



**PALAIS
DE LA
DÉCOUVERTE
2025**



1/ A fresh approach

p. 4

2/ New content

p. 8

3/ Rethinking the classics

p. 16

4/ art/science:
asking the big questions

p. 22

5/ Available in 2025

p. 24

6/ Partners and actors

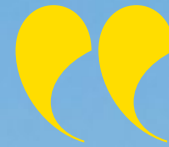
p. 26

Activities prior
to reopening in 2025

p. 30

Summary

Editorial



Bruno Maquart,
Chairman and CEO of Universcience

Founded in 1937, the Palais de la découverte revolutionised the way science was presented to general audiences, in France and around the world. **Advances in scientific research and changing cultural practices require us to rethink this almost century-old institution.** Following the completion of the renovation works in 2025, visitors will discover a radically transformed Palais de la découverte, **its spaces restored and redeveloped along sustainable lines, and its exhibits, displays and facilitation amenities redesigned to better fulfil its historic mission.** This project takes place within the wider renovation of the Grand Palais, led by the Réunion des musées nationaux – Grand Palais (RMN-GP) and with François Chatillon, chief architect at the Monuments Historiques.

To address this challenge, the Palais de la découverte is working in conjunction with its **lead scientific partner for this project, the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS).**

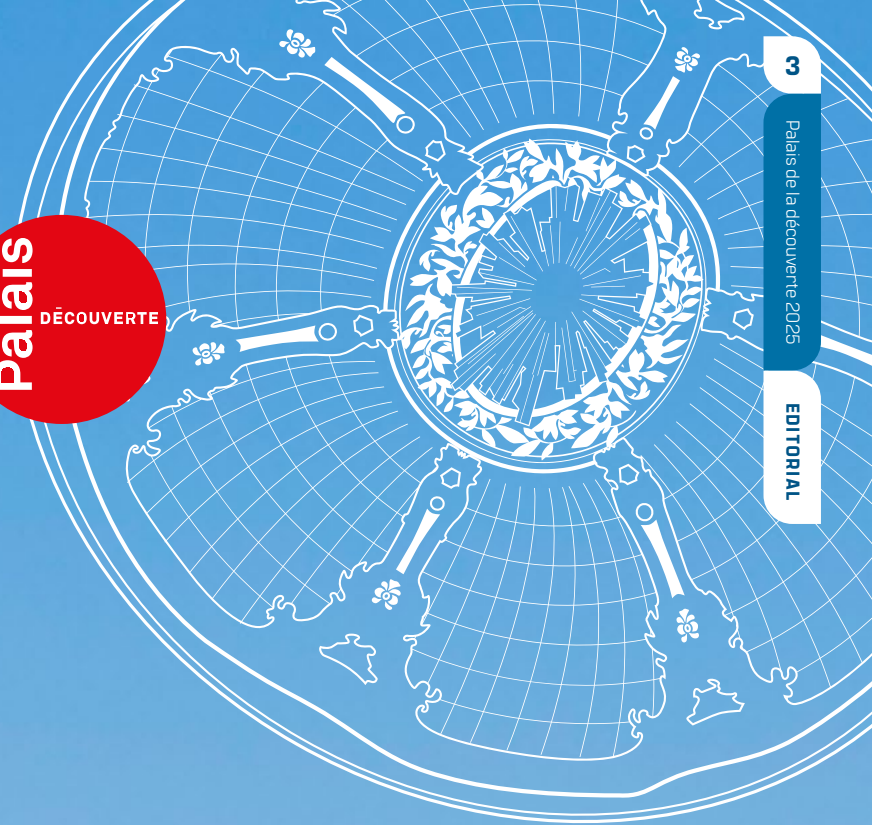
With its support, the Palais will offer the general public a complete overview of current scientific research, and will allow them to meet with researchers in a dedicated

space. **It will become something of a nexus for the public to discover contemporary scientific methods and culture.**

The Palais de la découverte will open the laboratory doors, through its exhibits and displays, to give visitors a behind-the-scenes look at a major research facility.

The new Palais de la découverte will focus on research and discovery, and visitors will take self-guided tours through a **wide selection of displays, workshops and experiences** designed to challenge and amaze. In this museum ‘without walls’, everyone, no matter their age or level of knowledge, will be able to **move freely and seamlessly between disciplines and spaces, putting everything – from the most basic scientific principles to leading-edge research – within their reach.**

In a world where science plays a vital role, **access to scientific culture is a basic requirement and a prerequisite of a democratic society.** Since 1937 and beyond 2025, the Palais de la découverte has been committed to helping everyone share in the wonders of science through new content and its teams of demonstrators.



A FRESH APPROACH

In 2025, the Palais de la découverte will offer everyone insights into contemporary science

After welcoming more than 35 million visitors since it opened, the Palais will rise to the challenge of offering an overview of the latest scientific practices in France and around the world through revamped content that everyone can access.

Its ambition is to enhance the visitor's experience, with assistance from the CNRS, by building on the unique approach it has taken since it first opened.

The new lead scientific partner of the Palais will assist the teams from Universcience throughout the project, by appointing scientific curators for each discipline and by coordinating the scientific and cultural committee overseeing the project*.

From presentations to hands-on workshops, exhibitions, artistic activities, immersive experiences, and discussions with researchers, content will fill the museum's space through new exhibition spaces and demonstrations to foster direct interaction with the public.

It will shed light on everything from the most recent research to the basic building blocks of scientific knowledge.

The programme will be adapted to reflect developments in science and cultural practices.

* see pages 26-27

THE PALAIS DE LA DÉCOUVERTE 2025 WILL EXPLORE:

EVERY ASPECT OF SCIENCE

as a body of knowledge, a process, and a social reality, based on disciplinary, interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approaches combining basic science, applied science and the social sciences.

