

# PRESS KIT

Grand re-opening of the Musée  
**Toulouse-Lautrec**

Its **new** modern **interior** befits  
a major **regional** museum

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musée  
TOULOUSE-LAUTREC  
ALBI-TARN







# Contents

<b>Grand re-opening of the Musée Toulouse-Lautrec</b>	<b>page5</b>
<b>A world-exclusive collection on a World Heritage site</b>	<b>page7</b>
<b>Purpose of the renovations</b>	<b>page11</b>
<b>The new layout of the Musée Toulouse-Lautrec</b>	<b>page25</b>
<b>A modern art collection reflecting the Museum's history</b>	<b>page29</b>
<b>The Episcopal Palace</b>	<b>page37</b>
<b>An internationally renowned documentation centre on Toulouse-Lautrec</b>	<b>page40</b>
<b>Floor plan</b>	<b>page42</b>





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# Musée Toulouse-Lautrec: grand re-opening

## Its new modern interior befits a major regional museum

*In the spring of 2012, the renovated Musée Toulouse-Lautrec will open its doors after a complete metamorphosis involving over ten years of renovations to:*

- give the Museum a major face-lift;
- create resolutely contemporary spaces;
- renovate the old galleries; and
- give each piece of art the space and light it deserves.

**From 19 December 2011 to the end of March 2012**  
the Museum will be closed to install its collections  
and arrange the new interior.

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**Save the date: Spring 2012**  
for the grand re-opening and presentation of the new Museum visit

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## A world-exclusive collection on a World Heritage site

Located at the heart of the historic city centre, on a World Heritage site, the Berbie Palace and Sainte-Cécile Cathedral form one of the best preserved episcopal ensembles in France. The sheer bulk of the Palace overlooking the banks of the Tarn attests to the power of the Albi bishops that built it in the thirteenth century.

This fortress became the unlikely setting of the Musée Toulouse-Lautrec in 1922. Thanks to the donation of the Count and Countess de Toulouse-Lautrec, and on the advice of the painter's cousin, Gabriel Tapié de Céleyran, and his faithful friend, Maurice Joyant, the Albi Museum came to hold the world's largest public collection focusing on the famous painter born in that city. Over one thousand works – paintings, lithographies and drawings – alongside all the posters produced by Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec are a remarkable illustration of each of the many talents of this innovative artist.

Adding to this outstanding collection, the Museum also houses a modern art collection, offering a coherent overview of the late nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century.

The Musée Toulouse-Lautrec, or "mTL", has helped put Albi's name on the map. With some 160,000 visitors flocking there each year from around the world, it has become one of the leading museums outside of Paris.





