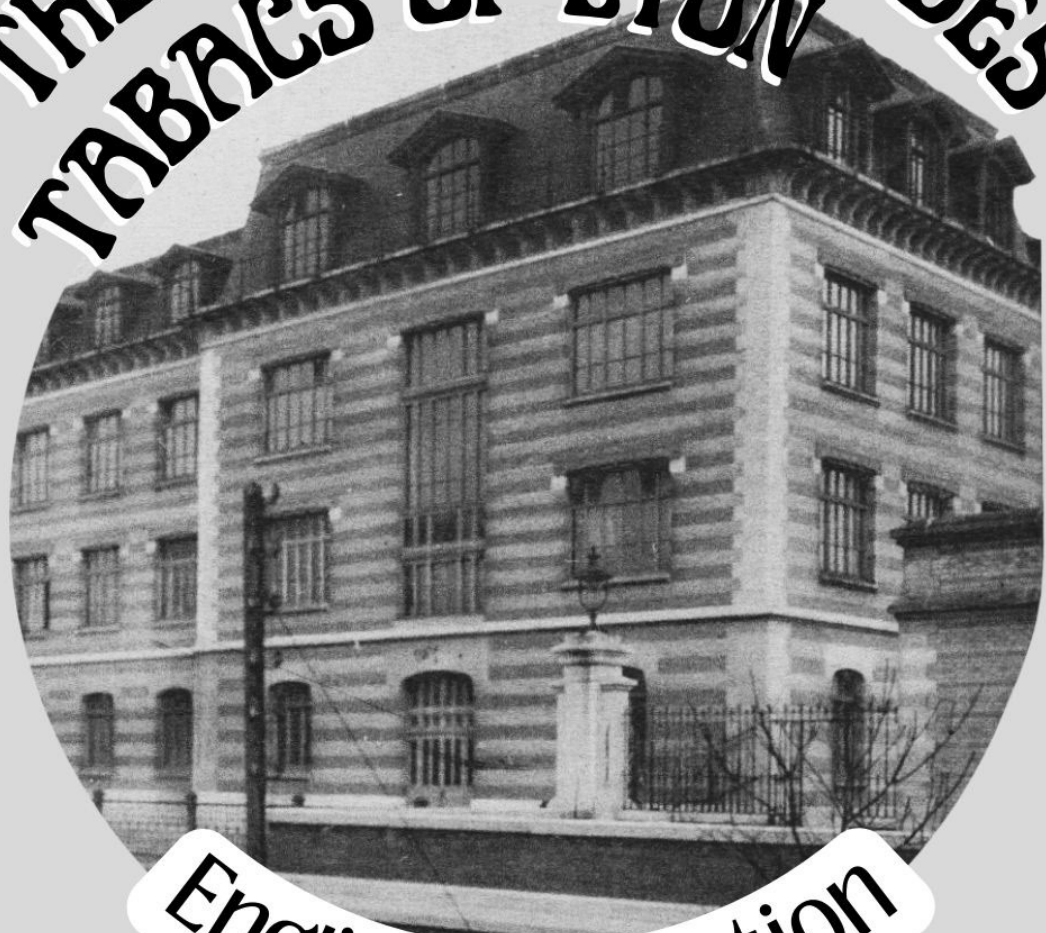


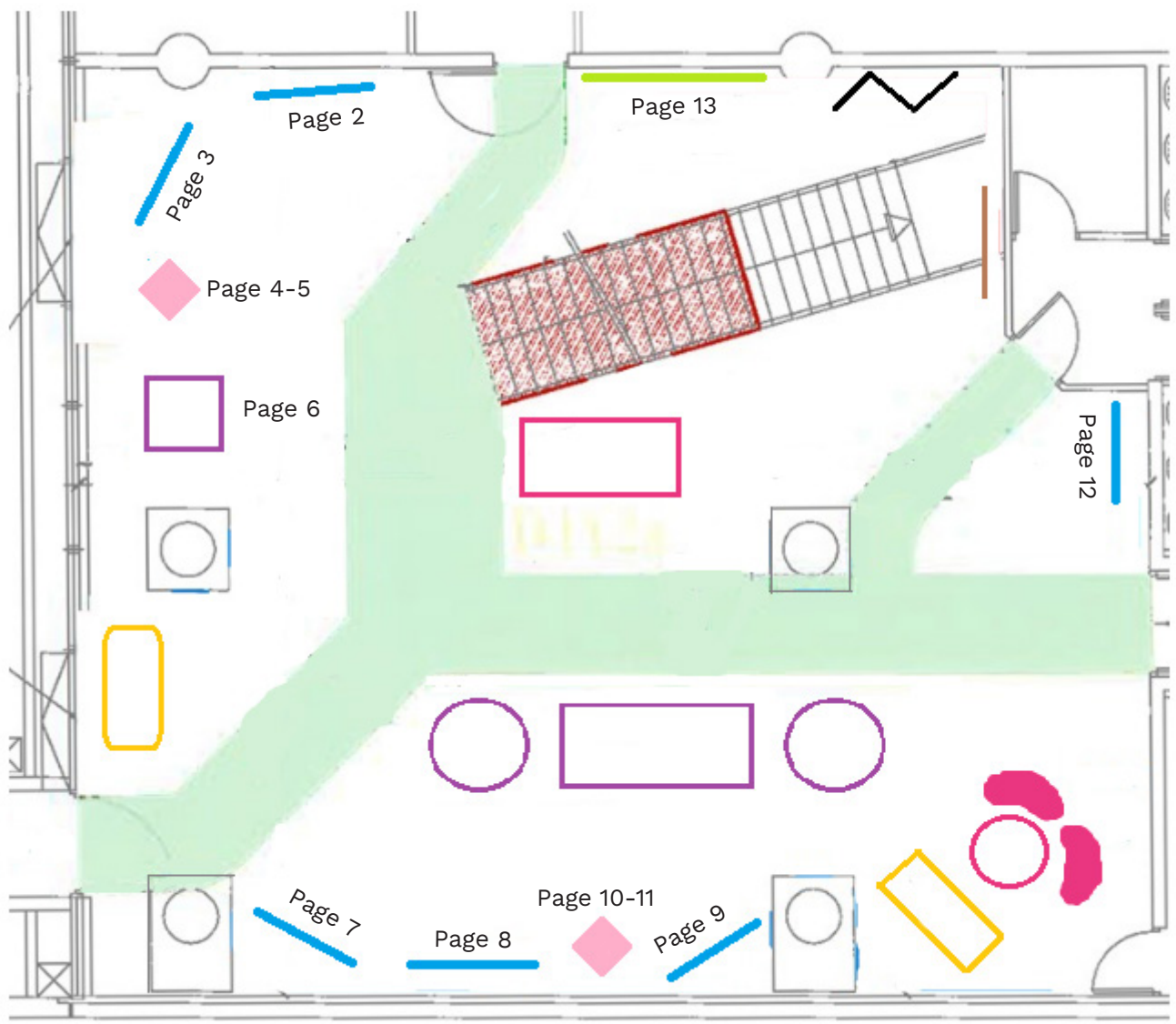
A University with an industrial past

# THE MANUFACTURE DES TABACS OF LYON



English translation

PICTURE : ARCHIVES MUNICIPALES DE LYON



# A BRIEF HISTORY OF TOBACCO: FROM THE WEST INDIES TO LYON

## Tobacco: from discovery to industrialization

Discovered in **America**, tobacco is a **plant** originally consumed for its medicinal properties.

Since its importation in France in the 16th century, the production and selling of tobacco have become a **royal monopoly**. Due to an increasing demand during the Ancien Régime, the architects of Louis XVI are tasked with the conception of manufactures.

However, this new type of organization only takes shape under Napoléon I. the creation of the **Régie des Tabacs (Governance of Tobacco)** entices the **development of tobacco manufactures** throughout the French territory.

Engineers are tasked with the creation of functional buildings. Following the widely applied **Rolland model**, spaces are arranged depending on the various steps of tobacco manufacturing.

