

PRESS RELEASE

# Villa Majorelle

## Nancy

*“A House built by an artist  
for an artist”*



ville de  
**Nancy**,



**"A house built by an artist for an artist"**

*Primarily concerned with the matter in hand, Mr Henri Sauvage has given this Nancy villa a special character, that of a home that is neither sumptuous nor proud, not that of a prince or a nouveau riche, and not intended to excite the envy of passers-by by a deceptive opulence. We see the house of a busy, sensitive artist with a cultivated mind and a refined eye, who is little interested in other people's opinions and only wishes to live a good life in a refined, intelligent and pure atmosphere.*

Frantz Jourdain in *L'Art décoratif*, 1902

In 1898, **Louis Majorelle** entrusted the architect **Henri Sauvage** (1873-1932) with elaborate plans for his private home in Nancy. The **Villa Majorelle** – or Villa Jika, after the French pronunciation of Majorelle’s wife Jeanne Kretz’s initials – was built in 1901-1902 and holds a special place in the history of Nancy architecture. The first resolute Art Nouveau building in Nancy, it was designed by one the major Ecole de Nancy artists, Louis Majorelle, and is the result of a perfect collaboration between well-known Parisian and Nancy artists. Open to the public since 1997, Villa Majorelle illustrates **the artistic unity between interior decoration and external architecture** advocated by many artists of the period.



## A rich model dining room



Reproduced in Majorelle's catalogues since 1904, the furniture in the dining-room suite "Les blés, modèle riche," acquired by the Nancy City Council for the Ecole de Nancy Museum, was returned to its original home after restoration in 1997. Bigot's fireplace in flambé stoneware, Gruber's stained glass, Jourdain's paintings and Majorelle's furniture and paneling make the dining-room one of the high points of a visit.

## What the villa Majorelle looked like ...

The museum of the Ecole de Nancy has had the chance to purchase a photo album belonging to Jacques Majorelle, Louis Majorelle's only son. Among the family portraits, some pictures show the interior of the villa while the family was settled there, before the First World War. They are an invaluable testimony of the furniture and decoration before the transformations due to the 1916 bombing and the dispersion of the household when Jacques Majorelle sold the house in the 30s.



## Art Nouveau's model house



Classed a historical monument in 1996, the Villa Mairea's partial exterior restoration allows for a better comprehension and appreciation of the rich polychrome materials used by the architect.



The building will be completely restored in the near future and open to the public with the furniture in its original settings, thus transforming the Villa into a unique example of the Art Nouveau that embraced all art forms and eliminated any distinction between artistic genres.

From March 2016 on, an important restoration campaign is taking place for duration of one year. It concerns the complete remaking of the roof and the northern balcony, the repositioning of the chimneys' crowns and the cleaning of the façades. The second phase of interior restoration is planned in the following years.

## The artists



The Villa Majorelle was the result of an exceptional collaboration between several Paris and Nancy artists. **Louis Majorelle** (1859-1926), the owner of the villa and



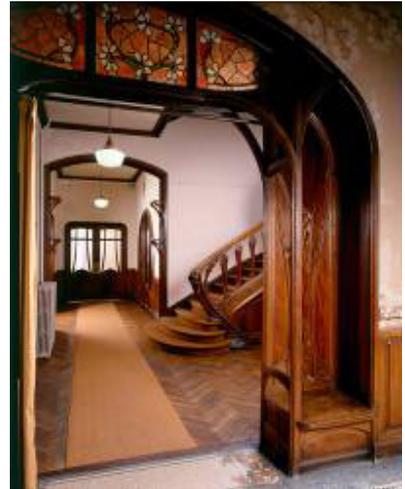
one of the major Ecole de Nancy artists, designed the furniture, the decorative woodwork and the wrought-iron work. Designing the house was **Henri Sauvage's** (1873-1932), a young Parisian

architect and decorator, first major commission. Amongst other artists who collaborated were the ceramist **Alexandre Bigot** (1862-1927), stained glass artist **Jacques Gruber** (1870-1936), and painters **Francis Jourdain** (1876-1958) and, much later, **Henri Royer** (1869-1938). **Lucien Weissenburger** (1860-1929) was in charge of the worksite during construction.



Villa Majorelle is member of the following networks:

- **Art nouveau Network, RAN,**  
with the Ville de Nancy, since 1999
- **Maisons des Illustres,**  
since 2011
- **Iconic Houses,**  
since 2014



## General Information

**Notice:** Currently occupied by public service administrations, the Villa Majorelle can only be partially visited upon reservation and within the framework of individual guided visits. Led by a guide, visitors have access to the ground floor as well as Louis Majorelle's studio located on the second floor.

**During the renovation work, the access to the garden is not allowed. The reduced rate will thus be offered to all visitors.**

### Address

Villa Majorelle  
1, rue Louis Majorelle  
F-54000 NANCY

### Open Hours

Saturdays and Sundays at 1:45 p.m and at 3:45 p.m.

**Booking:** (+) 33. (0) 383.40.14.86,  
from Monday to Friday, 9.00 – 12.30.

For more information or group reservation , please contact **Musée de l'École de Nancy by mail:**  
**menancy@mairie-nancy.fr**

### Admission Fees

Full rate: 6 euros

**Reduced rate: 4 euros**

Free entrance for children under 12

The admission fee includes the guided visit.

