Horta inside out: A year dedicated to this architectural genius

One of the greatest architects of his generation, Victor Horta, certainly left his mark on Brussels. From the Horta House to the Hôtel Tassel and the Horta-Lambeaux Pavilion, it was about time we paid tribute to this master of Art Nouveau by dedicating a whole year to his work and creative genius.

Victor Horta moved to Brussels in 1881 and went to the Royal Academy of Fine Arts. His teacher, Alphonse Balat (the architect behind the Royal Greenhouses of Laeken), saw his potential and took him on as an assistant. Very quickly, he became fascinated by curves, light and steel. He soon joined the inner circle of the Masonic lodge that would launch his career.

The Autrique House was built in 1893, followed closely by the wonderful Hôtel Tassel. This period was the start of a long series of showpieces which dotted Brussels with buildings with innovative spaces and bright skylights.

Horta, one of the earliest instigators, heralded the modern movement of Art Nouveau architecture. The stylistic revolution represented by these works is characterised by their open plan, diffusion and transformation of light throughout the construction, the creation of a decor that brilliantly illustrates the curved lines of decoration embracing the structure of the building, the use of new materials (steel and glass), and the introduction of modern technical utilities. Through the rational use of the metallic structures, often visible or subtly dissimulated, Victor Horta conceived flexible, light and airy living areas, directly adapted to the personality of their inhabitants. (Source: Unesco, Major townhouses of the architect Victor Horta (Brussels))

Rich in this architectural heritage, Brussels owed it to Horta to honour his genius for a whole year. About twenty Brussels cultural institutions have got involved for you to discover or rediscover Victor Horta from every angle.

Throughout the year, they are proposing a series of activities revolving around the architect: exhibitions, guided tours, educational activities, entertainment. A great way to commemorate the work of this extraordinary architect.
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Exhibitions
Exhibitions all year round

"Horta and the Waucquez Stores"
Art Nouveau masterpiece designed by Victor Horta, the old Waucquez Stores, which are now home to the Belgian Comic Strip Centre, were inaugurated on 31 March 1906. This exhibition gives visitors the chance to discover, through exceptional photographs and documents, a Brussels adventure symbolic of the 20th century: the birth and life of the Waucquez fabric stores as well as the building’s transformation into the comic strip museum. You will also discover a selection of illustrations by comic strip illustrators inspired by the story of the old Waucquez Stores.

Belgian Comic Strip Centre
1 January to 31 December 2018
www.cbdd.be

"Victor Horta's Studio House"
The Horta Museum is located in the house and studio of the architect Victor Horta, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Built between 1898 and 1901 at numbers 23 and 25, Rue Américaine in Saint-Gilles, the two buildings are typical of the Art Nouveau era at its peak. The interior decoration has been largely preserved, with mosaics, stained glass and murals forming a harmonious and elegant whole, down to the last detail.

Horta Museum
1 January to 31 December 2018
www.hortamuseum.be

"The Autrique House: Interior of a townhouse built by Victor Horta"
In 1893, Victor Horta was commissioned to build a house for his friend Eugène Autrique, a mechanical engineer. This was one of the first townhouses built by the architect, and it already reveals some of his most notable elements: the beginnings of a connection with the pavement, wall claddings of varying thicknesses, symmetry coexisting with asymmetry, not to mention the use of metal and other industrial materials.

The Autrique House
1 January to 31 December 2018
www.autrique.be
"At the birthplace of Art Nouveau"

This exhibition, organised by the Directorate of Monuments and Sites in the Region of Brussels Capital, provides an overall introduction to the work of the architect Victor Horta with a presentation of his major works built in Brussels. The presentation invites visitors to discover the secrets behind the creative work of one of Art Nouveau's greatest artists, a movement which revolutionised European spatial and architectural concepts at the dawn of the 20th century. A series of photographs, documents and plans highlight the value of this extraordinary legacy.

CIVA
15 January to 31 December 2018
www.civa.brussels

“The Wolfers Store”

In 1912 the Wolfers Frères jewellers and goldsmiths opened on Rue d'Arenberg inside a grand building designed by Victor Horta. In 1973, the store was dismantled and refitted as part of the Royal Museums of Art and History. Finally in 2017, 105 years after it opened, the inside has not only been completely restored, but returned to the original layout as Horta designed it. The original windows display some of the masterpieces of Art Nouveau and Art Déco.

