Parliament. (2023). *The building of the Hellenic Parliament*. <https://www.hellenicparliament.gr>

Hellenic Parliament Foundation. (2018). *From royal palace to parliament: Architecture and democracy*. Athens.

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Royal_palace_of_Athens.Photo: athenswalk / CCO (Wikimedia Commons).





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

National Library of Greece

SLIDE 1 - National Library of Greece

National Library of Greece
Subtitle: Safeguarding Knowledge and the Written Memory of a Nation
City: Athens, Greece
Typology: National Library / Cultural Institution
Style: Neoclassical (19th century)

HERO IMAGE: [GR_1101.jpg](#)

SLIDE 2 - Discover the Building

Located on Panepistimiou Street and forming part of the celebrated Neoclassical Trilogy of Athens, the National Library of Greece is one of the most emblematic cultural institutions of the modern Greek state. Designed by Danish architect Theophil Hansen and completed in 1902, the building was funded by the benefactors Panagis, Andreas, and Marinos Vallianos.

Its monumental Ionic façade, symmetrical layout, and iconic marble staircases reflect the ideals of harmony, order, and intellectual aspiration drawn from classical antiquity. Conceived as a “temple of knowledge,” the building was designed to house and protect Greece’s written heritage while symbolising the central role of learning in national life.

From its foundation, the library stood as a cornerstone of public education and cultural continuity.

SLIDE 3 - Stories Behind the Walls

For many Athenians, the National Library evokes memories of silent study, intense concentration, and intellectual discovery. Former students recall long hours spent in reading rooms, surrounded by towering shelves and the quiet presence of centuries of knowledge.

Older researchers speak of the ritual of requesting rare manuscripts, waiting patiently as history was brought to their desks. One visitor remembers: *“Every time I entered the library, I felt the weight of all the voices that had written before me.”*

These personal stories reveal how the library has shaped generations of scholars, writers, and learners.



R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

SLIDE 4 - From Yesterday to Today

Founded in 1832, the National Library of Greece has evolved alongside the country's educational and cultural needs. While the neoclassical building long served as its main home, growing collections and modern requirements eventually necessitated expansion.

In recent years, the library's primary operations moved to the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Centre, offering state-of-the-art facilities and expanded public access. The historic building on Panepistimiou Street remains a powerful symbol of intellectual heritage and continues to host cultural and scholarly activities.

Together, the old and new spaces represent continuity between tradition and innovation.

SLIDE 5 - Why This Building Matters

The National Library of Greece matters because it safeguards the written memory of the nation. If it were lost, Athens would lose a physical symbol of intellectual freedom, scholarship, and cultural continuity.

The building represents the belief that access to knowledge is a public right and a cornerstone of democracy. It reminds us that books, manuscripts, and ideas shape societies as deeply as monuments and laws.

Preserving it means protecting the foundations of education and cultural identity.

SLIDE 6 - Get Involved!

Young people can engage with the National Library in inspiring ways:

- Photograph architectural details such as the staircases and columns
- Explore digitised manuscripts and share a favourite excerpt
- Create short videos about how libraries shape learning today
- Interview students or researchers about their experiences
- Sketch the building and annotate its symbolic elements
- Add reflections and discoveries to the **ArchTech map**

Your engagement helps keep knowledge accessible and alive.

SLIDE 7 - Explore More (Open Questions)

Points for Reflection





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Use this section to prompt personal reflection or short group discussion on the role of public spaces in society. The questions are intended to encourage critical thinking.

- Why were libraries designed as monumental buildings?
- How has digital technology changed the role of libraries?
- What should national libraries represent in the future?

Invite

users:

“Add your findings, photos, and reflections to the ArchTech platform and help expand this evolving narrative.”

SLIDE 8 - Credits & Sources

Text Author: Innovation Hive

Sources (APA format)

Kostof, S. (1995). *A history of architecture: Settings and rituals*. Oxford University Press.

National Library of Greece. (2023). *History and mission of the National Library*. <https://www.nlg.gr>

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National Library of Greece- *Photo by Giorgos Chatzopoulos / Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 4.0*





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Numismatic Museum of Athens

SLIDE 1 - Numismatic Museum of Athens

Numismatic Museum of Athens
Subtitle: Coins, Power, and the Language of Exchange
City: Athens, Greece
Typology: Museum of Numismatics and Economic History
Style: Neoclassical with eclectic influences (late 19th century)

HERO IMAGE: [GR_1201.jpg](#)

SLIDE 2 - Discover the Building

Housed in the elegant **Iliou Melathron** (Mansion of Troy), the Numismatic Museum of Athens occupies one of the city's most distinctive historic residences. The building was constructed between 1878 and 1880 as the private home of archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann and designed by architect Ernst Ziller, a key figure in shaping modern Athens.

Its refined neoclassical form is enriched with decorative elements inspired by antiquity, reflecting Schliemann's passion for the ancient world. The balanced façade, painted interiors, and symbolic motifs create an atmosphere where architecture and archaeology meet.

Originally a private residence, the building was later adapted to house the national numismatic collection, transforming a personal space into a public institution dedicated to economic and cultural history.

SLIDE 3 - Stories Behind the Walls

For many Athenians, the Numismatic Museum is remembered as a quiet retreat in the centre of the city. Visitors recall wandering through its rooms, discovering how small objects like coins can reveal stories of empires, trade, and everyday life.

Older visitors remember the peaceful garden café, where conversations unfolded beneath the shade of trees, blending leisure with learning. One visitor reflects: *"You realise that history isn't only written in books, it's stamped onto metal, passed from hand to hand."*

These personal moments highlight how the museum invites reflection through intimacy rather than monumentality.

SLIDE 4 - From Yesterday to Today





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

The numismatic collection of Greece is among the most important in the world, tracing monetary history from ancient Greek city-states to the modern era. Over time, the museum expanded its research role, supporting the study of economics, iconography, and political history through coins and medals.

Today, the Numismatic Museum combines permanent exhibitions with temporary displays, educational programmes, and scholarly research. Digital tools and interactive approaches help visitors understand how currency functioned as both an economic instrument and a carrier of ideas and authority.

The museum continues to evolve, proving that even the smallest artefacts can offer powerful insights into history.

SLIDE 5 - Why This Building Matters

The Numismatic Museum matters because it reveals how societies organise value, power, and exchange. If it were lost, Athens would lose a unique lens through which to understand history, not through monuments or texts, but through everyday objects that shaped human interaction.

Coins preserve images of rulers, gods, cities, and symbols, offering direct evidence of political ambition and cultural identity. The museum safeguards this material memory, reminding us that economies are also cultural systems.

Preserving it means preserving a fundamental record of human organisation and communication.

SLIDE 6 - Get Involved!

Young people can engage creatively with the Numismatic Museum:

- Photograph coin designs and identify their symbols
- Create short videos explaining what coins can tell us about society
- Design your own coin representing modern values
- Sketch a favourite artefact and research its origin
- Compare ancient and modern currencies
- Share your creations and reflections on the **ArchTech map**

Your curiosity helps connect economics with culture and history.

SLIDE 7 - Explore More (Open Questions)





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Points for Reflection

Use this section to prompt personal reflection or short group discussion on the role of public spaces in society. The questions are intended to encourage critical thinking.

- How do coins communicate power and identity?
- What might future currencies look like in a digital world?
- Can everyday objects be as historically important as monuments?

Invite

users:

“Add your findings, photos, and reflections to the ArchTech platform and help expand this evolving narrative.”

SLIDE 8 - Credits & Sources

Text Author: Innovation Hive

Sources

Kostof, S. (1995). *A history of architecture: Settings and rituals*. Oxford University Press.

Numismatic Museum of Athens. (2023). *History and collections*. <https://www.nma.gr>

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Numismatic Museum, *photo: Mathias Völzke*





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

3. Spain

Casa de Hortelano

Slide 1 Title + Hero Image

Elements to include:

- Hortelano House (Casa de Hortelano)
- The house of Albacete's most conspicuous symbol.
- Albacete, Spain
- Image: [SP0101](#).

Slide 2: “Discover the Building” (Historical Overview)

The history of the Hortelano Mansion starts in 1912, when Joaquin Hortelano commissions Daniel Rubio (the municipal architect) to renovate his house to transform it into the headquarters of the insurance company “Banco Vitalico de España”. The final result was a mansion of an eclectic Gothic façade with green tiles. It served its original purpose for most of the time until the 1980s (except for a short period of time when it served as a nursery orphanage) was acquired by the Architectural Heritage Department of Albacete City Council, becoming the headquarters of the Social Council of the University of Castilla-La Mancha and later the headquarters of the Local Police. As of 2003, it is the Albacete Municipal Knife Museum.

Slide 3 “Stories Behind the Walls” (Humanising the Heritage)

Albacete is well-known for the production of pocket foldable knives. The 18th century marked the golden era of knife production on Albacete. However, this time was also marked by strict rules that aimed, though unsuccessfully, at limiting their use. Since the 1500s, it was prohibited for plebeians to make use of long swords, leaving them fragile and unprotected in the face of the noblemen who kept the privilege. A shorter knife was a perfectly easy-to-hide and cheaper tool that could be used for protection. The Albacete artisans perfected their technical and artistic features, which are maintained to this day.

Slide 4 “From Yesterday to Today” (Transformation & Current Use)

After the first renovation performed under the lead of Daniel Rubio, the next was done in 1980 when the City Council purchased and finally in 2003 when it began housing the Municipal Knife Museum under the lead of Miguel Hernández Valencia, Esther López Martín, Juliane Potter y Francisco José Domínguez Saborido.



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Today it hosts a vast collection of the history of artisan-produced foldable knives and their evolution over the centuries in Albacete. It is one of the main and most well-known museums which citizens are most proud of.

Slide 5 “Why This Building Matters” (Civic Engagement)

The building is one of the city’s finest pieces of architecture and a reference point of modern history. Its recent use (as the city’s Knife Museum) houses the most conspicuous elements which Albacete is most known for and around which citizens have wrapped their traditions and identity. In addition, the property is an outstanding architectural work by municipal architect Daniel Rubio, enriching the local historical and artistic heritage.

Do not hesitate to visit it!

Slide 6 “Get Involved!” (Youth Participation)

- Find old pictures of the former functions of the museum
- Add photos and opinions in the ArchTech app.
- Identify your favourite item in the museum’s collection.

Slide 7 Explore more (Open questions)

- Can you think of any cultural youth activities that the museum can host?
- Can you find any old pictures from when it served as the headquarters of the insurance company?
- Do you know any urban legends related to the Hortelano Mansion?

Slide 8 Credits & Sources

- Text author: KlemKa CoLab
- Photographer(s): <https://arteclm.wordpress.com/2017/04/30/casa-del-hortelano/>
- Archives or websites consulted:
 - <https://arteclm.wordpress.com/2017/04/30/casa-del-hortelano/>
 - https://turismo.lacerca.com/noticias/museos_cultura_clm/cuchilleria-historico-cultural-albacete-126271-1.html
- Partner organisation: KlemKa CoLab





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Depósitos del Sol

Slide 1 Title + Hero Image

- **Name:** Sun Reservoir (Deposito de Sol)
- **Subtitle:** From storing water to storing knowledge
- Location: Albacete, Spain
- Image: [SP0201](#)

Slide 2 “Discover the Building” (Historical Overview)

The Sun Reservoir was a building of high importance in Albacete, as it helped increase the quality of life for its citizens. The city needed to increase the capacity of the old reservoir to store water and also to organise a new water distribution network that could respond to the demands of an expanding city. The answer was the new water reservoir called the Sun Reservoir, constructed in 1922. The initial project was presented by the municipal architect Daniel Rubio in 1921; however, it was engineer Eduardo Gallego who designed an improved structure and architects Julio Carrillero, Manuel Muñoz, who added the aesthetic details which may be appreciated today. With the passing of time, the building deteriorated, became obsolete and was destined to disappear or get demolished. In 2000, it was granted a second chance when it was repurposed as a library, a function that it carries to this day.

Slide 3 “Stories Behind the Walls” (Humanising the Heritage)

One of the most repetitive comments made to the library is that it never lost its storage function, it only went from storing water to storing knowledge. Also, thanks to an aluminium structure embedded in the roof that lets in light and creates an open, ever-changing space. Depending on the time of day, the metal scales reflect the sky or the city.

Slide 4 “From Yesterday to Today” (Transformation & Current Use)

From 2001, after being saved from demolition and being renovated by engineer Eduardo Gallego and architects Julio Carrillero, Manuel Muñoz, the Water Reservoir serves as a public library with study rooms that contain 216 seats, a media library, a sound library, a video library, library, and a documentation centre with more than 15,000 books. It represents an excellent example of how old and “useless” structures may be used for the revitalisation of neighbourhoods and communities.

Slide 5 “Why This Building Matters” (Civic Engagement)

Apart from its architectural value and the fact that it bears the involvement of some of the most well-known architects, the Sun Tank provides an example of repurposing old buildings



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into spaces that serve community and society. It is closely linked to the identity and memory of citizens of Albacete, on the one hand because it bears witness of the transitions the city went through in modern history and on the other because it still keeps its cross-generational role of supplying vital goods, once water and now knowledge.

Slide 6 “Get Involved!” (Youth Participation)

- Find old pictures of the water tank when it still held its original purpose
- Upload the in the ArchTech App
- What is the most special feature of the library in your view?

Slide 7: Explore more (Open Questions)

- If the functions of the Sun Reservoir were to be expanded in the future, what activities could it host?
- Which additional activities do you think the neighbourhood could mostly benefit from?

Slide 8 :Credits & Sources

- Text author: KlemKa CoLab
- Photographer(s): <https://www.turismoenalbacete.com/es/25/351/0/33/Biblioteca-Deposito-del-Sol-Albacete.html>
- Archives or websites consulted
 - <https://www.turismoenalbacete.com/es/25/351/0/33/Biblioteca-Deposito-del-Sol-Albacete.html>
 - <https://www.eldigitaldealbacete.com/2025/12/13/la-infancia-conquista-los-depositos-del-sol-en-albacete/>
 - <https://turismo.lacerca.com/noticias/poblaciones/albacete-recupera-patrimonio-arquitectonico-28712-1.html>
- Partner organisation: KlemKa CoLab





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Depósitos del Agua de la Fiesta del Árbol

Slide 1 Title + Hero Image

Elements to include:

- Water Reservoir
- The centre of water interpretation
- Albacete, Spain
- Image: [S0301](#)

Slide 2 “Discover the Building” (Historical Overview)

The building was approved as a water reservoir that would improve the city’s water provision. Its construction was entrusted to architect José Luis Escario but the construction was interrupted by the Spanish Civil War, to be retaken in 1940 with the higher sense of urgency given that the conflict had exacerbated further the city’s water supply. The final construction terminated in 1940 and consisted in two tanks, a lower rectangular one in the lower part of and the cylindrical one at 70 meter of height, commonly known as the Water Tower. Curiously the building never fulfilled its purpose because the city lacked proper a water distribution network across the city

The Water Reservoir building remained in silence until June 2021, when it was inaugurated as a multi-functional centre which houses a water museum, a water interpretation centre, a library, a lab, several auditoriums, a cafeteria and the city’s best scenic view.

Slide 3 “Stories Behind the Walls” (Humanising the Heritage)

Given the fact that the Water Reservoir has been ever present in the life of citizens of Albacete, especially the residents of the San Pablo neighbourhood, it has been associated with many curiosities and even urban legends. One curious fact is related to a surprising acoustic that enabled a clap to last for several seconds, which triggered musicians to experiment with recordings.

Another curious fact is that the Water Reservoir provided a temporary “shelter” to bats in the highest part of the towers. When the renovation works started, the bats were moved without being harmed.

Slide 4 “From Yesterday to Today” (Transformation & Current Use)

Today, the building holds a water interpretation centre, a library, study rooms, a cultural centre, and a senior centre. A diverse selection of leisure and cultural activities is offered in its facilities, making the building the heartbeat of the San Pablo neighbourhood. Guided visits





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that explain the changes that the building went through also give insights into the transformation of the city and the livelihoods of its citizens, inviting the visitors to reflect on the importance of the preservation of cultural heritage.

Slide 5 “Why This Building Matters” (Civic Engagement)

Except for being the epicentre of many cultural and civic participation activities, the Water Reservoir is a historic-industrial heritage which “participates in telling the story” of Albacete’s transition from a small city to a larger urban area. Also, given its current use, it teaches citizens to understand how urban infrastructure has the potential to impact the lives of citizens across generations through the adaptation of different services.

Slide 6 “Get Involved!” (Youth Participation)

- Mention one impressive feature of the Water Reservoir that caught your attention.
- Have you heard any of the urban legends that relate to it? Share it in the ArchTech App.
- Check out the cultural activities offered at the cultural centre. Choose one and go for it!

Slide 7 “Explore More” (Open, Evolving Narrative)

- Have you heard any urban legends related to the Water Reservoir?
- Do you think that given the height, it can be related to any sports that require it to be practised? Which ones?

Slide 8 Credits & Sources

- Text author
- Photographer(s): <https://cadenaser.com/castillalamancha/2023/03/22/el-centro-de-interpretacion-del-agua-de-albacete-abrira-al-publico-una-experiencia-inmersiva-en-la-torre-radio-albacete/>
- Archives or websites consulted:
 - <https://cadenaser.com/castillalamancha/2023/03/22/el-centro-de-interpretacion-del-agua-de-albacete-abrira-al-publico-una-experiencia-inmersiva-en-la-torre-radio-albacete/>
 - <https://reservasciab.com/>





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- <https://www.albacete.es/es/noticias/inaugurados-depositos-fiesta-arbol>
- Partner organisation: KlemKa CoLab





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Pasaje Lodaes

Slide 1 Title + Hero Image

Elements to include:

- Lodares Gallery (Pasaje Lodaes)
- Pasaje Lodaes: Albacete's Most Instagrammable Hidden Gem.
- Image: SP0402

Location: Albacete, Spain

Slide 2 “Discover the Building” (Historical Overview)

This stunning gallery, built in 1925 by architect Buenaventura Ferrando Castells, owes its existence to Gabriel Lodaes, a wealthy former mayor who sought to revitalise the city after the First World War.

Designed during Albacete's architectural "golden age," the gallery is a magnificent example of Post-Modernist style. Its original function was to combine luxury residential apartments for the wealthy with exclusive artisan shops on the ground floor, promoting employment during a time of crisis.

The gallery is crucial to Albacete, as it is one of the few monumental sites that survived demolition in later decades, securing its status as a Property of Cultural Interest (BIC). A striking feature is the repeated depiction of Mercury, the Roman God of Commerce, reflecting its commercial purpose, all illuminated by the iconic glass skylight roof.

Slide 3 “Stories Behind the Walls” (Humanising the Heritage)

The gallery wasn't just a commercial hub; it was a vibrant community centre, even housing the city's first professional radio station, EAJ-44 Radio Albacete, in the 1930s. Crucially, this was the first professional radio station not only in Albacete but in the entire Castilla-La Mancha region.

One of its most colourful and romantic anecdotes comes from the Spanish Civil War. In 1936, the gallery was targeted for bombing by the Republican forces because the radio station had been seized by the opposing side. An aviator was sent from Murcia with the order to destroy the building and silence the broadcast.



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However, the pilot, Antonio Núñez Chazarra, chose to spare the Pasaje (and the centre of Albacete) from destruction. As fate would have it, the locutora (Radio host) who was broadcasting that day, Pilar García-Saúco, later met and married the pilot who refused to drop the bombs. This incredible human story proves how deeply the Pasaje is interwoven with the lives and memories of Albacete's inhabitants.

Slide 4 “From Yesterday to Today” (Transformation & Current Use)

Inspired by monumental Italian galleries (like the famous one in Milan), the gallery was designed to transport visitors to European grandeur right here in La Mancha. One century later, the Pasaje still serves its original purpose as a covered commercial gallery and public thoroughfare.

The continuity is key: its adaptive reuse successfully connects past and present, housing a dynamic mix of modern shops, cafés, and offices, continuing its function as an economic heart. Crucial restoration work has focused on preserving the iconic wrought iron and glass structure and the unique light, securing the integrity of the original design.

This year marks a special occasion: the Pasaje de Lodares is celebrating its centenary. It remains a historical monument that is actively lived in and used daily, inviting citizens to walk through 100 years of history.

Slide 5 “Why This Building Matters” (Civic Engagement)

The Pasaje de Lodares is fundamental to Albacete's identity. As one of the few monumental structures to survive rapid 20th-century modernisation, it stands as a tangible monument to the city's historic commerce and artisan spirit.

If the gallery were lost, we would lose more than architecture; we would lose the continuous thread connecting the city's past (symbolised by trades like the famous local knife-making) to the present day. Protecting it means safeguarding a space where traditional and new businesses thrive side by side.

We encourage young citizens to engage with this living heritage:

- Visit and Connect: Speak with local shop owners, such as the traditional knife and cutlery stores. Their stories are the gallery's memories.
- Support Local Commerce: By supporting the businesses here, you actively ensure the building's economic viability and survival for future generations.

