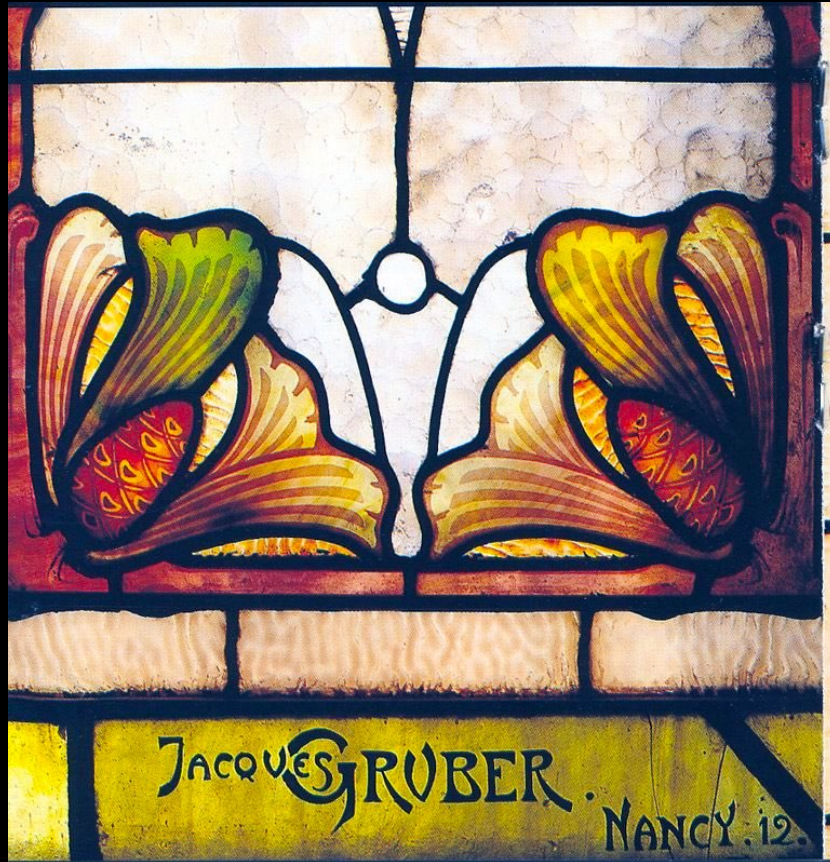


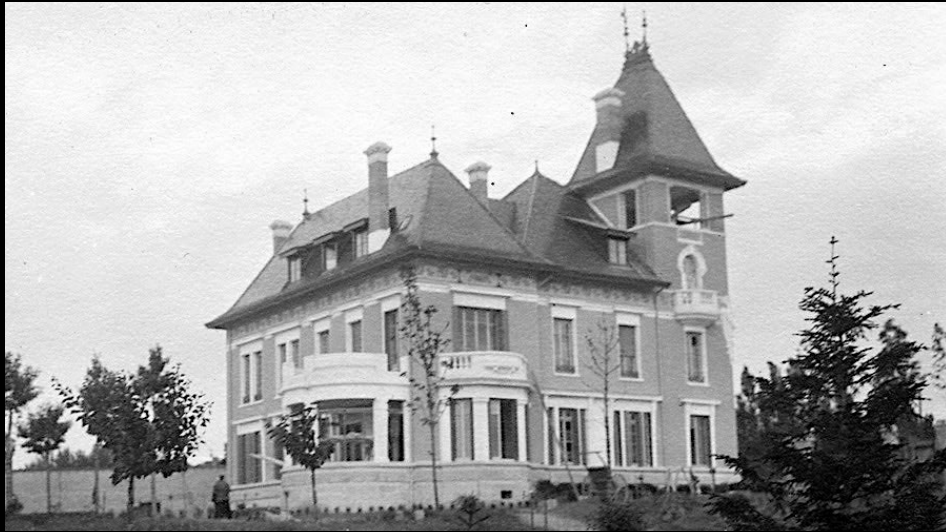
Electra Aitchison - The University of Sydney
The Eloquence Art Prize® Project Summary
« Nature inspired Art Nouveau Artists »