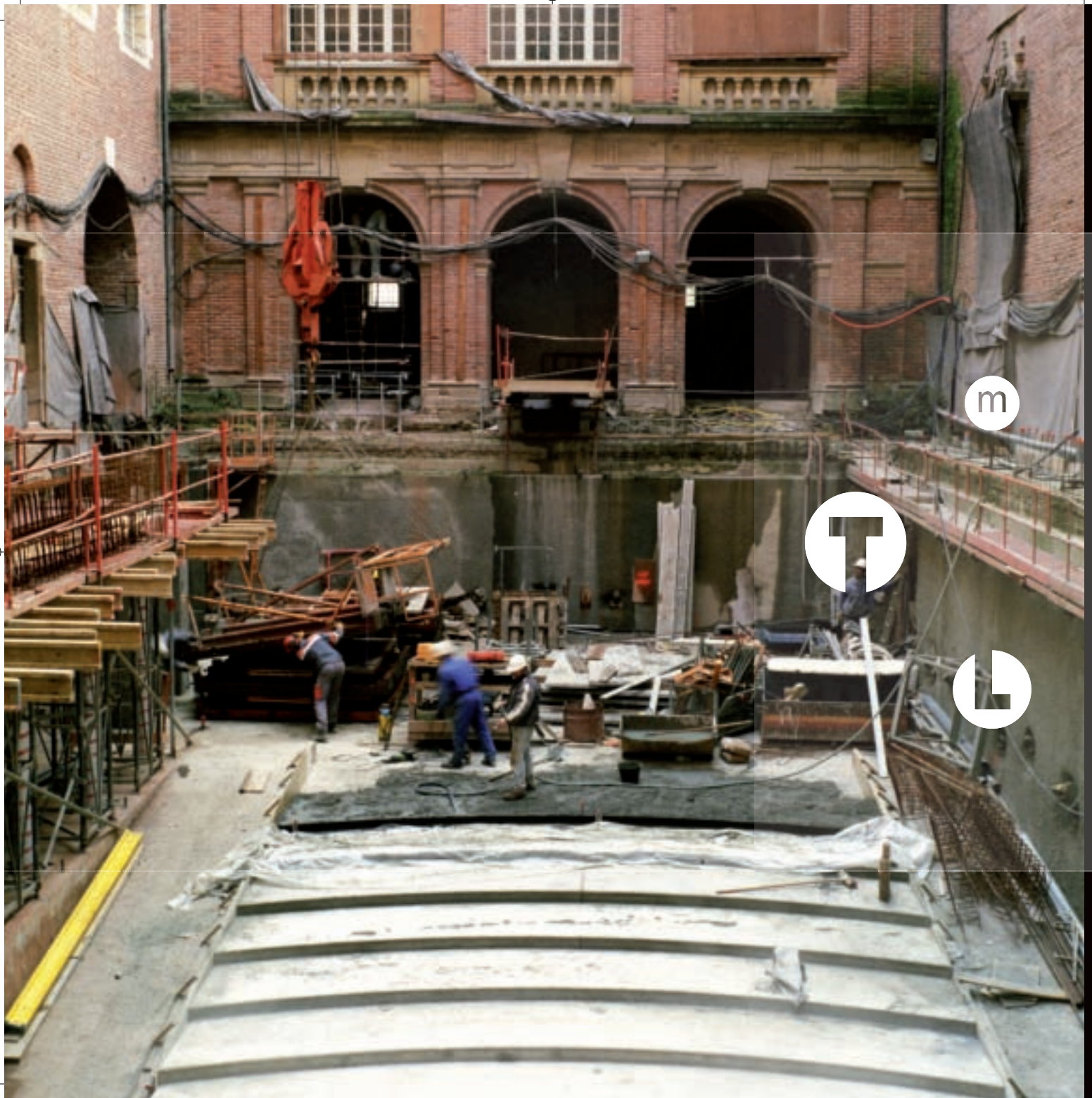




**Monsieur Maurice Joyant, HTL (1900)**  
Musée Toulouse-Lautrec-Albi, Tarn, France



**Le Docteur Tapié de Celeyran, HTL (1894)**  
Musée Toulouse-Lautrec-Albi, Tarn, France



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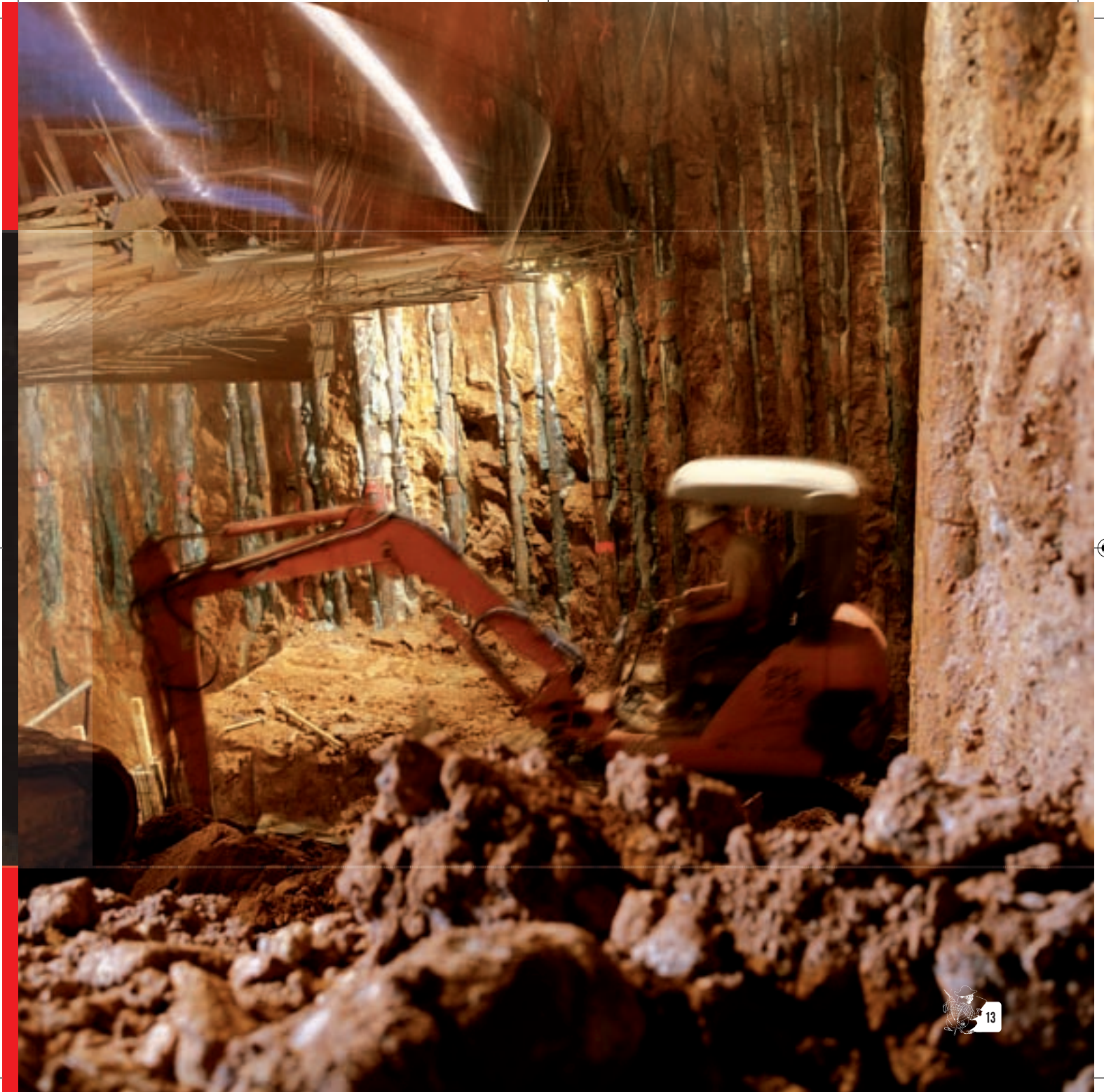
## Purpose of the renovations

