

Site Le Corbusier

Firminy - Saint-Etienne Métropole
COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE

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World Heritage listing by UNESCO of « the architectural work of Le Corbusier, an outstanding contribution to the Modern Movement”: Gael Perdriau and Marc Petit welcome a major international award for the region.

The Site Le Corbusier, located in Firminy, France – Europe’s largest collection of the works by the visionary architect - has finally been awarded World Heritage status.

It is such a wonderful international recognition! Said Gael Perdriau, Maire of Saint-Etienne, President of Saint Etienne Métropole and Marc Petit, Maire of Firminy, Vice-President of Saint Etienne Métropole.

As a result, the Culture Center of Firminy will become part of an international network of World Heritage Sites, joining the nearby city of Saint Etienne which is already listed as a ‘Creative City of Design’ by UNESCO.

One of the features of this application is its unique international aspect.

We would like to thank all the local residents, organizations and sponsors who have supported this campaign.

The ‘Site Le Corbusier’ at Firminy - the second largest site after Chandigarh in India - is a major collection of architectural works. It is also a cultural, economic and touristic landmark, an invaluable asset for our region.

The project strategy put in place by the City of Firminy and St Etienne Metropolitan Council will be enhanced by this award. It will lead to an increase in short and medium stay visits, an increase in hotel and restaurant bookings and furthermore, a boost to tourism in the wider region. »



Le Corbusier Cultural Centre, an outstanding monument listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.

The 40th World Heritage Committee session in Istanbul, Turkey, has granted World Heritage status to the 17 Architectural Works of Le Corbusier, including the Culture Center of Firminy.

This award confirms the importance of this work as an essential reference for twentieth and twenty first century architecture from a theoretical and artistic standpoint.

It is an outstanding contribution to the Modern Movement, a masterpiece recognized as a World Heritage Site which comprises of 17 sites spread over seven countries in three different continents: Germany, Argentina, Belgium, France, India, Japan and Switzerland.

The Culture Center is the first building created by the architect in the new district of Firminy Vert, between 1961 and 1965. Firminy Vert houses five buildings by Le Corbusier in close proximity – A Cultural Centre, Sports Stadium, Church, Swimming Pool and the ‘Unites d’Habitation’, Le Corbusier’s ‘City In The Sky.’ It is the only collection of its kind in Europe.

Le Corbusier’s style of architecture has influenced the Modern Movement in terms of the evolution of spatial shapes and designs. His buildings display the architect’s forward thinking, using new techniques and experimenting with new materials.

The Culture Center is the hub of Le Corbusier’s works: a unique location in the Loire Department, a landmark for the metropolitan area of Saint Etienne Métropole and for the whole of the Auvergne-Rhône- Alpes region, along with others including the Chapelle Notre Dame de Ronchamp and the nearby Couvent de La Tourette. It is a place that reflects its gratitude to Saint-Etienne, UNESCO City Of Design.

A pole of attraction in the Saint Etienne Metropole region, Le Corbusier site, known as the largest european site after Chandigarh, has become thanks to this award, one of the key elements of the tourism strategy put in place by the Office Of Tourism of St Etienne Metropole, around cultural heritage. This cultural heritage served as a testimony to the renewal of this territory with a rich industrial and working class history now enhanced by Le Corbusier’s listed project of an “ideal city.

“We use stone, wood, cement; we build houses, palaces; it is called building. Ingenuity is at work. But suddenly, you move me, you soothe me, I am happy, I say: it is beautiful. This is architecture.” Le Corbusier



The 17 sites inscribed on the World Heritage list are as follows:

- 1923 : *Maisons La Roche et Jeanneret*, Paris, Île-de-France, France
- 1923 : *Petite villa au bord du lac Léman*, Corseaux, Vaud, Suisse
- 1924 : *Cité Frugès*, Pessac, Aquitaine, France
- 1926 : *Maison Guiette*, Anvers, Flandre, Belgique
- 1927 : *Maisons de la Weissenhof-Siedlung*, Stuttgart, Bade-Wurtemberg, Allemagne
- 1928 : *Villa Savoye et loge du jardinier*, Poissy, Île-de-France, France
- 1930 : *Immeuble Clarté*, Genève, Suisse
- 1931 : *Immeuble locatif à la Porte Molitor*, Boulogne-Billancourt, Île-de-France, France
- 1945 : *Unité d'habitation*, Marseille, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, France
- 1946 : *Manufacture à Saint-Dié*, Saint-Dié-des-Vosges, Lorraine, France
- 1949 : *Maison du Docteur Curutchet*, La Plata, Province de Buenos-Aires, Argentine
- 1950 : *Chapelle Notre-Dame-du-Haut*, Ronchamp, Franche-Comté, France
- 1951 : *Cabanon de Le Corbusier*, Roquebrune–Cap-Martin, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, France
- 1952 : *Complexe du Capitole*, Chandigarh, Pendjab, Inde
- 1953 : *Couvent Sainte-Marie-de-la-Tourette*, Éveux, Rhône-Alpes, France
- 1955 : *Musée National des Beaux-Arts de l'Occident*, Taito-Ku, Tokyo, Japon
- 1960 : *Maison de la Culture de Firminy*, Firminy, Rhône-Alpes, France

Press relation

Muriel PELISSIER - +0033 675479098 - mpelissier@ville-firminy.fr
Jean Pierre CHAPUIS - +0033 6 73 82 65 57 – jp.chapuis@saint-etienne-metropole.fr
Pierre CHAPPEL - +0033 6 13 17 03 85 - pierre.chappel@saint-etienne.fr
Géraldine Dabrigeon - + 0033 4 77 61 08 72 – g.dabrigeon@saint-etiennetourisme.com