VINEYARD LODGE

Architectures in Champagne
Architecture & Champagne, or how to enhance an a little known legacy of wine makers

The Champagne Region is famous for its hillsides, houses and cellars, which have been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2015 in the «Cultural Landscape» category. It offers many experiences in the heart of this wine region: visits to vineyards and remarkable villages, areas of natural beauty, long hiking trails.

The “Architecture & Champagne Summer School” is organised each year by the Châlons-en-Champagne District Council in partnership with the Ecole Nationale d’Architecture de Nancy and the Maison de l’Architecture Champagne-Ardenne to respond to the challenges of preserving, enhancing and developing the landscapes of the Champagne Region.

«Architecture & Champagne», offers a transdisciplinary programme and learning space in architecture culminating in the creation of concrete installations for municipalities and winegrowers who wish to strengthen their attractiveness.
A unique experience, a productive collaboration

The participants (students, executive architects, construction professionals) are immersed for 12 days in Châlons-en-Champagne in design and manufacturing workshops that invite them to imagine contemporary vineyard structures.

Historically, the vineyard lodge was a modest, one-room building, built in the 16th century, developed in the 19th century, used by winegrowers to shelter, feed and rest during the day. If some of them still punctuate the Champagne Region landscapes, they are mainly used during the harvest and have become landmarks for walkers.

The objective of the “Architecture & Champagne Summer School” is to reinterpret the vineyard lodges in micro-architectural structures, for current winegrowers (a meeting point, reception for customers or to offer wine tastings) and for hikers (a place to rest or have a picnic).

The 18 structures presented here were made in the workshop in Châlons-en-Champagne, during the Summer schools of 2017, 2018 and 2019, using materials from the champagne profession, supplied by the winegrowers themselves (desks, barrels, wine vats, etc.).

They are the result of a successful collaboration between multiple partners (institutions, companies, associations, individuals).

Each lodge is presented by commune, with a summary of the students’ aims at the design phase, and provides details of how to locate and access the plots on which they are located.
THE HEADLAND

Dominating the height of the hill, the lodge overlooks a magnificent panorama facing a headland (at the end of a furrow to facilitate the reversal of the plow) which continues on the winding path to the village below. The lodge symbolizes the culmination of the grape harvest, like a crown over the vines: the final parcel picked by the owners each season, an oyster tasting is traditionally organised here on the last morning of the harvest. It represents generations of a family of winemakers past and future.

After extensive research into the most appropriate construction system that would allow a wide view of the landscape, the choice was made to use a wooden framework composed solely of rafters.
At the crossroads of several roads, the lodge embodies the entrance (or exit) of the village and is erected as an invitation to take a break to admire the panorama at the hillsides beneath. Its position and circular shape enables visitors on one side to evade the sounds of the roundabout, on the other side to enjoy a panoramic view on the vineyards below the Montagne de Reims.

On the Northern side, the mannequin baskets outside compose a protective enclosure; on the Southern side, steps, seats and shelves create an accessible space to rest and talk.

The lodge is composed of wooden baskets (used during the harvest) and press lids, both objects that are part of Champagne’s wine-growing heritage.

51150 BOUZY
Municipality of Bouzy, 2018
Lieu-dit : Le Champ Rouen
49°04’28.7”N 4°08’25.9”E
THE CADRILLON

The beauty of the location and the exceptional panoramic view inspired the design of this lodge: a perimeter of landscapes so large that the eye alone cannot choose what to see. The lodge is located below the terrace of the Hotel Royal Champagne. The architectural choice is an extension of the notion of a roof, with a strong aesthetic, inspired by the geometric form of the exaggerated paraboloid. Combining the desire for shelter and the framing the landscape, this sculptural roof unfolds in several facets, playing with the light. It is decorated with light benches and designed for receptions and other tastings.