## A Lyonese history of tobacco

In Lyon, the tobacco manufacture is first established in the **Perrache** district in **1811**, replacing the indienne factory (indienne was a painted manufactured textile). However, due to the decay of the building and the gentrification of the neighbourhood during the 19th century, the location of the manufacture is no longer adapted/suited.

On the other end, further East, the military area of **La Lunette des Hirondelles** is in dereliction. The 60 000m<sup>2</sup> area, already equipped with a railway, seems to be the perfect place. On **November 21st 1899**, the **construction of a new manufacture** is authorized by ministerial decision.

**This exhibition offers you to go back in time and delve into the history of the Manufacture des Tabacs of the Monplaisir district.**

# HOW THE FACTORY WORKS

## A day in factory

Started in 1912, the construction site of the factory in Monplaisir is only completed in 1932. The factory includes **various workshops** which transform the tobacco leaves into **cigarettes, cigars, scaferlatis (roll-your-own) and tobacco rolls** more precisely from the brand “**Gauloises**”. Each year, more than 4000 tons of scaferlatis and cigarettes are produced.

In 1933 the manufacture hires **264 men and 308 women**, dispatched in the various workshops. Because of the mentalities of the time, women are assigned to the less physical tasks. They work **six days per week, from 7AM to 4PM**, with a 45-minutes lunch break and are paid 5,36 francs a day (which roughly corresponds to 20 euros) for a man and 3,34 francs a day (roughly 13 euros) for a woman.

## The tobacco journey

Tobacco **comes by train or truck** in the form of balls in the unloading areas located underground. It is then stored in barrels called “boucauts” (casks) and **transferred to the upper levels** thanks to **freight elevators** set in the corner pavilions.

Upstairs tobacco has to go through **various treatments such as “écabochage” (A), torrefaction, and grinding (D)**, after which the leaves have become cigarettes. The final product is then **packed in the second-floor warehouses (B)** where are the packages and stickers. Finally, the product is carried down to the ground floor into the **shipping room (G)** which directly faces the unloading deck in the southern court where truckers can do their work.

## Typology of tobacco-based products

Cigarettes  
Cigars  
Scaferlati (roll-your-own)  
Rolls

**Have a look at the nearby zoom sheets to know more!**

# HOW THE FACTORY WORKS

## Sheet 1: the preparing processes (1)

### **Écabochage**

The tobacco leaves come to the factory in the form of packages of 15 to 20 dried leaves laced together at the level of the stem. These packages are called “manoques”. The first step consists in cutting the head of the manoques so that the only remaining parts are the leaves and the stems: this is what écabochage is.

### **Epoulardage**

Then you have to untie the manoques. First you shake the leaves to get rid of the sand and the dust they may carry. Then you separate the leaves and sort them into various baskets placed all around the worker: one to gather the most intact leaves which will wrap the cigars, another one for the leaves which will become tobacco rolls, and a final one for the most damaged leaves which will become tobacco powder for cigarettes and scaferlatis (roll-your-own).

## Sheet 2: the preparing processes (2)

### **Mouillade**

In order to become flexible again and easier to handle, the leaves are soaked in a mixture of water and sea salt: this is the mouillade. Layers of leaves are overlapped and one after the other sprinkled with a salt solution in order to prevent them from fermenting and to repel insects. Salt is the only foreign substance which is incorporated with tobacco.

At first, this step consists of a steaming process called Vapeur-Eau-Vapeur (Steam-Water-Steam). In 1971 a more modern assembly line allows for a process called Mélange-Mouillade-Hachage (Mixing-Mouillade-Grinding).

### **Écôtage**

Once the leaves are flexible, they undergo the process of écôtage, which means that the central vein is ripped so that only the sides of the leaves remain.

# HOW THE FACTORY WORKS

## Sheet 3: treating processes

### **Grinding or grating**

Depending on the type of product you want to get, you either grind or grate tobacco leaves. For scaferlatis the leaves are grinded into small strands, while for cigarettes they are grated into powder. This process was formerly done manually, but in the Lyon manufacture the leaves are cut by blades powered by steam-machines. You only have to adjust the space between the blades to either grind or grate.