Slide 6 “Get Involved!” (Youth Participation)





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The history of the Pasaje is ongoing, and you are the next generation of storytellers! We need your help to document and protect this essential part of Albacete's heritage.

Here are simple ways you can get involved:

- **Capture the Beauty:** Take and upload high-quality photos or sketches to contribute to the ArchTech map.
- **Share the Stories:** Record short interviews with local elders or shop owners to preserve oral histories.
- **Go Viral:** Create fun, engaging TikTok or Instagram videos showcasing Pasaje's architecture and unique atmosphere.

Your participation ensures this monumental spot stays visible and protected!

Slide 7 “Explore More” (Open, Evolving Narrative)

Content:

The Pasaje de Lodares is a living monument, and its story is still being written. We invite you to become a junior heritage investigator and explore these questions:

- **Are There Other Modernisms?** The Pasaje de Lodares is postmodernist. Can you find buildings in Albacete that are considered pure Modernism (from the early 20th century) and list three key differences between their styles?
- **What's the Next Use?** A century ago, it was transformed from ruins into a commercial gallery. How do you imagine the Pasaje's use could evolve over the next 50 years to remain relevant to the city?
- **What Secrets Does the Light Hold?** What effect do you think the architect sought by designing the glass skylight to capture zenithal light? How does the Pasaje's atmosphere change at different times of the day?

Slide 8 Credits & Sources

Keep simple and consistent:

- **Text author:** KlemKA CoLAB
- **Photographer(s):** <https://www.turismoenalbacete.com/es/25/250/0/33/Pasaje-de-Lodares-Albacete.html>
- **Archives or websites consulted:**
 - https://www.eldebate.com/espana/castilla-la-mancha/20250612/pasaje-lodares-historia-galeria-comercial-italiana_306292.html



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- https://www.eldiario.es/castilla-la-mancha/provincias/albacete/pasaje-lodares-obra-centenaria-don-dolares-terrateniendo-tocaba-convertia-dinero_1_12479233.htm
- <https://www.coacmab.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/100-anos-del-Pasaje-de-Lodares.pdf>
- <https://www.revistaad.es/arquitectura/articulos/pasaje-de-lodares-albacete>
- https://www.eldiario.es/castilla-la-mancha/provincias/albacete/primera-locutora-castilla-mancha-aviador-republicano-fallida-bomba-radio-albacete-1936_1_11484106.html

- **Partner organisation: KlemKa CoLab**





The Bank of Spain

Slide 1 Title + Hero Image

Elements to include:

- Bank of Spain (Banco de España)
- Spain's Golden Vault
- Madrid, Spain
- Image: [SP0501](#)

Slide 2 “Discover the Building” (Historical Overview)

The Bank of Spain was created in 1856 as an institution; however, the need for the construction of the present building rose nearly 30 years later due to the enlargement of its activity. The construction project carried out by Eduardo Adato and Severiano Sainz de Lastra was awarded the golden medal in the National Exhibition of Fine Arts in 1884. In the same year, in a solemn act and in the presence of King Alfonso XII, the first stone of the building was placed, symbolising the commencement of the construction, to be finalised in 1891. The architectural style of the original building was eclectic, combining classical, Renaissance and Baroque elements and was later enriched with Art Deco and Rationalist elements.

The Bank of Spain is one of the most important financial institutions in Spain for the historical role it plays in the national and European economy.

Slide 3 “Stories Behind the Walls” (Humanising the Heritage)

Having been around for such a long time, there are many curious stories and legends that revolve around the Bank of Spain. Rumours have it that the vault where the gold is stored is protected by a flood system connected to the fountain of Cibeles which is broken in automatically floods the chamber making it impossible to steal the gold. Curiously there is some truth behind the rumours a flooding system does exist to, however not as dramatic as depicted in the famous Money Heist Series. It actually floods the ante-chamber preventing intruders from even getting to the gold chamber.

Slide 4 “From Yesterday to Today” (Transformation & Current Use)

The Bank of Spain premises has always served its original purpose in being one of the country's most crucial financial institutions. Since its construction, it has undergone three major renovations which took place in the 1930s, 1970s and 2006 that expanded and enlarged the building and added a new architectural style to its eclectic nature.



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It connects past and present through architecture, symbolism and functionality. The original construction was meant to reflect Spain's economic power, while the most recent renovation placed the emphasis on contemporary elements as conference and meeting spaces. Being catalogued as Property of Cultural Interest in 1999, it represents a cultural heritage serving as a symbol of Madrid's cultural identity.

Slide 5 “Why This Building Matters” (Civic Engagement)

The Bank of Spain is a central piece of the Spanish identity, especially Madrid's, as it links historical, cultural and financial heritage. It helps tell the story of the country's economic development at national level and the European scene. It also showcases the evolution of different architectural styles, how they aesthetically blend and move towards the fulfilment of the present institutional needs. Also, the Bank of Spain is a symbol of the importance of preserving “the old” while embracing “the modern”, reinforcing collective memory, identity and civic pride.

Slide 6 “Get Involved!” (Youth Participation)

- Identify an element from each renovation the Bank of Spain underwent. Take or show a picture of it.
- Can you find an old picture and track the changes?

Slide 7 “Explore More” (Open, Evolving Narrative)

- Which are the biggest fictional parts of the Money Heist series related to the bank of Spain?
- What is the most curious story you have heard about it?

Slide 8 Credits & Sources

Keep simple and consistent:

- Text author: KlemKa CoLab
- Photographer(s): <https://www.bde.es/wbe/es/>
- Archives or websites consulted
 - https://www.lasexta.com/viajestic/curioso/edificio-banco-espana-historia-datos-curiosos-que-probablemente-desconocias_2022022462173b56f5e94b0001b2970e.html
 - https://monumentamadrid.es/AM_Edificios4/AM_Edificios4_WEB/index.htm#ingra:inmana.25808
 - <https://www.bde.es/wbe/es/>



R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

The Comedy Theatre

Slide 1 Title + Hero Image

Elements to include:

- Theatre Comedy (Teatro de la Comedia)
- House of Laughter
- Madrid, Spain
- Image: [SP0601](#)

Slide 2 “Discover the Building” (Historical Overview)

The Comedy Theatre was constructed in 1874 in plot of land purchased from Silverio López de Larrainza, a gaming hall entrepreneur who wanted to leave his print in the theatre's decoration through statues of snake charmers and jugglers, and balustrades ironwork that reproduce motifs from the suits of the deck of cards. Under the lead of architect Agustín Ortiz de Villajos, the theatre was made of three stories and a horseshoe-shaped audience area. The most notable feature is the abundant use of iron instead of wood, which gave the building a lighter feeling. The decoration was inspired in the Arabic style of the Alhambra castle in Granada. The theatre was inaugurated in 1875 with King Alfonso XII as guest of honour, and marked the beginning of the performances until April 1915 when the theatre was destroyed by fire. It reopened seven months later.

During the years of its existence, the Comedy Theatre has hosted the performances from the most well-known directors (along with the first integral nude scenes in a Spanish theatre in 1975), it hosted the Syndicate Anarchist Congress (1919), and it is where José Antonio Primo de Rivera gave the foundational speech of the Spanish Falange.

The Escudero family maintained the theatrical activity from 1899 until 1998 when it was acquired by the state. The theatre closed in 2002 for renovation and reopened in 2015 with the premiere of “The Mayor or Zalamea” performed by the National Company of Classical Theatre, which is the theatre's official resident company.

Slide 3 “Stories Behind the Walls” (Humanising the Heritage)

In 1949, the local government decided that it was too expensive to fund seven main theatres in Madrid and to maintain a high quality repertoire. Inspired by the examples of Paris and London where there were respectively only two theatres, it decreed that from that moment onwards there would exist one “Spanish Theatre” and four additional ones denominated as the Drama Theatre, the Comedy Theatre, the Spanish Lyrical Theatre and the Italian Lyrical



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Theatre. The Comedy Theatre would be dedicated to performances that were not considered tragedies, dramas or melodramas.

Another curious fact is that the architect Agustin Ortiz de Villajos forgot to design dressing rooms for the actors, thinking that they already came dressed from home. In the first few years, the artists changed in nearby homes or hallways. The dressing rooms were designed in the twentieth century, when the reconstruction after the 1915's fire took place.

Slide 4 “From Yesterday to Today” (Transformation & Current Use)

The Comedy Theatre keeps its original purpose offering for citizens performances of well-known authors and directors. Since its opening in 1875, the theatre was devastated by fire in 1915 to be rebuilt and reopened in the same year with improvement in safety and functionality. The major renovation took place in 2002 adapting the theatre to contemporary performance standards, improving on safety, backstage modernization, technical aspects (such as light and machinery) and so on. It also preserved and restored the decorative element of the façade and halls.

During the years of its existence, the Comedy Theatre has witnessed and hosted some of Spain's major political and cultural events. It preserves historical architecture in its physical features and cultural legacy in the showcasing of classical and modern works.

Slide 5 “Why This Building Matters” (Civic Engagement)

The Comedy Theatre should be protected because it is a living monument of Spain's theatrical and cultural heritage, representing over a century of dramatic history in Madrid. Without it, we would lose not only a unique example of 19th-century eclectic architecture but also the tangible memory of Spain's literary and performing arts tradition, including historic performances and events that shaped the city's cultural identity. Its preservation safeguards a symbol of local identity and collective memory, connecting present and future generations to Madrid's artistic past, while continuing to serve as a hub for theatre, education, and cultural engagement.

Slide 6 “Get Involved!” (Youth Participation)

- Check the cultural agenda of the theatre and name three performances that you would like to watch.
- Can you find photos of past renovations?

Slide 7 “Explore More” (Open, Evolving Narrative)

- Do you know any curious stories about the performances of years gone by?



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- Any scandals?

Slide 8 Credits & Sources

- Text author: KlemKa CoLab
- Photographer(s): <https://teatroclasico.inaem.gob.es/la-comp/teatro-de-la-comedia/>
- Archives or websites consulted:
 - <https://teatroclasico.inaem.gob.es/la-comp/teatro-de-la-comedia/>
 - <https://cosasdelosmadriles.blogspot.com/2020/06/teatro-de-la-comedia-y-su-curiosa.html>
- Partner organisation: KlemKa CoLab





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

The Fontecha Palace

SLIDE 1: The Fontecha Mansion

Subtitle: A bridge between past and present

Location: Albacete, Spain

Image: [SP0701](#)

SLIDE 2: Discover the building (Historical background)

The Fontecha Palace is one of the few preserved houses of the bourgeois class of Albacete in the 1920s. It consists of a residential palace for a wealthy family of the city's upper class, built by two well-known architects, Julio Carrilero and Manuel Muñoz between 1922 and 1926. It became fashionable for the upper class of Albacete, inspired by constructions from the north or from those who came back from America, to commission residential houses that showcased their wealth and acquisition power.

The principal, the façade presents a classical composition, rich in symmetrical layouts filled with neo-Renaissance, neo-Barroquian elements and may be admired from one of the principal streets of Albacete.

The building bears the name of the lady of the house, Rosario Fontecha. This was unusual in this time because properties bore the name male owners, and was home to Fructuoso Manuel Fernández Nieto y Rosario Fontecha Nieto. The family only lived in the house for eight years, as they left during the Spanish civil war, never to return. The republican wing made different uses of the villa during the Spanish Civil War. During the 1980s it became the headquarters of the Chamber of Commerce and it currently houses the Institution of the Albacete Studies. As of 2024, it is open to the public through free of charge guided visits.

SLIDE 3: Stories from behind the walls.

The Fontecha Palace helps form pieces of the lost puzzle of the bourgeois class of Albacete, and how day-to-day life was conducted within the walls. Interviews with grand-children and great-grandchildren of the service staff and the family's relatives provided pictures of celebrations that showed how they interacted with each other, how they dressed and also features of the Fontecha Palace that no longer exist. For instance the front garden no longer exists, consisting now of a small parking lot.

Interviews also revealed painful details about the fate of the family members. As supporters of the right wing party, being Albacete the headquarters of International Brigades of the Republican Forces, they left the villa along with the family of one of Rosario's sisters. When



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the civil war erupted, they moved to a farm outside of the city. However, they were found and the husbands and the oldest sons were shot. Rosario and the youngest who was 11 at that time, fled Albacete and never returned.

SLIDE 4: From yesterday to today.

The Fontecha Palace served as home to the Fernandez-Fontecha family, until the civil war started. After the family left the property, it adopted different uses during war. After the war, it became the headquarters of the Civil Government in Albacete. Over the years, it risked demolition several times due to the structure's deterioration. In the 80s, the Centre of Commerce moved in until 2014, when it was acquired by the regional government and declared a Property of Heritage Interest. Since 2024, it has become the headquarters of the Institution of the Albacete Studies as well as a tourist and cultural attraction for the wider public.

SLIDE 5: Why this building matters.

Albacete is a city which has been developed quite “aggressively” and has not preserved much of its old constructions or architecture pieces that are linked with the transitions that society has gone through. Chalet Fontecha is one of them. Not only does it tell the story of the architectural tendencies, styles and techniques but also gives details of a class that no longer exists and how life was for them. It is also linked to major historical events and helps citizens reflect deeply on inequalities, the consequences of the use of violence and the benefits of peaceful dialogue.

SLIDE 6: Get involved

Young people play a vital role in bringing new energy to this historic site. As a young person you can:

- Search for old pictures of Chalet Fontecha and compare them to current ones.
- Create a short video telling how the stories related to it make you feel.
- Add photos and your opinions to the ArchTech map.

SLIDE 7 Explore More (Open Questions)

- Which stories from the Spanish Civil War are related to the Fontecha Mansion
- If the mansion had an open invitation to host youth activities, what kind would you propose?

SLIDE 8 Credits & Sources

Text drafted by: KlemKa CoLab





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Historical sources: Local tour guide on the guided tour the KlemKa team participated in

Images (credits):

- <https://cultura.castillalamancha.es/patrimonio/catalogo-patrimonio-cultural/chalet-fontecha>





Toledo Railway station building

Slide 1 Title + Hero Image

Elements to include:

- Toledo Railway Station
- The Gate of the Three Cultures
- Toledo, Spain
- Image: [SP0801](#)

Slide 2 “Discover the Building” (Historical Overview)

The railway first arrived in Toledo in 1858, and was a momentous occasion which was inaugurated by Queen Isabela II and the Duke of Cadiz. The station was a simple functional building, typical of early Spanish railway architecture with no decoration and far from representing the beauty and heritage of Toledo. For this reason, it was considered totally inadequate for a provincial capital of a historical background such as Toledo’s.

In the 1900s, due to an increasing passenger traffic, and desire of both authorities and citizens to have a station they could take pride in, construction work was led by architect Narciso Clavería to improve the station, and was overseen by the Railway Company from Madrid to Zaragoza and Alicante.

Its design consists of a central hall flanked by two side naves and a clock tower that evokes the silhouette of Toledo’s historic towers. Its Neo-Mudejar (Moorish Revival) style evokes the co-existence of the three cultures of Toledo (Christian, Islamic and Jewish) and makes use of decorative elements such as bricks, stones, iron and tiles crafted by local artisans honouring Toledo’s rich traditions. The station was inaugurated in 1919. In 1991 it was catalogued and declared as a protected heritage monument.

Slide 3 “Stories Behind the Walls” (Humanising the Heritage)

There is a curious fact related to its clock tower. While it is a very convenient element to keep track of time, it was not very common for railway stations to have clocks, because they were associated with churches or town halls. A clock was added to the Toledo railway station to reinforce the importance of the building.

In addition, unlike most railway stations across Europe which focused on the industrial functionality and didn't include much artisan work, the Toledo station aimed at making a statement of the local richness of artistic tradition by entrusting details such as tiles to local ceramist Angel Pedraza, and ironwork and lamps to master forger Julio Pascual.



R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Slide 4 “From Yesterday to Today” (Transformation & Current Use)

The Toledo Railway station always served its original purpose. After its construction in 1919, no major renovation took place until the mid-20 century when the electrification and the modernisation of the rail equipment made it necessary. In 1991, the railway was declared a heritage monument in Spain, recognising the building’s architectural and historical value. This meant that any following renovation work must protect its historic character.

The most important renovation took place in 2005 to respond to the high-speed rail services that connected Toledo to Madrid. Some works included modernisation of the platforms, a new parking space, café, and renovation of the clock tower.

Some of the recent renovations included a new parking area for bicycles and e-scooters, contributing to the national efforts of promoting sustainability.

Slide 5 “Why This Building Matters” (Civic Engagement)

The railway station is far more than a transit area; it is a living gateway to the city’s rich past. With its architectural Neo-Mudéjar style, the station blends modern functionality with medieval artistry, and its horseshoe arches, decorative tiles, and clock tower echoing Toledo’s skyline, and centuries of Christian, Muslim, and Jewish heritage. The building tells the story of local craftsmanship, civic pride, and the city’s enduring identity. Protected as a cultural heritage site, it continues to serve its practical role while offering a cultural and historical landscape to Toledo, reminding visitors that even in the age of high-speed trains, architecture can inspire, educate, and celebrate history.

Slide 6 “Get Involved!” (Youth Participation)

- Upload a photo of three decorative elements that impresses you.
- Make a short reel and/or a short video and upload it on the ArchTech App.

Slide 7 “Explore More” (Open, Evolving Narrative)

Content:

- Being the Toledo Railway station such an iconic place, what alternative uses can you think of?
- Have you heard any legends or curious stories that you would like to share?

Slide 8 Credits & Sources



R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

- Text author: Klemka CoLab
- Photographer(s): <https://www.cmmedia.es/noticias/castilla-la-mancha/estacion-tren-toledo-siglo-viajeros.html>
- Archives or websites consulted: <https://www.cmmedia.es/noticias/castilla-la-mancha/estacion-tren-toledo-siglo-viajeros.html>
- Partner organisation: KlemKa CoLab



R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

School of Arts and Crafts of Toledo

Slide 1 Title + Hero Image

- Building name: School of Arts and Crafts of Toledo
- Subtitle: The Neo-Mudéjar Dream Factory: Toledo's Creative Lab
- **Location: Toledo, Spain**
- **Image: [SP0901](#)**

Slide 2 "Discover the Building" (Historical Overview)

The Escuela de Artes y Oficios Artísticos is a striking example of Toledo's ability to renew itself. Built between 1884 and 1902 by the master architect Arturo Mélida, it stands symbolically on the ruins of the Monasterio de San Juan de los Reyes, destroyed decades earlier.

The school was founded on the *Arts and Crafts* philosophy, aiming to dignify labour and merge art with industrial production. Architecturally, it is a magnificent display of the Neo-Mudéjar style, characterised by its harmonious use of brick, stone, and iron.

Look for the rich details, such as the unique double-entrance façade and the monumental Eagle of St. John (the Catholic Monarchs' shield) crafted in vibrant glazed ceramics. This blend of historical styles and modern purpose makes it one of the city's most representative buildings of the late 19th century.

Slide 3: Stories Behind the wall:

The Escuela de Artes was an inclusive space from the start, embodying the philosophy of dignifying the worker. Its first director, the painter Matías Moreno, oversaw a student body that was truly diverse.

Unlike many centres of the era, the school held its classes in the afternoon and evening. This was considered "heroic," as it allowed young labourers and apprentices who worked during the day to dedicate their free time to learning a trade, from tapestries to carving and drawing.

Furthermore, the Escuela was pioneering in its gender equality; classes were co-ed with no separation between men and women. Female students could, with "complete naturalness," study the same challenging subjects as their male peers, like drawing a nude figure such as the Venus de Milo; a radical concept at the turn of the 20th century.

Slide 4:

The school's site is built on profoundly historic ground, the ruins of the second cloister of the San Juan de los Reyes Monastery, a Gothic masterpiece ordered by the Catholic Monarchs.





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Despite this transformation from ruins, the Escuela's core mission has remained constant for over 120 years; it is still an active school of art and design. Today, it continues to serve the community as a vital creative hub, seamlessly blending the old with the new.

While traditional arts like sculpture and ceramics remain, the curriculum has fully adapted to the 21st-century labour market. Students can now enroll in programs like graphic publicity, interactive art, and Artistic High School, proving that the blend of ancient craft tradition with modern technology is the key to enduring relevance.

Slide 5 “Why This Building Matters” (Civic Engagement)

Toledo has always been a city of artisans and artists. The Escuela de Artes is crucial because it is the physical place where this centuries-old tradition is kept alive. For over 120 years, it has been the epicentre where the city's artistic identity is nurtured and passed down.

We must protect it to ensure the survival of the creative trades that define Toledo's memory and culture. Losing the school would mean severing the link between historical crafts (like intricate metalwork and ceramics) and the adaptive modern design that reflects contemporary Spanish society. It is a vital record of how art evolves with us.

We encourage you to support this continuous legacy:

- Visit the Exhibitions: See how traditional Toledo crafts are reinterpreted in modern media.
- Support the Students: Value the work of young artists keeping the city's creative spirit vibrant.

