

ART DECO BRUSSELS 2025



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Following the success of the Art Nouveau Year, the Brussels-Capital Region is continuing its strategy of promoting its architectural heritage by declaring 2025 the year of Art Deco. 2025 also marks the centenary of the 1925 International Exhibition of Modern Decorative and Industrial Arts held in Paris, which offers a chance to revisit Brussels' Art Deco heritage through the lens of contemporary urban and societal challenges. This approach goes beyond the traditional focus on aesthetics and the admiration of luxury. By examining the society that produced Art Deco, we uncover the civic concerns it embodied—ranging from the liberation of social norms to the looming threats of economic, social, and geopolitical crises. These insights shine a light on the challenges we face today: sustainable development, embracing diversity, reinterpreting colonisation, fostering intergenerational exchanges, and more.

ART DECO RESOLUTELY MODERN?

With its geometric lines and sense of ornamentation, Art Deco was the artistic movement of the 1920s and 1930s. A true icon of the Roaring Twenties, its aesthetics thrived in furniture, decorative arts, and architectural facades alike. Characterised by geometric forms, lustrous materials, warm and contrasting colours with golden or silver accents, and a penchant for precious materials or their imitations, Art Deco also demonstrated a strong fascination with exoticism.

Inseparable from Art Deco was the concept of modernity, omnipresent in this era, imbued with a spirit of renewal that permeated all aspects of society. It aimed to achieve democratic emancipation, technological comfort, and enhanced leisure and mobility.

En 2025, Bruxelles rend hommage à ce courant architectural devenu viral avec un programme spécial mêlant visites, animations et événements. In 2025, Brussels will pay tribute to this iconic architectural movement with a special programme featuring tours, activities, and events. This year, urban.brussels and visit.brussels, along with all their partners, are preparing an extensive programme that includes exhibitions, tours, and conferences in the most stunning Art Deco buildings of the capital!

The year's full programme is available at www.artdeco2025.brussels.

“Throughout the upcoming year, urban.brussels’ ambition is to revisit Art Deco through the lenses of urban planning, architecture, sociology, and humanity to move beyond the traditional approach to Art Deco. We aim to highlight the civic issues that Art Deco carried in the 1920s and 1930s. Our role goes beyond merely promoting heritage. Urban.brussels seeks to address the subject critically, questioning the past in light of contemporary architecture.” explains Sarah Lagrillière, Deputy Director of urban.brussels.

“Following the tremendous success of the Art Nouveau Year in Brussels, which attracted nearly 2 million visitors, we are delighted to unveil 2025 as the Year of Art Deco. This iconic architectural style, present throughout the entire Brussels-Capital Region, promises to further enhance the appeal of our destination. In addition to having a significant impact on tourist attendance, this event will contribute to decentralisation by showcasing the architectural richness of all our capital’s districts.” stated Patrick Bontinck, CEO of visit.brussels.

BRUSSELS' MUST-SEE ART DECO

The Brussels-Capital Region boasts a unique Art Deco heritage, as diverse as the tastes of the patrons of the time. Sometimes discreet, sometimes monumental – from intricately designed cornices on residential buildings to sprawling villas with swimming pools – the streets of Brussels are brimming with treasures waiting to be discovered or rediscovered.



Van Buuren Museum & Gardens, Jean-Paul Remy © visit.brussels

To this end, numerous guided tour associations, such as Pro Vélo, ARAU, Arkadia, Korei, Bruxelles Bavard, Itinéraires, Brussels Art Deco Society, Explore Brussels, as well as municipal partners like the communes of Anderlecht, Schaerbeek, Forest, Ixelles and the City of Brussels, will offer a rich and varied programme throughout 2025. Alongside this, several *iconic buildings* will be open to the public year-round:

The Flagey Building: home to concert and cinema halls.



© Johan Jacobs

Bozar: whose grand hall is freely accessible

Wiels: the former Wielemans-Ceuppens Brewery, showcasing a modernist take on Art Deco in its grand reception hall and exhibition spaces

UGC de Brouckère: which retains a cinema hall with Art Deco decor.

Forest Town Hall, recently restored and opened to the public.



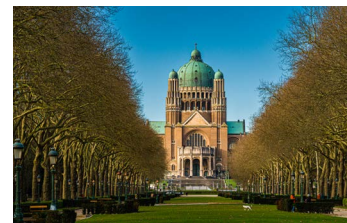
A. de Ville de Goyet
© urban.brussels

The House of European History, located in the former George Eastman Dental Institute.



A. de Ville de Goyet © urban.brussels

The Basilica of Koekelberg, the fifth-largest church in the world.