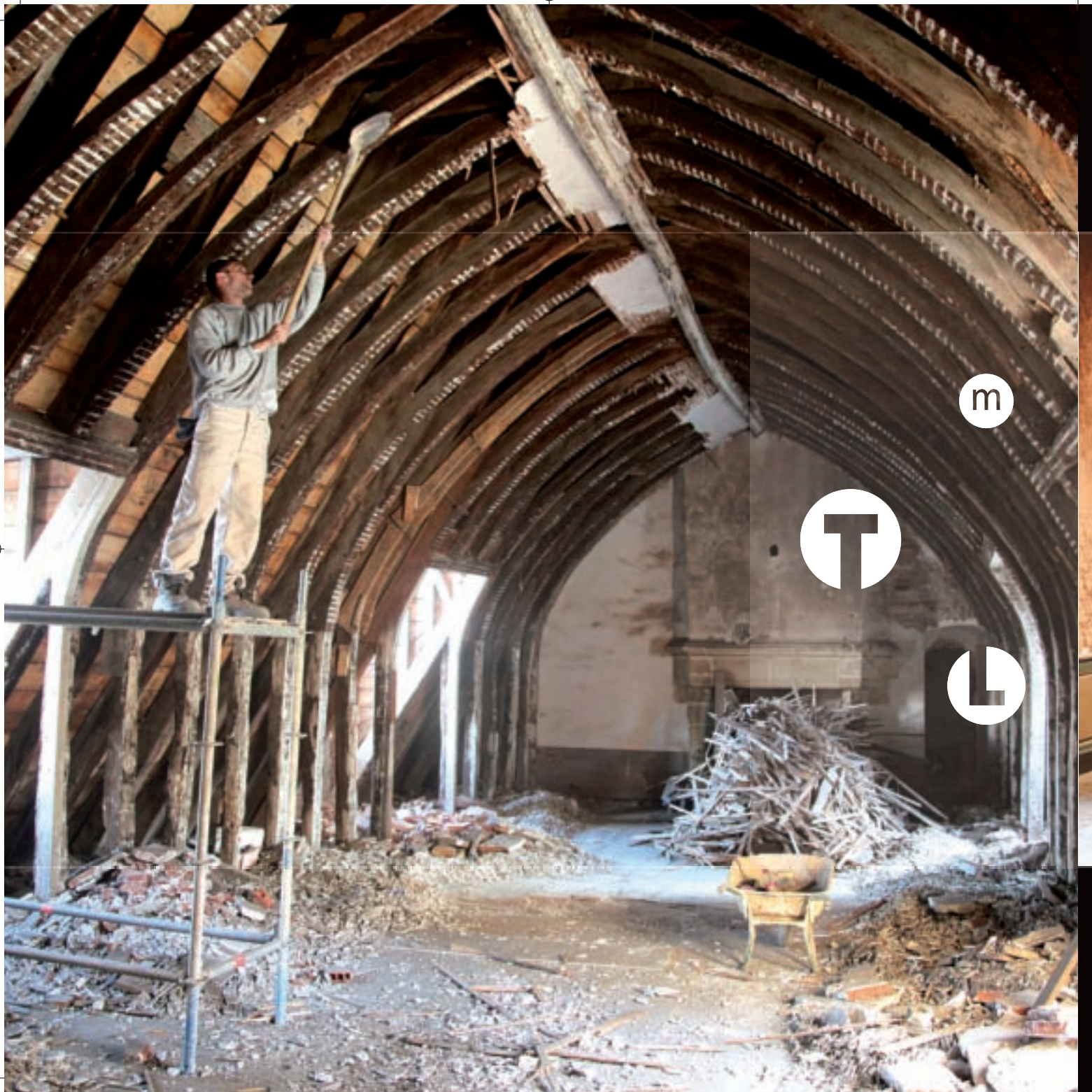
At the dawn of the twenty-first century, the Musée Toulouse-Lautrec facilities were no longer able to deliver contemporary museum services in terms of conservation, displays or museum activities. In 2001, ambitious renovations were undertaken with two major goals:

- to confirm the establishment's position as one of today's great contemporary museums; and
- to highlight the outstanding nature of the ancient built heritage and the site as a whole.