Cinquanteainaire Museum
1 January to 31 December 2018 (open from 28 November 2017)
www.kmkg-mrah.be

Temporary exhibitions

“Unbuilt Horta”

Every summer, CIVA organises an exhibition with the theme "Unbuilt Brussels" presenting documents from its archives relating to architectural and urban projects that were never brought to fruition. This year, the exhibition is dedicated to Victor Horta, focusing mainly on his grand project to rebuild the block between the Palace of Fine Arts and the Central Station, and the Congo Pavilion designed for the Paris Exposition Universelle of 1900.

CIVA
1 June to 15 October 2018
www.civa.brussels
“Light in the work of Victor Horta: from Hôtel Tassel to the Central Station”

Throughout his career, Horta aimed to capture light in his buildings—light that was sorely lacking in traditional bourgeois interiors. Here, visitors will be able to appreciate the variety of ingenious solutions thought up by Horta to let light into the innermost parts of his buildings. Fourteen buildings, from the Hôtel Tassel to the Central Station, have been selected to illustrate a lighting problem dealt with in an original way by Horta.

Horta Museum (in collaboration with CIVA)
20 March to 30 June 2018
www.hortamuseum.be

Victor Horta’s Centre for Fine Arts. A Work in Progress

On the 90th anniversary of the Centre for Fine Arts, BOZAR is organising a one-off exhibition about the building. Victor Horta’s Centre for Fine Arts. A Work in progress brings together architectural models, unprecedented documents from the Blaton Papers, plans for future modifications, and architectural installations and interventions.

Centre for Fine Arts - BOZAT
27 April to 26 August 2018
www.bozar.be

“Horta Motifs. Fabric and wallpaper in Brussels houses”

Art Nouveau was a very significant period for the creation of wallpaper and fabrics. Inside Art Nouveau buildings, both Victor Horta and his contemporaries gave meaning to the concept of total art and revolutionised the applied arts, abolishing the hierarchy between different forms of plastic art. Original motifs, complex craftwork... the exhibition restores this fragile heritage to the place it deserves in the history of forms.

The Autrique House
15 April to 30 January 2019
www.autrique.be
“The Temple of Human Passions – the first building built by Victor Horta in Brussels”

In 1890, Victor Horta was entrusted the task of designing a building to house the monumental marble relief “Human Passions” by the sculptor Jef Lambeaux. The architect had trouble curbing the sculptor's desire to leave his mark on the building's architecture. But the result was breathtaking: although classical at first sight, the building turned out to be very innovative and clearly announced the emergence of Art Nouveau.

Cinquantenaire Museum
24 March to 28 October 2018
www.kmkg-mrah.be
Events

“The Wolfers Store, open Sundays”

The Wolfers Store will be buzzing with the Christmas and New Year vibe in the run-up to the year of Victor Horta. Don't miss the talk by curator Werner Adriaenssens, experience the exclusive atmosphere of a luxury boutique, make your own stunning table centrepiece and wrap it up in festive paper, take one of our individual guided tours and discover great deals...

Cinquantenaire Museum
10 and 17 December 2017
www.kmkg-mrah.be

“Brussels Art Nouveau & Art Deco Festival 2018”

A festival dedicated to Art Nouveau and Art Déco. This year’s theme is: "the hidden treasures and focus of Victor Horta". The programme includes a whole range of activities for discovering the wonders of these two architectural styles: visits to exceptional Art Nouveau and Art Déco interiors, guided tours on foot, by coach and by bike, concerts, exhibitions, cultural events and more.

Explore.Brussels asbl
10 to 25 March 2018
www.banad.brussels

“World Art Nouveau Day – photo competition”

World Art Nouveau Day 2018 will be celebrating, among other things, the 150th anniversary of the birth of Charles Rennie Mackintosh, Peter Behrens, Komor Marcell and Lluis Muncunill i Parellada, as well as the centenary of the death of Gustav Klimt, Egon Schiele, Otto Wagner and Koloman Moser. To celebrate, a photo competition entitled "My favourite Art Nouveau Architect" will be organised on 10 June by Réseau Art Nouveau Network through its Facebook page, allowing the public to present their favourite architect through the medium of one of his works.

Réseau Art Nouveau Network
10 June 2018
“Artonov Festival: Victor Horta and Freemasonry”

The aim of the ARTONOV Festival is to generate a convergence between the performing arts, such as music, dance, fashion and theatre, and the visual arts, thus encouraging an interdisciplinary approach.