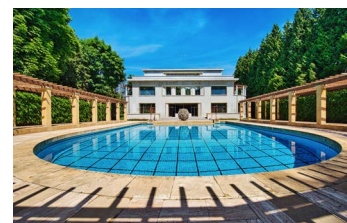
Jean-Paul Remy © visit.brussels

Sainte-Suzanne Church in Schaerbeek

Saint-Jean-Baptiste Church in Molenbeek-Saint-Jean

Saint-Augustin Church in Forest

Villa Empain (home to the Boghossian Foundation)



Jean-Paul Remy © visit.brussels

Van Buuren Museum & Gardens

Tenaerts House

Riez House

The Art & History Museum is also planning to inaugurate two permanent exhibition rooms in 2025, dedicated to its Art Nouveau and Art Deco collections

Most of these buildings, and many more, will also open their doors for the Brussels Art Nouveau Art Deco Festival (BANAD Festival) from March 15 to 30. The 2025 programme will be 90% dedicated to Art Deco buildings, featuring numerous never-before-seen locations!

Many of these sites will be accessible through the Art Nouveau Pass, which will evolve into the Art Nouveau Art Deco Pass. This new combined ticket will include, in addition to nine Art Nouveau sites, entry to several Art Deco landmarks across the capital.

Finally, the Heritage Days, organised annually by urban.brussels, will align with the theme “Art Deco – Roaring Twenties, Crashing Thirties” offering a free programme of tours and discoveries showcasing this style throughout the Brussels region.

EXHIBITIONS FOR ALL



Whether you are already familiar with this style or ready to explore it, various partners will offer exhibitions on a range of themes, often complemented by guided tours and workshops for both children and adults.

VILLA EMPAIN

13 · 11 · 2024 → 25 · 05 · 2025

“Echoes of Art Deco” invites visitors to explore the iconic architecture of Villa Empain, a paragon of Art Deco with a tumultuous history. The exhibition offers an immersive experience into the lifestyle of the Roaring Twenties.

WITTOCKIANA

01 · 02 · 2025 → 01 · 05 · 2025

An exhibition showcasing Art Deco book bindings from the Michel Wittock Collection – King Baudouin Foundation. It highlights the refined craftsmanship of the 1930s and the emergence of post-war industrial production.

MADELEINE 7 FOUNDATION

01 · 04 · 2025 → 01 · 09 · 2025

“ART DECO – The Val Saint Lambert Golden Years” presents works by Philippe Wolfers, Joseph Simon, Modeste Denoel, and others, celebrating the multifaceted Art Deco creations of Val Saint Lambert. The exhibition will be accompanied by a publication.

MARINUS CENTRE

18 · 04 · 2025 → 19 · 10 · 2025

“Opalescents” features a selection of over 100 opaline glass creations from the collection of Philippe Decelle, an engineer and visual artist. A publication will accompany the exhibition.

HORTA MUSEUM

14 · 05 · 2025 → 17 · 08 · 2025

“Camouflage” focuses on patterns and decoration during the interwar period, questioning the role of women artists and highlighting collaborations by major Cubist artists in camouflage design during World War I.

VAN BUUREN MUSEUM & GARDENS

24 · 04 · 2025 → 28 · 09 · 2025

This exhibition will spotlight interwar sculptures set against the enchanting backdrop of the museum's gardens, offering visitors a unique immersive experience.

AUTRIQUE HOUSE

mai 2025 → date à confirmer

"Art Deco 2025: Posters and Magazines" (translation of FR working title) will explore societal evolution during the interwar period through posters and magazine covers.

BELVUE MUSEUM

04 · 06 · 2025 → 04 · 01 · 2026

"ART DECO. The style of a society in the throes of change" examines the shift from Art Nouveau to Art Deco and the social changes of the time, showcasing pieces from the King Baudouin Foundation collections.

THE DESIGN MUSEUM BRUSSELS

06 · 06 · 2025 → 02 · 11 · 2025

This exhibition will feature an archive collection received in 2024 from the estate of René Baucher and Sylvie Feron. Known for their projects in furniture, lighting, textiles, and interior decoration, the exhibition's working title is "Sylvie Feron and René Baucher."

HALLES SAINT-GÉRY

Halles Saint-Géry will be dedicating their entire 2025 programme to Art Deco, featuring three major exhibitions and a diverse lineup of events. These will include partner exhibitions, celebrations of intangible heritage (such as gastronomy), conferences, explorations of Art Deco beyond Belgium, and more. Accessibility will be a key focus, with free exhibitions, occasional guided tours, and guaranteed wheelchair accessibility.