After ten years of extension and restoration, Spring 2012 will see the long-awaited event as the collections are once again hung in the galleries which have been refurbished and redistributed by architectural firm Dubois et Associés and by Patrice Calvel, Chief Architect of the French centre for historical monuments.







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**Thanks to these renovations, the Museum now offers:**

- a new approach to the collections through an informative tour and a clear, elegant museum layout
- improved cultural and research resources with its new:
  - 156-seat auditorium built into the Cour d'Honneur
  - 470 sq.m of galleries for temporary exhibits under the Cour de Bernis
  - a workshop gallery
  - a large documentation centre
- improved visitor reception and services for the public with the boutique, cloakroom and large lobby in the Choiseul gallery
- two elevators so that all our visitors enjoy improved access to the entire museum
- optimal shipping and receiving, heightened security and museum-quality storerooms for works not on display

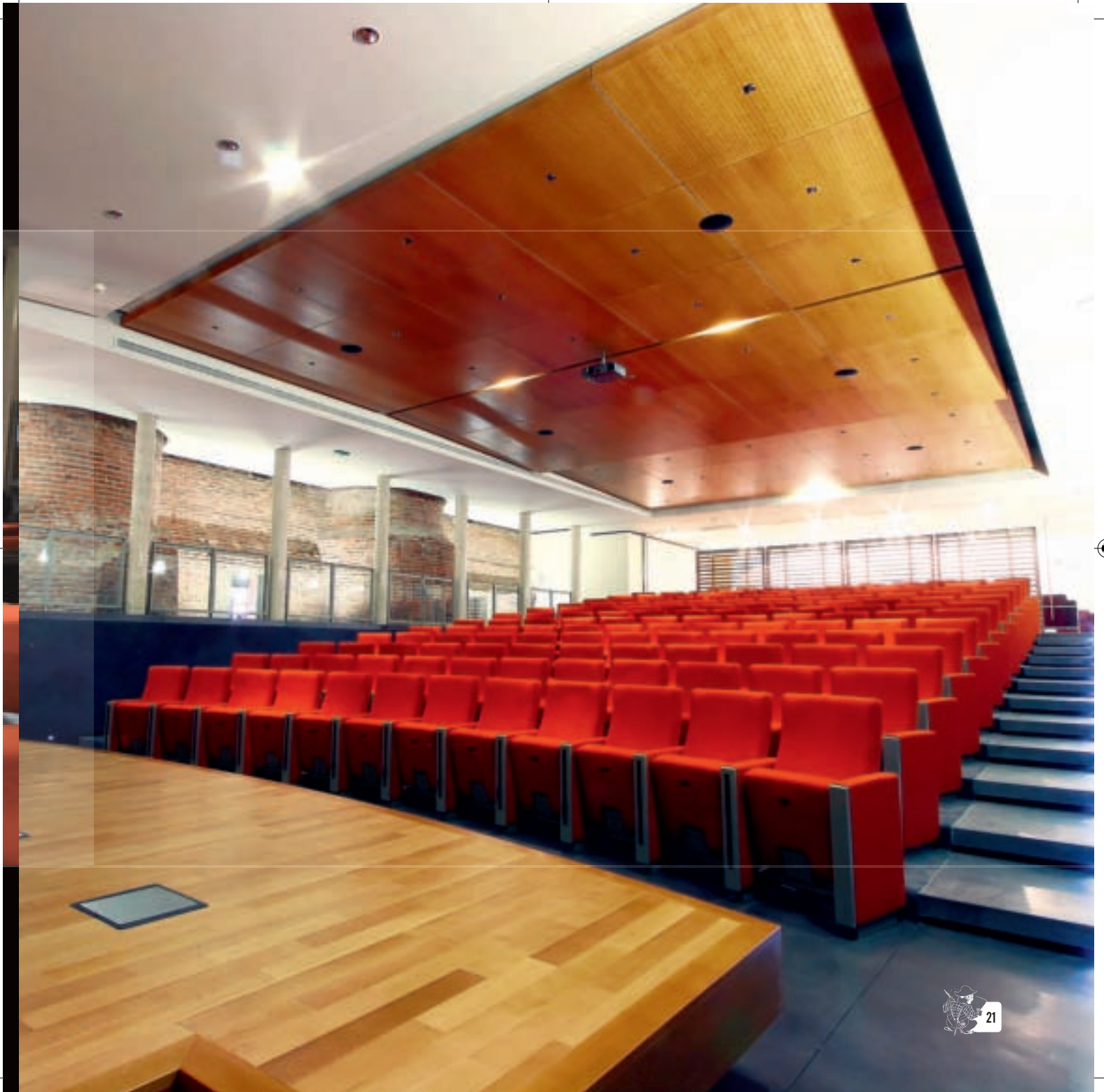


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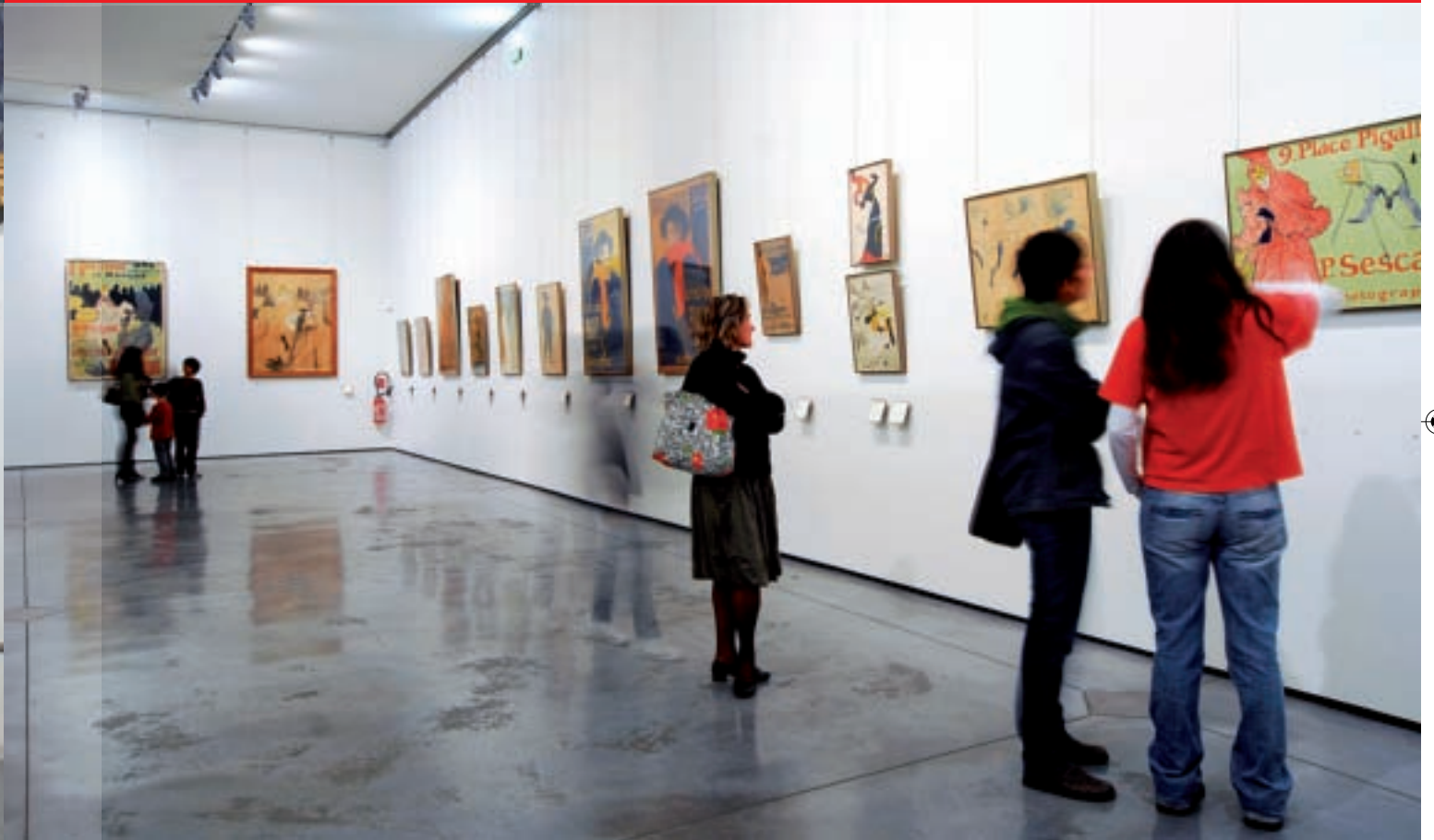














Portrait de Toulouse-Lautrec, E. Vuillard (1898)  
Musée Toulouse-Lautrec-Albi, Tarn, France