SCIENCE THAT CHALLENGES

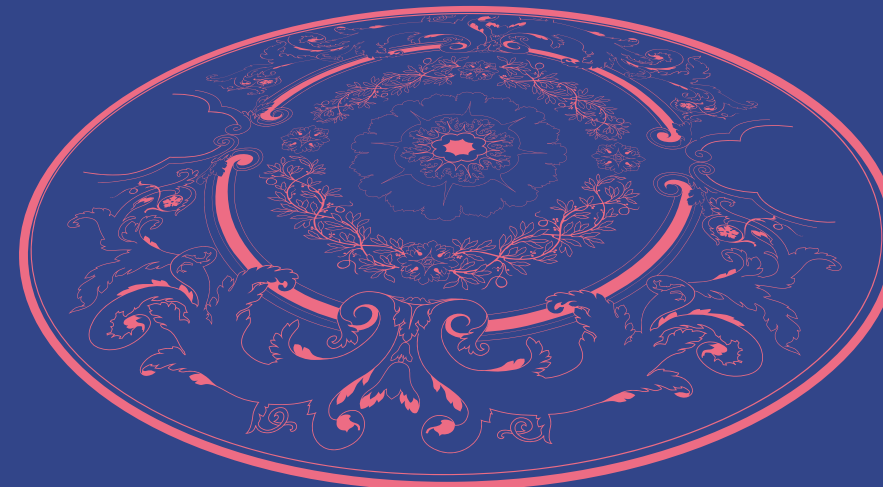
by enabling the public, thanks to its partnership with the CNRS, to be in direct contact with the research community and to learn how it works, in order to stimulate the curiosity of visitors and develop their ability to think critically.

SHARED SCIENCE

switching from a top-down learning model to a fun, group approach to science, based around activities such as incubators, hands-on projects, hackathons, performances, presentations on research projects, and discussions with young researchers.

OPEN SCIENCE

with more seamless exhibition and demonstration spaces, more open to the world, as well as hybrid exhibits and displays combining art, science and technology.



The project management consortium leading the museography and scenography of the palais de la découverte

Following a tender process, Universcience awarded the museography and scenography of the spaces in the future Palais de la découverte to a consortium of fifteen companies including:

- **Atelier Phileas** (authorised legal representative): architecture
- **Casson Mann**: museum, exhibition and gallery design
- **Cros&Patras** and **Loma**: interactive exhibit design
- **Téra-Création**: graphic design and signage
- **8'18**: light design
- **Clair Obscur**: planetarium development
- **Lundi 8**: digital engineering
- **Fox consulting**: zootechnics and plant science
- **CET**: engineering and design studio (ED)
- **Plan 02**: environment ED
- **Remix**: materials recovery ED
- **Think Acoustique**: acoustics ED
- **Adequat**: project costing
- **Ame en science**: scientific consultant to the consortium

The management team was inspired by circles for the design of these areas which occupy a central place in the building's monumental architecture. This choice will create a more intimate feel to the space, essential to the success of the experience, particularly in areas dedicated to demonstrations.

A sustainable renovation project

The renovation of the Grand Palais – Palais de la découverte led by Grand Palais (RMN-GP) and François Chatillon, chief architect at the Monuments Historiques, aims at obtaining "Advanced Performance" Sustainable Building HQE (V3) certification, along with the Sustainable Management HQE certification. This aligns with Universcience's core values, as sustainability is one of the three key components of its 2021-2025 scheme of work. The works carried out by the Phileas consortium will be guided by eco-design and eco-creation principles, with an emphasis on upcycled materials to limit the use of new materials as well as reduce the carbon footprint of the project. Bio-based materials will be used whenever possible, and structures will be screwed rather than glued or nailed to enhance reversibility.

Equipment will be of standard sizes for easy re-use in future redesigns.

To achieve these ambitious goals, the Phileas consortium is working along with Remix, a design studio specialised in circular economy, previously the eco-creation partner for the interiors of Les Étoiles, an eco-responsible temporary structure run by the Palais de la découverte.



NEW CONTENT

AT A GLANCE

The new content includes:

- ◆ **LABORATORIES**
equipped with scientific instruments where visitors can take part in live experiments – with an educator, scientist or artist – on living matter, information technology, chemistry and more. These multi-disciplinary laboratories will be completed by demonstration areas within the exhibition spaces.
- ◆ **STAND-OUT INTERACTIVE EXHIBITS**
large-scale, spectacular and dynamic devices installed throughout the museum, illustrating a core principle or scientific phenomenon.
- ◆ **UNITS OF CURIOSITY**
mini-exhibitions on basic science, research and the latest scientific developments.
- ◆ **AN IMMERSIVE ROOM**
equipped with immersive digital technology offering an in-depth look at the world of research.
- ◆ **A CHILDREN'S GALLERY**
an area with original content based around temporary art/science exhibitions for children aged 2 to 10, co-produced with the Réunion des musées nationaux – Grand Palais.

A revised visitor route through interconnected spaces

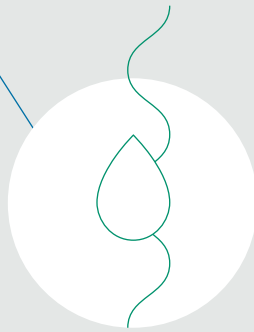
When it reopens in 2025, the Palais de la découverte will have a fresh new design centred around visitor experiences and open self-guided tours through interconnected spaces. By locating all content within the galleries of the Palais, the design forms a circuit to spatially combine content explored through demonstrations by the staff and self-guided visits. Locating content close together will weave links between themes and across scientific disciplines and offer a fresh perspective on the visitor experience, combining active and passive approaches and visitor-led routes with the staff. This new approach to museum design aims to create dynamic, memorable and direct encounters with science in the making.

SPECTACULAR INTERACTIVE EXHIBITS: WHERE WONDER MEETS CURIOSITY

Spectacular large-format exhibits will take place within the Palais. Exploring knowledge or key scientific phenomena, these stand-out interactive exhibits will take various forms; some are observable phenomena while others recreate experiments or measurements designed to stimulate curiosity and wonder.



