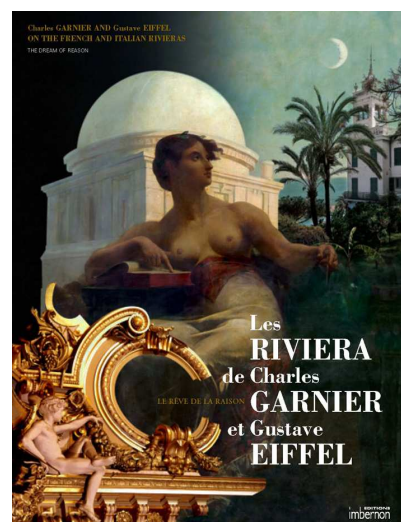


Charles Garnier et Gustave Eiffel : le rêve de la raison / Charles Garnier and Gustave Eiffel on French and Italian Rivieras: the Dream of Reason

Texts collected by Jean-Lucien Bonillo



SUBJECT

This book ambitiously aims to make the readers discover Charles Garnier's work which is not only constituted by the famous Paris Opera House. An essential part of his work is located on the Côte d'Azur and the Italian Rivieras: the Nice Observatory, the Opera House in Monte-Carlo, and several projects were also set up in Bordighera, among which the architect's holidays villa... A synthesis is also done about the meeting and the collaboration between the 19th century construction profession idols: the architect Charles Garnier and the engineer Gustave Eiffel.

ABOUT

- Both referential and introductory document to Charles Garnier's work, and on the relations between the architecture and the engineering during the 19th century.
- **2007: BERNIER** Prize from the Institute of France/ Academy of Beaux-Arts in Paris. The book was also selected in 2005 for the book fair 'Mai du livre d'Art' and for the prize Roberval.

TARGET AUDIENCE

- All readers, students, academic and professional readers.
- Lovers of beautiful books

DEPARTMENTS IN STORE

Architecture – Astronomy – History of eclectic architecture – engineering

DETAILS

	Distribution Sodis/Geodif
Language	Bilingual French-English
ISBN	2-9516396-1-9
Format	24 x 31 cm
Number of pages	208
	Hard-covered
Price	60 €

SYNOPSIS

Preface/Introduction • **1. The Nice Observatory** • *An exceptional commission* by F. Leguet-Tully • *A pagan dream atop Acropolis* by J.-L. Bonillo • *The instruments of the heavens* by M. Leniaud • *The nights seen through the Observatory* by J.-L. Heudier • **2. Charles Garnier, on the French and Italian Rivieras** • *Work and play in Bordighera* by G. Merello • *The splendours of the Garnier rooms at the Monte-Carlo Casino* by A. Folli • **3. Charles Garnier, Gustave Eiffel and Others...** by B. Bouvier / *The intertwined destinies of Charles Garnier and Gustave Eiffel* by J.-L. Bonillo / *The call of the South: Money, Art and Architecture* by J.-M. Leniaud / *Biographies and constructions* by B. Bouvier

The book thus aims to synthesise the stays of the famous Opera House architect, Charles Garnier, upon the French and Italian Rivieras, former Côte d'Azur, and how these allowed such a fruitful work. Such an activity in this part of South of France from a Parisian architect of the 19th century is unexpected. Furthermore, the presence of the architect in his winter detached house in Bordighera, which appears at that time as a small fishers' village, and the various project he launched (villas, school, church, town planning...) have contributed to turn the place into a resort destination. In Monte-Carlo, the Casino is being renovated and extended under his direction, and neo-baroque trends then appear with even more imposing splendour than in Paris Opera House. To oppose this, the Nice Observatory, including Gardens and Pavilions, has been elaborated with a touch of harsh eccentricity. The purity of the architectural blocks and the expression of the statutory on the Grand Equatorial show a game of symbolist matches which are reminiscent of dreams of Science and rational intuition of Art.

The meeting between two idols of the construction profession in the 19th century -Charles Garnier and Gustave Eiffel- is highlighted as an original topic. Their relationship started as a fruitful partnership on the Nice Observatory when the engineer was installing his famous 'flowing' dome, but ended as a bitter confrontation over the Universal Exhibition of 1889, in Paris. The Eiffel Tower was confronted to the pavilions of the architect which illustrate the *History of Human Housing*. Face to face, both works of Garnier and Eiffel use to convey to the two trends of the century, both opposed and complementary: technical progress and self-assured conquering modernity, alongside the passion for History, as well as exotic cultures and primitive art which were going to be used by many vanguard artists.

THE AUTHORS

Were co-ordinated by **J.-L. Bonillo** -architect, architecture historian and teaching at the School of Architecture in Marseilles-. This work has reunited **B. Bouvier** -historian-, **A. Folli** -architect-, **J.-L. Heudier** -astronomer and project manager at the Nice Observatory-, **F. Le Guet-Tully** -in charge of the Nice Observatory's records-, **J.-M. Leniaud** -historian, headmaster of research at the EPHE in Paris-, **G. Merello** -historian-.