51,160 CHAMPILLON
Sophie Josseaux, 2018,
Lieu-dit : Le Malassis
49°05'19.2"N 3°58'13.8"E

This giant roof, all made of wood, looks like a life-size folding, a sort of «UFO» whose 4 feet are deployed like wings set over the valley.
The originality of the lodge in Changy is that it is a real opportunity to sleep among the rows of vines, as an extension of the guest house that the owners of the vineyard manage. The construction is a bed marrying the slope that offers the tourist a unique moment of relaxation. The desks that were used for the creation the ‘starlit bed’, are arranged to reproduce shutters, still allowing an incredible view of the leaves and the sky. The lodge also serves as a pretext for an introduction to the profession of winegrower, led by the winemaker himself.

The desks serve as openwork wall sections and are articulated to create pierced windows and thus permit the visitor to appreciate the visible areas of sky.

51300 CHANGY
Champagne Menu-Jacquier, 2017
To visit: jpmenu@landrovigne.com
48°47’11.8”N 4°41’08.3”E
Between golden waves and green horizons, the lodge appears in the distance, after the press. Situated on the flank of a hillside, at the foot of a wide green expanse, that is punctuated by the weave of the vineyard, it consists of three sloping sections, guiding the gaze on the vineyard: a floor, a roof and a wall. The red wall, painted with the emblematic colour of the Company, is presented to passers-by and visitors, arousing their curiosity. Arrived in the lodge, they immerge in the vineyards and admire the relief unfolding before them, in a simple, airy, refined, even elegant architecture.

The totally red vertical plane acts as a signal in the landscape: painted according to an all-natural recipe, it magnifies the lodge with its light play and represents the link with the Company.

51390 COURMAS
Champagne Piper-Heidsieck, 2019,
Lieu dit : Les Carreaux, route de Bouilly

49°11’39.6”N 3°54’10.3”E
The forest comes in the background to draw a horizontal line responding to the sinuosity of the Marne River at the bottom of the valley. The lodge is a nod to the village’s past activities that were once related to fishing. A sinuous opening looking like the water of the river cuts a simple volume placed in the heart of the vines. The main façade consists of oak staves tied together by ropes, attached to a portico structure on the frame of the vines. The race of the sun all day long draws shadows overlooking a bar and its inside benches, protecting the visitor from the heat.

The staves (wooden parts from the barrels, hence their rounded shape) were set like a curtain, so as to give the impression that they were woven.
On a plot of 10m², in the middle of a 30% slope, the lodge faces the Marne River, almost suspended, and offers various views.

A corridor perpendicular to the slope provides access to several secluded areas. Each space provides different seating possibilities (sitting, inclined, sitting up) with specific views: a view of the village, a view of the vineyards, a river view.

The plot offers the opportunity to discover several grape varieties of the champagne house and the vines gradually invade, over the years, the lodge that was installed in July 2017.

51480 CUMIÈRES
Champagne Joseph Perrier, 2017
Lieu-dit : La Côte à Bras
49°04’29.2”N 3°56’16.4”E
THE SHELL

To discover the lodge, you have to follow L’Huis, one of the many hamlets of Le Breuil, walk through the village, follow the alleys and suddenly, you will discover the vineyards on one side and the green crown of the river, on the other side. The plot is located on a plateau overlooking the Surmelin River and offers a bird’s eye view of the end of the Marne Valley. The roof of the box is composed of slates, materials provided by the winemaker, that gives it a shell shape emerging from the vines. It springs from the ground, in scales and curves cleverly designed to welcome visitors.

Before taking the name «The Shell», the lodge was conceived by the students as an «origami» installed above the hill.

51210 LE BREUIL
Champagne Maxime Toubart, 2018
Lieu-dit : Les Bourgognes
48°59’11.7”N 3°38’25.0”E
The name of the lodge refers to the sloping of the plot, so characteristic of the terroirs of the Aube Department. Moreover, the lines of the roof extend harmoniously the rows of vines. The lodge looks like a small cabin and has a terrace that literally faces the vineyards. Inside, as in a small dark box in which you enter through a narrow door provided for a person, you can sit in the shadow. The grower has equipped the lodge with a table and chairs ensuring a friendly welcome.

**10340 LES RICEYS**
Champagne Guyard-Lamoureux, 2017
Lieu-dit : Tronchois
48°00’05.9”N 4°20’35.6”E

The wooden structure, clad with desks, appears here as a translation of the cadoles, initially built of stones, which are still found in the vicinity of the lodge.
The lodge-table was designed in response to the desire of 13 winemakers to collectively carry the identity of their village.