"ART DECO CINEMAS IN BRUSSELS"

27 · 01 · 2025 → 11 · 05 · 2025

This exhibition will immerse visitors in the magical world of cinema, highlighting the grand "first-release" movie theatres of central Brussels during the Art Deco era, along with other cinemas in both central and peripheral neighbourhoods, ranging from the grandiose to the modest.

"ON THE ART DECO TABLE MENU"

24 · 03 · 2025 → 29 · 06 · 2025

An invitation to delve into an era where refinement and elegance defined a unique art of living. Featuring a rare collection of vintage menus – true works of art – this exhibition will celebrate the intersection of gastronomy, culture, and aesthetics.

"FASHION AND ART DECO: CONTEMPORARY RESONANCES"

26 · 05 · 2025 → 26 · 08 · 2025

Ten contemporary Brussels-based designers will reinterpret the Art Deco movement by focusing on specific aspects of its influence in fashion, accessories, and jewellery. Their modern creations will be displayed alongside historical garments from the Museum of Fashion & Lace, offering a rich diversity of perspectives.

"ON ART DECO NOTES"

10 · 07 · 2025 → 10 · 10 · 2025

This exhibition will explore the intersection of music and graphic arts through a unique harmony, showcasing an exceptional selection of vintage music scores from the Art Deco period.

"ART DECO, ROARING TWENTIES, CRASH YEARS"

11 · 09 · 2025 → 11 · 01 · 2026

As part of the Heritage Days celebrations, this exhibition will provide an in-depth exploration of the Art Deco movement in Brussels, offering visitors a journey through the highs and lows of the era.

A VIBRANT FRINGE PROGRAMME

CONFERENCES

In addition to the exhibitions, many partners will be introducing the public to specific aspects of Art Deco through a series of themed conferences. BRAFA will host an Art Deco BRAFA Talk featuring Werner Adriaenssens during its event; urban.brussels, will organise an Urban Lunch in January dedicated to this iconic style and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg - in collaboration with the Luxembourg National Museum of History and Art (MNAH) - will host a conference on Art Deco in Luxembourg, which will tie in with a recent publication on the subject.

A selection of other museum partners, including BELvue, the Museum of Fashion & Lace and the Pierre Majerus Belgian Stained Glass Centre, will also stage Art Deco-themed conferences.

The Brussels Art Deco Society is programming a year of meetings, debates and lectures on Art Deco, in collaboration with Belgian and international experts. These events will take place in partnership with key Art Deco landmarks like Villa Empain and Van Buuren House.

GREEN SPACES

The capital's green spaces will also be taking part in the festivities! The cemeteries of the City of Brussels will be participating in the Printemps des Cimetières and CIVA will be hosting its annual Garden Tales festival, which encourages the public to (re)discover Belle Époque green spaces.

CLASSES DU PATRIMOINE

In parallel, the Classes du Patrimoine will be partnering with Van Buuren Museum & Gardens to organise activities for schools. Several museums will be adapting their programming to make exhibitions accessible to young audiences and families.

PUBLICATIONS

Additionally, some museums will be publishing works as part of their temporary exhibitions. Highlights include Racines, which is developing a new book on "Art Deco Homes" by author Cécile Dubois and Demeures Historiques et Jardins de Belgique, which will be releasing a spring issue dedicated to Art Deco. The summer edition of the Natrimoine journal will also be dedicated to the theme.



Van Buuren Museum & Gardens, Jean-Paul Remy © visit.brussels



Villa Empain – Boghossian Foundation, Jean-Paul Remy © visit.brussels

A variety of partners will come together for Art Deco Week, offering an event every evening of the week. Activities will include lectures, exhibition openings, festive events, and guided tours, designed to connect visitors with the various locations featured in the programme.

This event will be coordinated by the “Art Deco at Home” consortium, which includes the Brussels Art Deco Society, the Boghossian Foundation – Villa Empain, Van Buuren Museum & Gardens, Autrique House and the Horta Museum.



PARTNERS



C I.II.III.IV. A
Culture — Architecture

Racine

**DESIGN
MUSEUM
BRUSSELS**

**Bruxelles Bavard
Brussel Babbelt
Brussels Chatterguides**



ART & HISTORY MUSEUM



Bozar



WITTOCKIANA
Musée des arts du livre et de la reliure
Museum voor boekkunst en boekband

**EXPLORE
BRUSSELS**



Pro Velo



**ST-GORIKS
HALLES
ST-GÉRY**



Korei guided tours



**Commune de Forest
Gemeente Vorst**



**Classes
patrimoine
Erfgoed
klassen**



**BRAFA
ART FAIR**

Tierre Majerus

**VAN BUUREN
MUSEUM & GARDENS**



**SCHAERBEEK
1030
SCHAARBEEK**

natrimoine

ENGLISH
Version 1 · January 2025



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