Artists will reflect on the way art and performance can interact with architectural space. For this fourth edition of the ARTONOV Festival, the programme will revolve around the theme “Victor Horta and Freemasonry” at venues such as the Horta-Lambeaux Temple of Human Passions, the Wolfers Store at the Cinquantenaire Museum, the Autrique House and the Horta Museum. The symbolism and rituals of freemasonry were a source of inspiration and training for Victor Horta throughout his career.

ARTONOV
12 to 14 October 2018
www.festival-artonov.eu

Victor Horta and Art Nouveau Book Fair A book fair entirely dedicated to Victor Horta and Art Nouveau. The fair also includes events such as talks, book presentations, book signing sessions, a guided tour of the exhibition "At the Birthplace of Art Nouveau", and walks around the area to discover some of Victor Horta's buildings.

CIVA
11 to 13 October 2018
www.civa.brussels
**Guided tours**

**Guided coach tours**

**“Totally Horta”**

The ARAU offers a coach tour dedicated exclusively to the Belgian master of Art Nouveau: Victor Horta. This is a unique opportunity to gain deeper insight into the work of this talented architect by visiting some of his works, including a mansion and an old textile warehouse, now the Belgian Comic Strip Centre.

Atelier de Recherche et d’Action Urbaines (ARAU)
One Saturday per month, from the end of May to the end of November 2018 (26/05, 23/06, 28/07, 25/08, 22/09, 27/10 and 24/11

[www.arau.org](http://www.arau.org)

**“Brussels 1900 – Art Nouveau”**

This tour helps visitors to understand the role of Art Nouveau in Brussels and the originality of this movement, which revolutionised architecture and decorative arts at the end of the 19th century. By exploring the city, visitors discover the most beautiful Art Nouveau façades, some of which are now listed as UNESCO World Heritage. It is also an opportunity to enter their remarkable interiors, with some opening their doors especially for the occasion.

Atelier de Recherche et d’Action Urbaines (ARAU)
Every Saturday from mid April to mid December 2018

[www.arau.org](http://www.arau.org)

**Walking tours**

**Regular tours**

**“Guided tours on Victor Horta”**

Titles and themes of the guided tours:

Het Tempeltje van de Menselijke Driften (16/01) / Waucquezwarenhuis (20/02) / De kunstgalerij van Henri Van Cutsem (20/03) / De woning Frison en het verdwenen Volkshuis (17/04) / Hotel Hallet (19/06) / Horta’s Masterplan (17/07) / Het Paleis voor Schone Kunsten en het Koninklijk Salon (21/08) / Café Victor en de Cinematek (18/09) / Het Koninklijk salon in Brussel Centraal (16/10) / Zilversmid Wolfers (20/11) / De Voormalige winkel en magazijnen Wolfers (18/12)

Korei asbl
January to December, 3rd Tuesday of every month

[www.korei.be](http://www.korei.be)
“Guided tours on Victor Horta”

"Horta, Solvay and the Others: When Belgium imposed its talents on Ixelles and Saint-Gilles": The birth of Art Nouveau, thanks to the genius of the architect Victor Horta, is a good example of how dynamic Belgium was in the 19th century. Some of his most beautiful work can be seen in Ixelles and Saint-Gilles: Hôtel Tassel, Maison Sander Pierron, Maison Vinck, Hôtel Max Hallet, Hôtel Solvay, the Horta Museum... an architectural wonder!

Itinéraires SH
Every Wednesday from January to December 2018
www.itineraires.be

“Guided tours on Victor Horta”

Huis Autrique (le 27/01) / Hotel Van Eetvelde (24/02) / De Kleuterschool van Victor Horta en het verdwenen volkshuis (24/03) / Woning en atelier van Victor Horta (28/04) / Het Tempeltje van de Menselijke Driften en winkelen bij Wolfers (26/05) / Magazijnen Wolfers en Waucquez (23/06) / Horta’s masterplan (28/07) / Paleis voor Schone kunsten (25/08) / Villa Carpentier (22/09) / Hotel Winssinger (27/10) / Hotel Hallet (24/11) / Hotel Solvay (22/12)

Korei asbl
January to December, 4th Saturday of every month
More info: www.korei.be

“Guided tours on Victor Horta”

The cradle of Art Nouveau (10 June; 8 July; 30 September) / Saint-Gilles Art Nouveau (27 May; 24 June; 19 August) / The Marolles and Art Nouveau (6 May; 9 September; 21 October) / The Ponds of Ixelles (22 July; 14 October) / Art Déco and Modernism in Uccle (13 May; 12 August) / Victor Horta invents Art Nouveau (17 June; 29 July; 26 August) / Victor Horta redesigns the city (20 May; 5 August; 7 October) / Victor Horta and colour in Art Nouveau (15 July; 23 September; 28 October) / Victor Horta, dialogues between nature and architecture (3 June; 1 July; 2 September).