### **Torrefaction**

Torrefaction has two purposes: preventing fermentation and enhancing the aromas. In the manufacture this is done by the Rolland machine, which is a fire-heated horizontal metallic cylinder. Grinded or grated tobacco is inserted through one of the ends and then stirred by blades. Inside the cylinder a gust of dry air, together with the motion and the water inside the leaves, raises the temperature up to 100 Celsius degrees. When enough tobacco is torrefied, two trapdoors open under the cylinder and the tobacco falls into a basket.

### **Drying**

After torrefaction the tobacco is still very humid. It is therefore dried in dryers with a temperature between 16 and 20 degrees.

## Sheet 4: fabrication and packaging

### **Fabrication**

Once tobacco is treated it can be used to make cigarettes, scaferlatis or rolls. In that purpose tobacco is carried to the various workshops and fabricating machines. This task is usually completed by women.

- For cigarettes, grated tobacco is wrapped in a very thin cylindrical paper sheet.
- For scaferlatis, thinly grinded tobacco is put together in small packages.
- For cigars and rolls, tobacco leaves are rolled, twisted, and finally wrapped in a whole leaf called “the robe”.

### **Packaging**

Finally, the product is conditioned in the package provided for this purpose, on which are specified the name and the brand of the product.



# THE MANUFACTURING OF TOBACCO IN LYON

From 1932 onwards the industrial activity of the Monplaisir tobacco manufacture fully starts off thanks to the completion of the building, although the exploitation has already started in 1927. That same year the cigarettes and scaferlatis manufactured in Lyon, at the Perrache manufacture, correspond to 1,936 tons of tobacco. This makes the manufacture the 13th more productive out of the 22 sites throughout the French territory, behind Riom (3,701 t.), Nantes (3,066 t.), Dijon (2,491 t.) or Toulouse (2,339 t.).

*Caption: Map of the French tobacco manufactures in 1927, in Je Sais Tout, February 1929.*

In 1933, a year after the beginning of its full-speed production, the new manufacture allows the city of Lyon to rise up to the second place with 3,796 tons of tobacco. In 1971, almost forty years later, this number has doubled, amounting to 6,700 tons, which corresponds to the manufacturing of 2,780 million cigarettes and 3,332 tons of scaferlatis. However, the factory controlled by the SEITA (Société d'Exploitation Industrielle des Tabacs et Allumettes), or Society of Industrial Exploitation of Tobacco and Matches, ceases all production in 1988 and is purchased two years later by the Urban council of Lyon in order to make it available to the Jean Moulin Lyon 3 University. This shutdown is caused by the gradual diminution of tobacco consumption since the middle of the 1970s, mainly because of the multiplication of epidemiological studies proving its toxicity which appeared since the 1950s, of the anti-tobacco campaign, and of the steady increase of its price. The result is the subsequent shutdown of tobacco factories in France, of which the only remaining one is located in Furiani (Corsica) and is only dedicated to local consumption.

# FROM FUNCTIONALISM TO ART DECO

## The operating buildings: a functional and hygienist architecture

In the operating buildings, everything is thought out to minimize the risks of a fire: the workshops are separated by the corner pavilions and the northern side is separated from the southern side by service bridges made of reinforced concrete that can be exploded to stop the propagation of a potential fire. Furthermore, the numerous stairs allow the workers to rapidly evacuate.

The Lyon manufacture also meets hygienist criteria. Thus, the workers are all equipped with protections against the tobacco dust. Ventilation and many wide windows allow for a good aeration. Finally, the workshops are heated with air produced by two boiler rooms in the basement, which provides better working conditions in winter.

The layout of the buildings accounts for hygiene and new working legislation, but it also fulfills a surveillance function. Indeed, the fact that they are aligned provides an overview of the workshops. The surrounding wall around the manufacture facilitates the surveillance of who comes and goes.

## The administrative buildings: the Art Deco spirit

The administrative offices located in an independent building are a sign of the Art Deco style of the 1930s. Nowadays only photographs and press articles can bear witness to that time. The walls are adorned with woodwork and the floors are tiled. The headmaster's office is entirely paneled and features a chevron parquet. The luxurious furniture is made of carved wood and polychrome marble.

