



# PATRIMONI ARQUITECTÒNIC EDUCATIU

LA RESTAURACIÓ I LA INTERVENCIÓ  
EN ELS ESPAIS D'APRENTATGE HISTÒRICS

XLIIÈ CURSET  
JORNADA INTERNACIONALS SOBRE LA INTERVENCIÓ  
EN EL PATRIMONI ARQUITECTÒNIC

DEL 12 AL 15 DE DESEMBRE DE 2019

ASSOCIACIÓ D'ARQUITECTES  
PER A LA DEFENSA I LA INTERVENCIÓ  
EN EL PATRIMONI ARQUITECTÒNIC

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## **Le groupe scolaire Karl-Marx d'André Lurçat: restaurer et adapter dans le respect de l'authenticité d'un édifice majeur du Mouvement moderne**

**Christiane Schmuckle-Mollard**

Agence Christiane Schmuckle-Mollard

Has lived and worked as an architect and urban planner in Paris since 1977.

She has been « Architecte en chef des Monuments historiques » since 1982, a board member of the French Académie d'Architecture since 1993, and an ICOMOS-France board member since 1996.

As a specialist of the built heritage Christiane Schmuckle-Mollard has been vice-president of ICOMOS and remains an ICOMOS expert for the UNESCO World Heritage Center and especially for 20th century architecture. She wins in 2018 the World Monuments Fund/Knoll Modernism Prize for the for the rehabilitation of the Karl Marx School in Villejuif, France.

### **SUMMARY:**

When inaugurated in 1933, André Lurçat's Karl Marx school in Villejuif, south of Paris, was celebrated as the "most modern school in France". In 1996, the school was listed as an historical monument. However, it had by that time become too confined as school and needed to be brought up to 21st century standards to conform with new building regulations. The challenge was to strike a fair balance between a restoration focusing on preservation and one increasing the school capacity, without sacrificing the functionalist principles that made the building famous – chiefly the use of daylight and transparency. A redistribution of space and the construction of an extension created an additional 1500 square meters. The project was completed in 2013, at a cost of €16 million.

The two main interventions consisted in turning the gymnasium into a canteen and in increasing the surface dedicated to teaching through the addition of a new wing. The original gymnasium no longer met the needs of the school or regulatory standards for sports facilities. Converting the former gymnasium into a canteen with a capacity of 240 seats made it possible to relocate the school's documentation centre to the space originally occupied by the school restaurant and thereby maintain the configuration of the classrooms in conformity with the original project. The schoolyard is now enclosed on its Southern part with a new, lower wing which houses rooms for arts, science and technology classes. This quite contemporary element, designed, however, in keeping with the spirit of the place, remains neutral alongside the original architecture. In the sense of article 21.1 of the Burra Charter, this reversible adaptation has a minimal impact on the functionality, the significance and the perception of the school as planned in 1933.

**Keywords:** Lurçat, modernism, adaptiv-reuse, authenticity, restauration.



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## CURRICULUM VITAE:

Architecte en chef des Monuments Historiques hon. Architect (Diploma awarded by the French Government in 1970, E.N.S.B.A.). Town-planner, Technical University of Munich (1977). Graduated from the "Centre for Higher Studies for History and Conservation of ancient Monuments". Chief architect of Historical monuments in France (1981-2012). Chief architect for Strasbourg Cathedral (1999-2012). Board member of the Académie d'Architecture. Founding member of ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Structures (ISCARSAH). Founder member of ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on 20th Century heritage (ISC20). Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres. Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur.