A symbol of conviviality, reminiscent of old banquets, it dominates the open-air houses and surrounding vineyards by leaning against the forest. It is a frame structure that allows to carry the benches and the table and to support a grape vine. Due to its linearity and the orientation of the wooden boards, the construction evokes the movement, in an impetus towards the valley.

Entirely made of wood, the table is 10m long and is decorated to welcome visitors in the best conditions.
The eponymous lodge only calls for a few wooden materials, except for the interior seats. It consists of several luminous “metallic bubbles” that can be seen from afar when you arrive from the village, bringing to mind plaster sculptures emerging from the ground. Portions of champagne wine vats, cut in different sizes, distributed so as to form small open air lounges, you can sit alone or in company, surrounded by vineyards, with the church of Chavot in the distance on its promontory.

**THE ‘PINARD’ BOX**

No less than 4 wine tanks were necessary for the construction of this lodge, which was scattered over a levelled ground, and that was built in a later phase.

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**51530 MOUSSEY**
Association of Moussy winegrowers, 2018
Lieu-dit : Loge Pinard

49°01'24.3"N 3°55'15.7"E
La Marronnière is an appellation whose origin remains unknown. Is it a chestnut tree planted here before, or a place where the southerners come whisper?

The passer-by first discovers a beautiful walnut that casts its shadow on the grass. While progressing, the silhouette of the lodge is outlined at the foot of the tree. The contrast between the two cleared landscapes is remarkable: on one side, nearby, the vines; on the other side, the hillsides of Sézanne planted with vineyards and orchards. The lodge, made of recycled pallet planks, tainted with walnut husks, makes a shelter for hikers and offers a multitude of possibilities to lie down, to sit out of the sun. Inside, a few steps permit to go higher and discover a hidden hamlet in the distance.

51120 SAUDOY
Section Locale du Syndicat Général de Vignerons de Saudoy, 2019, Lieu-dit : le Clos
48°41’08.8”N 3°42’31.9”E
PIERRE'S LODGE

The site of implantation is remarkable: the panorama deploys over 30km, whatever the chosen position, and offers an incredible view of the various types of cultures of the Champagne Region: vineyards on the slopes, fields in the plain. In the past, there already was a lodge on this site, a trace of the the owners’ family past of; the new lodge thus relies on the foundations and walls of the old building. A wooden structure, it looks like an elongated watchtower and offers an exceptional view from the inside. Totally open, it will soon be surrounded by shrub plantations.

The materials display a clever mix of new and reclaimed wood that allows the play of light and shadow.
At the heart of the Regional Natural Park of the Montagne de Reims, the trail of vine boxes starts from the village centre and leads visitors on a loop of 5 km in the middle of vineyards. This initiatory path passes through 6 historical lodges and is punctuated by educational panels on the history of winemaking. Integrated in the course, the lodge installed in 2018 by the students, is a real little cabin, perched on a mound of land, supported by piles. Made of deconstructed desks and wooden pallets, it clings to the hillock and seems to float over the vines.

This lodge was 70% financed by the CMMA of Châlons-en-Champagne, whose ambition is to contribute to the enhancement of the heritage of Champagne.

51380 TRÉPAIL
Champagne
Claude Beaufort et fils, 2018
Lieu-dit : Les Melines
49°06’28.5”N 4°11’24.8”E

Claude Beaufort et fils, 2018
Lieu-dit : Les Melines
FRAME OF VINE

The lodge is located in the Aube Department, on a multishaped landscape site: vineyards, fields, pastures, forests rub shoulders as a harmonious composition. It was conceived with the intention of offering the visitor a framework for the various landscapes: like a camera lens, it acts as a mean of focusing, enlarging or widening the field of vision. It is a monolithic block, perforated with the help of the desks recovered and transformed, diverted to become walls and floors. It opens and closes according to the visitors’ desire.

