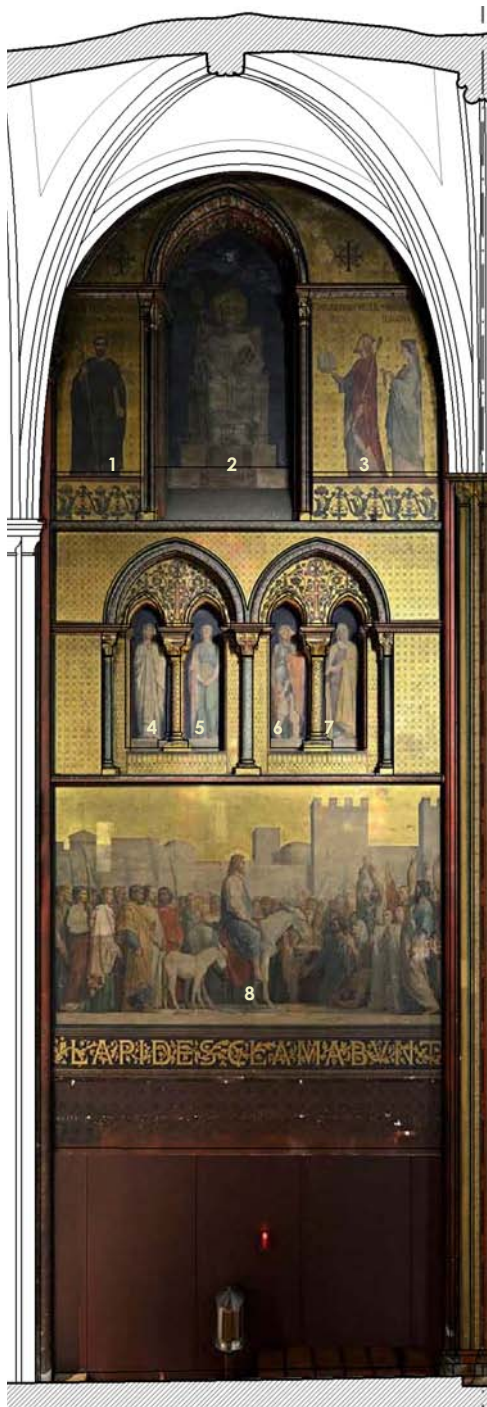
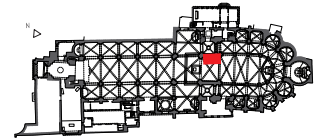


RESTORATION OF THE 19TH-CENTURY DECOR UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF VICTOR BALTARD

FILE No. 1 - North Wall of the Sanctuary

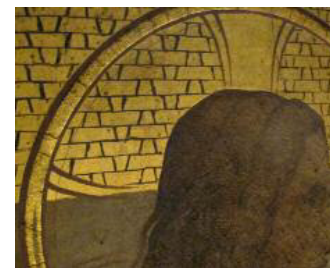


DESCRIPTION

In 1842, tasked with restoring the interiors of the sanctuary of Saint-Germain-des-Prés, architect Victor Baltard called upon two leading figures of the contemporary art world: decorative specialist Alexandre Denuelle and painter Hippolyte Flandrin. On the two walls which previously flanked the main altar, the two artists sketched out complementary compositions based on two large panels situated beneath individual figures, some of which would occupy the bays in the walls, architectural features of the original Romanesque abbey church. The north wall features depictions of the Theological Virtues and figures from the church's history in the upper section, with the main panel devoted to *Christ's Entrance to Jerusalem*. For this scene, inspired by Byzantine and Romanesque models, Hippolyte Flandrin used a gold background overlaid with encaustic paints, a technique which enjoyed a genuine renaissance and formed the basis of numerous experiments in the 19th century.

RESTORATION AND OBJECTIVES

This exceptional decorative ensemble is now covered in a thick layer of accumulated dirt, making it difficult to appreciate from ground level. Specialists will be called in to clean and consolidate the paint, restoring the coherency of this work. This restoration will also provide an opportunity to study in greater detail the hot wax/encaustic painting techniques developed and used by Hippolyte Flandrin.



Close-ups showing accumulated dirt on the walls

Figurative paintings by Hippolyte Flandrin-1st restoration
Oil/wax paint on plaster | 1842-1846

1. Saint Doctrové
2. Saint Germain
3. Childebert I and Ultrogoth
4. Faith
5. Hope
6. Charity
7. Patience

COST OF SPONSORING THIS WORK

€ 100,373

All costs relating to contracting, coordination and commissioning will be borne by the City of Paris.