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**La comtesse Adèle de Toulouse-Lautrec, HTL (1881)**  
Musée Toulouse-Lautrec-Albi, Tarn, France



**Le comte Alphonse de Toulouse-Lautrec, HTL (1881)**  
Musée Toulouse-Lautrec-Albi, Tarn, France





## The new layout of Musée Toulouse-Lautrec

### Toulouse-Lautrec: one man's work, one man's museum

The Musée Toulouse-Lautrec holds the world's largest public collection of works by the famous Albi-born painter of the same name. It provides a fascinating, coherent overview of the many talents of this innovative artist.

**The visit dedicated to Toulouse-Lautrec is spread out over two floors:**

- **a chronological discovery** of his work from early paintings of horses and landscapes of the family property at Céleyran to sketches illustrating his progression from his student days to his late works.
- **a thematic approach :**
  - *portraits*: his mother, Countess Adèle de Toulouse-Lautrec; his friend Maurice Joy; his close friends and family. All highlight the painter's ability to reflect the soul in a person's face.
  - *brothels*: that feminine world where Lautrec captured the attitudes and rituals of day-to-day life, unaffected and behind closed doors. His major work, *Au Salon de la rue des Moulins* (1894) is the culmination of his work on prostitution.
  - *Paris night-life and its stars*: Yvette Guilbert, Jane Avril, dancers and theatre actors.

