



Passy is home to some of the finest historic and artistic achievements, in an impressive mountain setting on the sunny slopes of the Fiz Mountains opposite Mont-Blanc.

This rich and diverse heritage gives Passy a very special role: **TOURISM WITH A CULTURAL FOCUS.**

PLATEAU D'ASSY

CULTURAL DESTINATION

Against the backdrop of the Fiz mountains, the high plateaux of Passy have been home to one of the major health resorts of Europe. They have witnessed a number of revolutions in the fields of:

- **MODERN ARCHITECTURE,**
- **MODERN ART,**
- **CONTEMPORARY SCULPTURE.**



MODERN ARCHITECTURE

Exceptional modern architecture in the service of health (1926-1937)

Now converted into medical centres, holiday villages or apartments, the former sanatoriums are an example of the brilliance of 20th century architecture, bringing a new style without artifice. Open to the air, to light and to their natural surroundings, they had a marked influence on domestic architecture.

Whether built in chalet style (Praz-Coutant), or to a compact (Martel de Janville, Le Mont-Blanc, Sancellemoz) or more open design (Guébriant), they all utilised new construction techniques and new materials - reinforced concrete, linoleum and stoneware - in the fulfilment of their functions.

At the time, this style of architecture was widely covered in the international press and is once more attracting attention: Three buildings have been awarded the "20th Century Heritage" label: Praz-Coutant, Guébriant and Martel de Janville, the latter awarded Historical Monument status.



*Martel de Janville,
P. Abraham, H.J. Le Mème,
architects*

CHURCH OF NOTRE-DAME-DE-TOUTE-GRÂCE

The cornerstone of the sacred art revival of the 20th century (Historical Monument, 20th Century Heritage Label)

The church of Plateau d'Assy was the work of Canon **JEAN DEVÉMY**. It was built by the architect **MAURICE NOVARINA**, starting in 1938, and was consecrated in 1950. The building echoes the traditional type of construction solidly anchored in the ground and the bell tower that **NOVARINA** placed to one side draws the eye to the summits of the Fiz mountains.

The large colourful mosaic on the façade, designed by Fernand Léger, hints at the exceptional décor of the interior. Canon Devémy, advised by his friend, the Dominican priest **FATHER M.A. COUTURIER**, revived the tradition of the church's support for living artists. He commissioned some of the greatest modern artists, without regard to their religious beliefs or political ideology, to contribute their genius. Bible stories and Christian history have been illustrated using a variety of techniques by: **ROUAULT, BAZAINE, BONY, BRIANCHON, COUTURIER, HÉBERT-STEVENS, HURÉ** for the stained glass windows, **BONNARD, CHAGALL, LÉGER** and **Matisse** for the murals, **BRAQUE, RICHIER, LIPCHITZ** and **SIGNORI** for the sculptures. Young patients or their relatives, **KIJNO, MARY** and **STRAVINSKY**, were also fortunate enough to participate in this adventure.

THIS IS WHAT IS CALLED THE "LESSON OF ASSY".

Church for the sick communicating with heaven, Notre Dame-de-Toute-Grâce became a part of the history of art even before it was consecrated.

Cultural information: Tel. Presbytery: 04 50 58 80 61



*Notre-Dame-de-Toute-Grâce,
M. Novarina, architect*



Le Jardin des Cimes

Also, on the Plateau d'Assy:

- **LE JARDIN DES CIMES:** a unique natural and cultural spot in which to explore the alpine environment and vegetable gardens of the world.
- **SPA HOUSES, VARIED PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HOUSING, PROTESTANT CHURCH,** built by the architect M. Bouvier (1950)



CHEDDE & MARLIOZ



Presentation at the Temple, R. Lardeur

In 1896, Chedde's electro-metallurgy factory transformed the rural hamlet into an industrial town. Today the company, sold to the German group SGL Carbon in 1993, manufactures graphite parts for the nuclear industry and photovoltaic cells.

