



## Art Deco in Urban's publications



This document presents a range of publications, united by the central theme of Art Deco. The selection is provided as part of the [Art Deco Brussels 2025](#), a programme run jointly by Urban and visit.brussels, with the collaboration of non-profit organisation Patrimoine & Culture, and their many partners.

### "Bruxelles, Ville d'Art et d'Histoire" collection

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#### 63. The Centre for Fine Arts

This issue pays tribute to the Centre for Fine Arts, a building that has just celebrated its 100th birthday. It is Victor Horta who can take the credit for bringing this ambitious concept to life. Inaugurated in 1928, the Centre for Fine Arts became a major cultural landmark in Brussels during the interwar period. The building harmoniously combines architecture, technical infrastructure and cultural programming.

→ [Centre for Fine Arts – Heritage \(en\)](#)

#### 54. Swimming pools and public baths in Brussels

In Brussels, the first public swimming pools were built just over 100 years ago, primarily for hygiene reasons and not for sporting purposes. There were no fewer than three open-air swimming pools in the capital during the interwar period. This work on the history of Brussels' swimming pools tells a fascinating tale of architecture, technical engineering, sports, fashion and social emancipation. It includes a wonderful chapter on Art Deco.

→ [Swimming pools – Heritage \(fr – nl\)](#)

#### 53. The Altitude 100 district

The exceptional location of the Altitude 100 district, its star-shaped street plan arranged around one of the most remarkable churches in the Brussels Region, and the quality of its architecture make this district an extraordinary area. This publication pays particular attention to the exceptional Saint-Augustin church, one of the capital's most imposing Art Deco buildings, while magnificent facades can be seen on the neighbourhood's streets, built during the interwar period.

→ [The Altitude 100 district – Heritage \(fr – nl\)](#)

#### 48. Brussels and its cafés

Estaminets, bistros, liquor stores, taverns, cafés, bodegas, bars, brasseries... Drinks outlets have always been an important part of social life. The cultural history of Europe's great metropolises would not be complete without mentioning their legendary cafés, and of course, this applies to Brussels, too. This journey through space and time showcases some of the finest examples from the interwar period, some of which are still around today.

→ [Brussels and its cafés – Heritage \(fr – nl\)](#)



#### 47. In the heart of Forest

In the historic heart of the village of Forest, the town hall, an impressive jewel in the Art Deco style, was designed and built during the interwar period and is one of Jean-Baptiste Dewin's masterpieces. Both the origins of the building and its architectural and iconographic programme are described in greater detail in this book.

→ [In the heart of Forest – Heritage \(fr – nl\)](#)

#### 46. Les Marolles

Les Marolles has become an increasingly trendy area in recent decades, and that's mainly thanks to its reputation as a "colourful" working-class neighbourhood. For the interwar period, the book focuses on the various medical institutions that also left their architectural mark on the district, not forgetting the cinemas and Brussels' swimming pools, les Bains de Bruxelles.

→ [Les Marolles – Heritage \(fr – nl\)](#)

#### 43. Interwar apartment buildings

Shortly after the First World War, in response to the shortage of housing and materials, the wealthy middle class began to show an interest in apartment buildings. A number of luxury buildings were constructed in the 1920s, the Résidence Palace being a prime example. From the 1930s onwards, apartment buildings in various shapes and often more modest sizes were built for a wider public.

→ [Interwar apartment buildings – Heritage \(fr – nl\)](#)

#### 35. The history of Brussels' cinemas

Brussels was once home to countless cinemas. Some were designed as true palaces to glorify the seventh art. Other more modest buildings belonged to the multitude of neighbourhood cinemas that, until the 1950s, made up the golden age of film. Almost all of them have disappeared. A handful of theatres – the Métropole, the Marivaux, the Aegidium, the Variétés, the Plaza, the Pathé Palace and the Albert Hall – have been extensively transformed and re-purposed for other uses but are still a testament to the magical places whose screens were once graced by Hollywood's stars.

→ [The history of Brussels' cinemas – Heritage \(fr – nl\)](#)

#### 34. Le Logis and Floréal garden cities

The concept of the garden city flourished in the Brussels Region between 1920 and 1940, with the creation of twenty-five cities during this period. In Watermael-Boitsfort, le Logis-Floréal is a classic example of the aspiration for a new society, which was characteristic of this period; one that combines housing and landscape design, all aligned with the hygiene concerns of the time. Once built on the fringes of the city, they are now a fully integrated part of the urban fabric.

→ [Le Logis and Floréal garden cities – Heritage \(fr – nl\)](#)

#### 33. L'avenue Molière

Between Altitude 100 and La Bascule, Avenue Molière winds its way through the municipalities of Forest, Ixelles and Uccle. The origins of this prestigious residential thoroughfare are linked to the creation of the Berkendael district, a large-scale urban development project initiated by banker Georges Brugmann. The avenue boasts a number of beautiful interwar buildings, showcasing the Art Deco style or representative of the Modernist movement.