THEY INCLUDE*:



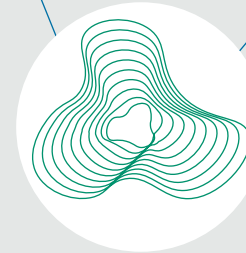
THE STROBO-SCOPIC FOUNTAIN

This fountain is composed of a stable and regular flow of water streams. At the top, a vibrating device periodically fragments the flow into periodic drops; due to persistence of vision, drop formation is invisible to the naked eye under 'normal' continuous light. The drops are lit by a stroboscopic lamp producing flashes of light. By varying the frequency, it is possible with the naked eye to see drops levitating or slowly falling in the forward direction or rising in the retrograde direction.



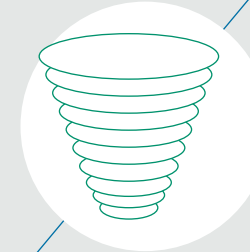
MARBLE-POWERED COMPUTER

This is the first and only exhibit of its kind. An impressively large mechanical computer, containing two types of marbles that memorise and transfer information in binary form. The computer's main components – memory, operators and control unit – are visible to the public. Computing power (one or two instructions per minute) and memory (one hundred or so bytes) are limited but sufficient to execute programs, allowing the computer to interact with the public.



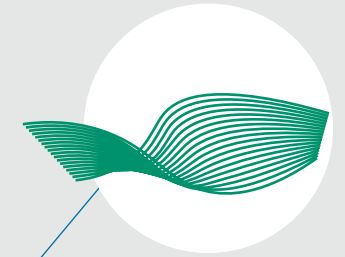
WAVE TANK

The tank is filled with water and equipped with a light device that creates a pull effect. The arrangement of the tank changes during the day to reproduce scenarios demonstrating wave phenomena or reproducing natural phenomena such as the effect of a coral reef, submarine earthquakes, or a tsunami making landfall.



THE TORNADO

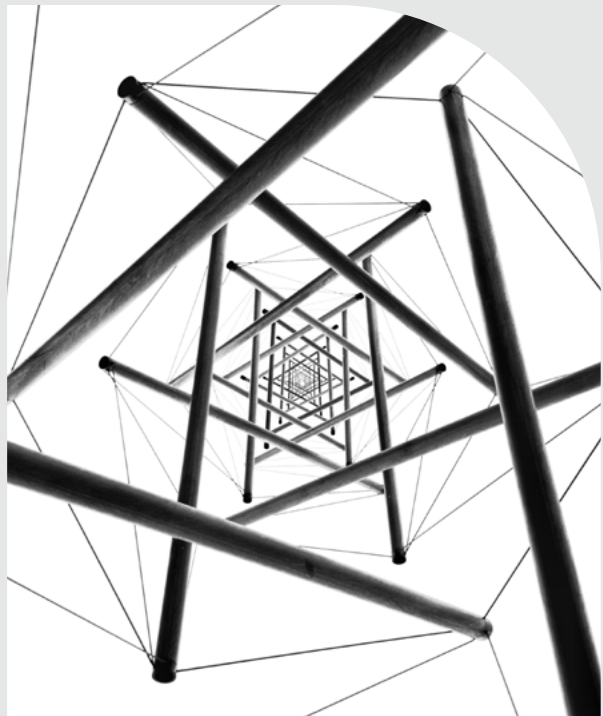
This eye-catching exhibit features a real tornado formed by the condensation of steam in a mist that creates a hollow cylinder 5 to 6 metres high, and spinning as it rises. A fan above draws the ambient air and releases it outwards. Below, steam from a container filled with water heated to approximately 70°C rises with the air drawn by the fan. The public feels the physical effect of the tornado as they enter the room.



MUSIC AND SOUNDS

Visitors make sounds with their voices, instruments or use recorded sounds and then watch the analysed sounds represented in real time and displayed in intuitively understandable forms (octaves and notes on a musical scale) to a high degree of precision.

* Provisional list – exhibits will be finalised between now and 2025.



THE IMMERSIVE ROOM: AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT SCIENCE IN THE MAKING

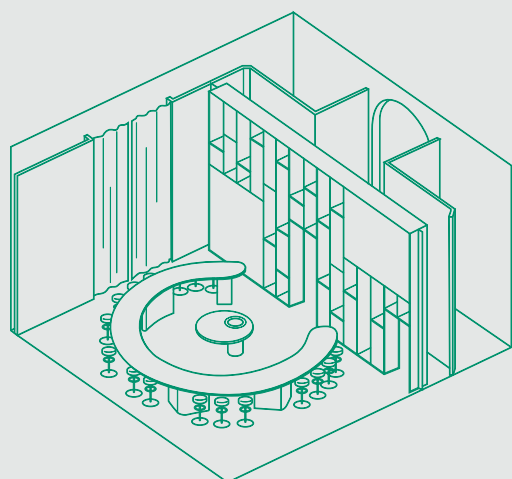
The first one of its kind, the "immersive room" transports visitors to global contemporary research facilities to explore the experiments, manipulations, and other discoveries made throughout the year. Equipped with immersive image and interactive digital technology, it penetrates the walls of the Palais de la découverte to take visitors on an immersive 30 to 50 minute journey through space and time. Technical resources will include wrap-around video projection, spatial audio, sound insulation and optimal lighting conditions.

SIX LABORATORIES: GATEWAYS TO GROUP EXPERIMENTS

Six specialised laboratories – two wet, two dry, one data laboratory, and one laboratory of living matter – will mainly play host to "workshop" content allowing small groups of visitors to create and perform experiments in the company of an educator, researcher or artist.

These shared spaces will provide visitors with technical and computer facilities and resources to study living matter for activities specific to one or more disciplines.

These laboratories show a key component of the new Palais de la découverte: **group, hands-on activities that demonstrate the multiple facets of science** – serious, joyful, fun, fascinating and surprising.



* "Wet" laboratories will be equipped with several water points for use by visitors.