The headmaster's house equally bears witness to the Art Deco period. Just like the rest of the manufacture the rubblestone walls are covered with bricks which create a decorative pattern repeated on the four fronts. The corniche is the focal point of the decoration, with its enameled multicolored alternance of brackets and metopes in high relief. The Art Nouveau style is embodied by wrought-iron pieces and a perron covered by a canopy adorned with vegetal motifs.



# AN ARCHITECTURE BETWEEN TRADITION AND MODERNITY

## A new tobacco manufacture promoted by the State

From 1844 onwards, the manufactures are built according to a unique reproducible blueprint – the Rolland model – shaped like the letter H: two long parallel multistorey buildings shelter the fabrication and conditioning workshops and are linked with a transversal building which contains the heavy machinery (mechanical roasters, grinders). A boiler is usually placed in the center of the court.

In 1861 the French State creates the Central department of constructions and mechanical devices, which also manages the two-year formation of engineers, more qualified than architects when it comes to mechanization, especially in the construction of tobacco manufactures.

Joseph Clugnet (1853-1911), engineer from the Central department of constructions and mechanical devices, is the one who applies the Rolland model for the construction of the Lyon manufacture of which he creates the blueprint in April 1910. However, he decides to break away from tradition.

## Some unique features

When he draws the plan of the manufacture, Clugnet improves the standard model linking the northern and southern buildings by two additional buildings, thus creating the shape of an 8: two distinct courts separated by a transversal building. The buildings are also linked by eight corner pavilions which shelter freight elevators and staff stairs.

The administration which is usually located in the operating facilities is now inside an independent building and the headmaster lives in an independent villa in the style of late Art Deco.

# FROM THE MANUFACTURE TO LA MANU

## A new project

In 1990 the Manufacture des Tabacs is bought by the Communauté Urbaine (Urban Council) of Lyon (COURLY), as part of the project “University in the city” which aims to rehabilitate students into the city.

The construction starts in 1992 under the direction of architect Albert Constantin. The project proposed by the Atelier de la Rize maintains the two inner courtyards. It destroys the unusable buildings outside the Manufacture, in Rue Rollet, which do not possess features of industrial architecture. It also implements an original conception for the new buildings, built “in sandwich”, which allows for an optimization of the room numbers. The significant presence of poles inside the Manufacture helps for this installation.

## The building's past

Some features of the building's industrial past are preserved such as the grey and blue colors of the lintels, the steel mullions and two period staircases. Upstairs, the architect also keeps the original construction features such as the Mansart roof.

The renovation of the site of the Manufacture des Tabacs lasts 12 years and is realized in various steps. The first academic year takes place on October 14th 1993. The overall renovation cost amounts to roughly 80 million euros. In the new buildings you can find 8 amphitheatres with 445 seats, 7 amphitheatres with 300 seats, 1 auditorium with 287 seats, 4 rooms with 200 seats and 2 rooms with 100 seats. In the old buildings, there are 5 rooms with 14 to 24 seats, 85 rooms with 36 to 80 seats, 11 rooms with 100 seats, and 8 rooms with 20 to 40 seats. There, 10 computer rooms with 24 seats, 7 language laboratories with 20 seats, 1 dance room and 1 combat room can also be found.

**Have a look at the nearby zoom sheets for further information!**

# FROM THE MANUFACTURE TO LA MANU

## Some further information on the renovation

The renovation project begins in 1989, anticipating the purchase of the buildings by the university for 35 million francs. In August 1991 the Urban Council of Lyon votes a 180 million francs budget for the North operation and a 270 million francs budget for the South operation. The overall budget therefore amounts to 450 million francs.

The first budget of 180 million francs is financed by three investors: the COURLY (Urban Council), the Rhône department and the State, each paying 60 million francs. The second budget of 270 million francs is mainly financed by the Rhône-Alpes region which is in charge of the project management.

During this renovation only two of the building's stairs were kept and brought up to standard in raising the ramps. The Mansart roof is also preserved. The lintels are painted in blue, and the steel mullions in grey. The poles which had helped the "sandwich" conception are visible in some classrooms but also on the street spaces. The street spaces are so called because they open both on the courtyards and on the exterior. They also connect to some classrooms and amphitheatres. They show the will to integrate the university to the city.