→ [Avenue Molière – Heritage \(fr – nl\)](#)



### 28. Uccle. Houses and villas

Under the impetus of Georges Brugmann, the area between the centre of Uccle and the northern boundary of the municipality underwent a major wave of urbanisation at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, permanently transforming its topography. The prestige of the new avenues and the ease of access appealed to the bourgeoisie, who wanted to enjoy the greenery while remaining close to the city. From the Bloemenwerf to the Van Buuren Museum, take a stroll and discover Uccle's houses and villas, whose architecture reflects the major stylistic movements: from fin-de-siècle eclecticism to interwar modernism.

→ [Uccle – Heritage \(fr – nl\)](#)

## "Bruxelles Patrimoines" collection

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### 34. Colours and textures

Louis Tenaerts' career as an architect from 1922 to 1939, featured as part of Art Deco 2025, is the subject of an article published in this issue's *Varia* section.

→ [Colours and textures – Heritage \(fr – nl\)](#)

### 31. A place for art

This issue, which showcases the links between art and heritage, and how heritage is represented in art, features several articles linked to the theme of Art Deco. Firstly, a contribution on the place of the Centre for Fine Arts in the panorama of artistic events in Brussels. A second article discusses the link forged in the 1930s between modernist architecture and photography. There is a spotlight on photographer Émile Sergysels, alongside the well-known figure of Willy Kessels. Finally, there is an article dedicated to Maison Dangotte, a shop specialising in decorative arts on Avenue de la Toison d'Or, where Albert Van Huffel was artistic director in the 1920s.

→ [A place for art – Heritage \(fr – nl\)](#)

### 30. Concrete

Concrete is synonymous with boldness, innovation and modernity, and provided a pillar of support for the construction boom that took place during the interwar period.

→ [Concrete – Heritage \(fr – nl\)](#)

### 29. Historic interiors

This issue reveals the richness and diversity of Brussels' historic interiors, featuring a house by Antoine Pompe, along with furniture from the former Cohn-Donnay house. The *Varia* section also includes an article on François Van Meulecom (Brussels, 1889 – Uccle, 1963), a relatively unknown architect who was very active in Brussels, mainly during the interwar years.

→ [Historic interiors – Heritage \(fr – nl\)](#)

### 19-20. Recycling styles

This issue of Bruxelles Patrimoines magazine takes you on a journey through the architectural styles that have inspired our architects. The authors set out to decipher the significance of the stylistic choices made by each movement and each era, providing keys to technical and economic, as well as ideological, political and religious, interpretations.

→ [Recycling styles – Heritage \(fr – nl\)](#)



### 18. Town halls

The town halls are important landmarks in the lives of the people of Brussels. These buildings are also home to an important artistic and historical component. In a range of styles, from the oldest to the most recent, from the most monumental to the most modest, each one reflects the era in which it was built, as well as the decades that followed, bringing their transformations and adaptations to a reality that has been constantly evolving since the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

→ [Town halls – Heritage \(fr – nl\)](#)

### 13. Places of worship

Places of worship are an important part of Brussels' regional built heritage. This issue presents a chronological overview of the construction of churches, convents and chapels, including buildings constructed during the interwar years.

→ [Places of worship – Heritage \(fr – nl\)](#)

### 10. Jean-Baptiste Dewin

The tenth issue (2014) of *Bruxelles Patrimoines* is devoted to the architectural work of Jean-Baptiste Dewin (1873-1948). Working in Brussels, this architect was known for his unique creations that waver between Art Nouveau and Art Deco.

→ [Jean-Baptiste Dewin – Heritage \(fr – nl\)](#)

### Special edition

This history of Brussels told through its architectural heritage is divided into five sections, corresponding to a chronological breakdown from its very beginnings up to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, completed by a sixth section, written from a diachronic point of view and devoted to the activities and developments that have shaped the regional landscape. Readers will find a chapter focused on the interwar years, featuring listed buildings from this period.

→ [Heritage writes our history – Heritage \(fr – nl\)](#)

## Other highlights...

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**The work on Villa Empain**, published by the Region in 2009, outlines the history and illustrates the restoration of this Art Deco villa, built on Avenue Franklin Roosevelt between 1931 and 1934 by Swiss architect Michel Polak with his colleague Alfred Hoch, at the request of Baron Louis Empain. A testament to the architecture of its time, the villa has become a cultural landmark in Brussels' artistic life.

→ [The Villa Empain – Heritage \(fr – nl\)](#)

Finally, **the Histoire de planifier book**, published in 2018. The result of extensive research carried out by a number of specialists, this book published by Urban in collaboration with Mardaga confronts two apparently antagonistic visions: on the one hand, territorial planning, a concept developed at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and intended to be scientific, and on the other, urban art, practised in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and imbued with empiricism. The work tells the story of the birth of various neighbourhoods, and how people pictured them, desired them, and then actually planned them. There are several pages focussing on urban planning during the interwar years (pp. 248-271).