Atelier de Recherche et d’Action Urbaines (ARAU)
Every Sunday from May to October 2018
www.arau.org
Scheduled tours

“Horta, Autrique and the Others: when Belgium imposed its talents on Schaerbeek”
Itinéraires SH
Sunday 29 April 2018
More info:  www.itineraires.be

“Brussels, capital of Art Nouveau/tour of the Louise quarter and the Horta House”
Atelier de Recherche et d’Action Urbaines (ARAU)
Saturday 12 May 2018
www.arau.org

“Horta, Solvay and the Others: when Belgium imposed its talents on Ixelles and Saint-Gilles”
Itinéraires SH
Saturday 12 May 2018
www.itineraires.be

“From Ambiorix Square to the Cinquantenaire Park: Horta from beginning to end”
Itinéraires SH
Sunday 30 September 2018
More info:  www.itineraires.be

“Living in Saint-Gilles: Horta at home and at other people’s”
Itinéraires SH
Sunday 13 October 2018
www.itineraires.be

“1001 facets of Art Nouveau”
Arkadia
Saturday 27/10/2018
www.arkadia.be

“From the curves of Art Nouveau to the stripped-down lines of Art Déco”
Itinéraires SH
Sunday 25 November 2018
www.itineraires.be
Bike tours
"Victor Horta Bike Ride"
Discover the life of Victor Horta by bicycle, exploring the façades of his architectural works such as the Horta House, the Hotel Solvay or the Autrique House, as well as other mansions less well-known to the public. Journeying through municipalities such as Ixelles and Schaerbeek, this guided bike ride is open to anyone wishing to share a few hours of fun and relaxation exploring the work of Brussels' master of Art Nouveau. Visitors can choose to hire a regular bike or an electric one.

Pro Velo asbl
First Saturday of every month, from April to October
www.provelo.org

Indoor tours
Regular tours
“Art Nouveau Masterpieces” These tours open the doors to magnificent Art Nouveau townhouses and mansions and allow visitors to enter the magnificent interiors that are usually closed to the public and discover all their architectural wealth.

Explore.Brussels asbl
1st Saturday of every month, January to December 2018
www.explore.brussels

“Individual guided tours of the Horta-Lambeaux Pavilion”
Victor Horta designed a little classical temple with an Art Nouveau tinge to house the monumental marble relief "The Human Passions" by sculptor Jef Lambeaux. The title of the work, the anguished naked bodies emanating sensuality, and the relationship between the two artists, which was turbulent, to say the least, fuelled an interesting story and "scandal" behind the construction of this temple in the Cinquantenaire park.

Cinquantenaire Museum
Last Sunday of the month, 25 March to 25 October 2018
www.kmkg-mrah.be
“Lunch Tour of the Wolfers Store”

For the Wolfers Frères goldsmith’s shop, Horta designed a refined interior, fitted with Honduran mahogany and gilt bronze showcases worthy of displaying their luxury gold, silver and ivory creations. The new room features the masterpieces from the Cinquantenaire Museum’s Art Nouveau and Art Déco collections.

Cinquantenaire Museum
1st Thursday of every month (FR) and 3rd Thursday of every month (NL or ENG), January to December 2018
www.kmkg-mrah.be

One-off tours

"Horta and the artists of his time"

Fin-de-Siècle Museum
25 February and 18 March 2018
www.fin-de-siecle-museum.be

"Guided tour of the Waucquez Stores and the permanent Horta exhibition"

Belgian Comic Strip Centre
18 March / 17 June / 16 September / 9 December 2018
www.cbbd.be
Kids

Organised educational activities
"Tracing the footsteps of Victor Horta" (courses for children)

During school holidays, these courses give children the chance to explore the work of Victor Horta from different angles: from the free plan of his buildings to the furniture and to the carved stonework which he designed drawing on nature, his great source of inspiration. The programme includes exploring the archives, taking interactive guided tours and building architectural models.