"Dry" laboratories will only have a single water point for use by staff members.

The "data" laboratory will be equipped with network-connected digital tools.



FOCUS

◀ THE LABORATORY OF LIVING MATTER

The only one of its kind, this room will present a tropical Guiana ecosystem under real-life conditions.

This environment was chosen for its extremely rich biodiversity, from soil microfauna to treetop animals and waterways. It is particularly sensitive to disruption, including by climate change. This biodiversity will be presented in closed installations – terraria and aquaria – to control all parameters, including temperature, hygrometry and brightness.

UNITS OF CURIOSITY: EXPLORING THE WORLDS OF SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

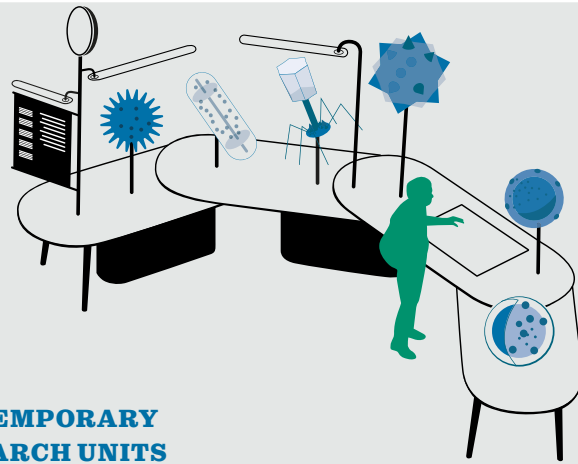
Units of curiosity are content clusters exploring a specific



theme and disposed interstitially across the new Palais de la découverte. **Small interactive exhibitions**, they mark a departure from the large, themed exhibition rooms that existed before the renovation.

Fifty of these islands, in three categories, **turn visitors into actors on their own journey of discovery.**

This is the core content available on visitor-led tours of the Palais de la découverte, the basic premise of which is to encourage the public to develop their critical and scientific thinking by exploring the specific characteristics of different scientific disciplines, issues in contemporary research, and a global vision of science.



CONTEMPORARY RESEARCH UNITS

→ These units provide an insight into the world of contemporary research and the challenges it faces – its subjects, teams, actors and working methods.

→ Visitors learn how to push out the boundaries of knowledge, plan for the digital future and decipher living matter.

UNITS OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE

→ These units shed new light on scientific discoveries and practices through the human sciences: history, sociology, the economics of science, and epistemology.

→ Visitors will use audio narrative devices to explore “what makes science” in order to understand how to produce a scientific fact.

Climate modelling

The behaviour of anti-matter

Using epigenetics in medicine

Deciphering consciousness

...

Are sciences universal?

How do you learn to do good science?

What does science know?

Which framework for research?

...

UNITS OF CURIOSITY

FALL INTO

THREE CATEGORIES:

MULTIDISCIPLINARY UNITS

→ These units present established and basic knowledge in a single discipline or across disciplines and place an emphasis on their diversity and permeability

From the solar system to the motion of celestial bodies in astronomy

From the climate to subsurface resources in geosciences

Genetics and ecosystemic relationships in life sciences

Artificial intelligence, human-robot collaboration in computer science

Chemistry: the components of matter or the chemical reactions that modify them

Physics: light, forces and universal laws

Abstract reasoning, discipline and intuition in mathematics

...

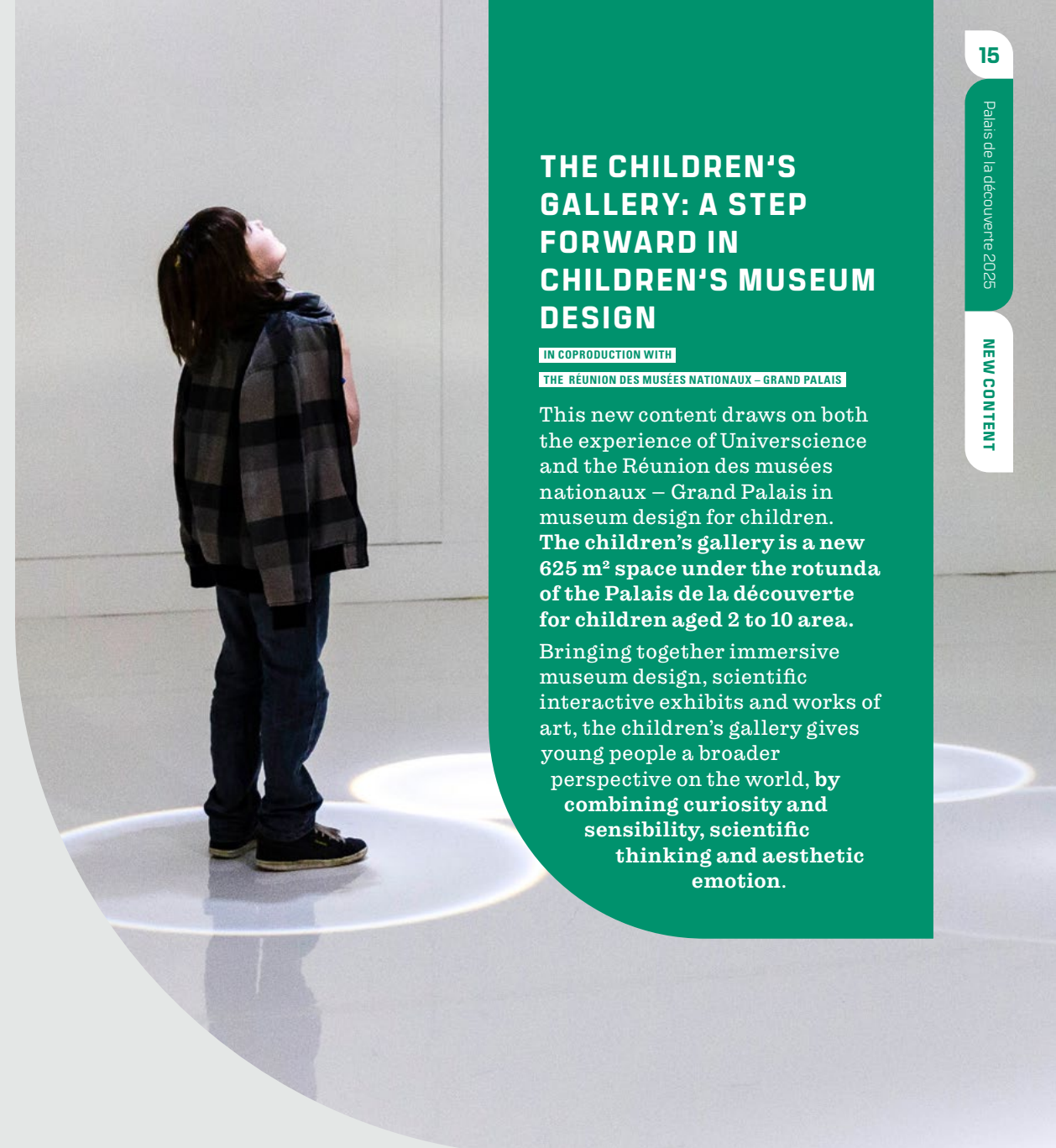
THE CHILDREN'S GALLERY: A STEP FORWARD IN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM DESIGN

