Maison de Victor Hugo - Hauteville House

Hauteville House, the former residence of exiled French author Victor Hugo, was subject to extensive renovation and restoration work over a period of 18 months. The purpose of the project was to protect and preserve the original building’s structure and eclectic interior decoration. The works, overseen by Paris Musées and director Gerard Audinet, were entirely funded through the generous sponsorship of Pinault Collection.

Substantial repairs were required to the intricate structure to amend damage following decades of exposure to harsh climatic conditions. The campaign aimed to restore the two-storey conservatory and look-out, improving the weathertightness of the roof and to restore the façades. UV filters were applied to glazing to protect the furniture’s incredible detail.

The exceptional interior décor was restored to the original appearances, as designed by Victor Hugo and local artisans. Restoration was based on original documents and period photographs which informed searches for materials to match original patterns and textures.

A key aim was to improve visitor experience, including the modernisation of facilities and improving accessibility for the public whilst respecting the original character of the house. Special consideration was given to enable safe access for people of reduced mobility to the ground floor and garden.

The restoration has brought Hauteville House into a state worthy of the original and has now reopened to the public. The work was completed with the utmost care and sensitivity to an exemplary standard with the artistic excellence and historical significance of Hauteville House as a key driver for the project.

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