**Au Salon de la Rue des Moulins, HTL (1894)**  
Musée Toulouse-Lautrec-Albi, Tarn, France





- **an examination of his gifts as a colourist** highlighted by the museum's understated but refined layout that shows the works to their best effect. Visitors can appreciate the sumptuous, vibrant colours of *L'Anglaise du Star*; the intense reds and greens of the *Portrait of Gabriel Tapié de Céleyran*, the painter's first cousin; the chiaroscuro of *La Modiste*; and the painter's nervous, elegant arabesque brushstroke.
- **an analysis of his lithographic technique and creative process**, with the presentation of all 31 posters made by Toulouse-Lautrec under one roof for the first time, along with studies, sketches and first editions. There is also a selection of frequently changed lithographies, some of which are exhibited with their lithographic stones.

This leading collection is also enhanced by recent acquisitions made with the support of the regional fund for museum acquisitions (FRAM) and the patronage and donations of the museum's members. Yet another drawing point for our visitors.





## A modern art collection reflecting the Museum's history

During the 1930s, the Musée Toulouse-Lautrec took up the leading challenge of its time for the French arts scene: public collections embracing modern art.

While there was talk of creating a museum of modern art in Paris, other initiatives outside the French capital started to see the light of day. One of these was the Musée Toulouse-Lautrec, which sought to present the artist's life and times and to flesh out the museum visit with exhibits from contemporary artists.

Thanks to donations or purchases made by the French government with a view to entrusting them to Albi, the Museum benefited from the friendly ties that existed between Lautrec and the artistic milieu he mixed with to exhibit:

- **a panorama of artistic movements that were contemporary with Lautrec**, such as synthetism (P. Gauguin, E. Bernard) and *Les Nabis* (M. Denis, P. Bonnard, A. Vuillard, F. Vallotton). There are also works by artists that inspired him (J-L. Forain, E. Degas) and by fellow artists that knew him during his apprenticeship under Fernand Cormon (H. Rachou, E. Gauzi, L. Anquetin, S. Valadon).
- **an exceptional two-year loan of works from the Musée d'Orsay** to celebrate the re-opening of the Albi museum. The section will thus be enriched by a few major paintings.









- works by the most famous painters of Toulouse-Lautrec's day (H. Matisse, A. Marquet, R. Dufy, K. Van Dongen), and renowned sculptors (Bourdelle, Maillol, Despiau).
- a significant group of artists whose art reflected their times and who were recognised by the cultural and artistic milieu of their day, namely, the "Poetic Reality" painters (M. Brianchon, J. Cavallès, R. Legueult, R. Limouse, R. Oudot, C. Terechkovitch) who defended art in the French tradition, and to whom we might add the sculptor P. Belmondo.

An entire floor is dedicated to this remarkable collection which complements the Toulouse-Lautrec collection. Visitors thus enjoy a fresh, informative introduction to the art of the first half of the twentieth century.

**Intérieur à Ciboure, H. Matisse (1940)**  
Musée Toulouse-Lautrec-Albi, Tarn, France





Lobby of the Musée Toulouse-Lautrec

Workshop gallery







# The Episcopal Palace

## A closer look at its architecture

The Museum renovations required work on the built environment of the Berbie Palace. Several major archeological finds were unearthed, shedding light on the area's legacy. The public will be able to view these finds:

- *In the Saint-Michel dungeon:*

**A late-thirteenth century pavement** was found under a layer of backfill under the existing floors. The enamelled tiles are laid in two square registers. The largest panel is surrounded by figured tiles inlaid with a castille motif (castle with three towers) and the Toulouse Cross. Despite the wear to its surface, the pavement's considerable size (90 sq.m) and the conservation in its original layout speak to the monument's original grandeur.

- **Ruins of mural paintings from successive eras were also uncovered.**

This huge assembly hall will be visible in its original condition. It will be shown as an outstanding archeological example of a presence chamber in the palatial architecture of the thirteenth century.



- *In an interpretation area:*

Visitors will discover the **archeological finds**, ancient artifacts of carpentry or decoration unearthed, as well as objects and documents concerning enamelled terra cotta tiles from thirteenth-century southern France. There will also be displays on a **general study of the Palace and its architectural evolution**, as well as the history of the bishops, using scaled models and pictures on an interactive terminal.