IN COPRODUCTION WITH

THE RÉUNION DES MUSÉES NATIONAUX – GRAND PALAIS

This new content draws on both the experience of Universcience and the Réunion des musées nationaux – Grand Palais in museum design for children. **The children's gallery is a new 625 m² space under the rotunda of the Palais de la découverte for children aged 2 to 10 area.**

Bringing together immersive museum design, scientific interactive exhibits and works of art, the children's gallery gives young people a broader perspective on the world, **by combining curiosity and sensibility, scientific thinking and aesthetic emotion.**



REMÉDIS: A RESEARCH NETWORK FOR SCIENCE FACILITATION

Our ability to address global challenges depends heavily on developments in science and technology, which is why the dialogue between science, technology and

society is more important than ever.

The first initiative of its kind in France, ReMédiS was launched to explore these issues and develop the science facilitation of the future. It aims to bridge the gap between research into science demonstration and science demonstrators.

On 21 October 2022, Universcience signed an agreement incorporating this

network with six scientific partners – Amcsti, Cnam, Instant science (a science culture organisation in Occitanie), Sorbonne Université, Université de Lorraine, and Université de Montpellier — marking the launch of this first science demonstration network. It is the result of extensive discussions initiated by Universcience with multiple partners.

3

RETHINKING THE CLASSICS



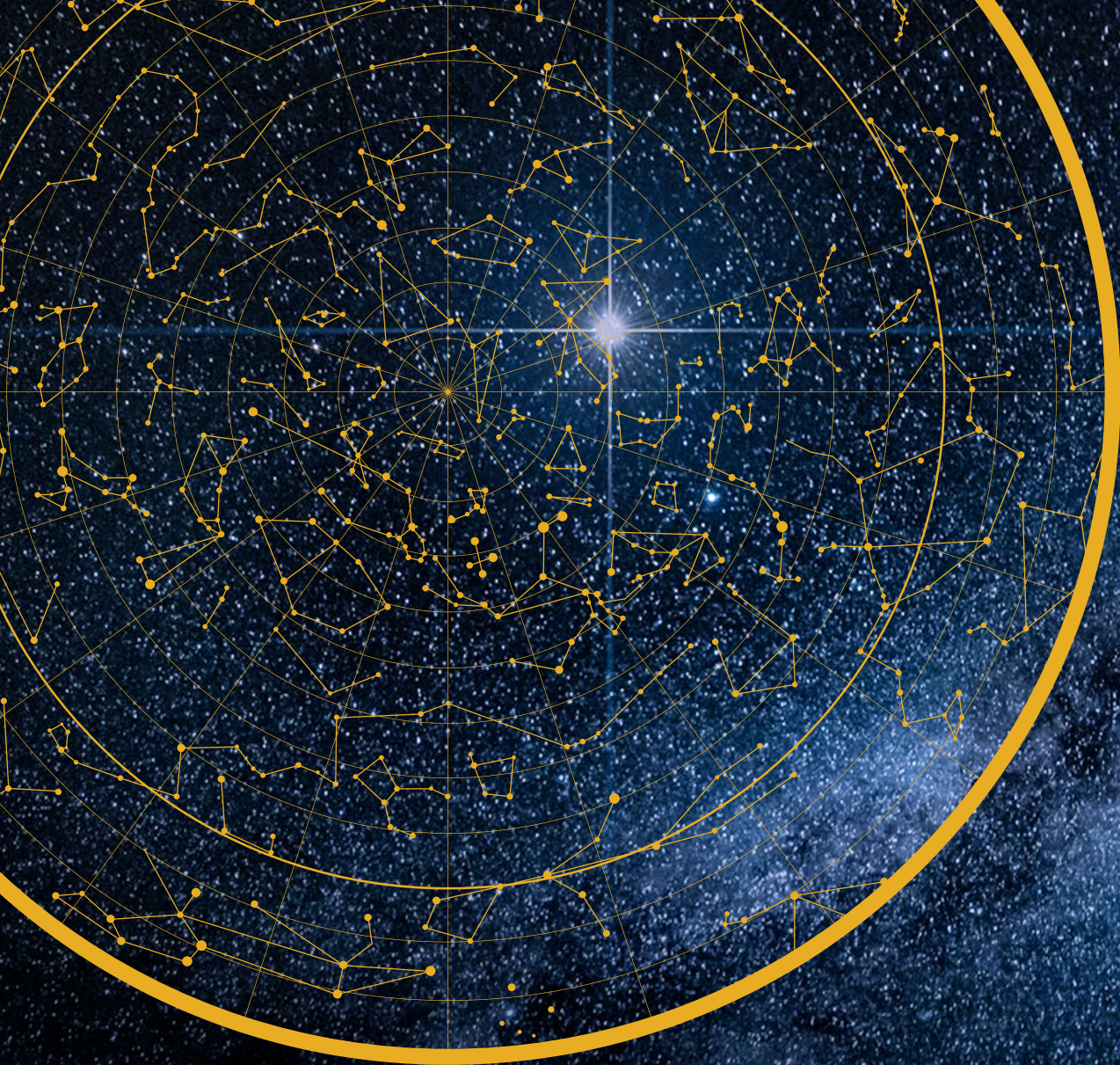
AT A GLANCE

The Palais de la découverte 2025 will invite visitors to rediscover its renovated "classic" areas

◆ **THE PLANÉTIARIUM** will be equipped with new hybrid projection technology.