Slide 6:

The Escuela de Artes needs you to document and celebrate its ongoing legacy! Join the ArchTech community and explore its stories:

- Find the Dates: Search for the school's open house or student exhibition dates and plan a visit! Share the information on your social media.
- Capture the Contrast: Take a photo of the intricate Neo-Mudéjar brickwork and compare it to the modern digital art coming out of the classrooms.
- Interview an Elder: If you know a former student or teacher, record their memories of taking those "heroic" evening classes. Upload the stories to the ArchTech map!

Slide 7:

The history of the School of Arts is a continuous work in progress, shaped by every student and designer who passes through its doors. Help us expand the narrative!





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

- The Architect's Hand: Research the architect Arturo Mélida. Can you find any other major buildings he designed in Toledo or elsewhere in Spain that share the same Neo-Mudéjar flair?
- The Iron Clues: The School utilised modern iron structures (like the old conservatory/greenhouse) in the 19th century. How revolutionary was the use of iron in Toledo's architecture at that time?
- Future Crafts: The School adapts traditional arts to new media (like graphic design). What is a new craft or technology that you think the School should teach next to ensure its legacy for the future?

Slide 8: Credits & Sources

- Text author: KlemKa CoLab
- Photographer(s): <https://toledodiario.es/eventos/puertas-abiertas-de-la-escuela-de-arte-de-toledo/>
- Archives or websites consulted:
 - <https://cultura.castillalamancha.es/patrimonio/catalogo-patrimonio-cultural/escuela-de-artes-y-oficios-de-toledo>
 - <https://toledodiario.es/en-el-corazon-del-arte-un-recorrido-por-los-tesoros-escondidos-de-la-incubadora-de-artistas-de-toledo/>
 - <https://www.rtve.es/noticias/20230323/escuela-arte-toledo-cumple-120-anos/2432686.shtml>
- Partner organisation: KlemKa CoLab





Flour Factory San José

Slide 1 Title + Hero Image

Elements to include:

- Building Name: Flour Factory San José (Fábrica de Harinas San José)
- Subtitle: From Blades to Bakeries: A Century of Change
- Location: Toledo, Spain
- Image: SP1001

SLIDE 2

Located surprisingly in the heart of Toledo's historic Jewish quarter (*Judería*), the Fábrica de Harinas de San José is a powerful example of 19th-century industrial architecture. Designed by Luis Moraleda and completed in 1889, its construction required demolishing an entire block of old houses.

Its unique style is Neo-Mudéjar, featuring decorative brick patterns like rhombuses and pointed arches, showcasing the historicist trend in Toledo at the time.

The building's function shifted dramatically. Originally, it was designed to house a cutlery factory, before becoming the popular San José Flour Mill in 1905, which later added the production of the city's famous marzipan. Today, the structure is protected as a Property of Cultural Interest (BIC), demonstrating the value of industrial heritage.

Slide 3

The Fábrica de Harinas is a place where industrial ambition met local tradition. While the building was initially a modern factory designed with a steam engine for cutlery production, this use was short-lived.

The real human story started when the building became the San José Flour Mill in 1905. The workers didn't just mill flour; they produced a staple of Toledo's confectionery, the city's famous marzipan and other traditional sweets. This transformation shows how locals adapted modern industry to preserve and commercialise Toledo's cherished culinary heritage.

The building's interior, designed by architect Luis Moraleda, featured twenty eight cast-iron columns to support the structure, creating a single, wide-open nave. This diaphanous space, intended for efficient machinery, became the heart where workers produced food enjoyed across the city, making the building central to Toledo's daily life and flavours for nearly a century.



R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

SLIDE 4

The Fábrica de Harinas completed its incredible transformation in 2003, moving from an industrial site to a luxury four-star establishment, the Hotel San Juan de los Reyes. This monumental shift required extensive restoration to convert the sprawling industrial space into a modern hospitality venue while protecting its declared status as a BIC.

The building now serves the community by promoting heritage tourism, attracting visitors directly to the historic *Judería*. The past lives on, most notably in the hotel's restaurant, aptly named "La Fábrica de Harinas."

Here, tradition meets modernity; the restaurant's mission is to preserve the regional culinary heritage, offering traditional Toledan cuisine (like *carcamusas* and marzipan) with vanguard, modern touches. This adaptive reuse successfully connects the building's history of production with the enjoyment of local flavours today.

Slide 5

The Fábrica de Harinas is crucial because its walls hold the collective memory of a century of work and innovation. It represents a continuous human story, from the cutlery factory workers of 1889 to the millers and marzipan-makers of the 20th century, and now, the staff of the modern hotel and restaurant.

If this building were lost, we would erase the physical space where generations of Toledo citizens built their livelihoods. The building's value lies in its identity as a place that has constantly adapted to provide employment and sustain local industries, from heavy manufacturing to haute cuisine.

We encourage you to honour this labor heritage:

- Learn the Threads: When you visit, talk to the restaurant and hotel staff; they are the newest keepers of the building's working history.
- Support the Legacy: By supporting the current business, you ensure this BIC landmark continues its essential function as a source of local employment.

Slide 6

The history of the Fábrica de Harinas is waiting for you to uncover its hidden details! We need your digital skills to help us document its industrial legacy.

Here are simple ways you can get involved:





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

- Find the Labels: Search online archives for photos of the original San José flour bags or marzipan boxes. Upload your findings to the ArchTech map!
- Capture the Details: Take photos or sketches of the Neo-Mudéjar brickwork and the original cast-iron columns in the hotel interior.
- Share the Shift: Create short videos (TikTok/Reels) comparing archival images of the factory with its modern hotel and restaurant use.

SLIDE 7

The Fábrica de Harinas challenges how we view Toledo's history. We invite you to become a junior heritage investigator and help us expand this evolving narrative:

- The Architectural Contrast: The Fábrica is Neo-Mudéjar industrial, built in 1889. How does its style (brickwork, large windows) contrast with the surrounding Mudéjar/Gothic architecture of the Toledo Jewish Quarter?
- Future Flavors: The restaurant carries the building's legacy. If you were the manager, what new culinary tradition would you start to ensure the Fábrica de Harinas remains central to Toledo's identity for the next century?

Slide 8 Credits & Sources

Keep simple and consistent:

- Text author: KlemKa CoLab
- Photographer(s): <https://cultura.castillalamancha.es/patrimonio/catalogo-patrimonio-cultural/fabrica-de-harinas-de-toledo>
- Archives or websites consulted:
 - <https://cultura.castillalamancha.es/patrimonio/catalogo-patrimonio-cultural/fabrica-de-harinas-de-toledo>
 - <https://toledoolvidado.blogspot.com/2023/05/la-fabrica-de-harinas-san-jose-el-mejor.html>
 - https://www.elespanol.com/eldigitalcastillalamancha/vivir/20230512/escapada-toledo-genial-experiencia-antigua-fabrica-mazapan/762673733_0.html

Partner organisation: KlemKa CoLab





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Palace of the Provincial Council of Ciudad Real

Slide 1 Title + Hero Image

Elements to include:

- Palace of the Provincial Council of Ciudad Real
- Subtitle (something evocative: “From Courthouse to Library of Knowledge”)
- Ciudad Real, Spain
- [SP1101](#)

Slide 2 “Discover the Building” (Historical Overview)

The Provincial Council of Ciudad Real was established in 1935 but lacked dedicated headquarters for several decades. In the 1880s, the provincial government decided that it needed a purpose-built palace that would represent the importance and the interests of the province. The project was commissioned to Sebastián Rebollar y Muñoz, who was a well-known architect and responsible for several important buildings in the region.

The design is typical of the eclectic architectural trends of the late 19th century, combining classical elements with stylistic touches that spoke to civic dignity and presence. The exterior is known for its white limestone for the lower portions and brick and stone details, and the interior is known for its grand central staircase topped by a decorated dome. The interior is also well-known for its frescos and ornamental paintings that were followed by murals reflecting cultural and civic themes in the plenary room. Its public inauguration took place in 1892.

Slide 3 “Stories Behind the Walls” (Humanising the Heritage)

The building which now is the house of a public institution and civic power, replaced an ecclesiastical building where future priests were trained. The building and the nearby land were both needed to build a sufficiently big palace that responded to the needs of the institution. This was the palace marked a symbolic transition from religious power to civic one, a scene that played out in real life in the years to come.

In the civic scene, the palace is famous for hosting the nativity scene (referred to in Spanish as Belén) for nearly 60 years. The scene is a popular Christmas display and tells the story of the birth of Jesus Christ through figures and props. During this season, the palace is transformed into one of the city’s main festive attractions, bridging between the formality of the institutions and the community.

Slide 4 “From Yesterday to Today” (Transformation & Current Use)





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Since its construction, the building has always served its original purpose. It underwent a major renovation in the 1950s which focused, among things, on the mural painted in the plenary room. Between 1985 and 1988 the palace underwent further functional and regulatory upgrades to fulfil contemporary needs and standards. In 2006, additional improvements were made to bring the palace closer to the community and to integrate its heritage elements to the administrative ones. This renovation rehabilitated the façade to highlight the beauty of the palace, it improved its accessibility for disabled people, and it created exhibition and presentation spaces to showcase the artistic works of the building

Finally, in the 2020s works were carried out to rehabilitate the murals that had suffered damage from the detachments of the false ceiling and also to make the building more energetically efficient.

Slide 5 “Why This Building Matters” (Civic Engagement)

The Palace of the Provincial Council of Ciudad Real stands as a monument to civic pride, history, and culture. It transformed the provincial government from a series of temporary offices into a grand, permanent institution, projecting authority and stability through its eclectic late-19th-century architecture. Its façades, grand staircase, dome, and ornate interiors showcase the work of architect Sebastián Rebollar y Muñoz and artists like Ángel Andrade, reflecting both local craftsmanship and the province’s commitment to the arts. Beyond its aesthetic value, the palace is a living civic and cultural hub, hosting governmental functions, exhibitions, and community events that link past and present. It embodies the intersection of history, art, and public life, making it not just an administrative building, but a symbol of Ciudad Real’s identity, heritage, and enduring civic spirit.

Slide 6 “Get Involved!” (Youth Participation)

- Name a cultural event that took place in the Palace this last year.
- Take/find a picture of the element or artwork that strikes you most and upload it in the ArchTech App.
- Describe why you like it and how it makes you feel.

Slide 7 “Explore More” (Open, Evolving Narrative):

- **Community service:**

Of all the past uses that the palace has had in the past (social bank, library, tax collection service), which one is your favorite?

- Alternative Use





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

If you could have the palace at your disposal to create one single event, which would it be?
Who would it be for?

Slide 8 Credits & Sources

- Text author: KlemKa CoLab
- Photographer(s): <https://cultura.castillalamancha.es/patrimonio/catalogo-patrimonio-cultural/palacio-de-la-diputacion-provincial-de-ciudad-real>
- Archives or websites consulted: <https://www.europapress.es/castilla-lamancha/noticia-exposicion-refleja-evolucion-edificio-diputacion-ciudad-real-130-anos-vida-20240628152046.html>

<https://cultura.castillalamancha.es/patrimonio/catalogo-patrimonio-cultural/palacio-de-la-diputacion-provincial-de-ciudad-real>

- Partner organisation: KlemKa CoLab





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

The Pantheon of Duchess of Sevillano

Slide 1: Title The Pantheon of Duchess of Sevillano (El Panteón de la Duquesa de Sevillano)

- Location: Guadalajara, Spain
- Subtitle: The Architectural Altar of a Social Visionary
- SP1201

Slide 2:

The Duchess of Sevillano Pantheon was built between 1882 and 1916, commissioned by the wealthy and influential Duchess María Diega Desmaissières as a spectacular family mausoleum. She hired famed architect Ricardo Velázquez Bosco (designer of Madrid's Crystal Palace) to create the 40-metre-high structure.

The style is an Eclectic Historicism masterpiece, combining Neo-Romanesque-Lombard and Mudéjar influences, built on a Greek Cross floor plan. The most fascinating detail is its "false crypt." The Duchess insisted she did not want to be buried underground, so the architect elevated the entire building. This allowed the burial chamber, located at street level, to be illuminated by natural light, a technical and deeply personal triumph.

Slide 3:

The Duchess of Sevillano faced a haunting family reality, a genetic disorder caused her relatives to die young, scattered in cemeteries across Europe. The Pantheon was her final, loving tribute to her father and family.

Yet, her vision transformed a private grief into a powerful social project. Influenced by her aunt, a social reformer, the Duchess believed charity must offer dignity. She gave Velázquez Bosco two strict conditions, to hire only local workers and to source only national materials. This was done to address unemployment and poverty in Guadalajara and Madrid.

In fact, she became a job creator. When construction advanced too quickly, she famously ordered parts to be torn down and rebuilt at least twice, just to keep the local population employed and trained in various trades. Her death in 1916 led to one of the era's most massive funerals, with crowds streaming from trains, a testament to the respect earned by her profound social commitment.

Slide 4:

The Pantheon remains an active monument to the Duquesa's vision. While the burial chamber (the "false crypt") retains its original function, the Duchess entrusted the building and its surrounding complexes to the Adoratrices Sisters, the congregation founded by her aunt.



R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

This adaptive legacy ensures the complex serves the community today. The annexed buildings function as the Adoratrices School, continuing the Duchess's mission to provide education for young people. The Pantheon itself is a public-facing museum piece, celebrating the best of late 19th-century Spanish architecture.

The structure connects past and present through its ingenious technical design. The crypt, illuminated by natural light entering through a nearly flat, translucent dome, a technical feat using Gothic-style flying buttresses, shows how the architect adapted ancient concepts for a revolutionary, humane purpose.

Slide 5:

The Pantheon is far more than a spectacular tomb; it is a monument to civic responsibility and social vision. We must protect it because it embodies the powerful idea that major construction projects can be tools for economic uplift and vocational training, benefiting an entire province.

Losing this site would erase a key piece of Guadalajara's identity: the tangible memory of a woman who invested her fortune directly into local jobs and education. It showcases a rare example of 19th-century private architecture that was fundamentally rooted in social empathy.

Slide 6:

The Duchess of Sevillano Pantheon is a treasure waiting to be documented by a new generation. Help us preserve and share its legacy!

- **Capture the Light:** Take photos or videos focusing on the incredible translucent dome and the way natural light illuminates the crypt. Upload your best shots to the ArchTech map!
- **Share the Stories:** Record a short interview with a guide or a long-time resident of Guadalajara about the legend of the Duchess ordering the walls to be torn down to create more jobs.
- **Digital Tour:** Create a short (15-30 second) TikTok or Instagram Reel highlighting the difference between the grand exterior and the subtle, unique lighting of the burial chamber.

Slide 7:

The Duchess of Sevillano Pantheon invites you to uncover more of its secrets and social history!





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

- Group Challenge: A single ticket costs €3, but group tickets are only €1 per person. Grab your friends and organise a group visit to see the innovative "false crypt" and the stunning sepulchral sculpture by Ángel García Díez.
- The Architect's Network: Research Ricardo Velázquez Bosco. Besides the Crystal Palace in Madrid, what other major public or private buildings did he design that feature Eclectic Historicism?
- Social Footprint: Visit the Guadalajara Tourism Office or search online to learn more about the Duchess's broader legacy and the school she founded next to the Pantheon. How did her social vision continue to shape the city after 1916?

Slide 8: Credits and Sources

Keep simple and consistent:

- Text author: KlemKa CoLab
- Photographer(s): <https://cultura.castillalamancha.es/patrimonio/yacimientos-visitables/panteon-de-la-duquesa-de-sevillano>
- Archives or websites consulted
 - <https://cultura.castillalamancha.es/patrimonio/yacimientos-visitables/panteon-de-la-duquesa-de-sevillano>
 - <https://repositorio.upct.es/server/api/core/bitstreams/2fdb20b-7d6e-45d6-8267-6b2df24efca0/content>
 - <https://repositorio.upct.es/server/api/core/bitstreams/2fdb20b-7d6e-45d6-8267-6b2df24efca0/content>
 - <https://eldecanodeguadalajara.com/index.php/news/5130/guadalajara-custodia-uno-de-los-conjuntos-funerarios-privados-m%C3%A1s-espectaculares-del-pa%C3%ADs-obra-de-%C3%A1ngel-garc%C3%ADa-el-escultor-%E2%80%98olvidado/>
- Partner organisation: KlemKa CoLab





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

4. Cyprus

Cyprus University of Technology Library

Slide 1 Title + Hero Image

Elements to include:

- Cyprus University of Technology Library “Vassilis Michaelides”
- From Court of Justice to House of Knowledge
- Image [CY_0101](#)
- Limassol, Cyprus

Slide 2: Discover the Building (Historical Overview)

Completed in **1911**, the building that now hosts the Cyprus University of Technology (CUT) Library was originally constructed as the **Court of Justice of Limassol** during the British colonial period. Designed by British Government Engineer **Williams Williams**, it reflects a **neoclassical architectural style**, characterised by symmetry, monumental proportions, and formal detailing intended to convey authority and order.

For decades, the building played a central role in the city’s administrative life, hosting courts and various government departments. Its imposing façade, still bearing the **British emblem**, stands as a visible reminder of Cyprus’s colonial past. Today, the building remains a key urban landmark in the historic centre of Limassol, valued not only for its architecture but also for its long-standing civic presence and its contribution to the city’s evolving identity.

 Image: [CY_0102](#)

Slide 3: Stories Behind the Walls (Humanising the Heritage)

Beyond its official role, the former Court of Justice was deeply embedded in the daily life of Limassol’s residents. For years, people gathered outside its entrance, waiting for verdicts, meeting lawyers, or simply observing the rhythms of civic life. One particularly vivid memory connected to the building is **Rialas’ open-air café**, once located directly in front of the courthouse.

The café became an informal meeting point for lawyers, journalists, citizens, and members of the city’s intellectual and political circles. Conversations flowed freely over coffee, blending legal debates with everyday stories and local gossip. This social layer transformed the imposing judicial building into a lively urban stage, where official authority and everyday life intersected. These memories, preserved through local recollections, reveal how the building functioned not just as an institution, but as a shared social space.



R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Slide 4: From Yesterday to Today (Transformation & Current Use)

In **2009**, the building entered a new phase when it was officially granted to the **Cyprus University of Technology**. After careful refurbishment, it was transformed into the university's main academic library, named "**Vassilis Michaelides**". The renovation respected the building's historic character while adapting its interior to contemporary educational needs.

Today, the CUT Library functions as a **learning resource centre**, supporting students, researchers, and staff. Spaces once dedicated to legal proceedings now host study areas, digital resources, and academic collaboration. This transformation illustrates how historic buildings can be successfully reused, allowing the past to coexist with modern functions and ensuring long-term sustainability through active public use.

 Image: [CY 0103](#)






Slide 5: Why This Building Matters (Civic Engagement)

This building matters because it embodies **continuity through change**. Preserving the former Court of Justice allowed Limassol to retain a key historical landmark while giving it a renewed public role. Without adaptive reuse, the city might have lost an important piece of its architectural and civic heritage.

Today, the library connects memory, education, and community life, reminding visitors that heritage buildings do not belong only to the past. They can remain active contributors to urban life, identity, and learning. Protecting such spaces helps maintain a tangible link between historical governance, cultural memory, and contemporary public engagement.

Slide 6: Get Involved! (Youth Participation)

Young people can actively engage with the CUT Library building by:

-  Photograph architectural details, façades, and interior spaces
-  Record short interviews with students or locals about their memories of the building
-  Create short social media videos showing the building's transformation: old details and new functions
-  Sketching or digitally illustrate its neoclassical features
-  Uploading content to the **ArchTech interactive map**

Your contribution helps keep the building's story alive and evolving.



R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Slide 7: Explore More (Open, Evolving Narrative)

- ? How did British colonial architecture shape Limassol's public buildings?
- ? What other historic buildings in the city have been successfully reused?
- 🔍 Can you find traces of the building's judicial past inside the library today?

Slide 8: Credits & Sources

Text Author: CIP

Sources:

- <https://library.cut.ac.cy/en/node/1200>
- <https://www.cut.ac.cy/multimedia/photo-gallery/cut-buildings/gallery/?languageId=1&contentId=128640>
- Georghiou, C. (2013). *British colonial architecture in Cyprus: The architecture of the British colonial administration, 1878-1960*.
- Georghiou, C. (n.d.). *The architecture of the Cypriots during British rule, 1878–1960* (Later ed.).
- Schaar, K., Given, M., & Theocharous, G. (1995). *Under the clock: Colonial architecture and history in Cyprus, 1878-1960*.





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

School of Faneromeni

Slide 1: Title + Hero Image

Elements to include:

- School of Faneromeni
- From Girls' Education to Urban Renewal
- Image [CY_0201](#)
- Nicosia, Cyprus

Slide 2: Discover the Building (Historical Overview)

Completed in **1857**, the School of Faneromeni is one of the most historically significant educational buildings in Cyprus. It was founded under Ottoman rule as the **first girls' school (parthenagogeio)** on the island, at a time when female education was rare and illiteracy widespread. Established by **Archbishop Makarios I**, the school marked a decisive step toward social progress and educational reform.