- *In a gallery dedicated to the Episcopal City:*

Visitors will enjoy a presentation on the building material that characterises the city of Albi: a special terra cotta brick known as brique foraine. They will also learn about the city's history from the Middle Ages to our day, and the topography of the Episcopal

## An internationally renowned documentation centre on Toulouse-Lautrec

The Museum's documentary resource centre will now be housed on the fourth floor in the Curator's offices. This large hall still retains a fireplace and panelled vaulted ceiling from the time of Louis d'Amboise (1474-1503). The centre intends to firmly establish its place as the prime international reference on Henri Toulouse-Lautrec for art historians seeking a vast font of critical information on the painter. In publicising and promoting the documentary collection, the Musée Toulouse-Lautrec intends to reinforce its role as a cultural mediator; encourage and facilitate research; and develop joint activities with internationally-recognised museums.

The centre has a large reading room ready to welcome, by appointment, school-children, high school and university students, teachers, professors, seminar speakers, librarians, art historians, researchers, curators, journalists, art-lovers and amateurs.

### **The collection will be organised into several sections:**

- a library with a treasure trove of 2,800 publications
- specific research documentation comprising artwork files and artist files on the Museum's collections of Toulouse-Lautrec, ancient, modern and contemporary art, as well as the history of the Berbie Palace
- research archives on exhibits organised since 1988
- a digital inventory and digital recording of the collections
- teaching resources for teachers and classes



### **Library**

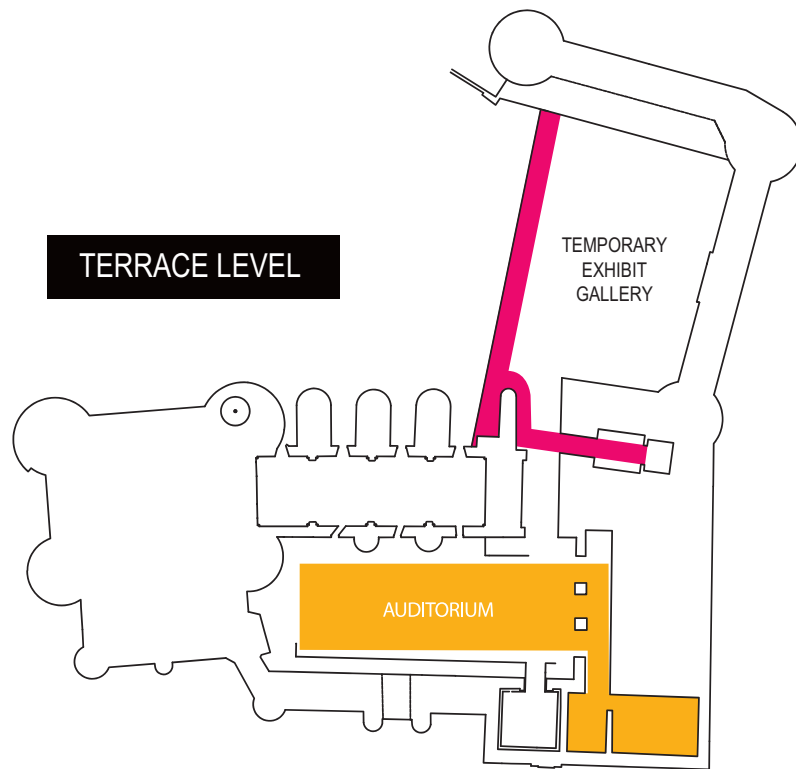
The collection mirrors the artwork conserved at the Musée Toulouse-Lautrec. It offers an overview of art from the sixteenth century down to contemporary art, with a greater emphasis on the nineteenth- and twentieth-century collections. It has catalogues both from exhibits on Toulouse-Lautrec and his artist contemporaries, as well as from the permanent collections of French and foreign museums. It also houses works ranging from broad overviews to in-depth analyses of various topics.

Visitors can also read about current artistic trends in the French and foreign exhibit catalogues and the art magazines on file.

### **Photo archive**

Reproductions of the artwork conserved at the Musée Toulouse-Lautrec, as well as images of the Berbie Palace and the museum galleries, may be obtained from the photo archive in charge of distributing and managing art reproductions for exhibits, catalogues, research, marketing or sales.

