

Rural architecture, rural heritage Images of a territory in the region of Centre-Val de Loire

An exhibition by the Inventory of the Cultural Heritage Service of the Centre-Val de Loire region.



Tartifume Farm and its farmyard in Theneuil (Indre-et-Loire)

The heritage inventory: a tool of knowledge and development

The Inventory of the Cultural Heritage is a service of the Region of Centre-Val de Loire. It was created in 1964 by André Malraux with the aim of developing the history of french art and making it a tool of knowledge and regional planning. The general inventory of cultural heritage consists in identifying, studying and making the architectural and movable heritage, that presents a cultural, historical or scientific interest.

A important photographic work

From the outset, the general inventory of cultural heritage has combined research with professional photography: all the selected heritage elements are shot in conditions of representation (framing, lighting, integration into the environment, legibility of the materials used, etc.) which allow their study. This photographic work does not therefore privilege the human or animal presence and has even excluded it for a long time. Today the heritage inventory department manages a collection of 206,000 photographs on regional heritage.

The exhibition

The region of Centre-Val de Loire, which has six departments, is marked by a geological and climatic disparity that has produced different landscapes with specific agricultural uses, architecture and lifestyles. Through a selection of photographs, the exhibition "Rural architecture, rural heritage. Images of a territory in the region of Centre-Val de Loire" reflects the diversity of the regional rural heritage.

The Rural area



Vineyard lodge in Le Grand-Pressigny (Indre-et-Loire)

Through agriculture, man has long contributed to the transformation of his environment. Rural architecture, being strongly linked to the soils that host it, is still a structuring element of the landscape today.

The pyramidal barns of the Pays Fort or the port barns of Berry and Indre-et-Loire, the vineyard lodges and presses of the wine-growing countries, the enclosed farms of Beauce or the orange plasters of Perche are all signs of identity.

The farm, its yard and outbuildings



Villevert Farm in Le Petit-Pressigny (Indre-et-Loire)

The farmyard is the central location for agricultural activity, it serves all the buildings and structures of the estate. Whether it is closed or open, the courtyard connects the buildings to each other while allowing the movement of people and animals.

The layout of the home and outbuildings isn't random and follows functional requirements. The very nature of the buildings, tobacco dryers, stables, hay barns, meets the requirements of agriculture.

Technics and materials



Farm barn Chézeaux in Douadic (Indre)

This sequence of detail focuses on the building materials. The Touraine limestone, the Sologne brick or the red sandstone of Vailly recall the deep geological structure of each rural region and give singular colors to the landscape.

What about tomorrow's heritage?



Building of the educational farm of the Sollier Agricultural College near Chartres (Eure-et-Loir) by Jean-Pierre Prin, Atelier Carré d'Arche If the rural world has already been marked by many developments, it is now facing major upheavals, such as economic constraints, concentration and expansion of farms and environmental challenges.

In this context, we therefore observe a mutation of rural architecture: the abandonment of many farms, irreversible transformations or deep renewal with more contemporary forms.

Translation: Jihane Laaziz (University of Orléans).

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Find out more about the heritage of the Centre-Val de Loire region and the Loire Valley...

Website: https://inventaire-patrimoine.centre-valdeloire.fr



Data bases:

https://patrimoine.centre-valdeloire.fr www.pop.culture.gouv.fr