The theme of travel is evoked by the installation of an additional aisle to the university library which perfectly blends in with the previous buildings because of its glass façade which opens to the southern courtyard, as well as one of the sculptures in the northern courtyard, entitled "Welon", realized by artist Josef Ciesla.

On the ground level the "traboule of the library" links the two façades, the old and the new one. There, you can also find some hanged artworks by Jean-Marc Scanreigh, the works of whom were the first to be bought after the new status of French universities which allows them to purchase artworks.

The sculpture "Empreintes et Résurgences" (prints and resurrections) in homage to Jean Moulin, French resistant during World War II, also realized by Josef Ciesla, ornaments the southern courtyard. There, you can see the Montluc prison and the wall of the executed.

# FROM THE MANUFACTURE TO LA MANU

## New projects after the renovation

Several events have allowed to promote the building's value such as the "Legacy of the 20th century" label (2004-2009) and the highlighting of the exterior façades (2007-2012). The 177 meters-long façade is enhanced by the program of the lighting of public monuments by the city of Lyon. Even at night it showcases the bicolor bricks of the building and allows the passers-by to have a quick overview of the Manufacture when they enter Lyon through railway or when they go through the city.

In 2010 when the idea is mentioned to tear the headmaster's house down in order to extend the tramway line, the university, the town hall of the 8th arrondissement and the associations defending patrimony advocate against this decision. The SYTRAL (transport company of Lyon) then decides to create a new way under the house. In 2018 the former headmaster's house which belongs to the City of Lyon is purchased by the university. Both this building and the warden's house managed to survive destruction during the renovation. This Art Deco house used to contain the executive office on the ground level, the chambers of the headmaster's family on the first floor, and the staff quarters on the second floor. The house's conservation required a patrimonial renovation. The highly technical work begins in 2019 and the house has remained intact. Nowadays it hosts the "Manufactory" Incubator which offers a free assistance for students and newly graduated who wish to start a company.

A plan to improve energetic consumption is also set up. Indeed, the Jean Moulin Lyon 3 university is at the initiative of numerous upgrades to match the common concern of sustainable development. For several years, the University has committed itself to a process of energy saving and sustainable development. Various plans make this possible such as the "Plan France Relance" which aims to:

- Replace the light sources
- Install new central air-treatment units and variator pumps
- Create openings in the curtain walls
- Equip all the roofs of the new buildings with photovoltaic panels.

These upgrades allow to reduce the consumption of electricity and heating by 13% (900,000 Kwhef)

# THE MANUFACTURE, REHABILITATION OF AN INDUSTRIAL PATRIMONY

To inhabit patrimony is to preserve it

The Manufacture des Tabacs of Lyon is a successful example of a renovation which is based on the idea that to inhabit patrimony is to preserve it. The museum-like conservation is only granted to a few monuments the past and value of which are acknowledged by all. This is why the reallocation of a patrimonial building is an adequate solution to preserve it from desertion and destruction. It must take into account the past and the memory of the places and balance tradition and modernity.

To rehabilitate patrimony is also an answer to the current concerns on ecology and eco-responsibility. Instead of building new facilities, you can just reinvest abandoned places which only ask to be inhabited.

## From a fortification...

1831

Construction of the Lunette des Hirondelles

1891

Abandonment of the site of the Lunette des Hirondelles

## ... via a tobacco factory ...

1899

Ministerial decision to move the tobacco factory from Perrache to the former site of the Lunette des Hirondelles

1912

Work begins on the new factory based on plans by J. Clugnet

1932

Inauguration and commissioning of the factory

## ... to the Université Jean Moulin, Lyon III

1987

Decline in activity, the site gradually closes its doors

1990

Projet to transform the tobacco factory into a university  
The architectural studio of A. Constantin wins the architectural competition for this project

1993

Inauguration of the university site and reception of the first students

2005

Official end of the rehabilitation work, the "Manu" becomes a university

2018

Purchase and start of the renovations of the director's house



Translation : Tiéno Barbance