# Floor plans

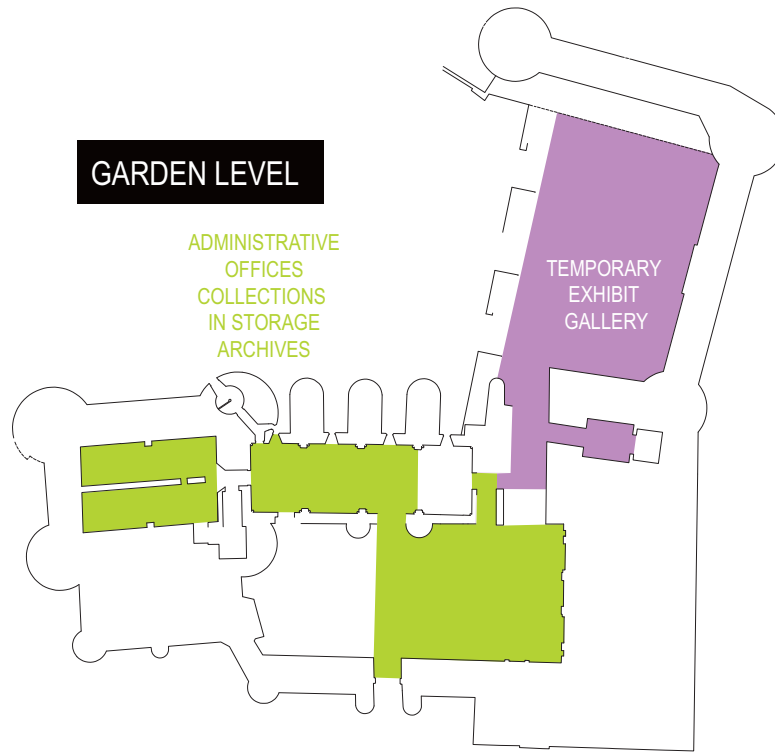




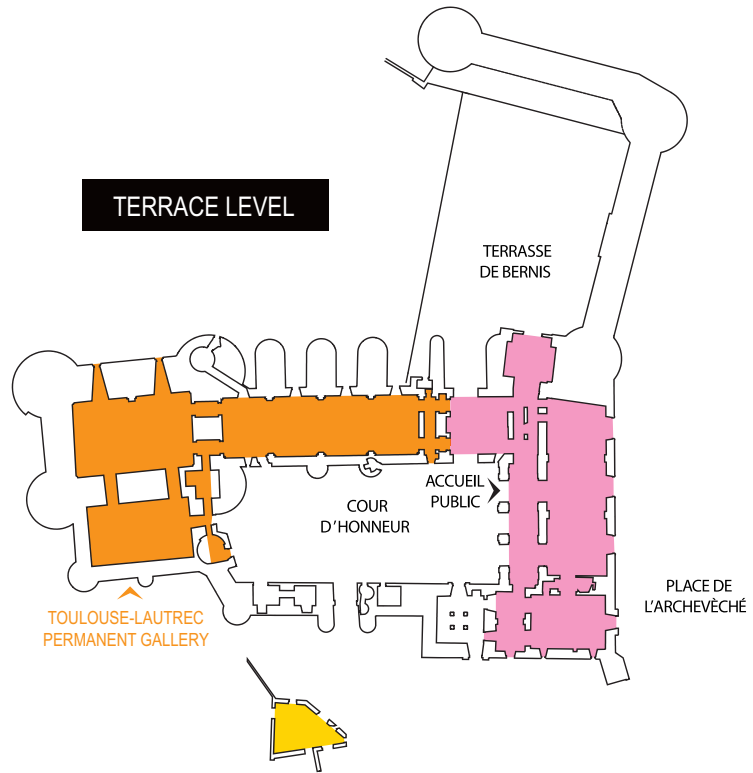
**GARDEN LEVEL**

ADMINISTRATIVE  
OFFICES  
COLLECTIONS  
IN STORAGE  
ARCHIVES

TEMPORARY  
EXHIBIT  
GALLERY

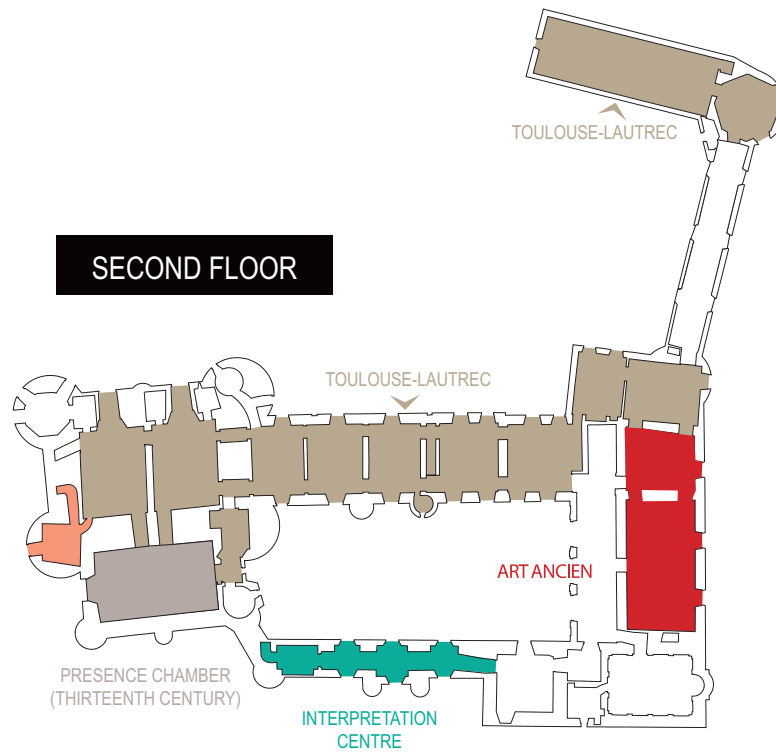


# Floor plans





## SECOND FLOOR



# Floor plans

THIRD FLOOR