◆ **THE ELECTRICITY ROOM** will combine electrostatics with electromagnetism to demonstrate surprising phenomena.

◆ **THE PRESENTATION ROOMS** will be completely redesigned to host facilitator-led and often spectacular demonstrations.



AN EXCEPTIONAL SPONSOR: KONICA MINOLTA FRANCE DESIGNS THE FUTURE PLANETARIUM

Konica Minolta France, a leading actor in the global planetarium industry for 50 years, has announced its support for the development of the planetarium at the new Palais de la découverte.

Under a 15-metre-diameter cupola, 8K high-performance hybrid technology and SkyExplorer astronomical simulation software will take audiences on an immersive journey through the Universe, to the far reaches of space and within touching distance of the stars.

According to Jonathan Leyva, CEO of Konica Minolta France: "As sponsors, we are proud to be part of the renaissance of an iconic French heritage site. Our

expertise and advanced technologies provide audiences around the globe with extraordinary experiences as they explore the Universe. This sponsorship also cements our commitment to advance education and the sharing of scientific knowledge with the general public and will help to raise awareness of the need to protect our planet."

THE NEW PLANETARIUM: AT THE LEADING EDGE OF HYBRID TECHNOLOGY

Located in the north cupola of the Palais d'Antin, the new planetarium will be equipped with 200 seats under a 15-metre-diameter cupola. Besides live astronomy presentations, the planetarium will also be used for talks, private events, concerts and live performances organised around the central projector.

Although the former planetarium at the Palais de la découverte earned a reputation for presentations using opto-mechanical projectors, digital projection, which invites audiences on a journey through space and time, will enhance the visitor experience. Thanks to an exclusive partnership with Konica Minolta France, the planetarium at the new Palais de la découverte will benefit from both systems — opto-mechanical and digital — for hybrid projections.

The goal is to equip the planetarium with leading-edge technology for staff-mediated live commentary.

COMBINED ELECTROSTATICS AND ELECTROMAGNETISM ROOM: SPECTACULAR DEMONSTRATIONS

The electrical phenomena explored in two iconic rooms of the former Palais de la découverte – the ‘electrostatic’ room and the ‘electromagnetism’ room – will now be brought together.

Impressive exhibits will bring into play high tension and high intensity to explore key notions such as the attraction and repulsion of electric charges, the influence phenomenon, the point effect, the Faraday cage effect and intense magnetic fields, the induction phenomenon, electric resonance and electromagnetic forces.



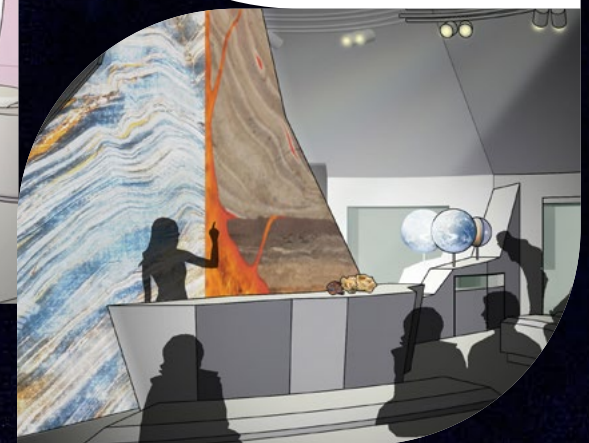
COMPLETE OVERHAUL OF ALL ICONIC PRESENTATION ROOMS

One of the most memorable highlights of any visit to the Palais de la découverte, the presentation rooms will play a key role in the new project and benefit from a complete redesign.

Seven presentation rooms – for seven scientific units (astronomy and astrophysics, chemistry, computer science and digital sciences, physics, mathematics, earth sciences and the sciences of living matter) – will each benefit from a specially designed area with new decors, each representing the discipline in question.

A terrestrial globe, robots, a Turing machine, a Newton disc, models, magnets, a particle accelerator, a microscope and a binocular magnifier are among the specific objects that will form part of the decor and make a broad range of activities possible. These rooms will set the scene for verbal staff-mediated live demonstrations, inviting visitors to take part in an interactive intellectual experience with educators.

Their open or semi-open architecture will help drive this dynamic.



ART/ SCIENCE: ASKING THE BIG QUESTIONS

SHOWCASE

Several monumental paintings commissioned by the French government for the *Exposition internationale des arts et techniques appliqués à la vie moderne* of 1937 have been displayed at the Palais de la découverte since it opened. They include *Le Transport des forces* by Fernand Léger — a unique example of the work produced by the artist for the 1937 Exposition Universelle.

These works will benefit from a new hanging in the reception and exhibition areas to reflect the revised arrangement of the Palais de la découverte in 2025.

Besides the painting by Fernand Léger, which will hang above the Rotonda, other works — all produced in 1937 — including: *La Vis d'Archimède*; *L'Hélice*; *Le Gouvernail* and *Le Foret à feu* by Marcel Gromaire; *La Houille et ses dérivées* by André Lhote, and *La Musique* by Charles Lapicque will be displayed.