Architecturally, the building reflects a **neoclassical Greek style enriched with Cypriot elements**. Its most recognisable feature is the **1925 façade with Ionic columns**, funded by the nearby Faneromeni Church. Designed by **Theodoros Fotiadis**, the first Cypriot formally trained as an architect, the building combines monumentality with local craftsmanship. Located in the heart of Nicosia's historic centre, it remains a strong visual and cultural landmark.

 Image: [CY_0202](#)

Slide 3: Stories Behind the Walls (Humanising the Heritage)

The School of Faneromeni is deeply connected to stories of learning, faith, and resilience. For generations, young girls entered its classrooms to receive an education that challenged social norms of the time. In its early years, the school used the **inter-teaching method**, where older students helped teach younger ones, creating a strong sense of responsibility and solidarity.

The building also stands beside the **Marble Mausoleum**, commemorating four clerics executed by the Ottomans in 1821, a reminder that education, religion, and political struggle have long intersected in this space. Over time, the school reflected the changing face of Nicosia's old city. From the 1990s onward, it became part of a multicultural urban environment, adapting to new social realities while continuing to serve the community.

 image: [CY_0203](#)



R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Slide 4: From Yesterday to Today (Transformation & Current Use)

Despite political upheavals and social change, the School of Faneromeni has continuously adapted its role. After the events of **1974**, the school temporarily closed and later reopened in **1975-76** as a **co-educational institution** under a new name. Today, the building hosts **school and childcare facilities**, continuing its long educational tradition.

Looking ahead, the building is planned to be **leased to the University of Cyprus**, where it will host the **School of Architecture** as part of a broader urban renewal strategy for Nicosia's historic centre. This transition reinforces the building's enduring identity as a place of learning, while connecting heritage preservation with contemporary academic and public life.





 Image: [CY 0204](#)

Slide 5: Why This Building Matters (Civic Engagement)

The School of Faneromeni matters because it represents **education as a driver of social change**. As the first girls' school in Cyprus, it helped reshape attitudes toward women's education and participation in public life. Preserving the building protects not only its architecture but also the values it embodies.




Its continued educational use, from past to present, and future, shows how historic buildings can remain relevant without losing their identity. Without protection and adaptive reuse, Nicosia would risk losing a powerful symbol of learning, resilience, and collective memory rooted in the old city.

Slide 6: Get Involved! (Youth Participation)

-  Photograph architectural details and façades
-  Interview former students, teachers, or local residents
-  Create short videos about women's education history in Cyprus
-  Sketch or digitally illustrating the Ionic façade

Your perspective helps expand the building's living narrative.

Slide 7: Explore More (Open, Evolving Narrative)

-  How did girls' education change Cypriot society in the 19th and 20th centuries?
-  What other school buildings played a role in social reform?
-  How can architecture support education in historic city centres?

 link: <https://visitnicosia.com.cy/nic-tourism-maps/>



R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Slide 8: Credits & Sources

Text: CIP

Resources:

- Petrou, Margarita; Charmpis, Dimos (2019), Aguilar, Rafael; Torrealva, Daniel; Moreira, Susana; Pando, Miguel A. (eds.), "[Iron Ties Originally Anchored into Masonry as a Historical Construction Technology – Case Study: A Church in Cyprus](#)", *Structural Analysis of Historical Constructions*, vol. 18, Cham: Springer International Publishing, pp. 153–161, [doi:10.1007/978-3-319-99441-3_15](#), [ISBN 978-3-319-99440-6](#), retrieved 2024-02-29
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- Christou, Georgina (2021). "[Agitative pauses, intentional moorings: Stasis as resistance](#)". *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*. **39** (4): 685–703. [doi:10.1177/02637758211027577](#). [ISSN 0263-7758](#).
- Christou, Georgina (2023-01-26). "[Refusing to Grow Old: The Antichronocratic Labour of Cypriot Activist Youth and What It Can Teach Us About Decolonizing Childhood and Related Knowledge Production](#)". *Journal of Childhood Studies*: 73–84. [doi:10.18357/jcs202320467](#). [ISSN 2371-4115](#).
- <https://map.herstoryproject.eu/2024/01/05/faneromenis-school-2/>
- Georghiou, C. (2013). British colonial architecture in Cyprus: The architecture of the British colonial administration, 1878-1960.
- Georghiou, C. (n.d.). The architecture of the Cypriots during British rule, 1878–1960 (Later ed.).
- Schaar, K., Given, M., & Theocharous, G. (1995). Under the clock: Colonial architecture and history in Cyprus, 1878-1960.





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Faneromeni Church

Slide 1: Title + Hero Image


Elements to include:

- Faneromeni Church
- Faith, Memory, and Resistance in the Heart of Nicosia
- Image [CY_0301](#)
- Nicosia, Cyprus

Slide 2: Discover the Building (Historical Overview)

The current Faneromeni Church was constructed in 1872 and officially opened in 1911, standing on a site with a much longer religious history. Located within the historic walls of Nicosia, the church serves as one of the most important Greek Orthodox places of worship in Cyprus. The site was originally occupied by an Orthodox women's monastery, believed to date back to the early 13th century.

Architecturally, the church reflects a Gothic Revival style enriched with Cypriot elements, incorporating influences from Byzantine, Latin, and Neoclassical traditions. This eclectic design mirrors the island's complex cultural and historical layers. Although the architect of the current structure is unknown, the church's monumental scale and carefully crafted details make it a defining landmark of the old city and a focal point of Faneromeni Square.

 Image: [CY_0302](#)

Video: [CY_0303](#)

Slide 3: Stories Behind the Walls (Humanising the Heritage)

Stories of faith, loss, and endurance surround Faneromeni Church. Its name derives from the miraculous discovery of a 14th-century icon of the Virgin Mary, found among the ruins of an earlier church after periods of destruction. This event inspired the dedication to "Faneromeni," meaning "*the Revealed One*." The icon is still preserved inside and displayed on special religious occasions.

Local traditions also speak of failed attempts by Ottoman authorities to convert the church into a mosque, reinforcing its symbolic role as a site of spiritual resistance. Just east of the church stands a marble mausoleum, containing the relics of bishops and priests executed in 1821. These stories connect the church not only to religious devotion, but also to collective memory and national identity.





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.



image:

[CY_0304.jpg](#)

Slide 4: From Yesterday to Today (Transformation & Current Use)

Despite repeated destruction from earthquakes and historical conflicts, Faneromeni Church has remained an active place of worship for centuries. Today, it continues to function as a Greek Orthodox church, hosting daily visitors, religious services, and major celebrations.

The interior features frescoes painted in 1929 by Cypriot artist Ioannis Kissonergis, as well as intricate woodcarving by M. Taliadoros, blending artistic heritage with spiritual practice. Situated at the heart of the old city, the church remains closely linked to surrounding institutions, including the Faneromeni School and Square. Its ongoing religious use ensures that heritage here is not frozen in time, but lived and renewed through community participation.






 Image: [CY_0305](#)

Slide 5: Why This Building Matters (Civic Engagement)

Faneromeni Church matters because it represents continuity through adversity. It embodies centuries of faith, artistic expression, and collective memory within Nicosia's historic core. Without its preservation, the city would lose a vital symbol of spiritual life and resistance tied to key moments in Cypriot history.

The church also demonstrates how religious heritage can coexist with public access and urban life. As a protected monument and an active place of worship, it connects past struggles with present-day cultural identity, offering a space for reflection, remembrance, and community gathering.

Slide 6: Get Involved! (Youth Participation)

-  Photograph architectural details, icons, and frescoes
-  Record stories about local religious traditions
-  Create short videos about Faneromeni Square and its monuments
-  Sketch Gothic and Cypriot architectural elements
-  Share content on the ArchTech interactive map

Your contribution helps preserve both tangible and intangible heritage.

Slide 7: Explore More (Open, Evolving Narrative)



R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

- ? How do religious buildings shape urban identity?
- ? What other churches in Cyprus reflect mixed architectural styles?
- 🔍 How does Phaneromeni Square connect education, religion, and memory?

Slide 8: Credits & Sources

Text: CIP

Resources:

- Petrou, Margarita; Charmpis, Dimos (2019), Aguilar, Rafael; Torrealva, Daniel; Moreira, Susana; Pando, Miguel A. (eds.), "[Iron Ties Originally Anchored into Masonry as a Historical Construction Technology – Case Study: A Church in Cyprus](#)", *Structural Analysis of Historical Constructions*, vol. 18, Cham: Springer International Publishing, pp. 153–161, [doi:10.1007/978-3-319-99441-3_15](#), [ISBN 978-3-319-99440-6](#), retrieved 2024-02-29
- <https://faneromeni.cy/en/the-holy-church-of-phaneromeni/>
- <https://www.visitcyprus.com/discover-cyprus/culture/sites-and-monuments/faneromeni-church/>
- <https://www.nicosia.org.cy/en-GB/discover/religion/48111/>
- <https://www.cyprusalive.com/en/location/panagia-faneromeni-nicosia>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Faneromeni_Square
- Georghiou, C. (2013). *British colonial architecture in Cyprus: The architecture of the British colonial administration, 1878-1960*.
- Georghiou, C. (n.d.). *The architecture of the Cypriots during British rule, 1878–1960* (Later ed.).
- Schaar, K., Given, M., & Theocharous, G. (1995). *Under the clock: Colonial architecture and history in Cyprus, 1878-1960*.





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

St Paul's Anglican Cathedral Nicosia

Slide 1: Title + Hero Image

Elements to include:

- St Paul's Anglican Cathedral
- An English Gothic Landmark in the Heart of Nicosia
- Image: [CY_0401](#)
- Nicosia, Cyprus

Slide 2: Discover the Building (Historical Overview)

Completed in **1893**, St Paul's Anglican Cathedral was built during **British administration in Cyprus** to serve the spiritual needs of the Anglican community. Located near the historic centre of Nicosia, the church reflects the presence of British expatriates and officials on the island at the end of the 19th century.

Architecturally, the cathedral follows the **English Gothic parish church tradition**, a style chosen to evoke familiarity and continuity for the British congregation abroad. Its form, materials, and proportions reflect ecclesiastical models from England, distinguishing it from the predominantly Orthodox religious architecture of Cyprus. Over time, the building has become an important religious and cultural landmark, symbolising a distinct layer of Cyprus's multicultural and colonial history within the urban fabric of Nicosia.

 Image: [CY_0402](#)

Slide 3: Stories Behind the Walls (Humanising the Heritage)

For more than a century, St Paul's Anglican Cathedral has been a place of gathering, care, and community life. Originally serving a largely British congregation, the church gradually evolved into a meeting point for a diverse and international Anglican community. Worshippers from different countries and backgrounds have shared the same space, contributing to a sense of openness and inclusivity.

Beyond religious services, the cathedral has long played a social role. It hosts **charitable initiatives**, including support for refugees and monthly free meals for people in need. The building is also used by community groups such as women's associations, youth organisations, and international congregations. Through music, shared meals, and volunteer activities, the cathedral's walls have witnessed everyday acts of solidarity that continue to shape its living heritage.





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

 image: [CY_0403](#)

Slide 4: From Yesterday to Today (Transformation & Current Use)

While St Paul’s remains a place of worship, its role has expanded over time. In **1981**, it was elevated from a parish church to a **diocesan cathedral**, reflecting its growing importance within the **Anglican Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf**. Today, it hosts regular services, ecumenical gatherings, concerts, and cultural events.

Efforts have been made to ensure accessibility, including the installation of ramps and handrails, allowing broader public participation. The cathedral continues to adapt to contemporary needs while maintaining its original architectural character, demonstrating how historic religious buildings can remain active and socially engaged in modern urban life.






 Image: [CY_0404](#)

Slide 5: Why This Building Matters (Civic Engagement)

St Paul’s Anglican Cathedral matters because it represents **religious diversity and coexistence** within Cyprus’s cultural landscape. As an Anglican landmark in a predominantly Orthodox context, it reflects the island’s layered history and its openness to different traditions.

Preserving the cathedral protects not only its architecture, but also its role as a space of dialogue, charity, and community support. Without such buildings, important chapters of Cyprus’s social and colonial history risk being overlooked. The cathedral shows how heritage can foster inclusion, understanding, and shared civic responsibility.

Slide 6: Get Involved! (Youth Participation)

-  Photograph architectural details and Gothic elements
-  Record stories about community activities and outreach
-  Create short videos about multicultural religious spaces in Nicosia
-  Sketch English Gothic features and interior spaces
-  Share content on the ArchTech interactive map

Your contribution helps preserve both tangible and intangible heritage.

Slide 7: Explore More (Open, Evolving Narrative)



R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

- ? How did British colonial rule influence religious architecture in Cyprus?
- ? What role do churches play in social support today?
- 🔍 How can historic religious buildings encourage intercultural dialogue?

🎥 **Video:** [Intercultural and Religious Dialogue: Why it matters](#)

Slide 8: Credits & Sources

Text: CIP

Resources:

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diocese_of_Cyprus_and_the_Gulf
- Georghiou, C. (2013). *British colonial architecture in Cyprus: The architecture of the British colonial administration, 1878-1960*.
- Georghiou, C. (n.d.). *The architecture of the Cypriots during British rule, 1878–1960* (Later ed.).
- Schaar, K., Given, M., & Theocharous, G. (1995). *Under the clock: Colonial architecture and history in Cyprus, 1878-1960*.





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Municipal and University Library of Lemesos (Pilavakis Mansion)

Slide 1: Title + Hero Image

Elements to include:

- Municipal and University Library of Lemesos (Pilavakis Mansion)
- From Belle Époque Residence to Civic Library
- Image [CY_0501](#)
- Limassol, Cyprus

Slide 2: Discover the Building (Historical Overview)

The Municipal and University Library of Lemesos is housed in the **Pilavakis Mansion**, an architectural landmark completed in **1934** after a long construction period that began in **1919**. Originally built as a luxurious private residence for **Antonis Pilavakis**, a prominent merchant and philanthropist, the mansion reflects Limassol's economic and cultural prosperity during the early 20th century.

The building follows an **eclectic Belle Époque style**, inspired by European architectural trends of the time. Its design was influenced by the **Monte Carlo Casino** in Monaco, admired by Pilavakis, and commissioned in Paris. The plans were later adapted to local conditions by Greek architect **Zacharias Vondas**, ensuring compatibility with Cypriot construction traditions. Situated in the historic centre of Limassol, the mansion remains a striking example of cosmopolitan architecture introduced to Cyprus during a period of intense urban and cultural development.

 Image: [CY_0502](#)

Slide 3: Stories Behind the Walls (Humanising the Heritage)

The Pilavakis Mansion tells a story of ambition, craftsmanship, and transformation. Its construction took **15 years**, involving skilled artisans from across Cyprus who created ornate columns, arched windows, and elaborate decorative details. When completed, the mansion stood as a symbol of wealth, elegance, and openness to European cultural influences.

After Antonis Pilavakis's death, the building gradually lost its original residential function and fell into decline. A new chapter began in **1966**, when the mansion was purchased by the **Limassol Municipality** and converted into the city's Municipal Library. Over time, generations of residents came to associate the once-private mansion with reading, study, and public





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

access to knowledge. This shift from exclusivity to shared cultural use reshaped the building's identity and strengthened its role within the city's social life.

 image: [CY_0503](#)

Slide 4: From Yesterday to Today (Transformation & Current Use)

The most significant transformation of the building occurred with a **major restoration completed in December 2017**, carried out through collaboration between the **Limassol Municipality** and the **Cyprus University of Technology (CUT)**. The project restored key architectural features while upgrading the building to meet contemporary library and accessibility standards.

Today, the Municipal and University Library of Lemesos functions as a **shared academic and public library**, managed by CUT. It houses over **70,000 volumes**, including rare books and extensive collections on Cypriot history and literature. The building now hosts lectures, exhibitions, and educational activities, reaffirming its role as a living cultural and intellectual centre for Limassol.






 Image: [CY_0504](#)

Slide 5: Why This Building Matters (Civic Engagement)

This building matters because it demonstrates how **private heritage can be transformed into public value**. The Pilavakis Mansion preserves an important example of Belle Époque architecture while serving the community's educational and cultural needs.

Without adaptive reuse, the mansion might have remained inaccessible or deteriorated beyond repair. Instead, it now supports lifelong learning, research, and cultural exchange. Its preservation strengthens Limassol's historic centre and highlights the importance of investing in heritage as a resource for public knowledge and civic life.

Slide 6: Get Involved! (Youth Participation)

-  Photograph architectural details, decorative elements, and façades
-  Record stories about the building's transformation into a library
-  Create short videos about historic libraries and learning spaces
-  Sketch Belle Époque and eclectic architectural features
-  Share content on the ArchTech interactive map



R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Your contribution helps preserve both tangible and intangible heritage.

Slide 7: Explore More (Open, Evolving Narrative)

- ? How do historic mansions reflect social change in cities? [UNESCO-New life for historic cities](#)
- ? What other private residences in Limassol have become public spaces?
- 🔍 How can libraries support cultural life beyond books?

Slide 8: Credits & Resources

Text adaptation: CIP

Resources:

- <https://www.limassol.org.cy/en/library>
- <https://dom.com.cy/en/live/blog/pilavakis-house-in-limassol-from-a-luxurious-mansion-to-the-largest-library-in-cyprus/>
- Georghiou, C. (2013). *British colonial architecture in Cyprus: The architecture of the British colonial administration, 1878–1960*.
- Georghiou, C. (n.d.). *The architecture of the Cypriots during British rule, 1878–1960* (Later ed.).
- Schaar, K., Given, M., & Theocharous, G. (1995). *Under the clock: Colonial architecture and history in Cyprus, 1878–1960*.





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

The Old Carob Mill behind the Medieval Castle

Slide 1: Title + Hero Image

Elements to include:

- The Old Carob Mill behind the Medieval Castle
- From “Black Gold” Industry to Cultural Landmark
- Image [CY_0601](#)
- Limassol, Cyprus

Slide 2: Discover the Building (Historical Overview)

Completed around **1900**, the Old Carob Mill Warehouse complex is located in Limassol’s historic centre, close to the Medieval Castle and the old port. Originally constructed as a **warehouse and processing facility for carobs**, the building reflects the importance of industrial infrastructure during the early 20th century. Although the architect of the stone-built warehouses is unknown, the complex is a representative example of **industrial architecture** from the British colonial period.

At the time, Limassol was a key maritime hub, and its proximity to the sea made the area ideal for storage and export. Carobs were one of Cyprus’s most valuable agricultural products, playing a crucial role in the island’s economy. The warehouse complex was designed for efficiency and durability, supporting large-scale trade and connecting local agricultural production with international markets.

 Image: [CY_0602](#)

Slide 3: Stories Behind the Walls (Humanising the Heritage)

For decades, the Carob Mill was at the heart of Limassol’s working life. Carobs, often referred to as “**black gold**,” provided income for countless families in the countryside, who depended on seasonal harvesting and transport to the port. The warehouses stored vast quantities of carobs before they were milled, packed, and shipped abroad for use in products ranging from medicines and sweets to photographic materials.

Discover more on the Cyprus Food Museum [website](#)

And on carob cultivation with this [video](#)





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

In the late **1920s**, the **N. P. Lanitis Company** converted the warehouses into a fully operational carob mill. The mill remained active until the **1960s**, when changes in global markets led to the decline of the carob trade. Today, preserved machinery such as sorting funnels, scales, and sack-sewing tools offers a tangible connection to the labour, skills, and daily routines of workers who once filled the space with movement and noise.

 image: [CY_0603](#)

Slide 4: From Yesterday to Today (Transformation & Current Use)

After the decline of the carob industry, the warehouse complex faced abandonment, like many industrial buildings of its time. However, adaptive reuse gave the site a new future. Today, the Old Carob Mill operates in part **as a museum**, preserving original equipment and explaining the carob production process to visitors.

The complex also hosts the **Evagoras Lanitis Centre**, along with exhibition spaces, cultural venues, restaurants, and event areas. This transformation has turned a former industrial site into a lively cultural destination, seamlessly blending heritage preservation with contemporary urban life. The building now connects Limassol's industrial past with its modern identity as a cultural and tourist hub.




 Image: [CY_0604](#)

Slide 5: Why This Building Matters (Civic Engagement)

The Old Carob Mill matters because it preserves the memory of a time when agriculture and industry shaped everyday life in Cyprus. Without protection and reuse, this chapter of Limassol's economic history could have been lost.

By transforming an industrial warehouse into a cultural and educational space, the city demonstrates how heritage can remain active and relevant. The site reminds visitors that behind economic growth were workers, families, and communities whose labour sustained the island. Preserving such buildings strengthens collective memory and reinforces the value of industrial heritage within the urban landscape.