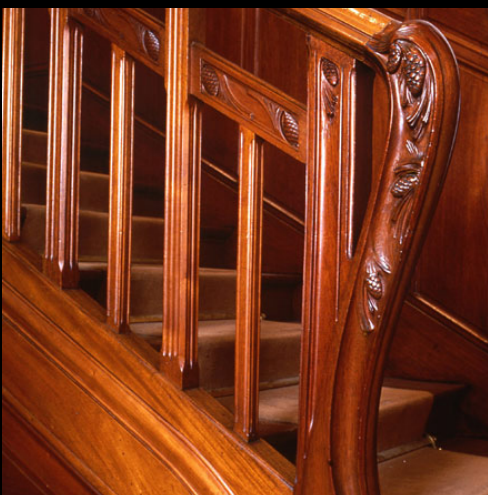
I propose to compare two historical buildings, the Berliet Villa in Lyon, France to Babworth House, Sydney in order to show how the Art Nouveau movement was applied in vastly different contexts. The structural execution, notably through the ornamented carvings of open stairwells and carved ceilings honour the sensibility to nature, through recurring motifs unique to each home, in order to complement the botany of France, and Australia. By favouring handmade craftsmanship, the merits of Art Nouveau can be recognised through its dedicated homages to the natural world.

Both residences revolt against mass production through artist collaboration. There is an inseparable link between the artworks and nature in which it sought to emulate. These ties are paralleled in the work of both Architectural firms, where the oeuvres cannot be solely attributed to the work of two artists, but rather represent a richer weaving of artisans and architects to form one cohesive practice.

Electra Aitchison - The University of Sydney



Constructed from 1911-1912, La Villa Berliet is a national *monument historique*¹, home to the Marius Berliet Automobile Foundation. Architect Paul Bruyas exemplifies Art Nouveau style, through the masterful manipulation of organic shapes seen in the protruding sunroom and cast iron entryway. The asymmetrical floorplan is complemented by the beautiful use of stained glass of artist Jacques Grüber and meticulous wood carvings of Louis Majorelle. Each room is themed to honour a distinct plant, where the motifs of passionflowers, pine cones, as well as seaweed, line the building from floor to ceiling, from the embellished crown moulding to intricate metalwork of the hardware in the door handles. This reflects the scientific discoveries of the 19th century through botanists such as Ernst Haeckel, who inspired the artists of the Art Nouveau to champion nature of all forms², especially in the overlooked.



¹ "Arrêté de protection Marius Berliet." *French Ministry of Culture: Patrimoine Architectural (Mérimée)*, 1989. <https://tinyurl.com/decreevillaberliet1989>

² Wichmann, Siegfried. *Jugendstil Art Nouveau: Floral and Functional Forms*. Translated by Michael Heron. New York Graphic Society / Little, Brown and Company, 1984.



A rare emblem of Art Nouveau in an Australian context can be seen in Babworth House of Sydney. Designed and built from 1912-1915³, architectural firm Morrow and de Putron collaborated with master builders Messrs W Gawne and Son to bridge the gap between the natural and the man made. Where door cases and beamed ceilings incorporate floral motifs crafted in Queensland maple, the European art style is manipulated to an entirely distinct context⁴. Through the creations of Babworth House and la Villa Berliet our own connection to our environment is interrogated, where the viewer is invited inside both the homes, and in the greater pursuit for natural beauty.



³ "Babworth House." *NSW State Heritage Registry*, June 7, 1999. <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=5044995>.

⁴ "Plan of Residence, Darling Point for Samuel Hordern Esq. 1912 / Morrow & de Putron, Architects." *Architectural Drawing Archive*, State Library of NSW

Electra Aitchison - The University of Sydney



Electra is a final year student studying a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in French & Francophone studies. Endeavouring on a Sisyphean quest of discovery, she aims to never stop questioning her surroundings, and to search for beauty in the mundane.

Electra Aitchison - The University of Sydney

399 words (exclusive of references)

Bibliography:

"Arrêté de protection Marius Berliet." *French Ministry of Culture: Patrimoine Architectural (Mérimée)*, 1989. https://www.pop.culture.gouv.fr/notice/merimee/PA00118109?auteur=%5B%22LINOSSIER%20Joseph%20%28architecte%20paysagiste%29%22%5D&last_view=%22list%22&idQuery=%227d87a68-aad-b01f-ea1e-64e5f1ac628c%22.

"Babworth House." *NSW State Heritage Registry*, June 7, 1999. <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=5044995>.

Wichmann, Siegfried. *Jugendstil Art Nouveau: Floral and Functional Forms*. Translated by Michael Heron. New York Graphic Society / Little, Brown and Company, 1984.

"Babworth House." *NSW State Heritage Registry*, June 7, 1999. <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=5044995>.

"Plan of Residence, Darling Point for Samuel Hordern Esq. 1912 / Morrow & de Putron, Architects." *Architectural Drawing Archive*, State Library of NSW