◀ ELSA & JOHANNA: COMMISSION TO RECORD THE FORMER PALAIS FOR POSTERITY

Before it closed for renovation, the Palais de la découverte commissioned artists Elsa & Johanna to make a permanent record of this icon of scientific culture. Composed of sixteen photographic works, the *Palace Odyssée* casts a creative and original eye over the Palais. Some of these works were chosen by the Paris regional transport authority (RATP), and Universcience for display at Champs-Élysées Clemenceau metro station (Line 1).

Once they go on display in 2023, these photographs will provide a reminder of the former Palais de la découverte and its transition up to its reopening in 2025.

PROGRAMME ORGANISED AROUND A NEW SCHEME TO COMMISSION ARTWORKS

Alongside historical works, the Palais de la découverte 2025 will present *Points d'interrogation* ("Question Marks"), a new series of exhibitions showcasing unique pieces commissioned during residences coproduced with contemporary art centres, as part of a regularly changing display.

These works co-created by artists and scientists will reflect the most recent questions asked by researchers, notably in new fields of knowledge — in a tangible and emotional form.

In line with Universcience's *raison d'être*, this programme that is putting Art and Science in dialogue will aim to trigger the public's intellectual curiosity, creativity and critical thinking.

PREOPENING EXHIBITS,
SPRING 2025

THE BIG TEST BENCH

In keeping with its experimental approach, the Palais will invite visitors to try out some of its larger interactive exhibits at the final prototype stage, creating a **test and learn experiment on its devices**. It will be a unique opportunity for visitors to chat with the design team and to give input into the design of a museum in the making.

UNKNOWN TERRITORIES: AN ART AND SCIENCE

This original exhibition exploring the relationship between art and science will run in parallel to the "big test bench". It will feature permanent works commissioned from contemporary artists, which will be take place in new themed rooms. These works will dialogue with pieces loaned for the exhibition. Under the creative direction of Gaël Charbau, artistic consultant to Universcience, and in conjunction with staff members from the Palais de la découverte, **the exhibition will explore the relationships underlying scientific research and artistic exploration**. Rather than seeing artists as simple illustrators, which is often the case when the two disciplines are considered together, this pre-open exhibition **provides a contemporary reading of science** brought to life by the curiosity of artists.

INAUGURAL EXHIBITIONS

CRITICAL THINKING INAUGURAL EXHIBITION

To mark its official opening, the Palais de la découverte will present *Critical thinking*. Shown in co-production in Bordeaux (Cap Sciences in 2021) and then Toulouse (Quai des Savoirs in 2022), it will continue its tour while the Palais is closed for renovation, before returning to Paris in 2025. Our current and unprecedented situation in which information and knowledge are more readily available than ever before, the development of critical thinking – the ability to sort and characterise information in order to challenge our convictions, and to form our own judgements – is a **fundamental priority for our society**. Since 2021, Universcience has made it one of the three key components of its scheme of work. In order to think, understand and train our critical thinking, we need to develop an awareness of the traps that snare thinking so we can avoid them, and this is what the exhibition offers. **In this exhibition inspired by everyday situations, the public is brought face to face with illusions, misinterpretations, falsifications and manipulations – deliberate or not.**

5

AVAILABLE IN 2025

6

PARTNERS AND ACTORS

THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE OF THE PALAIS 2025

Chair:

Antoine Petit, Chairman and CEO of CNRS

Members:

Françoise Combe, astrophysicist, Académie des sciences

Marie-Paule Cani, information scientist, Institut Polytechnique de Grenoble

Ludovic Jullien, chemist, UNS-Sorbonne Université

Étienne Ghys, mathematician, Académie des sciences

Gabriel Chardin, physicist, CEA Saclay

Laurent Jolivet, geologist, Sorbonne Université

Bernard Poulain, biologist, CNRS

Jean-Yves Marzin, graduate of the Ecole Polytechnique, INSIS-CNRS

Dominique Pestre, science historian

And two members of the Universcience scientific council:

Geneviève Fioraso, former minister of Higher Education and Research

Bénédicte Leclercq, head of the Rencontres science et société department, Universcience

CNRS: LEAD SCIENTIFIC PARTNER OF UNIVERSCIENCE FOR THE PALAIS DE LA DÉCOUVERTE 2025



On 8 November 2021, under a one-off arrangement between Universcience and the CNRS, the CNRS was named the lead scientific partner of the future Palais de la découverte.

This collaboration builds on the longstanding relationship formed between the CNRS and Universcience to promote French research to a general audience. From a scientific point of view, it will help create new content covering a wide range of disciplines including physics, chemistry, astronomy, the science of living matter, mathematics, earth sciences, information technology and digital sciences and will perfect demonstration's services for the Palais de la découverte.

Once the Palais reopens after the renovation works, it will present contemporary science in all its depth and diversity.

Within this framework, the CNRS will provide Universcience with support, including for the development and scientific validation of all content and exhibits at the new Palais. This partnership will be extended beyond the reopening of the Palais de la découverte, as the CNRS will play a key role in advising Universcience on contemporary research.

ACTORS IN THE RENOVATION OF THE GRAND PALAIS – PALAIS DE LA DÉCOUVERTE



◆ PROJECT OWNER: RMN - GRAND PALAIS

The structure built for the 1900 World's Fair has never been renovated, with the exception of the Nef in the early 2000s, when its glass roof was restored and its foundations consolidated, along with the Galerie Sud-Est in 2011 and the Salon d'Honneur in 2012. Divided, partitioned and mezzanined during the course of its history, and at one stage earmarked for demolition, the Grand Palais has not been paid the attention its grandeur and its contribution to the history of world's fair architecture deserves. The building was difficult for visitors to fully appreciate, its walls were hidden behind panelling, and its glass roof was blocked to meet museum display requirements.

Visitors of the exhibition galleries struggled to understand which areas they were walking through and where they were located inside the Grand Palais. The prospect of a general renovation would be raised every so often, but always abandoned. The building was subsequently plagued by serious technical problems. Large areas were deserted and left unused, while others were closed to the public for failing to meet safety standards.