Slide 6: Get Involved! (Youth Participation)

-  Photograph industrial details, machinery, and stone structures
-  Record stories about agricultural work and local industries
-  Create short videos about "black gold" and Cyprus's carob trade



R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.



Sketch industrial architecture and mechanical elements



Share content on the ArchTech interactive map

Your contribution helps preserve both tangible and intangible heritage.

Slide 7: Explore More (Open, Evolving Narrative)

- ? Why was the carob so important to Cyprus's economy?
- ? What other industrial buildings have shaped Limassol's port area?
- 🔍 How can former factories become cultural spaces today?

Slide 8: Credits & Sources

Text: CIP

Resources:

- <https://www.limassoltourism.com/en/things-to-do/local-experience/arts-culture/museums/carob-museum>
- <https://www.visitcyprus.com/discover-cyprus/culture/sites-and-monuments/the-old-carob-mill/>
- Georghiou, C. (2013). *British colonial architecture in Cyprus: The architecture of the British colonial administration, 1878–1960*.
- Georghiou, C. (n.d.). *The architecture of the Cypriots during British rule, 1878–1960* (Later ed.).
- Schaar, K., Given, M., & Theocharous, G. (1995). *Under the clock: Colonial architecture and history in Cyprus, 1878–1960*.





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Larnaka Municipal Cultural Centre

Slide 1: Title + Hero Image

Elements to include:

- Larnaka Municipal Cultural Centre
- From Colonial Administration to Cultural Memory
- Image [CY_0701.jpg](#)
- Larnaca, Cyprus

Slide 2: Discover the Building (Historical Overview)

Completed in **1881**, the Larnaka Municipal Cultural Centre is part of a historic complex originally built to serve the administrative needs of the **British colonial port authority**. Located near the harbour, the buildings housed the residence and offices of the **Port Master**, along with customs warehouses essential for regulating maritime trade.

Architecturally, the complex reflects a **neoclassical colonial style**, typical of administrative buildings constructed under British rule. The emphasis was on functionality and durability rather than architectural ornamentation, responding to the urgent need for governance infrastructure in key port cities such as Larnaka. Despite the absence of a documented architect, the complex remains an important example of colonial-era public architecture, closely linked to the city's maritime and administrative history.

 Image: [CY_0702](#)

Slide 3: Stories Behind the Walls (Humanising the Heritage)

For decades, this complex was a place of daily activity connected to the movement of goods, people, and information through the port of Larnaka. Officials, merchants, sailors, and customs workers passed through these buildings, shaping the rhythms of the city's economic life.

Over time, as administrative needs changed, the buildings gradually lost their original function. Rather than disappearing from public life, they were reimagined as spaces for culture and memory. Today, visitors encounter a very different atmosphere: instead of paperwork and inspections, the rooms host artworks, archival documents, and exhibitions. This transformation reflects how buildings once associated with authority and regulation can acquire new meanings as shared cultural spaces rooted in collective memory.



R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

 **Optional image:** [CY 0703](#)

Slide 4: From Yesterday to Today (Transformation & Current Use)

Today, the former administrative complex functions as the **Larnaka Municipal Cultural Centre**. The old customs warehouses now house the **Municipal Gallery**, showcasing works by Cypriot artists and supporting the city's contemporary visual arts scene.

The former residence and offices of the Port Master have been repurposed as the **Municipal Historical Archives and Museum of Larnaka**. The ground floor museum presents the city's history to the public, while the upper floor preserves rare books and documents accessible to researchers. This careful division allows the building to serve both public education and scholarly research, ensuring its continued relevance within the cultural life of Larnaka.






 **Image:** [CY 0704](#)

Slide 5: Why This Building Matters (Civic Engagement)

This building matters because it preserves an important chapter of Larnaka's **administrative and maritime history** while actively contributing to the city's cultural life today. Its adaptive reuse demonstrates how colonial-era infrastructure can be transformed into inclusive spaces that support education, creativity, and historical awareness.

Without preservation, these buildings might have remained closed or forgotten. Instead, they now invite citizens and visitors to engage with art, archives, and local history, strengthening the connection between place, memory, and civic identity.

Slide 6: Get Involved! (Youth Participation)

-  Photograph architectural details and exhibition spaces
-  Record stories about the port, customs, and city life
-  Create short videos about art and history in Larnaka
-  Sketch neoclassical and colonial architectural features
-  Share content on the ArchTech interactive map

Your contribution helps preserve both tangible and intangible heritage.

Slide 7: Explore More (Open, Evolving Narrative)





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

- ? How did ports shape the development of Cypriot cities?
- ? What other colonial administrative buildings exist in Cyprus?
- 🔍 How can archives and galleries keep history alive for younger generations?

Slide 8: Credits & Sources

Text: CIP

Resources:

- <https://larnakaregion.com/en/directory/product/municipal-art-gallery>
- Schaar, K.W., Given, M., & Theocharous, G. (1995). Under the Clock: Colonial Architecture and History in Cyprus, 1878-1960.
- Georghiou, C. (2013). British colonial architecture in Cyprus: The architecture of the British colonial administration, 1878–1960.
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R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Nicosia Municipal Arts Centre

Slide 1: Title + Hero Image

Elements to include:

- Nicosia Municipal Arts Centre (NiMAC)
- From Power Station to Contemporary Art Hub
- Image [CY_0801](#)
- Nicosia, Cyprus

Slide 2: Discover the Building (Historical Overview)

The building that now houses the **Nicosia Municipal Arts Centre (NiMAC)** was constructed in the **early 20th century** as the city's **first power-generating station**, following the introduction of electricity to Cyprus by the British administration in **1903**. Located near the historic centre of Nicosia, the structure played a crucial role in modernising urban life, supplying electricity to public spaces and private homes.

Architecturally, the building is a clear example of **industrial architecture**, characterised by a robust and functional design. The absence of decorative elements reflects the priorities of early industrial construction, where durability and efficiency were essential. Although the original architect remains unknown, the building stands as an important monument to Cyprus's industrial and technological heritage.

 Image: [CY_0802](#)

Slide 3: Stories Behind the Walls (Humanising the Heritage)

For decades, the power station was a place of innovation and labour, where electricity transformed everyday life in Nicosia. Engineers and technicians worked within its walls to power streets, homes, and public institutions, marking a turning point in the city's development.

After the facility ceased operation, the building stood abandoned for nearly **20 years**, becoming a silent reminder of a bygone industrial era. Its revival marked another transformation. Instead of machinery and generators, the interior began to host artworks, exhibitions, and cultural gatherings. This shift from industrial production to cultural creation reflects how cities reinterpret their past, turning spaces of labour into places of imagination and exchange.





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

 image: [CY_0803](#)

Slide 4: From Yesterday to Today (Transformation & Current Use)

In the late 20th century, the **Electricity Authority of Cyprus** granted the building to the **Municipality of Nicosia**, which restored it in partnership with the **Pierides Foundation**. The project respected the building's industrial character while adapting it for cultural use.

Completed in **1994**, the restoration was recognised with the **Europa Nostra Award** for architectural excellence. Today, NiMAC is the **oldest and largest contemporary art centre in Cyprus**, hosting major exhibitions in collaboration with international institutions. It also houses the **Demetrios Z. Pierides History of Art Library** and offers educational programmes for all ages, ensuring continuous public engagement.






 Image: [CY_0804](#)

Slide 5: Why This Building Matters (Civic Engagement)

NiMAC matters because it demonstrates how **industrial heritage can be transformed into cultural capital**. Preserving the former power station safeguards an important chapter of Cyprus's technological history while supporting contemporary artistic expression.

Without adaptive reuse, the building might have remained abandoned or lost. Instead, it has become a space for dialogue, creativity, and education. NiMAC strengthens Nicosia's cultural identity and shows how heritage buildings can actively shape modern civic life.

Slide 6: Get Involved! (Youth Participation)

-  Photograph industrial features and exhibition installations
-  Record stories about art, technology, and urban change
-  Create short videos about transforming industrial spaces
-  Sketch industrial architecture and interior volumes
-  Share content on the ArchTech interactive map

Your contribution helps preserve both tangible and intangible heritage.

Slide 7 , Explore More (Open, Evolving Narrative)

- ? How did electricity change everyday life in Cypriot cities?
- ? What other industrial buildings have become cultural spaces?



R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.



See the case of Zagreb, [Gredelj factory](#)



How can art help reinterpret historic places?

Slide 8: Credits & Sources

Text:

CIP

Resources:

- <https://nimac.org.cy/>
- kurt, sevinc. (2021). Industrial Heritage Buildings in Cyprus. Prostor. [https://doi.org/10.31522/P.29.1\(61\).8](https://doi.org/10.31522/P.29.1(61).8)





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

School of Economics and Management of CUT (Continental Hotel)

Slide 1: Title + Hero Image

Elements to include:

- School of Economics and Management of CUT (Continental Hotel)
- From Seafront Hotel to University Campus
- Image [CY_0901](#)
- Limassol, Cyprus

Slide 2: Discover the Building (Historical Overview)

The building that now houses the **School of Economics and Management of the Cyprus University of Technology** was constructed in the **early 20th century** and originally known as **Whitfield House**. Built as a private residence on Limassol's seafront, it quickly became a prominent landmark in the city's expanding urban landscape.

Architecturally, the building reflects a **European style**, typical of coastal residences and hotels of the period. Although the original architect is unknown, the building's form and proportions were carefully preserved during later modifications. Its strategic location, offering views of both the sea and the Troodos Mountains, contributed to its early prestige and ongoing prominence within Limassol's built environment.

 Image: [CY_0902](#)

Slide 3: Stories Behind the Walls (Humanising the Heritage)

Over the decades, the building became a lively social and cultural hub. In **1917**, its ground floor hosted the **Liberal Political Club**, reflecting its early role in public and political life. Just a few years later, it was transformed into the **Vienna Hotel**, gaining popularity through bold advertising and its exceptional location.

Its most celebrated chapter began in the **1930s**, when it was renamed the **Continental Hotel**. Under the management of **Christos Mylonas**, the hotel became one of Limassol's most renowned meeting places, welcoming locals, travellers, and dignitaries. Weddings, receptions, and social gatherings filled its rooms, embedding the building in the collective memory of the city as a place of hospitality and encounter.

 image: [CY_0903](#)



R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Slide 4: From Yesterday to Today (Transformation & Current Use)

A significant architectural intervention took place in **1965**, when Cypriot architect **Charilaos Dikeos** added a second floor to accommodate the hotel's growing success. The addition respected the original design, ensuring architectural continuity.

Following the closure of the hotel after **1974**, the building entered a new phase of life. Today, it houses the **School of Economics and Management of CUT**, reflecting Limassol's transformation into a university city. Former guest rooms and public spaces now serve academic functions, demonstrating how historic buildings can successfully support contemporary education while retaining their architectural identity.






 **Image CY_0904:**

Slide 5: Why This Building Matters (Civic Engagement)

This building matters because it mirrors Limassol's social and urban evolution. From private residence to hotel and finally to academic institutions, it reflects changing patterns of leisure, economy, and education.




Its preservation ensures that a key seafront landmark remains part of everyday life rather than becoming a static monument. Adaptive reuse has allowed the building to continue serving the community, linking the city's past of hospitality and social exchange with its present role as a centre for learning and innovation.

Slide 6: Get Involved! (Youth Participation)

-  Photograph architectural details and seafront views
-  Record stories about hotels, tourism, and social life in Limassol
-  Create short videos about adaptive reuse in coastal cities
-  Sketch European-style façades and urban contexts
-  Share content on the ArchTech interactive map

Your contribution helps preserve both tangible and intangible heritage.

Slide 7: Explore More (Open, Evolving Narrative)

-  How do hotels reflect the social life of a city?
-  What other historic hotels in Cyprus have been reused?
-  How can universities revitalise historic urban areas?



R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

👉 Check the importance of Urban Heritage [with UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape](#)

Slide 8: Credits & Sources

Text: CIP

Resources:

- <https://dom.com.cy/en/live/blog/top-10-historical-buildings-of-limassol/>
- Xekalakis, G., & Christou, P. (2023). Tracing the Historical Development of Architecture in Cyprus and its Resilience to Seismic Hazards. *International Journal of Architectural Engineering Technology*, 10, 1–15. <https://doi.org/10.15377/2409-9821.2023.10.1>
- Georghiou, C. (2013). British colonial architecture in Cyprus: The architecture of the British colonial administration, 1878–1960.
- Georghiou, C. (n.d.). The architecture of the Cypriots during British rule, 1878–1960 (Later ed.).





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Rectorate of the Cyprus University of Technology

Slide 1: Title + Hero Image

Elements to include:

- Rectorate of the Cyprus University of Technology
- From Grand Residence to Academic Landmark
- Image [CY 1001](#)
- Limassol, Cyprus

Slide 2: Discover the Building (Historical Overview)

The Rectorate of the Cyprus University of Technology is housed in the former **Rossides residence**, a neoclassical building completed in **1882** and prominently located on Archbishop Kyprianou Street in the centre of Limassol. Originally constructed as a private residence for **Georgios Rossides**, a leading economic and political figure of the city, the building reflected the prosperity and ambition of Limassol in the late 19th century.

Architecturally, the building follows a **neoclassical style**, characterised by balanced proportions and formal detailing. Although the architect is not documented, the residence was admired as one of the grandest urban homes of its time. The inclusion of shops on the ground floor illustrates the mixed-use character typical of elite urban buildings in Mediterranean port cities.

 Image: [CY 1002](#)

Slide 3: Stories Behind the Walls (Humanising the Heritage)

The Rossides residence has witnessed multiple transformations that mirror Limassol's changing fortunes. After financial difficulties forced its original owner to relinquish the property, the building was acquired by the **colonial administration** and converted into a government facility.

For decades, it housed the **Provincial Administration**, **Land Registry**, and later the **Post Office**, becoming a place associated with bureaucracy and public service rather than domestic life. These changes altered both the function and the interior character of the building, embedding it in the everyday administrative routines of the city. Its layered past reflects how private prestige, public authority, and civic life have intersected within Limassol's historic centre.

 image: [CY 1003](#)





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Slide 4: From Yesterday to Today (Transformation & Current Use)

Significant alterations made during its government phase disrupted the building's original architectural harmony. In **2004**, the property was granted to the **Cyprus University of Technology**, initiating a major restoration project aimed at recovering its historic character.

Completed in **2011** at a cost of approximately **€6 million**, the restoration reversed earlier interventions and re-established the building as a landmark within the city. Today, it serves as the **Rectorate of CUT**, functioning as the university's administrative and symbolic centre. Modern accessibility features were integrated, ensuring that the historic building meets contemporary standards while remaining fully operational.






 Image: [CY 1004](#)

Slide 5: Why This Building Matters (Civic Engagement)

This building matters because it demonstrates the value of **long-term investment in heritage preservation**. Its journey from private residence to government offices and finally to a university rectorate reflects Limassol's broader urban and social evolution.




By restoring and reusing the building, the city preserved an important neoclassical landmark while giving it a meaningful contemporary role. The Rectorate stands as a symbol of continuity, resilience, and respect for architectural heritage within the modern academic and civic landscape.

Slide 6: Get Involved! (Youth Participation)

-  Photograph neoclassical architectural details
-  Record stories about the building's different historical uses
-  Create short videos about heritage restoration projects
-  Sketch façades, proportions, and decorative elements
-  Share content on the ArchTech interactive map

Your contribution helps preserve both tangible and intangible heritage.

Slide 7: Explore More (Open, Evolving Narrative)

-  How do historic residences adapt to institutional use?
-  What challenges arise when restoring altered heritage buildings?
-  How can universities contribute to urban heritage protection?



R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

👉 Check the importance of Urban Heritage [with UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape](#)

Slide 8: Credits & Sources

Text: CIP

Resources:

- <https://dom.com.cy/en/live/blog/top-10-historical-buildings-of-limassol/>
- Xekalakis, G., & Christou, P. (2023). Tracing the Historical Development of Architecture in Cyprus and its Resilience to Seismic Hazards. *International Journal of Architectural Engineering Technology*, 10, 1–15. <https://doi.org/10.15377/2409-9821.2023.10.1>
- Georghiou, C. (2013). *British colonial architecture in Cyprus: The architecture of the British colonial administration, 1878–1960*.
- Georghiou, C. (n.d.). *The architecture of the Cypriots during British rule, 1878–1960* (Later ed.).



R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Rialto Theatre

Slide 1: Title + Hero Image

Elements to include:

- Rialto Theatre
- From Interwar Cinema to Cultural Beacon
- Image [CY 1101](#)
- Limassol, Cyprus

Slide 2: Discover the Building (Historical Overview)

The **Rialto Theatre** was completed in **1930** and opened as one of the most advanced cultural venues in Cyprus during the interwar period. Originally conceived as both a **cinema and theatre**, it is widely regarded as the first modern cinema on the island. Located near Heroes Square in Limassol, the building quickly became a focal point for entertainment and social life.

Architecturally, the theatre reflects an **Art Deco and Modernist style**, incorporating classic cinema-theatre features such as a large stage, orchestra pit, balcony, and private boxes. These elements represented a major innovation for Cypriot cultural infrastructure at the time. The Rialto's design and scale positioned Limassol firmly within broader European cultural and architectural trends of the early 20th century.

 Image: [CY 1102](#)

Slide 3: Stories Behind the Walls (Humanising the Heritage)

For nearly fifty years, the Rialto Theatre was at the heart of Limassol's cultural life. Audiences gathered to watch film premieres, theatrical productions, musical performances, and international acts, making the theatre a place of shared experiences and collective memory.

Designed by **Benjamin Günsberg**, a German-Jewish architect and engineer, the theatre was commissioned by the **Chrysochou Brothers**, who envisioned a modern venue capable of hosting diverse artistic forms. As television and new forms of entertainment emerged in the 1970s, attendance declined. Social changes following **1974** accelerated the theatre's closure in the mid-1980s. Yet, despite its silence, the Rialto remained a powerful symbol of the city's cultural past.

 Optional image: [CY 1103](#)





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Slide 4: From Yesterday to Today (Transformation & Current Use)

In **1991**, the abandoned Rialto Theatre was purchased by the **Limassol Cooperative Savings Bank**, which recognised its cultural importance. A major refurbishment followed, carried out in collaboration with the **Limassol Municipality** and the **Ministry of Education and Culture**.

The theatre reopened in **1999**, fully restored and equipped with modern technical facilities. Today, the Rialto functions as a **leading performing arts venue**, hosting theatre, music, dance, and international festivals. Its revival played a key role in the regeneration of Heroes Square and reaffirmed the value of cultural heritage as a driver of urban renewal.






 Image: [CY 1104](#)

Slide 5: Why This Building Matters (Civic Engagement)

The Rialto Theatre matters because it demonstrates how cultural heritage can be **revived through collective effort**. Its restoration saved an important Art Deco landmark from decay and returned it to public life.




As a space for artistic expression and community gathering, the theatre continues to shape Limassol's cultural identity. Without preservation and reuse, a vital chapter of the city's social history would have been lost. The Rialto shows how historic cultural venues can remain relevant, inclusive, and vibrant in contemporary society.

Slide 6: Get Involved! (Youth Participation)

-  Photograph Art Deco details and theatre interiors
-  Record memories of performances and festivals
-  Create short videos about historic cinemas and theatres
-  Sketch façades, stages, and seating layouts
-  Share content on the ArchTech interactive map

Your contribution helps preserve both tangible and intangible heritage.

Slide 7: Explore More (Open, Evolving Narrative)

-  How do theatres reflect social change in cities?
-  What other historic cinemas have been adapted for new uses?
-  How can culture drive urban regeneration?



R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Slide 8: Credits & Sources

Text:

CIP

Resources:

- Xekalakis, G., & Christou, P. (2023). Tracing the Historical Development of Architecture in Cyprus and its Resilience to Seismic Hazards. *International Journal of Architectural Engineering Technology*, 10, 1–15. <https://doi.org/10.15377/2409-9821.2023.10.1>
- Georghiou, C. (2013). British colonial architecture in Cyprus: The architecture of the British colonial administration, 1878–1960.
- Georghiou, C. (n.d.). The architecture of the Cypriots during British rule, 1878–1960 (Later ed.).





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

St. Catherine Catholic Church

Slide 1: Title + Hero Image

Elements to include:

- St. Catherine's Catholic Church
- A Catholic Landmark in a Multicultural City
- Image [CY 1201](#)
- Limassol, Cyprus

Slide 2: Discover the Building (Historical Overview)

St. Catherine's Catholic Church, also known locally as **Agia Aikaterini** or **Fragoklisia**, was completed in **1879** and is one of the oldest Catholic churches in Limassol. Built during the late Ottoman period, the church was constructed to serve the city's growing Roman Catholic community, reflecting Limassol's multicultural and multi-faith character.

Architecturally, the church combines an **eclectic exterior** with a richly decorated **Baroque interior**. It was designed by **Francesco da Monghidoro**, a Franciscan friar from Bologna, who introduced European ecclesiastical influences to Cyprus. Its prominent portico and interior ornamentation distinguish it from other religious buildings in the city, making it a notable landmark within Limassol's historic urban fabric.

