
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.


TARGET AUDIENCE

● All readers, students, academic and professional readers.

● Lovers of beautiful books

DEPARTMENTS IN STORE

Architecture – Astronomy – History of eclectic architecture – engineering

SYNOPSIS


2. Charles Garnier, on the French and Italian Rivieras


The book thus aims to synthesize 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 fishermen’s village, and the various projects 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 neobaroque 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-.