
ARCHIPAL

Aluminium, architecture & patrimoine, XX-XXIe s.

OBJECTIVES

The aim of the project is to trace the history of aluminium in architecture, to understand the processes of its patrimonialisation and to draw up an inventory of the presence and state of conservation of this material in France's built heritage. It will contribute to writing the history of contemporary architecture and technical innovations in this field and to defining strategies for the conservation and restoration of this industrial heritage, in a reflection based on the injunctions of sustainable development. It is part of a multidisciplinary reflection on materials, materials and materiality.

PROGRAM

Light, durable, resistant and malleable, infinitely recyclable, aluminium has established itself as a material emblematic of modernity thanks to its technical characteristics during the 20th and 21st centuries.

Here are some of the questions that the project should cover :

- How did such a material establish itself and how was it perceived by its contemporaries ?
- Who were the actors in this technical change that saw wood giving way to metal in architecture?

Based on the identification of French built heritage containing aluminium, a dedicated database will be used to collect all general and technical information, details of composition and implementation. Furthermore, a conservation condition of these buildings, ornaments and aluminium sculptures will be established.

At the heart of the project's deliverables, the «Aluminium & built heritage» database is a new tool for managing aluminium heritage.

Based on an assessment of the conservation condition and the associated environmental and societal conditions, it will make it possible to define appropriate research, conservation and restoration strategies. This database will provide a working tool for all those involved in the world of research interested in the issue of built heritage : historians, architects of buildings in France, inventory researchers, restorers, etc.



Fig. : View of the dome of the Church of San Gioacchino in Rome (architect : Raffaele Ingami), collection Institut pour l'histoire de l'aluminium, all rights reserved, R. Chevillotte, L'aluminium matériau de couverture. RA, 109, 1939, 1601-1612

FUNDING

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PROJECT LEADER

Centre de recherches historiques

SCIENTIST IN CHARGE AT HE-ARC

Christian Degriigny
christian.degriigny@he-arc.ch

PARTNERS

AUSSER - UMR3329 Architecture Urbanisme Société : Savoir Enseignement Recherche; CRC Centre de Recherche sur la Conservation; LISST Laboratoire Interdisciplinaire Solidarités, Sociétés, Territoires; CRM Centre Roland Mousnier; Institut pour l'histoire de l'aluminium; CRH - UMR8558 Centre de recherches historiques

DURATION

48 months
2018 - 2022 (extension until 2023)