 Image: [CY 1202.jpg](#)

Slide 3: Stories Behind the Walls (Humanising the Heritage)

The construction of St. Catherine's Church is closely tied to stories of diplomacy and perseverance. Work on the church began in **1872**, but Ottoman authorities halted construction when the scale and grandeur of the building became apparent. Only after **diplomatic intervention by the Vatican** was permission granted for the project to resume.

The church was officially inaugurated on **25 November 1879**, the feast day of St. Catherine, in the presence of the British Governor, foreign consuls, and Orthodox clergy, a powerful symbol of coexistence. Known affectionately as *Fragoklisia*, the church has remained a spiritual home for generations of Catholics, both local and international, preserving traditions while adapting to the city's changing social fabric.

 Optional image: [CY 1203](#)





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Slide 4: From Yesterday to Today (Transformation & Current Use)

St. Catherine's Church has remained an active place of worship since its completion. In **1979**, it underwent an important restoration that included the addition of a large **neo-Byzantine fresco** behind the sanctuary, depicting saints significant to both Cyprus and the Franciscan tradition.

Today, the church continues to serve Limassol's Catholic community, hosting services in **Greek, English, and Latin**. A Franciscan convent located directly behind the church supports religious and community activities. The church's continued use demonstrates how historic religious buildings can remain living spaces of faith, dialogue, and community engagement.






 **Video:** [CY 1204](#)

Slide 5: Why This Building Matters (Civic Engagement)

St. Catherine's Church matters because it represents **religious diversity and cultural coexistence** in Cyprus. As a Catholic landmark within a predominantly Orthodox context, it reflects centuries of interaction between different faiths and cultures.




Its preservation protects not only architectural heritage, but also the rights and visibility of Cyprus's Latin minority. Without such buildings, important narratives of coexistence and tolerance risk being overlooked. The church remains a place of worship, memory, and openness in the heart of Limassol.

Slide 6: Get Involved! (Youth Participation)

-  Photograph architectural details and interior decoration
-  Record stories about religious diversity in Limassol
-  Create short videos about historic churches and coexistence
-  Sketch Baroque and eclectic architectural features
-  Share content on the ArchTech interactive map

Your contribution helps preserve both tangible and intangible heritage.

Slide 7: Explore More (Open, Evolving Narrative)

-  How do minority religious buildings shape urban identity?
-  What other Catholic landmarks exist in Cyprus?
-  How can religious heritage support dialogue and understanding?



R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Slide 8: Credits & Sources

Text:

CIP

Resources:

- <https://lpj.org/en/the-patriarchate/diocese/parishes/cyprus/limassol-parish-st-catherine-church>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Catherine%27s_Church,_Limassol





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

5. France

Halles Alstom 1 & 2, 4 & 5

SLIDE 1 Title + Hero Image

- **Title:** Halles Alstom
- **Subtitle:** Building ships in the middle of Nantes, seriously?
- **Location:** Nantes, France
- **Hero image:** [FR_0101.png](#)

SLIDE 2 Discover the Building

Originally constructed in the mid-19th century as the Voruz Foundries, Halles Alstom comprises vast industrial halls that shaped Nantes' working-class history. The Alstom industrial complex later dominated the landscape with shipbuilding and mechanical production, employing hundreds and anchoring the city's economic prosperity. The distinctive steel skeleton and soaring architectural presence became iconic symbols of industrial Nantes. When Alstom departed in the early 2000s, the site fell dormant, yet its robust structure preserved the physical memory of generations of skilled workers and innovation.

SLIDE 3 Stories Behind the Walls

Within these steel halls, generations of workers shaped Nantes' maritime and industrial legacy. Foundry workers melted metals whilst shipyard workers constructed vessels destined for global waters. The rhythmic hammering of machinery defined the daily rhythm of neighbourhoods and families whose livelihoods depended on this site. Though the factories have closed, the Halles remain living monuments to this human presence. Today's students walk where furnaces once burned, embodying a continuity of purpose: the transformation from industrial production to creative education and innovation.

SLIDE 4 From Yesterday to Today

Over two decades, Nantes Métropole and SAMOA orchestrated an ambitious urban transformation. Franklin Azzi Architecture led restoration of Halles 4 & 5 in 2017, retaining the iconic steel skeleton whilst adapting spaces for contemporary use. Patrice Gardera reimagined Halles 1 & 2 (inaugurated 2023) as open modular environments where glass and metal create dynamic dialogues between heritage and present. Today, Halles 4 & 5 house the Nantes Saint-Nazaire Higher School of Fine Arts serving 500 students, whilst Halles 1 & 2 provide creative industry, prototyping labs, digital culture, and public spaces welcoming all.





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

SLIDE 5 Why This Building Matters

Halles Alstom exemplifies Nantes' journey from industry to creativity. The site now supports 9,000 companies and 38,000 jobs within the "Quartier de la Création", demonstrating how heritage can anchor sustainable economic and cultural regeneration. Without preservation, Nantes would lose tangible connection to its working-class roots and maritime identity. The Halles prove that industrial memory need not be erased but rather reimagined as a foundation for contemporary innovation and community belonging.

SLIDE 6 Get Involved!

- Join guided tours during Nantes Digital Week or European Heritage Days
- Collect family stories from workers who laboured in these halls
- Photograph the building's architectural details and transformations
- Create artwork inspired by the dialogue between industrial past and creative present
- Explore the public agora and exhibition spaces in Halles 1 & 2

SLIDE 7 Explore More

- **Lost in time:** What knowledge and craftsmanship of shipbuilding and foundry work might be preserved in family archives or local museums?
- **Landscape shift:** How did the 19th-century industrial landscape differ from today's creative quarter, and what shaped that transformation?
- **Your vision:** What industrial heritage in your community could be reimagined as a creative space for future generations?

SLIDE 8 Credits & Sources

Text drafted by: LUDICIUS

Historical sources:

- Les Halles, d'hier à aujourd'hui : une plongée au cœur de l'histoire, <https://www.iledenantes.com/les-halles-dhier-a-aujourd'hui-une-plongee-au-coeur-de-lhistoire/>
- Les Halles UN SITE CHARGÉ D'HISTOIRE DÉDIÉ À L'INNOVATION ET À LA CRÉATIVITÉ, https://www.iledenantes.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/LesHalles_Livret2021_148x21cm_20pages_WEB.pdf
- Patrimoine industriel, <https://patrimonia.nantes.fr/home/decouvrir/themes-et-quartiers/patrimoine-industriel.html>

Images (credits):





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

“Halles Alstom, Fine Arts School, Franklin Azzi” ©Luc Boegly
(<https://franklinazzi.imgix.net/images/HALLES-ALSTOM/Projet/3.-Franklin-Azzi-ESBANM-%C2%A9-Luc-Boegly.jpg?auto=format,compress&fit=max&w=3360&cs=srgb&q=80&fm=jpg>)

“Halles Alstom, Reconversion en Pôle Interdisciplinaire dédié aux Cultures Numériques, au cœur du Quartier de la Création, 1 / 9 / 10” © AAPP/Atelier d'Architecture Philippe Prost,
<https://www.prost-architectes.com/nantes/> Photographe(s): Perspectives RSI STUDIO

(<https://www.prost-architectes.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/NANTES-HALLES-images-haut-de-page-MB.jpg>,

<https://www.prost-architectes.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/NANTES-HALLES-images-haut-de-page-MB9.jpg>,

<https://www.prost-architectes.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/NANTES-HALLES-images-haut-de-page-MB10.jpg>)

“La ville bouge sur l'île de Nantes - Anciennes halles Alstom” @Télé Nantes
(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5_TZvO8BaWQ)





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Le Lieu Unique

SLIDE 1 Title + Hero Image

Title: Le Lieu Unique

Subtitle: From Biscuit Factory to Creative Hub

Location: Nantes, France

Hero image: [FR_0201.jpeg](#)

SLIDE 2 Discover the Building

Originally built in 1895 as the Lefèvre-Utile biscuit factory, Le Lieu Unique is a remarkable example of industrial architecture. Designed by Auguste Bluysen, the factory featured an innovative concrete and metal structure with iconic twin towers completed in 1909. It became a symbol of Nantes' manufacturing heritage and prosperity. After the factory ceased production in 1986, the building fell into disrepair, but its robust industrial character and distinctive architectural presence made it a natural candidate for cultural transformation, preserving the city's industrial memory whilst breathing new life into the space.

SLIDE 3 Stories Behind the Walls

In the 1990s, before its official restoration, the abandoned factory became an artistic haven. The renowned Royal de Luxe theatre troupe transformed it into an informal creative playground, hosting experimental performances and avant-garde cultural events. These grassroots gatherings attracted artists and visionaries who recognised the building's potential as a cultural space. In 1994, the Centre de Recherche et de Développement Culturel began formalising events here, laying the groundwork for Le Lieu Unique's emergence as a celebrated contemporary arts venue. Signature traditions like the "Grenier du Siècle", a translucent wall sealed with donated objects from the dawn of the millennium, destined to be opened in 2100, invite wonder and reflection, connecting community memory with the future.

SLIDE 4 From Yesterday to Today

Restoration began in 1998 under architects Patrick Bouchain, Jean-Marie Lépinay, and Nicole Concordet, who meticulously preserved the building's industrial character whilst adapting it for contemporary use. Le Lieu Unique opened on the 1st of January 2000 as a national stage for the arts. Today, it hosts over 100 performances and 200 exhibition days annually, featuring theatre, dance, circus, music, visual arts, and digital culture. The venue includes a restaurant,





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

café, bookstore, and hammam, serving as a thriving cultural hub whilst honouring its industrial past.

SLIDE 5 Why This Building Matters

Le Lieu Unique embodies Nantes' reinvention, transforming industrial heritage into a vibrant symbol of creativity and community. Without its preservation, the city would lose a tangible connection to its manufacturing past and a remarkable example of adaptive reuse. The venue protects collective memory, celebrates local identity, and demonstrates how heritage can serve contemporary society. Its status as a model for cultural regeneration in urban France makes it invaluable for future generations seeking to understand both industrial innovation and creative resilience.

SLIDE 6 Get Involved!

- Attend a performance or exhibition
- Interview long-time residents about their memories of the factory era
- Create short videos or illustrations of the building
- Contribute your own stories to the cultural archive
- Explore how industrial spaces in your community could be reimaged

SLIDE 7 Explore More

- **What remains hidden?** What untold stories of workers or visitors might still be preserved in archives or family collections?
- **Connection to place:** Can you identify other heritage industrial buildings in your region awaiting creative transformation?
- **Time capsule reflection:** The "Grenier du Siècle" sealed objects in 1999 to be opened in 2100. If you were to visit in 2100, what would you expect to find in it? What would you contribute to a modern time capsule now, what would you like to preserve for future generations?

SLIDE 8 Credits & Sources

Text drafted by: LUDICIUS

Historical sources:

- Le Lieu Unique – L'Histoire, <https://www.lelieuunique.com/histoire>
- LU, <https://patrimonia.nantes.fr/home/decouvrir/themes-et-quartiers/lefevre-utile-lu.html>
- Le Lieu unique, https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Le_Lieu_unique





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Images (credits):

“La tour du Lieu Unique à Nantes.” ©Velvet CC BY-SA 3.0

(https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/1c/Nantes_lieu_unique_tour.JPG)

“Reportage : Lieu Unique” @TGA production

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lti5WoHkXhQ>)

“Les Mondiales de Nantes - 21 et 22 Novembre 2025, une chronique de l'actualité internationale” @Le Lieu Unique (<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/BAQhKDh4fzk>)

“Le Lieu Unique, Saison 25-26” @Le Lieu Unique

(<https://youtube.com/shorts/sUTykysNGe8?si=TWRH7Wm5kQNsY4lq>)

“Logo” @Le Lieu Unique

(https://fundit.fr/sites/default/files/styles/max_650x650/public/institutions/capture-decran-2023-10-23-144117.png?itok=gPU-BJSX)

Usines LU, ©Région Pays de la Loire, Inventaire général,

(https://patrimonia.nantes.fr/media/cd9c0907-4822-4fe2-a2b1-3b64a6d50f05/picture:views/5/content/grandFormat_LU_inventaire_region_pdl.jpg)

Atelier d'empaquetage des biscuits, ©Archives départementales de Loire-Atlantique,

(https://patrimonia.nantes.fr/media/9f5e1c10-c11b-4ed8-adcb-ffadb6a809da/picture:views/5/content/grandFormat_FRAD044_202_J_196_995_0001.jp)

[g](#)





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

La Manufacture des Tabacs

SLIDE 1 Title + Hero Image

- **Title:** La Manufacture des Tabacs
- **Subtitle:** From Tobacco Factory to Community Hub
- **Location:** Nantes, France
- **Hero image:** [FR_0301.jpeg](#)

SLIDE 2 Discover the Building

Erected between 1861 and 1866, La Manufacture des Tabacs was designed by architect Joseph-Fleury Chenantais and engineer Eugène Rolland. Located at 7 Place de la Manu, this purpose-built tobacco factory represented France's state monopoly expansion and became one of the nation's leading production facilities. Its strategic position near the railway and Loire River enabled efficient distribution, marking it as a linchpin in Nantes' economic and industrial identity. The building's robust 19th-century architecture reflects industrial progress and manufacturing excellence.

SLIDE 3 Stories Behind the Walls

At its peak in 1965, the factory employed 2,000 workers, the majority being women known as "cigaretières." These women powered the factory's daily operations and became enduring symbols of Nantes' working-class resilience. Within these halls, strict discipline and structured rewards fostered both efficiency and profound solidarity. Stories of camaraderie echo through the decades. Notably ahead of its time, the factory pioneered worker benefits: a mutual aid society (1858), a nursery (1861), and a savings office (1876), demonstrating commitment to worker welfare that resonates today.

SLIDE 4 From Yesterday to Today

As production declined, the factory closed in 1974. Yet the site's spirit of adaptability prevailed. Architects Georges Evano and Sylvie Jullien completed a major rehabilitation, transforming it into a vibrant multi-use urban complex by 1983. Today, the site hosts municipal services, residential housing, community associations, and a youth hostel. The bronze statue "La Cigarière," installed in 1983, stands as enduring homage to the generations whose labour defined the site. Annual gatherings around this monument continue to celebrate collective memory and worker heritage.

SLIDE 5 Why This Building Matters





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

La Manufacture des Tabacs embodies Nantes' social and industrial identity. Without its preservation, the city would lose tangible connection to the stories of the "cigaretières" and working-class heritage. The site demonstrates how industrial progress was built on human labour, solidarity, and innovation in worker welfare. It remains a living symbol of collective memory, inspiring new generations to value heritage, gender equality in work, and community resilience.

SLIDE 6 Get Involved!

- Share family stories if relatives worked at the factory
- Contribute photographs or archival materials to preserve memory
- Attend annual gatherings around the "La Cigarière" statue
- Participate in guided tours and cultural events
- Document how work experiences differed across generations and genders

SLIDE 7 Explore More

- **Voices lost and found:** What stories of the "cigaretières" remain untold, and where might family archives preserve them?
- **Worker welfare pioneers:** How did early benefits at this factory compare to labour conditions elsewhere in 19th-century France?
- **Your connection:** Does anyone in your family have memories of working at La Manufacture, and how did their experience shape your community?

SLIDE 8 Credits & Sources

Text drafted by: LUDICIUS

Historical sources:

- Manufacture des tabacs, <https://patrimonia.nantes.fr/home/decouvrir/themes-et-quartiers/manufacture-tabacs.html>
- Ouvriers de la Manufacture des tabacs, <https://patrimonia.nantes.fr/home/decouvrir/themes-et-quartiers/ouvriers-de-la-manufacture-des-t.html>
- 1% artistique à la Manufacture des tabacs, <https://patrimonia.nantes.fr/home/decouvrir/themes-et-quartiers/1-artistique-a-la-manufacture-de.html>
- Manufacture des tabacs de Nantes, https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manufacture_des_tabacs_de_Nantes





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Images (credits):

“Manufacture des tabacs de Nantes” ©Jibi44 CC BY-SA 3.0

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/65/Manu_Tabacs_Nantes.JPG

“Nantes, métamorphose d'une ville” @Ina.fr / Ville de Nantes / Nantes Patrimonia

<https://fresques.ina.fr/auran-nantes/export/player/Auran000058>

“Sortie du travail devant la manufacture des tabacs” ©Centre d'histoire du travail

<https://patrimonia.nantes.fr/home/decouvrir/themes-et-quartiers/manufacture-tabacs.html>

“Comble du bâtiment B ou C de la manufacture des tabacs : fabrication des cigarettes”

©Centre d'histoire du travail <https://patrimonia.nantes.fr/home/decouvrir/themes-et-quartiers/manufacture-tabacs.html>

“Premier étage du bâtiment B ou C de la manufacture des tabacs : le hachage” ©Direction du Patrimoine et de l'Archéologie, Ville de Nantes / Nantes Métropole

<https://patrimonia.nantes.fr/home/decouvrir/themes-et-quartiers/manufacture-tabacs.html>

Sculpture La Cigarière de Jacques Raoult à la Manufacture des Tabacs, ©ADAGP, Paris, 2020 / Archives de Nantes - Direction du Patrimoine et de l'Archéologie, Ville de Nantes /

Nantes Métropole, https://patrimonia.nantes.fr/media/c8eb59ad-fcd3-453d-a0dd-8004c4ca1cec/picture:views/5/content/grandFormat_LaCigariere_Raoult_1983.jpg





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Les Machines de l'Île

SLIDE 1 Title + Hero Image

- **Title:** Les Machines de l'Île
- **Subtitle:** Here come the giants !
- **Location:** Nantes, France
- **Hero image:** [FR_0401.png](#)

SLIDE 2 Discover the Building

Located at Parc des Chantiers on Boulevard Léon Bureau, Les Machines de l'Île occupies the vast iron, concrete, and steel warehouses of the legendary Chantiers de la Loire shipyards. These industrial halls were pivotal to Nantes' maritime heritage until the shipyard closed in 1987. The site's robust architectural character and monumental scale reflect a century of shipbuilding innovation and labour. With the yards abandoned, Nantes Métropole recognised the potential for transformative urban regeneration, launching one of Europe's most ambitious creative renewal projects.

SLIDE 3 Stories Behind the Walls

Within these halls, generations of shipyard workers shaped Nantes' maritime dreams, constructing vessels that carried the city's aspirations across oceans. The abandonment of the yards in 1987 left behind echoes of human labour and industrial ingenuity. Yet rather than erasing this memory, the site inspired a bold artistic vision. The industrial warehouses became a canvas for reimagining, a place where past craftsmanship and contemporary creativity could converge. Visitors today walk where welders once laboured, experiencing the space as both a memorial and celebration of invention.

SLIDE 4 From Yesterday to Today

In 2004, artistic director François Delarozière and Pierre Orefice, in partnership with theatre company La Machine, reimagined the shipyard warehouses as a fantastical realm inspired by Jules Verne and Leonardo da Vinci. By 2007, Les Machines de l'Île opened its doors, earning international acclaim including a jury prize at the Paris International Tourism Show and a Thea Award. Today, visitors marvel at the 12-metre-high Grand Éléphant, the magnificent Carrousel des Mondes Marins with its 35 kinetically animated sea creatures, and the interactive Galerie des Machines, transforming industrial heritage into living artistic wonder.

SLIDE 5 Why This Building Matters





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Les Machines de l'Île symbolises Nantes' creative reinvention and commitment to preserving industrial memory through contemporary artistic expression. Without this transformation, the shipyard would remain dormant, a lost connection to the city's maritime past. The site proves that heritage need not be static but can spark imagination and innovation. It celebrates Jules Verne's legacy in Nantes whilst honouring the hands and minds that built ships. As a world-renowned destination, it places Nantes at the forefront of imaginative cultural regeneration.

SLIDE 6 Get Involved!

- Ride the Grand Éléphant and experience the site from a unique vantage point
- Explore the Carrousel des Mondes Marins and its animated mechanical creatures
- Participate in guided tours inside the Galerie des Machines
- Share your photographs and memories from visits to the site
- Discover the connections between Jules Verne's literary vision and the machines

SLIDE 7 Explore More

- **Maritime dreams:** What stories of the shipyard workers remain untold, and what vessels were constructed in these legendary halls?
- **Artistic alchemy:** How do the machines transform industrial memory into wonder, and what connects them to Nantes' literary heritage?
- **Your vision:** If you could design a machine inspired by this site, what would it celebrate about Nantes' past and future?

