

Press release
Thursday 17 June 2021

Restoration of Eileen Gray's Modernist Masterpiece Complete

The €5.5m restoration of Villa E-1027 is complete and the site is now open to the public.



Image credit © Manuel Bougot

Association Cap Moderne are thrilled to announce that the restoration of Eileen Gray's Villa E-1027 is complete. The villa, along with Le Corbusier's Cabanon and Camping Units and the neighboring Etoile de Mer, opened to the public on 11 June for tours. There are also plans to develop the site with a study centre for researchers and academics.

"The restoration of the Villa to its 1929 state has been a labour of love for all of us who have worked on the project, and the effect is truly revelatory of the genius of Eileen Gray and a marvellously dynamic contrast with the surprisingly intimate buildings of Le Corbusier just by. Magical and unique: come and see for yourselves..."

Michael Likierman, President of Association Cap Moderne

Restoration of E-1027



Image credit © Manuel Bougot

The restoration of Villa E-1027 is now complete as well as the entire Cap Moderne site including Le Corbusier's Cabanon and Unités de Camping, and l'Étoile de Mer restaurant, along with the visitor centre located in at the nearby Roquebrune-Cap-Martin station.

Owned by the Conservatoire du Littoral, the Cap Moderne site, reopened to the public in 2015, has been gradually restored at the initiative of Association Cap Moderne, chaired by Michael Likierman with the support of the city of Roquebrune-Cap-Martin, the Department of the Alpes Maritimes, the Provence-Alpes-Côte-D'azur region, the Conservatoire du Littoral and the Ministry of Culture via the DRAC.

Listed as a Historic Monument, the entire Cap Moderne site includes the only site in the Alpes-Maritimes registered as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. One of the must-see places to discover in the region, it welcomes more than 10,000 visitors a year.

An incredible team effort

Between 1926 and 1929, Eileen Gray, built Villa E-1027 with her companion, the architect Jean Badovici. The name of the villa interweaves their initials: "E" for Eileen, "10" representing the letter J for Jean, "2" representing the letter B for Badovici and "7" representing the letter G from Gray.

The restoration would not have been possible without the incredible team of architects and experts, who are masters in their fields. Artisans came from six countries and the structure, repair and recreation of the furnishings were completed in multiple geographies including Austria and France. With special thanks to Claudia Devaux, Renaud Barrès, Burkhardt Rukschcio and Philippe Deliau, who planned and executed the restoration of Villa E-1027, both inside and out.

Validated by the scientific committee and the DRAC, both the fixed and fitted furnishings were recreated as closely as possible to what had been imagined and accomplished by Eileen Gray in 1929, using her original materials and methods.



Image credit © Manuel Bougot

Since 2014 the team have come up with innovative and lasting solutions for the restoration, concerning, among other things, eroded concrete walls, for which the most efficient techniques had to be found to resist the corrosive Mediterranean climate. The redevelopment of Villa E-1027 was a real work of skill and research to precisely find the details of what the house was originally.

The entire restoration project cost 5,5 million euros, subsidised 55% by regional authorities and the state, and 45% by private sponsorship and fundraising. The Centre des monuments nationaux (CMN) is now responsible for managing and maintaining the site and organising cultural activities, in partnership with the *Association Eileen Gray. Étoile de mer. Le Corbusier*, chaired by Magda Rebutato.

UK Press contact

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Press Images

The entire Cap Moderne site has been re-photographed by Manuel Bougot following the completion of the restoration.

Please contact the UK Media Manager, Lucy Woods (<mailto:lucy@lucywoods.co.uk>) to request images. Please note all images must include a credit for the photographer, and images can only be used in articles that focus on the restoration of E-1027 and mention Association Cap Moderne in the text.

Press Visits

We had very much hoped to invite the UK and Irish press to attend a press day this summer to see the restoration, take a tour of E-1027 and enjoy lunch on the terrace of the villa. Sadly, due to the ongoing pandemic and continued travel restrictions, this won't be possible.