10200 URVILLE
Champagne Drappier, 2017
Lieu-dit : Le Cornouiller
48°10’12.1"N 4°40’10.6"E

In 2017, a swing was installed in the box, inspired by the robustness of the box and with the desire to introduce movement.
The Vineyard hills are young vineyards compared to other historic Champagne areas. This is why the lodge on the top of a hill, which opens onto a cereal plain, had to be different. The structure, white as chalk, glittering during the day, is entirely composed of windows and doors resulting from the recovery of buildings from Vitry. Each window operates as a singular point of view, with a different angle. The box forms a small transparent cube open to 360° and allows unprecedented perspectives with the village in the background.

The glass windows are illuminated at night, under the effect of the moon, and resonate with winegrowers’ initiatives such as night grape harvests.

51330 VANAULT-LE-CHÂTEL
Champagne Trepo Lériquier, 2017
Lieu-dit : Laubarmont

48°51’48.9”N 4°44’21.1”E
Before the definitive name, the students who designed this lodge had other ideas, like «hive lodge», «tree lodge» or «evolution lodge».

Historically, the riddling of champagne bottles was meticulously done by hand. Since the 1970s, the Gyropalette has appeared and this bass drum of metal, containing up to 500 bottles, is often visible in the courses of the vinegrowers. Several of these metal boxes were collected, assembled and stacked to form a guard tower, erected like a sculpture, in a hollow site, between the vineyards. The structure may seem severe, but it is decorated with typical elements of Champagne, vines, bottles, stones, while maintaining transparency with the landscape.
A half-lightning, oak beams and pieces of sandstone compose the pile of recovered materials and the first inspiring elements for the design. From the beginning, the first sketches revolve around the egg, the cocoon and the sphere, reminiscent of the terracotta amphora, used in ancient times to vinify part of the Copinet champagne. In the final project, one comes to sit in this very big overturned barrel, which opens towards the vast landscape and orients the view towards the vines.

In this cocoon, one settles in two in a caulked and intimate environment, the “hut” spirit expected by the sponsor. But the terrace expands Lightning’s space, and allows to welcome more people.

**10370 VILLENAUXE-LA-GRANDE**
Champagne Copinet, 2019, Lieu-dit : La Fayte
48°35’37.3”N 3°32’24.8”E

Lightning is a large capacity barrel, which was used for the storage of alcohols, particularly in Champagne.
This lodge, located in downtown Châlons-en-Champagne, looking like a pavilion, is not like the other lodges produced during the summer schools. It marks both the starting and the end point of each “Architecture & Champagne” edition: thus, it leaves a lasting trace of the workshops that take place only during the summer, and it exposes annually the achievements of the students of past year. Its design is directly inspired by the champagne symbolism: the wooden base is made of aligned planks reminiscent of vine rows and the organization of plots, the arches while the wooden desks highlight the method of vinification champenoise.

The lodge house is equipped with metal plaques on which are inscribed the names of the first 8 villages hosting the 2017 vineyard loges.

51000 CHÂLONS-EN-CHAMPAGNE
Cloister gardens of Notre-Dame-en-Vaux
5, rue Nicolas Durand
48°57'27.103"N 4°22'0.627"E
1. Lodge “The Headland” in Barbonne-Fayel
2. Lodge “The Totem” in Bouzy
3. Lodge “The Cadrillon” in Champillon
4. Lodge “Vine’s bed” in Changy
5. Lodge “Agathe” in Courmas
6. Lodge “Vine’s foam” in Cumières
7. Lodge “The Comb” in Cumières
8. Lodge “The Snail” in le Breuil
9. Lodge “37%” in Les Riceys
10. Lodge “The Table” in Moussy
11. Lodge “The “Pinard” Box” in Moussy
12. Lodge “The Marronnière” in Saudoy
13. Lodge “Pierre’s Lodge” in Tours-Sur-Marne
14. Lodge “Echo” in Trépail
15. Lodge “Frame of Vine” in Urville
16. Lodge “Window of Champagne” in Vanault-le-Château
17. Lodge “Vine’s Eleagation” in Verzenay
18. Lodge “The Lightning” in Villenauxe-la-Grande

M. The lodges house in Châlons-en-Champagne

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About the tasting proposals and visits to the vineyard lodge: chalons-tourisme.com

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