SLIDE 8 Credits & Sources

Text drafted by: LUDICIUS

Historical sources:

- Les Machines de l'île, <https://www.lesmachines-nantes.fr/>
- Les Machines de l'île, https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Les_Machines_de_l'Île

Images (credits):

Le parcours sous les nefs ©Les Machines de l'île https://www.lesmachines-nantes.fr/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/DP-MACHINES_2019_GB_BD.pdf





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

La galerie du héron ©Les Machines de l'île https://www.lesmachines-nantes.fr/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/galerie_heron01.jpg

Les Machines de L'île in Nantes, France ©Allthegoodies.com
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V_maa-9DI9A

Logo-1 ©Les Machines de l'île <https://www.lesmachines-nantes.fr/>

Logo-2 ©Les Machines de l'île <https://www.lesmachines-nantes.fr/>

Le carrousel des mondes marins ©Les Machines de l'île <https://www.lesmachines-nantes.fr/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/carrousel.jpg>

Les Machines de l'île, ©Ina.fr / France 3, <https://fresques.ina.fr/auran-nantes/fiche-media/Auran000193/les-machines-de-l-ile.html>





La Forge des Batignolles

SLIDE 1 Title + Hero Image

- **Title:** La Forge des Batignolles
- **Subtitle:** Will the “Cathedrals” of heavy manufacturing be the temples of sustainable innovation in the future?
- **Location:** Nantes, France
- **Hero image:** [FR_0501.jpg](#)

SLIDE 2 Discover the Building

Erected between 1917 and 1920 at 13–15 Rue du Ranzay in the Haluchère-Batignolles district, La Forge des Batignolles was originally constructed for the Société de Construction des Batignolles and Batignolles-Châtillon. The factory's distinctive halls were designed by renowned engineer Eugène Freyssinet, a pioneer of prestressed concrete architecture. His visionary design created lofty, luminous spaces with glass roofs that flooded the factory with natural light. These "cathedrals" of Batignolles became icons of early 20th-century industrial architecture and sources of profound local pride.

SLIDE 3 Stories Behind the Walls

For decades, La Forge served as a powerhouse for employment and social life, drawing generations of workers, including many immigrant families, to thriving neighbourhoods surrounding the site. Within its luminous halls, workers manufactured locomotives, later adapting production to tank turrets, torpedo tubes, printing presses, and forklift trucks, a testament to industrial resilience and adaptability. The factory was a stage for major labour movements and strikes, embodying workers' collective strength and dignity. The reverent nickname "cathedrals" reflects the profound respect held by those whose skilled labour shaped this landmark's story.

SLIDE 4 From Yesterday to Today

As heavy industry declined by the late 20th century, the site fell into neglect until its significance was reaffirmed with historic monument status in 2022. A visionary rehabilitation by Eiffage Immobilier (2021–2023) meticulously restored two historic halls, preserving their concrete and glass grandeur whilst creating two new sustainable office buildings. The transformation won the Pyramides d'Argent award and BREEAM Very Good environmental certification. Today, La Forge houses 5,600 square metres of adaptable workspace welcoming start-ups, established companies, researchers, and creatives across robotics, eco-construction, and artificial intelligence.



R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

SLIDE 5 Why This Building Matters

La Forge des Batignolles embodies Nantes' journey of resilience and social progress. Without its preservation, the city would lose tangible connection to labour heritage, immigrant contributions, and working-class solidarity. The site demonstrates how industrial memory can anchor innovation—fostering industries of the future within spaces once dedicated to heavy manufacturing. As a living symbol of both heritage and progress, it celebrates the hands and minds that built Nantes whilst inspiring new generations of creators and entrepreneurs.

SLIDE 6 Get Involved!

- Share family stories if relatives worked at La Forge
- Contribute photographs and archival materials documenting the factory era
- Explore current events, exhibitions, and business activities at the site
- Document labour histories and workers' memories from the 20th century
- Participate in heritage tours highlighting the industrial "cathedrals"

SLIDE 7 Explore More

- **Labour legacies:** What stories of workers, strikes, and solidarity remain in family or community memory?
- **Innovation connection:** How does this site bridge Nantes' industrial past and its emerging future in robotics and sustainability?
- **Your legacy:** Does your family have roots at La Forge, and how did the factory shape your neighbourhood's identity?

SLIDE 8 Credits & Sources

Text drafted by: LUDICIUS

Historical sources:

- Usine des Batignolles, rue du Ranzay, Nantes
<https://gertrude.paysdelaloire.fr/dossier/IA44005243#historique>
- La Forge des Batignolles, nouveau lieu totem du renouveau industriel de la métropole, https://entreprises.nantesmetropole.fr/actualites/la-forge-des-batignolles-nouveau-lieu-totem-du-renouveau-industriel-de-la-metropole/?trk=public_post_comment-text
- Usine des Batignolles de Nantes,
https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Usine_des_Batignolles_de_Nantes

Images (credits):





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

La Forge des Batignolles ©Les Echoes

<https://media.lesechos.com/api/v1/images/view/6476fe8db6294364652624f8/1280x720/090228590992-web-tete.jpg>

Usine des Batignolles, rue du Ranzay, Nantes. Vue aérienne d'ensemble vers le nord.

©Région Pays de la Loire - Inventaire général

<https://gertrude.paysdelaloire.fr/img/8d384995-5382-44ac-8be7-d4b305f95ce3>

Logo Nantes Métropole Entreprises ©Nantes Métropole Entreprises

https://www.linkedin.com/company/entreprises-nantes-metropole?trk=public_post_feed-actor-name&originalSubdomain=fr

La Forge des Batignolles, nouveau lieu totem du renouveau industriel de la métropole

©Nantes Métropole Entreprises [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/entreprises-nantes-](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/entreprises-nantes-metropole_la-forge-des-batignolles-nouveau-lieu-totem-activity-7174207681996476416-lk87?originalSubdomain=fr)

[metropole_la-forge-des-batignolles-nouveau-lieu-totem-activity-7174207681996476416-lk87?originalSubdomain=fr](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/entreprises-nantes-metropole_la-forge-des-batignolles-nouveau-lieu-totem-activity-7174207681996476416-lk87?originalSubdomain=fr)

Pacific 231 en construction dans les usines Batignolles. ©Unknown Author. Public domain.

[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/42/Nantes -
Pacific 231 dans les usines Batignolles.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/42/Nantes_-_Pacific_231_dans_les_usines_Batignolles.jpg)

NANTES : LE SITE DES BATIGNOLLES VANDALISÉ ©TELENANTES

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1131905558232430>

La reconversion urbaine du quartier des Batignolles à Nantes ©4Change

<https://youtu.be/ArECcBnvUqA?si=icgQUrQXdOtJEClA>





Hotel Radisson Blu

SLIDE 1 Title + Hero Image

- **Title:** Hotel Radisson Blu Nantes
- **Subtitle:** Stone lions are made to last: the trajectory of a building from justice to hospitality
- **Location:** Nantes, France
- **Hero image:** [FR_0601.jpg](#)

SLIDE 2 Discover the Building

Completed in 1851, the Palais de Justice (the Courthouse) was designed by esteemed architects Saint-Félix Seheult and Joseph-Fleury Chenantais. Its imposing neoclassical architecture embodied 19th-century ideals of justice, civic order, and public pride. Standing at the heart of Nantes for nearly 150 years, this building served as the city's main courthouse and became a focal point of civic, legal, and social life. Its stately columns, grand courtyards, and authoritative presence made it one of Nantes' most recognisable architectural monuments and a symbol of judicial authority.

SLIDE 3 Stories Behind the Walls

Within these walls, momentous chapters of Nantes' political and civic history unfolded. The Congrès affair of 1903, the La Délivrance case of 1928, and trials involving Aristide Briand, Nobel Peace Prize winner and eleven-times Prime Minister of the Third Republic, left indelible marks. During the Second World War, German forces melted down the lion statues guarding the entrance, later replaced in 1991. In 1985, a daring 36-hour hostage crisis captured national attention. These dramatic events, from celebrated trials to wartime trauma, shaped collective memory and remind us of law's central role in society.

SLIDE 4 From Yesterday to Today

When the courthouse closed in 2000, acclaimed hotel designer Jean-Philippe Nuel and architect Jacques Cholet orchestrated a sensitive transformation. Nuel's signature approach preserved the building's original grandeur whilst introducing contemporary comfort. Today, the Hotel Radisson Blu features 142 rooms and suites, the restaurant L'Assise where diners enjoy meals in the former courtroom, and a wine cellar housed beneath the judge's bench. The hotel remains accessible to all, with spa facilities, event spaces, and regular cultural exhibitions ensuring it continues serving the community.

SLIDE 5 Why This Building Matters



R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

The Palais de Justice embodies Nantes' commitment to preserving heritage through adaptive reuse. Without its transformation, the city would lose an architectural masterpiece and the living memory of landmark trials that shaped French jurisprudence. The building demonstrates how historic institutions can serve contemporary society whilst maintaining dignity and purpose. As a beacon of adaptive heritage reuse, it inspires future generations to value civic architecture and recognise how spaces of power can be reimagined for collective benefit.

SLIDE 6 Get Involved!

- Dine at L'Assise restaurant in the historic courtroom
- Attend special heritage tours exploring the building's legal history
- Share memories or photographs linked to trials or court appearances
- Participate in cultural events, concerts, and exhibitions
- Experience sensory dining that celebrates the building's transformed identity

SLIDE 7 Explore More

- **Judicial memory:** What landmark trials or legal moments might relatives have witnessed within these courtroom walls?
- **Architectural transformation:** How does dining in the former courtroom create a dialogue between justice dispensed and stories now shared?
- **Your connection:** Have you experienced this building in its past role, and how has its transformation changed your perception of Nantes' civic centre?

SLIDE 8 Credits & Sources

Text drafted by: LUDICIUS

Historical sources:

- L'histoire du Radisson Blu Hôtel de Nantes, <https://echappees-belles.fr/entry/l-histoire-du-radisson-blu-hotel-de-nantes>
- Hôtel Radisson Blu (Nantes) https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/H%C3%B4tel_Radisson_Blu_%28Nantes%29#
- 19-20 décembre 1985 : prise d'otages au palais de justice de Nantes <https://patrimonia.nantes.fr/home/decouvrir/themes-et-quartiers/19-20-decembre-1985-prise-d'otag.html>





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Images (credits):

Nantes Ancien Palais de justice 01 ©François de Dijon, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 4.0
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Nantes_Ancien_Palais_de_justice_01.jpg

Dans le Noir ? Nantes au Radisson Blu - Une expérience unique ©DANS LE NOIR ?
RESTAURANTS (Danslenoir) <https://youtu.be/YAMGtowSRBk?si=BywWb-rqEnBR678v>

HOTEL RADISSON BLUE - NANTES - Octobre 2016 ©Drones Immobilier
<https://youtu.be/BfvXhjEN1D8?si=9vub19CCBakqfo7s>

Palais de Justice de Nantes / Jean-Philippe Nuel ©Jean-Philippe Nuel AND/OR Des Racines &
Des Ailes (France3 - French Tv) <https://youtu.be/TWb4na6kRZQ?si=XChBE5KzRpUMhKp4>

L'ancien palais de justice de Nantes, au XIXe siècle (Justizpalast zu Nantes) ©William French
— Schmidt Kunstauktionen. Public Domain
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/25/Der_Jusitzpalast_in_Nantes.jpg?uselang=fr

Palais de justice de Nantes lors de son inauguration ©Schoen67, www.delcampe.net
<https://echappees-belles.fr/files/2017-10/palais-de-justice-de-nantes-lors-de-son-inauguration.jpg>

Affaire Courtois : archives de 1985 ©France 3 Pays de la Loire
<https://youtu.be/qnsoyal6Oa4?si=hBPfOjfNgwjbhISb>



R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Gare de l'État (Gare de Nantes-État)

SLIDE 1 Title + Hero Image

- **Title:** Gare de l'État
- **Subtitle:** Tracks of Solidarity: The Journey of Gare de l'État to the Maison des Syndicats
- **Location:** Nantes, France
- **Hero image:** [FR_0701.jpg](#)

SLIDE 2 Discover the Building

When Gare de l'État opened in 1887 as Nantes' first state-operated railway station, it became a crucial hub connecting passenger and freight routes to the nearby port. Designed in the 1880s under the guidance of the State Railways Company, its imposing neoclassical architecture, featuring a grand central pavilion and balanced annexes, reflected modern aspirations and civic prestige. The station swiftly fuelled Nantes' development as an industrial and commercial powerhouse. Its distinctive façade and architectural grandeur made it a lasting landmark, embodying the optimism of the railway age and the city's commercial ambitions.

SLIDE 3 Stories Behind the Walls

Within this station, generations of workers passed through its halls, commuters embarking on daily journeys, families reuniting, and labourers transporting goods that sustained the city's economy. The station survived the devastation of Allied bombings in 1943, demanding postwar rebuilding and resilience from the community. Through the twentieth century, rail services dwindled, with passenger operations ceasing in 1959 and freight services ending in 1969. Yet the station's symbolic importance as a site of workers' journeys and collective struggles inspired successful preservation campaigns, affirming that this building held profound meaning for ordinary people and their histories.

SLIDE 4 From Yesterday to Today

Facing neglect and demolition threats in the 1990s, the station underwent sensitive architectural intervention by Forma 6, completed in 2001. The restoration preserved original neoclassical façades and distinctive rooflines whilst creating new spaces for collective action. Gare de l'État was deliberately transformed into the Maison des Syndicats (Trade Unions' House), affirming Nantes' proud traditions of labour solidarity and mobilisation. Today, the site functions as a living hub for union activity and collective engagement, where negotiation and assembly continue, honouring ongoing narratives of workers' rights and social progress.

SLIDE 5 Why This Building Matters





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Gare de l'État exemplifies how industrial infrastructure can evolve into focal points of civic life and collective action. Without its preservation, Nantes would lose a tangible monument to labour mobility, economic growth, and workers' solidarity. The transformation from railway station to Trade Unions' House demonstrates that heritage need not be static but can serve new purposes whilst honouring its past. The building stands as a powerful reminder of how communities can reclaim spaces, giving them renewed meaning and ensuring that workers' stories continue inspiring future generations.

SLIDE 6 Get Involved!

- Share family memories of travellers or workers who used the station
- Contribute historical photographs documenting the railway era
- Document stories of union activity and labour campaigns
- Explore the dialogue between industrial heritage and collective action
- Research other European examples of industrial sites transformed into civic spaces

SLIDE 7 Explore More

- **Workers' journeys:** What stories and memories do family members carry of passing through Gare de l'État during the railway era?
- **Environmental evolution:** How have transport methods and sustainability thinking evolved since the steam-powered trains of 1887?
- **Your transformation:** Can you identify other industrial heritage sites in your community that have been reimagined for collective or civic purposes?

SLIDE 8 Credits & Sources

Text drafted by: LUDICIUS

Historical sources:

- Gare de l'État, <https://patrimonia.nantes.fr/home/decouvrir/themes-et-quartiers/gare-de-letat.html>
- Cartes postales anciennes de Nantes, <https://philippesaintmarc.wixsite.com/autrefois-nantes/gare-etat>

Images (credits):





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Gare de l'État (Nantes) ©Jibi44 CC BY-SA 3,

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/83/Nantes_Gare_Etat_2.jpg

Panneau place de la gare de l'État (Nantes) ©Jibi44 CC BY-SA 3.0,

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/73/Nantes_Gare_Etat_3.jpg

Les quais de la gare de l'Etat ©Philippe Saint-Marc,

https://static.wixstatic.com/media/324f4f_345a219fa07e479d956d6c6618ae6595~mv2.jpg/v1/fill/w_958,h_594,al_c,q_85,enc_avif,quality_auto/324f4f_345a219fa07e479d956d6c6618ae6595~mv2.jpg

Nantes - La Gare de l'Etat ©Philippe Saint-Marc,

https://static.wixstatic.com/media/324f4f_a4e2dd82b97d4ad4aef8e8f1f15c93b6~mv2.jpg/v1/fill/w_786,h_502,al_c,q_85,enc_avif,quality_auto/324f4f_a4e2dd82b97d4ad4aef8e8f1f15c93b6~mv2.jpg

Bâtiments de la gare de l'État détruits par les bombardements, ©Archives de Nantes,

https://patrimonia.nantes.fr/media/708c18e5-db4c-45ce-8552-e4f09d6540d1/picture:views/9/content/Medium_28Fi0347.jpg

La fin de l'emprise ferroviaire sur le site de la gare de l'Etat à Nantes, ©France 3 Pays de la Loire, <https://youtu.be/l1QAtZc9GnY?si=Jblh1SUFbVgYHk8y>

Il était une gare... de Nantes !, ©SNCF Gares & Connexions,

https://youtu.be/U0Ar5UYZgew?si=b2aIRKLOmLD7VG_p





Église Sainte-Thérèse-de-l'Enfant-Jésus

SLIDE 1 Title + Hero Image

- **Title:** Église Sainte-Thérèse-de-l'Enfant-Jésus
- **Subtitle:** Faith, Art, and Community Resilience
- **Location:** Nantes, France
- **Hero image:** [FR_0801.jpg](#)

SLIDE 2 Discover the Building

Conceived and built primarily in the mid-20th century, Église Sainte-Thérèse-de-l'Enfant-Jésus was designed as both a sanctuary for worship and a vital community anchor. The church's distinctive Roman-Byzantine design features concrete, red brick, granite columns, and a remarkable octagonal dome. Architect René Ménéard originally conceived the vision; after wartime interruptions, Maurice Ferré carried the project forward. The church ensemble includes a presbytery and diocesan school, serving the growing residential neighbourhood. Its architectural language reflects the optimism and modernism of mid-20th-century religious design.

SLIDE 3 Stories Behind the Walls

The church's construction journey embodies community resilience and faith. Progress was suspended during Second World War bombing campaigns in the 1940s, yet the spirit of perseverance prevailed. Construction resumed in 1952, culminating in completion in 1961. Artistic collaboration profoundly shaped the building's character. Sculptor Jean Fréour contributed an expressive Christ sculpture, whilst Gabriel Loire crafted modernist stained glass windows. These artistic elements ensure harmonious synthesis of faith and beauty. Families from the neighbourhood have worshipped here for generations, marking baptisms, weddings, and funerals within its walls.

SLIDE 4 From Yesterday to Today

Over the decades, Église Sainte-Thérèse-de-l'Enfant-Jésus has been a hub for spiritual life, education, and local community events. Its renowned sculpture and stained glass remain integral to its visual and symbolic identity, continuing to inspire all who enter. Today, the church functions as an active parish, open to the public and welcoming all seekers. Its accessible design and ongoing role as a centre for worship, education, and cultural gatherings make it a beacon of tradition and continuity. The church remains deeply embedded in neighbourhood identity and continues fostering community cohesion.

SLIDE 5 Why This Building Matters



R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Église Sainte-Thérèse-de-l'Enfant-Jésus symbolises the integration of art, architecture, and spirituality in shaping neighbourhood identity. The church demonstrates how wartime disruption could not extinguish community commitment to faith and renewal. Its artistic programme, sculpture and stained glass, elevates the sacred space beyond function into realms of beauty and contemplation. Without this church, the neighbourhood would lose a landmark anchoring collective memory, spiritual practice, and artistic heritage. It stands as testament to resilience, creativity, and the enduring power of community gathering.

SLIDE 6 Get Involved!

- Share family memories of celebrations and milestones at the church
- Contribute artistic photographs highlighting the sculpture and stained glass
- Attend worship services and cultural events held at the church
- Document stories of neighbourhood residents connected to the parish
- Explore the dialogue between modern design and spiritual purpose

SLIDE 7 Explore More

- **Family traditions:** What personal or family stories connect you to Église Sainte-Thérèse-de-l'Enfant-Jésus and its associated school?
- **Artistic presence:** How do Gabriel Loire's stained glass and Jean Fréour's sculpture shape your experience of this sacred space?
- **Wartime resilience:** How does the church's interrupted construction and eventual completion reflect broader patterns of community renewal in Nantes?

SLIDE 8 Credits & Sources

Text drafted by: LUDICIUS

Historical sources:

- Ensemble paroissial Sainte-Thérèse à Nantes en Loire-Atlantique, <https://museedupatrimoine.fr/ensemble-paroissial-sainte-therese-loire-atlantique/7826.html>
- Église Sainte-Thérèse de Nantes, https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89glise_Sainte-Th%C3%A9r%C3%A8se_de_Nantes

Images (credits):





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Église Sainte Thérèse de Nantes, ©Musée du Patrimoine,

<https://museedupatrimoine.fr/patrimoine/7826/31371-eglise-sainte-therese-de-nantes--0.jpg>

Nef et orgue, ©François de Dijon CC BY-SA 4.0,

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/be/%C3%89glise_Sainte_Th%C3%A9r%C3%A8se_-_Nantes_-_Int_-_055.jpg

Ensemble paroissial de Sainte Thérèse (2), ©Musée du Patrimoine,

<https://museedupatrimoine.fr/patrimoine/7826/ensemble-paroissial-sainte-therese--2.jpg>

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<https://museedupatrimoine.fr/patrimoine/7826/ensemble-paroissial-sainte-therese--45.jpg>

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<https://museedupatrimoine.fr/patrimoine/7826/ensemble-paroissial-sainte-therese--47.jpg>

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<https://museedupatrimoine.fr/patrimoine/7826/ensemble-paroissial-sainte-therese--39.jpg>

Ensemble paroissial de Sainte Thérèse (42), ©Musée du Patrimoine,

<https://museedupatrimoine.fr/patrimoine/7826/ensemble-paroissial-sainte-therese--42.jpg>





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Maison des Hommes et des Techniques

SLIDE 1 Title + Hero Image

- **Title:** Maison des Hommes et des Techniques
- **Subtitle:** Building Ships, Building Memory
- **Location:** Nantes, France
- **Hero image:** [FR_0901.jpg](#)

SLIDE 2 Discover the Building

Designed by architects Ferdinand Ménéard and Émile Le Bot, the Maison des Hommes et des Techniques was purpose-built in the early 20th century to support Nantes' thriving shipbuilding industry. For nearly seventy years from 1918, the building housed the administration of the Ateliers et Chantiers de la Loire shipyards and provided essential training for the workforce. Its robust, utilitarian architecture reflects the practical mindset of the era, prioritising the needs of large-scale maritime production. The building's solid presence embodied Nantes' economic power and industrial ambition during the height of French shipbuilding.