If you have plans to visit the site in 2021 and report on the restoration, please contact Lucy Woods (<mailto:lucy@lucywoods.co.uk>). We can arrange for journalists to take a tour of the villa (alongside paying visitors) free of charge.

More information on the restoration

Reinforcement of the concrete of E-1027

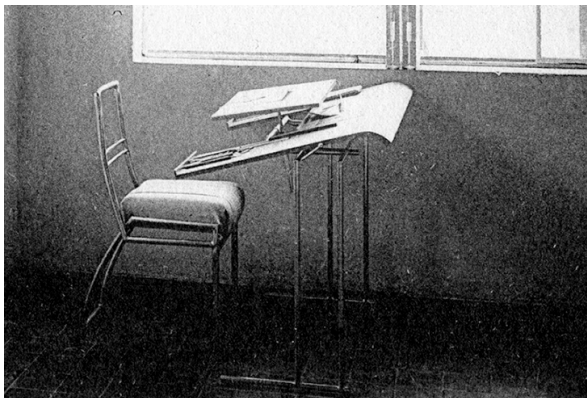
Following a previous grant in 2016, Association Cap Moderne were honoured when Getty Foundation agreed a further grant of \$200,000 to help fund the reinforcement of the concrete of E-1027 to prevent future corrosion, which was a significant risk due to the Mediterranean climate of Roquebrune-Cap-Martin.

This formed part of the Getty Foundation's "Keeping It Modern" programme to help restore concrete buildings of the early 20th century and apply the lessons learnt to modern building structures to conserve these early masterpieces.

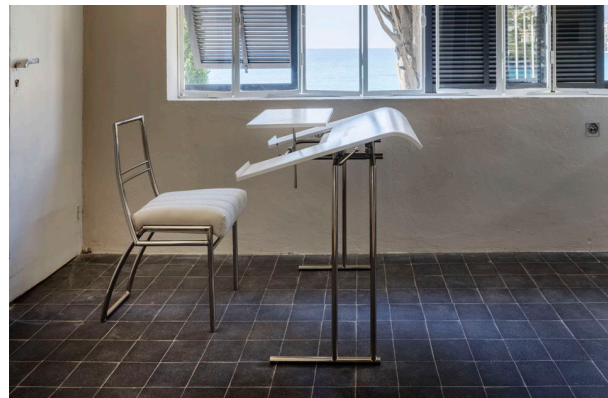
The installation of the impressed current cathodic protection was done by Freyssinet. Specialist masons "A chaux et sable" with Jacques Denaix, were responsible for all the works concerning the concrete, which included a purge of the altered concrete, inserting the electrical circuits for the anode grid, and restoring the original concrete external appearance.

E-1027 Writing Table

Recreating Eileen Gray's writing table, located in the office alcove of E-1027, presented a particular challenge to the restoration team. The current location of the original table is unknown, and there exists only one photo where it is visible in the background. It is a particularly complicated piece of furniture to reproduce.



Surviving photo of the writing table © Editions Imbernon



The recreated writing table © Manuel Bougot

The team, including, Burkhardt Rukschcio and Renaud Barrès, meticulously studied the original photo at the National Museum in Dublin. After the designs for the table were completed, it was constructed in nickel plated steel tubes, imported raw from Vienna, and then shaped by Marcel Mansui from Lorgues, Var. Marcel was also responsible for the mechanical lifting device. The plating was completed in the Alpes Maritimes and the wooden desktop constructed by Alain Furgeri from Menton.

Recreating Eileen's rugs

Eileen Gray began exhibiting her carpets from 1909. She would start with designing the rug template and then the rug was woven and knotted by hand with natural fibers such as wool and cotton. She would experiment with using natural undyed wools as well as dyed wools. She also created carpets composed of bands: where dark bands would alternate with light ones.