The building was also very poorly equipped technically and logistically, making it more difficult to operate.

It also fell far below modern accessibility standards. Its exhibition galleries, among the most modern of

any museum when they were opened in 1966, by cultural affairs minister André Malraux under the auspices of public buildings and national palaces architect Pierre Vivien (1909-1999), needed to be brought up to international standards.

Lastly, the area around the Grand Palais was neglected over time and its integration into a historic and urban whole connecting it to the Champs-Élysées, the Petit Palais and the Seine disappeared from view.

The Ministère de la Culture therefore asked the Réunion des musées nationaux – Grand Palais (Rmn-GP), as the manager of the building, with the assistance of public departments and in coordination with Universcience, operator of the Palais de la découverte – housed since 1937 within the Grand Palais – to devise a major restoration and development project for the Grand Palais.

Besides the restoration of the monument itself, the project also provides for the redevelopment of the surrounding areas to better integrate the Grand Palais into its urban and landscape setting. This far-reaching architectural project, during which the Grand Palais will be closed to the public for more than three years, is also an opportunity to reimagine the cultural, artistic and scientific role of both institutions to transform the renovated Grand Palais - Palais de la découverte into an innovative and unique artistic, cultural and scientific place for the 21st century.

◆ PROJECT SUPERVISOR: CHATILLON ARCHITECTES

François Chatillon, head architect at Monuments historiques, part of the Ministère de la Culture, is responsible for the restoration and development of the Grand Palais.

François Chatillon is a regular speaker at conferences in France and abroad, including in Lausanne, Barcelona, Milan and Taipei, and has worked on projects for the Aga Khan, the French embassy in Lisbon, and the Casa Camara in Mérida, Mexico, among others.

Since being named head architect of Monuments Historiques in 2005, he has devoted much of his time to the restoration of major works of architectural heritage, including the Grand Palais in Paris, the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Paris, the Château de Voltaire in Ferney-Voltaire, the Arc de Triomphe, the Musée Carnavalet and the Château de Chambord.

In parallel, he is also responsible for several outstanding works of 20th-century architecture: the Halles du Boulingrin by Emile Maigrot and Eugène Freyssinet (Reims), the Cité de Refuge by Le Corbusier (Paris, 13th district), the Piscine des Amiraux by Henri Sauvage (Paris, 18th district) and Maison des Sciences de l'Homme by Lods, Depondt and Beauclair (Paris, 6th district), and the apartment/studio of Le Corbusier (Paris, 16th district).

◆ DEVELOPMENT PROJECT SUPERVISOR

The interdisciplinary team led by L'Atelier Senzu (lead architect) and composed of Samy Rio (designer) and 2X4 (signage)

Co-contractors:

DUCKS SCENO (museum design), MAZET & ASSOCIES (quantity surveying), CLARITY (acoustics), ORYZHOM (flows), IXANS (management, scheduling, supervision and coordination).

L'Atelier Senzu, in conjunction with French designer Samy Rio (Grand Prix Design Parade 10 at the Villa Noailles, resident designer at the Atelier LUMA in Arles), will design the furniture and architecture for the public areas, including the ticket office and bookshops/shops, as well as the auditoria and artistic facilitation workshops. The team also includes New York design consultancy and brand strategy expert 2X4 (the Prada Foundation in Milan and the Lincoln Center in NY) for the new signage and identity.

Awarded the Prix des Albums de Jeunes Architectes et Paysagistes (AJAP) 2020 by the Ministère de la Culture and the Prix d'encouragement en architecture by the Académie des Beaux-Arts, L'Atelier Senzu is an architecture firm in Paris founded in 2014 by Wandrille Marchais and David Dottelonde. The agency explores different creative fields to develop unique responses to climate challenges. The team has worked on three projects characteristic of its approach: the transformation of the Chambre des Notaires de Paris on place du Châtelet, an adobe school extension for Le Vau school campus, at porte de Bagnolet, and the creation of the new Perrotin Gallery.

ACTIVITIES PRIOR TO REOPENING IN 2025

LES ÉTINCELLES DU PALAIS DE LA DÉCOUVERTE

During the construction works, the Palais de la découverte has been transferred to a temporary structure, Les Étincelles du Palais de la découverte, in the district of Paris. This place was built and equipped as part of **an original and innovative eco-design and circular economy approach.**

To continue fulfilling its mission to share science with as many people as possible, a scaled-down version of the content offered by the Palais has been transferred, until 2025, to this temporary structure with **three demonstration rooms, each with a capacity for 40 people, and a 49-seat planetarium.**

Les Étincelles du Palais de la découverte organises some twenty presentations per day – six sessions per demonstration space and four planetarium sessions – led by demonstrators from the Palais. All content is available to school groups during the week and to individual visitors on Wednesday and Friday afternoons, on weekends and during the school holidays.

The programme of Les Étincelles includes an opportunity to travel through the solar system, understand climate mechanisms, discover matter in all its forms including its interactions with light, observe the communication practices of ants, lift the lid on artificial intelligence, and explore the world of flavour

► palais-decouverte.fr
► Jardin Caroline-Aigle
186 rue Saint-Charles • 75015 Paris

THE PALAIS ON THE WEB

During the construction works and in addition to the activities organised by Les Étincelles, the Palais de la découverte invites visitors to take part in original online activities:



◆ **READING THE SCIENCES**
an original podcast produced by the Palais de la découverte exploring scientific culture through the reading of science texts, including extracts from novels, essays and letters.



◆ **PALAIS CLASSICS**
a collection of videos that feature the most famous demonstrations of the Palais de la découverte, including "the rat school", "electrostatics", "the merry-go-round" and "the hereditary lottery".



◆ **THE SPIRITS OF THE PALAIS**
this podcast series immerses you in the atmosphere of the Palais de la découverte before it closed for renovation. It is a unique opportunity to travel through time and feel the identity of the Palais through the ages.

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