SLIDE 3 Stories Behind the Walls

Within these walls, generations of maritime workers received training and guidance that shaped their careers and identities. The Dubigeon yard, an iconic shipbuilding centre, depended on the skills and expertise developed through this administrative hub. Workers moved through these corridors carrying blueprints, calculations, and dreams of vessels to be built. Their daily labour transformed raw materials into magnificent ships that travelled the world's oceans. The camaraderie forged amongst shipyard workers became legendary, embodying collective pride in craftsmanship. When the yards closed in 1986, these stories risked being lost forever.

SLIDE 4 From Yesterday to Today

In 1987, with remarkable vision, former shipyard workers came together to transform the site into a heritage museum and association: "Association Histoire de la construction navale à Nantes." This courageous act of preservation repurposed the building as a living archive where generations' legacy, skills, and camaraderie would be honoured. Today, the Maison des Hommes et des Techniques houses extraordinary collections: identification sheets for approximately 2,500 vessels, over 5,000 original ship plans, and more than 20,000 photographs and images. These resources reveal both technological evolution and the daily lives of those who built Nantes' maritime fortune.



R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

SLIDE 5 Why This Building Matters

The Maison des Hommes et des Techniques exemplifies how communities can reclaim and repurpose industrial heritage to preserve collective memory. Without this building, Nantes would lose tangible connection to its shipbuilding legacy and the human stories embedded within it. The museum demonstrates that technical, social, and cultural heritage deserve protection and celebration. By transforming administrative space into a democratic archive maintained by former workers and their families, the site affirms that ordinary people's achievements deserve recognition and remembrance for future generations.

SLIDE 6 Get Involved!

- Visit exhibitions and explore the museum's collections
- Participate in educational programmes and guided tours
- Share family memories of shipyard workers or maritime careers
- Research your family's connection to Nantes' shipbuilding heritage
- Contribute historical photographs and archival materials

SLIDE 7 Explore More

- **Workers' legacy:** What personal memories or family histories remain preserved by the shipyard workers and their descendants?
- **Maritime heritage:** How do the 20,000 photographs in the archives illuminate the daily lives and achievements of those who built ships?
- **Your connection:** Does your family have roots in Nantes' shipbuilding industry, and what stories remain hidden in the archives waiting to be shared?

SLIDE 8 Credits & Sources

Text drafted by: LUDICIUS

Historical sources:

- Nantes Patrimonia : Iconothèque de la Maison des Hommes et des techniques, <https://patrimonia.nantes.fr/home/actualites/iconotheque-mht.html>
- MAISON DES HOMMES ET DES TECHNIQUES, PATRIMOINE DE LA NAVALE, <https://www.maison-hommes-techniques.fr/patrimoine-de-la-navale/>
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R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Images (credits):

Background image on MHT's website, ©Maison des Hommes et des techniques, <https://www.maison-hommes-techniques.fr/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/20250702-173128-1-scaled.jpg>

Logo-noir, ©Maison des Hommes et des techniques, <https://www.maison-hommes-techniques.fr/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/cropped-logo-noir-mht-e1713862076681.png>

Logo-blanc, ©Maison des Hommes et des techniques, <https://www.maison-hommes-techniques.fr/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/logo-mht-vectorise-blanc-09-2048x1804.png>

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Chantier naval, ©AHCNN-MHT, https://www.maison-hommes-techniques.fr/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/N_IN1033AD_05.jpg

Navire en construction, ©AHCNN-MHT, https://www.maison-hommes-techniques.fr/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/N_IN1033_C_01.jpg

Ouvriers au travail, ©AHCNN-MHT, https://www.maison-hommes-techniques.fr/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/N_IP_004_B_06.jpg

Mouvement social des salariés des chantiers, ©AHCNN-MHT, https://www.maison-hommes-techniques.fr/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/N_IS_009_A_21.jpg

Machine servant pour la construction navale et métallurgique, ©AHCNN-MHT, https://www.maison-hommes-techniques.fr/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/N_IM_009_E_01.jpg

Atelier et Chantiers de la Loire - Bâtiments d'Administration et Bureaux - Façade principale, ©AHCNN-MHT, <https://www.maison-hommes-techniques.fr/iconotheque-phototheque/>

"Le Marigot". Citerne à voiles de 200 tonneaux de port, ©AHCNN-MHT, <https://icono.maison-hommes-techniques.fr/viewer/2074/?offset=#page=1&viewer=picture&o=&n=0&q=>

La Navale - Comité d'entreprise, La Grande Famille, ©Nantes Patrimonia, <https://youtu.be/xHH9OeflxGk?si=BCPTzxbROTuqCG1R>

La Navale - La grue jaune, le clocher de la navale, ©Nantes Patrimonia, https://youtu.be/B0ksvr_sAs?si=KWBstzVF7787U91O



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La Navale - La transition du dessin papier au dessin numérique dans la navale, ©Nantes Patrimonia, https://youtu.be/hGGz_BZo5v4?si=8Ya2etw8FG-cZzCd

La Navale - Le dernier départ, ©Nantes Patrimonia,
https://youtu.be/oQWwg1EUPAQ?si=2sDKt_oeYDxrvzJ0





Cité Radieuse de Rezé (Maison Radieuse)

SLIDE 1 Title + Hero Image

- **Title:** Cité Radieuse de Rezé
- **Subtitle:** Modernist Vision for Shared Living
- **Location:** Nantes, France
- **Hero image:** [FR_1001.webp](#)

SLIDE 2 Discover the Building

Completed in 1955, Maison Radieuse (Cité Radieuse de Rezé) rose as one of only five Unités d'Habitation (Housing Units) constructed worldwide. Designed by Le Corbusier, the legendary architect, the structure embodies Brutalist beauty and modernist ideals through raw concrete, bold geometric forms, and masterful deployment of light and space. The building represents a revolutionary approach to postwar housing, merging residences with communal spaces, integrated services, shops, and schools. Its striking silhouette and distinctive rooftop terraces became architectural icons. Standing outside Nantes, Maison Radieuse proclaimed a radical vision: architecture could reshape collective life and social progress.

SLIDE 3 Stories Behind the Walls

Families rebuilding in the wake of the Second World War found in Maison Radieuse a vision of dignified, efficient living. Residents shared schools, shops, and communal spaces, fostering unexpected encounters and bonds. Children played on internal corridors and rooftop terraces. Parents gathered in shared facilities designed to nurture community. The building became not merely shelter but a social experiment in collective living. Over decades, residents have created memories within these modernist walls, celebrations, friendships, and the rhythms of shared daily life. For many, Maison Radieuse has anchored their sense of belonging and identity.

SLIDE 4 From Yesterday to Today

Today, seven decades after its completion, Maison Radieuse remains a privately inhabited residential space where modern communal ideals continue to be lived and reinvented. The building's ecosystem of rooftop terraces, internal schools, and shops sustains a vibrant sense of community among current residents. In 2025, Maison Radieuse celebrates its 70th anniversary with programmes of events open to residents, local communities, and architecture enthusiasts. Guided tours during special events offer rare, intimate glimpses into living history, revealing how Le Corbusier's utopian vision endures, adapts, and inspires across generations.





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

SLIDE 5 Why This Building Matters

Maison Radieuse embodies a pivotal moment when architects believed design could foster social progress and community belonging. As one of five Unités d'Habitation worldwide, it stands as a living monument to postwar optimism and modernist ideals. The building demonstrates that architecture shapes how we live together, influencing neighbourly connection, collective memory, and shared purpose. Without Maison Radieuse, future generations would lose a tangible example of innovative thinking about housing and community. It remains an enduring inspiration for city planners and architects reimagining urban living.

SLIDE 6 Get Involved!

- Attend guided tours during the 70th anniversary celebrations
- Share resident memories and photographs from daily life
- Document experiences of communal living and shared spaces
- Explore how Le Corbusier's design influences your sense of community
- Connect with other residents and visitors interested in architectural history

SLIDE 7 Explore More

- **Communal living:** How have residents' experiences of shared spaces shaped their sense of belonging and collective memory within Maison Radieuse?
- **Architectural influence:** In what ways has Le Corbusier's approach influenced subsequent models of urban housing in France and beyond?
- **Your perspective:** What lessons can contemporary city planners draw from the successes and challenges of the Unité d'Habitation concept?

SLIDE 8 Credits & Sources

Text drafted by: LUDICIUS

Historical sources:

- La Maison Radieuse, Rezé – Le Corbusier, <https://www.maisonradieuse.org/>
- La Fondation Le Corbusier, Unité d'Habitation, Rezé, France, 1949-1955, <https://www.fondationlecorbusier.fr/oeuvre-architecture/realisations-unite-dhabitation-reze-france-1949-1955/>
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Images (credits):





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La Maison Radieuse de Rezé, ©La Maison Radieuse, Rezé – Le Corbusier,
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Le Corbusier — L'Unité d'Habitation de Rezé, 1949-1955, ©Fondation Le Corbusier,
<https://youtu.be/uVvUeepKaIW?si=MTuymdL-e9gpYgdQ>

La Cité radieuse vue du Parc des Oblates, ©Jibi44 CC BY-SA 3.0,
[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/0d/Parc des Oblates 14.JPG](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/0d/Parc_des_Oblates_14.JPG)

Le 70 ans de la Maison Radieuse - Le Corbusier, ©La Maison Radieuse, Rezé – Le Corbusier,
<https://www.maisonradieuse.org/IMG/png/70-ans-maison-radieuse-le-corbusier.png>

Logo-La Maison Radieuse-noir, ©La Maison Radieuse, Rezé – Le Corbusier,
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Le Corbusier à la Maison radieuse de Rezé, ©Fondation Le Corbusier,
<https://www.maisonradieuse.org/squelettes/css/img/le-corbusier-nantes.webp>

La Maison radieuse de Rezé, ©Alejandro Gómez Vives,
<https://www.maisonradieuse.org/IMG/webp/021-le-corbusier-maison-radieuse.webp>

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La Maison radieuse de Rezé, ©Alejandro Gómez Vives,
<https://www.maisonradieuse.org/IMG/webp/0108-le-corbusier-maison-radieuse.webp>

Visite la Maison Radieuse de Rezé Le Corbusier, ©La Maison Radieuse, Rezé – Le Corbusier,
https://youtu.be/WU_eDbtoOpQ?si=a_p_M8CIWhGUJj0q

Caractéristiques de la Cité Radieuse de Rezé, ©INA.fr, <https://www.ina.fr/ina-eclair-actu/video/i05283790/caracteristiques-de-la-cite-radieuse-de-reze>





Pont Saint-Mihiel

SLIDE 1 Title + Hero Image

- **Title:** Pont Saint-Mihiel
- **Subtitle:** Belle Époque Grace Over the Erdre
- **Location:** Nantes, France
- **Hero image:** [FR_1101.jpg](#)

SLIDE 2 Discover the Building

Pont Saint-Mihiel gracefully spans the Erdre River, connecting Place Châteaubriand and Place de la Bonde. Built during the elegant Belle Époque era, the bridge combines the enduring strength of stone with delicate lines of steel. Its late 19th and early 20th-century architecture reflects a period when infrastructure symbolised civic ambition and aesthetic harmony. Although its architect remains anonymous, the bridge's balanced form and fine detailing tribute the optimism and artistry of its era. The structure replaced a humble wooden footbridge that could no longer serve Nantes' expanding needs, representing the city's ongoing adaptation to modern transport requirements.

SLIDE 3 Stories Behind the Walls

For generations, Pont Saint-Mihiel has witnessed the daily rhythms of Nantes' citizens crossing between neighbourhoods. Families have strolled its broad walkways, children played along its railings, and countless commuters traversed its span during the ordinary moments that compose urban life. The bridge's name honours the pivotal First World War battle, keeping alive the memory of sacrifice and historical consequence. Along the Erdre, seasonal changes paint the landscape, spring blossoms, summer leisure, autumn reflections, and winter stillness. For many residents, these crossings embody connection, transition, and belonging woven into the fabric of their personal geographies and family memories.

SLIDE 4 From Yesterday to Today

Today, Pont Saint-Mihiel remains far more than functional infrastructure, it is a cherished urban promenade and beloved landmark. Its stately outline and tranquil riverside setting have secured its place in residents' hearts. The bridge supports daily transport needs whilst offering peaceful spaces for reflection, leisurely strolls, and admiration of passing boats and riverside scenery. Its accessible design and broad walkways ensure it welcomes everyone. The bridge continues evolving with Nantes' community, providing essential connection between key public spaces whilst maintaining its role as an iconic feature of the city's landscape.

SLIDE 5 Why This Building Matters





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Pont Saint-Mihiel represents a convergence of history, community, and beauty in urban space. Without its preservation, Nantes would lose a Belle Époque monument and a beloved gathering place where countless personal memories have unfolded. The bridge embodies principles of timeless design, functionality married to aesthetic grace, demonstrating how infrastructure can uplift civic spirit. It stands as testament to thoughtful urban development and the enduring value of public spaces that invite contemplation, connection, and daily encounter.

SLIDE 6 Get Involved!

- Take photographs capturing the bridge across seasons and times of day
- Share family memories of celebrations or moments spent on the bridge
- Document how the bridge connects your neighbourhood experiences
- Enjoy peaceful walks and reflection along the Erdre riverside
- Contribute artistic perspectives on this Belle Époque landmark

SLIDE 7 Explore More

- **Personal geography:** What memories, family moments, or local celebrations have unfolded on or around Pont Saint-Mihiel for you?
- **Urban evolution:** How have the bridge's role and symbolism changed alongside Nantes' growing neighbourhoods and transport needs?
- **Seasonal reflection:** How do the changing seasons transform your experience of this riverside crossing and the broader Erdre landscape?

SLIDE 8 Credits & Sources

Text drafted by: LUDICIUS

Historical sources:

- Nantes Patrimoine: Pont Saint-Mihiel, <https://patrimonia.nantes.fr/home/decouvrir/themes-et-quartiers/pont-saint-mihiel.html>
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Réverbère, ©François de Dijon, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 4.0,
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Passerelle de Versailles sur l'Erdre, à l'emplacement de l'actuel pont Saint-Mihiel, ©Archives de Nantes, https://patrimonia.nantes.fr/media/d2bd7e25-682f-4ab4-9be0-dbf7663304cb/picture:views/5/content/grandFormat_9fi0192.jpg

Pont de Saint-Mihiel sur l'Erdre, ©Stephan Menoret – Nantes Métropole,
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Passerelle en bois qui a précédé le pont Saint-Mihiel, ©Archives de Nantes,
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R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Pont Général-de-la-Motte-Rouge

SLIDE 1 Title + Hero Image

- **Title:** Pont Général-de-la-Motte-Rouge
- **Subtitle:** Engineering Excellence and Civic Pride
- **Location:** Nantes, France
- **Hero image:** [FR_1201.jpg](#)

SLIDE 2 Discover the Building

Pont Général-de-la-Motte-Rouge spans the Erdre River, linking Boulevard Amiral Courbet and Place Waldeck. Engineered by the distinguished Jean Résal, the bridge exemplifies the elegance and practicality of French civic works from the Third Republic era. Its single iron arch, spanning an impressive 80 metres, represented a remarkable engineering achievement of its time. Fine symmetry and decorative lighting capture the spirit of both utility and beauty. The bridge stands on the site of the ancient Pont de Barbin, representing continuity of connection and progress across centuries of urban development.

SLIDE 3 Stories Behind the Walls

For generations, residents have crossed Pont Général-de-la-Motte-Rouge during their daily commutes, family outings, and memorable journeys. Renamed in 1891 to honour General de la Motte-Rouge, hero of the Battle of Solferino, the bridge carries forward stories of sacrifice and historical significance. Commuters have traversed its iron arch during rain and shine, whilst others have paused to admire passing boats on the Erdre. The bridge's atmospheric night-time lighting has illuminated countless intimate moments, proposals, reflections, and quiet conversations. For many, these crossings embody belonging woven into the rhythms of neighbourhood life.

SLIDE 4 From Yesterday to Today

Subsequent renovations in 1935 and 2013 have ensured this elegant crossing remains fit for modern use, preserving its historic strengths whilst adapting to changing transport needs. Today, Pont Général-de-la-Motte-Rouge continues serving as the city's primary river crossing, facilitating both vehicular and foot traffic. The bridge remains celebrated not merely for its practical function but for the quality of its design and atmospheric beauty. Its historic iron arches form an iconic part of Nantes' urban landscape, sought after by both daily commuters and those wishing to enjoy leisurely strolls across the Erdre.

SLIDE 5 Why This Building Matters





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Pont Général-de-la-Motte-Rouge embodies engineering innovation, civic commemoration, and enduring urban connection. Without its preservation, Nantes would lose a testament to Third Republic ideals and a beloved crossing woven into collective memory. The bridge demonstrates how infrastructure can transcend mere function to become a thread binding past, present, and future. It stands as a monument to thoughtful design and the value of maintaining heritage structures that continue serving communities whilst inspiring appreciation for engineering excellence and historical continuity.

SLIDE 6 Get Involved!

- Photograph the bridge's iron arches in daylight and night-time lighting
- Share commuting stories and daily memories of crossing the bridge
- Document how the bridge has shaped your neighbourhood's identity
- Record family anecdotes and special moments experienced on the crossing
- Contribute artistic interpretations celebrating this engineering landmark

SLIDE 7 Explore More

- **Personal crossings:** What memories or stories do you associate with daily commutes or special moments on Pont Général-de-la-Motte-Rouge?
- **Urban influence:** In what ways do the city's bridges influence neighbourhood rhythms, relationships, and collective identity?
- **Engineering heritage:** How does Jean Résal's 80-metre iron arch continue inspiring admiration for French engineering excellence?

SLIDE 8 Credits & Sources

Text drafted by: LUDICIUS

Historical sources:

- L'Erdre: Le pont de la Motte-Rouge à Nantes,
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Images (credits):





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

L'éclairage créé en 2014 met en avant la structure du pont, @Franck Garnier,

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L'une des plaques signalant l'emplacement de l'ancienne chaussée de Barbin, ©Franck Garnier,

https://static.wixstatic.com/media/257613_64a6c8671da848d4b52f412c246be7b2~mv2.png

Le pont de la Motte-Rouge et la chaussée de Barbin, ©Archives municipales de Nantes (cote 55Z829),

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L'arche unique de 80 mètres de long du pont de la Motte-Rouge constitue une prouesse architecturale que l'on doit à son constructeur Jean Résal, @Franck Garnier,

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Plan du pont de Barbin à Nantes, ©Archives de Nantes,

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R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

Nantes à la carte : Le pont de Barbin, ©Télé Nantes replay,
<https://youtu.be/oT2xvT1abnM?si=-W5-td8KuP4C8GOy>



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R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

CONCLUSION

The ArchTech digital narratives demonstrate how architectural and historical knowledge can be transformed into engaging, youth-friendly stories that reconnect communities with overlooked heritage across Cyprus, France, Greece, Malta, and Spain. Grounded in a shared methodology, the narratives foreground buildings as living places, intertwining factual research with human experiences, civic values, and open-ended questions that invite participation. By combining multimodal resources, accessible language, and ethical attention to memory and sensitivity, the collection supports both formal education and informal exploration of Europe's architectural legacy.

At the same time, the narratives position young people not as passive readers but as co-authors, encouraging them to document, interpret, and expand the stories through photographs, interviews, creative media, and contributions to the Building Alert! app. This participatory approach aligns with wider European priorities around cultural democracy, digital citizenship, and sustainable heritage stewardship. As a result, the 60 narratives function as a dynamic content base for the app and as a replicable model for future heritage storytelling, strengthening local pride while fostering a transnational sense of connection to Europe's built environment.





R3.3 – 60 Digital narratives with the key historical and architectural facts.

ANNEXES

[R3.1 Heritage Buildings Report](#)

[A3.3 Heritage Buildings Media Database](#)