In the 1920s Gray began designing rugs with abstract and geometric motifs and she was also interested in creating different textures. Importantly, when designing a room her rugs would always compliment the pieces of furniture throughout her interiors. This was certainly the case for E-1027, for which she designed four notable rugs including her famous "Centimetre" Rug and Round rug with circular motifs, which have been expertly re-created in Austria by Professor Ute Huber-Leierer.

According to Ute:

"I take the photos as the basis for the look, and I let myself be guided by my experience in the textile sector. The technique from the descriptions by Jennifer Goff in her book "*Her Work and Her World*" about Eileen Gray."

Exhibition: Making and Momentum - In Conversation with Eileen Gray

A new group exhibition titled *Making and Momentum, In Conversation with Eileen Gray* will debut this summer in Roquebrune-Cap-Martin, France- in Roquebrune's town hall, a stone's throw from Gray's seminal modernist villa, E-1027 - before travelling to Dublin's National Museum in Collins Barracks (20th August 2021) and finally, to Gray's hometown of Wexford (Spring 2022).

The exhibition will celebrate the legacy of Gray, a pioneer of the Modernist movement and one of the most celebrated and influential designers and architects of the 20th Century. Gray's multidisciplinary practice has informed generations of Irish artists, designers, architects and artisans, with a phenomenal global influence.

Eminent, award-winning Irish fashion designer, Richard Malone, has joined forces with Association Cap Moderne to create a cross-generational conversation around the vital importance and cultural contribution of craftsmanship alongside the public reopening of the villa.

For more information on the exhibition please contact Sophie Jewes on sophie@weareravenagency.com

Practical Information

Esplanade de la gare SNCF de Cap-Martin Roquebrune
(Sometimes called "Gare de Cabbé")
Avenue Le Corbusier
06190 Roquebrune Cap-Martin

Tel: +33(0)489978952

capmoderne@monuments-nationaux.fr

www.capmoderne.monuments-nationaux.fr

Guided tours only – please book in advance

Booking Details

Tours must be booked in advance: www.capmoderne.monuments-nationaux.fr

Monday to Sunday: morning departures at 10am and in the afternoon at 2pm.

The meeting point is at the ticket office of the reception centre located at Roquebrune-Cap-Martin station where the entrance ticket is to be collected on the day of the visit. The visitor centre also includes a temporary exhibition about Eileen Gray and E-1027.

Visitors must be on site at least ten minutes before the departure of the visit. Groups are made up of a maximum of 12 people.

Tours last approximately 2hrs at a price of €18 for adults and €10 for ages 7-18. Two tours per day are provided in French and two in English (depending on the season). Tours in Italian on request

Tours are provided by guides who hold a professional card (guides - lecturers, guide interpreters, etc.) and last approximately two hours. This includes the 500m walk to the site entrance from the visitor centre.

Private visits, outside of usual opening hours, with or without a catering service, can be booked on request.

Opening Hours

High Season: From 9am to 12:30pm and from 1:30pm to 5:30pm

Low season: From 9.45am to 12.30pm and from 1.30pm to 5pm

Closed from 01 November to 28 February and closed on Mondays throughout April to October

Accessibility

The site is not accessible to people with reduced mobility and wheelchairs. There are numerous steps at the site. Association Cap Moderne are working towards providing better accessibility to the site.

Reaching the site

By rail

TER PACA / Nice –Ventimiglia line /station stop Cap-Martin Roquebrune

For train times refer to the Nice – Ventimiglia timetable at www.ter.sncf.com/paca

By bus

Lignes d'Azur / Nice - Menton line/bus stop “ Quatre Chemins” at Roquebrune Cap-Martin (allow 20 minutes for the walk from the bus stop)

Consult the timetable for the No. 100 bus from Nice or the 110 bus from Nice airport at www.lignesdazur.com

NB/ no access for tourist coaches at Cabbé station.

By car

GPS coordinates : latitude 43.760223 - longitude 7.456758

NB/ very few parking spaces are available on the south side of Cabbé station