VICTOR HORTA

Victor Horta was born in Ghent in 1861. This very famous architect imagined houses in a style we call « Art Nouveau ». Outside but also inside these houses, Victor Horta wants the colors and shapes to complete each other in a very homogeneous way. We thus speak about « total art ». This means that everything inside the house, the furniture, the lamps, the doorknobs, the colors on the walls, the fabrics and the wallpapers must be in harmony with each other.

THE AUTRIQUE HOUSE

During the visit, you will be able to see numerous wallpapers and fabrics. An intruder snuck in amongst the four images below, keep your eyes open and find out which of those patterns is not in the house!
Welcome to the Autrique House!
This booklet will follow you all along the exhibition, it contains some explanations as well as some games, related to what you will see. At the end of the booklet, you will find a map to know where you are in the house, at any time. Enjoy your visit!

Horta Houses

In this exhibition, we talk a lot about the houses Victor Horta built in Brussels. Have a look at the dates, will you be able to put the houses back on the timeline?

- Frison House (1894)
- Hôtel Winssinger (1894)
- Hôtel Tassel (1893)
- Victor Horta’s private house and studio (1898)
- Autrique House (1893)
- Hôtel Solvay (1895)
- Hôtel Max Hallet (1902)

Wallpapers: Printing Techniques

At the beginning of the 20th century, there are lots of different techniques to print wallpapers. Some of them industrial, some others more artisanal, like this one. This printing technique requires a plank. Using this model, put the following words at the right place!

Etched plank
Color tray
Lever
Printed paper
THE MATERIALS

To decorate the walls, Victor Horta used fabrics, wallpapers and lincrusta. The lincrusta was invented in 1877 by Frederic Walton. It is an embossed surface for walls, made with paper, linnen oil and wood flour.

Looking at the patterns, find the examples in the house and put them in the correspond category (fabric - wallpaper - lincrusta).

THE INSPIRATION

The artists who produce Art Nouveau wallpapers find inspiration in the nature.

Connect the wallpaper pattern with the good flower.

MAP OF THE HOUSE
MATERIAL EVIDENCES

Knowing what the walls of a house looked like 100 years ago is quite hard. Sometimes, black and white photos will help the specialists. When it is possible, they look for small fragments under the new wallpapers layers.

The Autrique House kept several examples of those researches. Could you find them in the library?

THE BINDINGS

Have a look at the Art Nouveau models in the vitrine and make up your own book cover.