After a few years working as a professional architect in Brussels and Munich, Christiane Schmuckle-Mollard was appointed Director for architecture, town-planning, and environment in Val-de-Marne. In 1991, she passed the competitive entry examination for Chief architect for french historical monuments. Since 1981, Christiane Schmuckle-Mollard was in charge of heritage in different regions of France and directed studies and restoration works of more than hundred very important historical buildings such as cathedrals, abbeys, castles and private mansions. From 1985 on she also participated to numerous competitions for contemporary architecture, in particular with Jean Nouvel, Claude Vasconi, and in some projects with the designer Dominique Averland ; she is now recognized as an authority in the field of adaptive-reuse of 17th and 18th century and 1920's -1930's buildings. She has been fellow lecturer at the School of Architecture of Paris 7 (1984-1987), at the Cours de Tunis (1993-1995) and at the University of Maine (France) since 1996 (CUEP, Faculty of Letters). Since 1987, she has participated to numerous international symposia and seminars, specifically on adaptive-reuse of existing buildings, integration of contemporary structures in historic buildings, conservation techniques of traditional coatings and preservation of gothic cathedral structures. In 1995, Christiane Schmuckle-Mollard initiated and international debate on "facadism" and its consequences in European capitals. In 1988, she contributed to researches on « Traces of the Sacred » in restoration and adaptive-reuse of religious buildings.

## REFERENCES 2019-1985 :

Hôtel Lescoeur in Saint Cloud (19th cent.), Collection Yvon Lambert in Avignon (17th and 18th), Musée Carnavalet in Paris (16th), Groupe scolaire Karl Marx in Villejuif (A. Lurçat - 1933), Office buildings of the Egyptian embassy in Paris (Hôtel Trumet de Fontarce, 19th) and its chancellery (Hôtel Ephrussi, 19th), Strasbourg Cathedral, Château de Grosbois in Boissy- Saint Léger (17th-19th), Château de Sucy (F. Le Vau architect, 17th-19th), Saint Denys church in Arcueil, Saint Germain church in Vitro-Sur-Seine (12th - 14th), Saint Saturnin church in Gentilly (15-16th), Sainte Agnès church in Maison-Alfort (1933), Closerie Falbala by artist J. Dubuffet in Perigny-sur-Yerres (1971-1976), covered market Baltard in Nogent-sur-Marne (1900), Palais du Commerce de Lyon (19th), Haras du Pin (17th), Ursulines convent in Château-Gontier (15th et 17e siècle), courthouse Montpellier (19th), Abbaye Saint-Vincent (17th and 18th), Abbaye de l'Epau and Convent of the Visitation in Le Mans, Hôtel de Croisilles in Paris.

## INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS (ICOMOS, UNESCO, FRANCE MINISTRY OF CULTURE)

2014 - ICOMOS/UNESCO in Romania, evaluation of the C. Brancusi site

2013 - ICOMOS, Desk review World Heritage nomination, Netherlands, Van Nelle-site in Rotterdam, expertise

2011 - ICOMOS/UNESCO in Sévillla - expertise 20th century heritage : Walter Gropius Fagus factory in Alfed (Allemagne) - ICOMOS, Desk review World Heritage nomination, Morocco city of Rabat, expertise

2009 and 2006 - Saint Louis in Senegal, ICOMOS/UNESCO mission with follow up

2008 - 2007 - expertise on 20th cent. heritage : Bauhaus- Dessau and modern garden-cities in Berlin (1920s and 1930s) - Tel Aviv, White city.

2005 - 1996 - Vice-Président of ICOMOS France



#### URBAN PLANNING AND DESIGN

Responsible for research and implementation of a ZPPAUP (protected area of architectural, urban, and environmental heritage) in Sète (France) from 1985-1988 and in Bonifacio (Corsica) since 1996

#### RESEARCH, PUBLICATION AND CONFERENCES

- Protection of historic stained-glass windows with glass walls - Reuse and conversion of historic buildings
- Conservation of historic coatings (technique and polychromy)
- "Façadism" and its devastating consequences in Paris
- Contemporary lay-outS in ancient buildings
- Birth of the Modern Movement in France
- Jesuit architecture in France
- Le Corbusier « Machine à habiter et Patrimoine Mondial »
- Restoration of the of the Karl-Marx School :
- Authenticity and re-use of the Karl-Marx School by A. Lurçat adapting a major landmark of the modern movement