CIVA
From 2 to 5 January (4-day course): Horta & Design – ADAM (Brussels Design Museum)
From 12 to 16 February: Horta & Open Plan – CIVA
From 9 to 13 April: Horta & Nature – CIVA
July - August: Horta & Stone – CIVA

www.civa.brussels

"Children's preview of the exhibition At the Birthplace of Art Nouveau"

A guided interactive and creative tour invites children to get a preview of the exhibition At the Birthplace of Art Nouveau.

CIVA
15 January 2018
www.civa.brussels

Educational activities about the Wolfers Stores and Victor Horta

- "Mr Wolfers"; summer workshop for budding architects (6-12 years, in French and Dutch): July 2018
- Journée des Arts pour les enfants dans le style de Monsieur Horta / Kunstendag voor kinderen / Kids Art Day: 18 November 2018

Cinquantenaire Museum

July 2018/ 18 November 2018
www.kmkg-mrah.be
For the whole family

“Mum, dad, Horta and me” (Workshops)

A fun tour for all the family adapted to every age group, taking visitors on a proactive journey to discover the extraordinary house and wonderful world of Victor Horta. After the tour there will be a creative workshop giving everyone the chance to produce a piece of artwork inspired by nature and Art Nouveau.

Horta Museum
Belgian school holidays: Halloween, Carnival, Easter, first fortnight of July
www.hortamuseum.be

Discovery tour from the Horta Museum to CIVA

A games and activity booklet will guide the family on their way to discover the Art Nouveau houses that line the route between the Horta Museum and CIVA. With games, anecdotes, puzzles and short descriptions, this self-guided tour provides the essential information for enjoying the façades along the way between these two museums, whichever end you start at.

Horta Museum and CIVA
Throughout 2018
www.hortamuseum.be/ www.civa.brussels

“Art Nouveau or Art Déco?”

Art Nouveau or Art Déco? This family walk takes you through the neighbourhood of the ponds in Ixelles to actively discover the differences between the Art Nouveau and Art Déco styles and their respective nuances. For children, this is a chance to observe, play and answer questions, while parents get to tell the story of the neighbourhood's houses.

Heritage Classes

Booklets given out at the family weekend at the “Brussels Art Nouveau & Art Deco Festival 2018” on 17 and 18 March 2018 and available at CIVA from 19 March 2018
www.classedupatrimoine.be
“Fernand’s House” (activity book)
An activity book for the whole family to embark on a fun discovery of the Autrique House.

Autrique House
Throughout 2018
www.autrique.be

Talks

Series of talks about Victor Horta and the Wolfers Store
10.12.2017 – Winkel Wolfers (Werner Adriaenssens, curator) NL
17.12.2017 - Wolfers Store (Werner Adriaenssens, curator) FR
04.03.2018 – Restaureren – Herbestemmen – Actualiseren van Victor Horta’s erfgoed (Barbara Van der Wee, architect-restorer) NL

Cinquantenaire Museum
10 December 2017 / 17 December 2017 / 4 March 2018
www.kmkg-mrah.be

Series of talks about Victor Horta
08.05.2018 – Victor Horta en het Japonisme (Jos Vandenbreeden) NL
05.05.2018 – Restaureren – Herbestemmen – Actualiseren van Victor Horta’s erfgoed (Barbara Van der Wee, architect-restorer) NL
22.05.2018 – Vivre Exclusivement ! (Michel Gilbert, owner of the Victor Horta houses) FR

Korei vzw
8 May 2018 / 15 May 2018 / 22 May 2018
www.korei.be
Horta 24 HOURS A DAY
Horta in one thousand five hundred pictures (on-line exhibition)

The IRPA photo library houses over 1,500 photos illustrating almost the complete work of Victor Horta. Visit http://balat.kikirpa.be/horta to discover his masterpieces, including the long disappeared Maison du Peuple, Hôtel Aubecq and Salle Cousin.

IRPA - Royal Institute for Cultural Heritage
Throughout 2018
www.balat.kikirpa.be

"Inside Art Nouveau" (mobile venue)

The Inside Art Nouveau website allows visitors who are standing outside an Art Nouveau building, or from a distance, to view Brussels Art Nouveau interiors that are not accessible to the general public by means of archived or contemporary photographs. The website will also guide them to other Art Nouveau buildings, both in the area and further away, by means of a dynamic map incorporating GPS. Most of Victor Horta's buildings are on this map. The website has been designed to be accessed on all kinds of device (computer, tablet and smartphone).

Réseau Art Nouveau Network
From 1 January 2018
www.insideartnouveau.eu / www.artnouveau-net.eu

More information: www.horta-inside-out.brussels

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