CHURCH OF ST JOSEPH (1934)

Founded by Abbot BERGER and built by G. BENEZECH, the first reinforced concrete church in the Annecy diocese is, of course, dedicated to the patron saint of artisans and workers.

The stained glass and mosaics in the interior are the work of one of the most representative artists of the Art Deco movement - **R. LARDEUR**.

ALSO VISIT:

- **LA CITÉ DES NIDS ET JARDINS** (1942-55), this estate is a major feature of Passy's industrial and social past, designed by the architect **HENRY JACQUES LE MÈME**.
- **LA CASCADE DE CŒUR:** immortalised by **VICTOR HUGO**, this waterfall on the river Ugine used to power the flourmills and sawmills.
- **LES VIADUCS DES ÉGRATZ**, viaducts into the Chamonix valley.



Nids & Jardins, H.J. Le Mème - Cascade de Coeur - Égratz viaducts

MARLIOZ:

LE PARVIS DES FIZ the hall is built on simple lines and clad in Douglas fir, echoing the Fiz mountain ridge (agence Beckmann - N'Thépé).

TOURNESOL SWIMMING POOL, shaped like a flying saucer.

MOUNTAIN STORE CENTRE, in contemporary architectural style.



*Le Parvis des Fiz,
Beckman N'Thépé*



CONTEMPORARY SCULPTURE TRAIL

Open-Air Museum

This contemporary sculpture trail was inspired by a major artistic event, to accompany the transformation of the Plateau d'Assy into a destination for well-being, art and tourism:

"MOUNTAIN SCULPTURES, A POEM IN SPACE" (J.-P. Lemesle, J.-P. Bouvier, 1973).

Five works by the most inspired sculptors of the 20th century have remained. They speak of sun and space, sources of life, of men and their conquests and celebrations: **CALDER'S** stabile, the totems of **CARDENAS**, the blaze of **FÉRAUD**, the golden shell of **GARDY ARTIGAS**, and the ladder of **SEMSEUR**.

Since 1989, a dozen or so sculptures have appeared along the 15 km of road climbing from the valley to Plaine-Joux, including works by **GOSSELIN**, **DUPUY**, **FILIPPI**, **ROMY**, **ROUSSI**, **BRUNELLI**, **SANDEL** and **COSSIN**. They evoke the passing of time, the chaos of history, war, peace and the rights of man, material, technology, the industrial age and manual work.

At the Municipal Cultural Centre, works by **M. GAGÉ** and **N. ROBINSON**.



left:
La Grande Echelle, C. Semser (detail)



right:
Matérialité du vide, Romy

ARVE RIVER PATH

New discovery trail

L'EAU MÉCANIQUE, downstream from the Abbaye power plant: Six large photo displays showing various aspects of the region's hydro-electric industry.

Starting from the Mountain Store research centre, a trail recreates the mountain environment in ten points.

Below that, **L'EAU NATURELLE**, a discovery maze for children (cartoon-strip illustrations of the river's animal and plant life).

Downstream from the site, **L'EAU ARTISTIQUE**, with three monumental works:

- * the fossil-like "**Roulement**" by Jérôme Basserode which sings as the water flows by,
- * "**Flaques**" by Fabien Lerat, an image of calm water reflecting its surroundings.
- * "**Les gardiens**" by Gloria Friedmann, in homage to the mountain wildlife.



Roulement, Basserode



TOWN AND SURROUNDING AREAS

CHURCH OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL

Dating back to 1012 and altered in the 12th century, the church was consecrated in 1486, then in 1701 after the Counter-Reformation.

The church invites us on an exceptional journey from Romans times, through successive centuries when Passy changed hands many times.

Stop a moment to view its treasures, protected Historical Monuments: Roman votive items, baroque and neoclassical décor, pulpit, rare baptismal font and cabinet, high altar and retable with gilt/poly-chrome twisted wooden columns, side altars and choir stalls.



Church of St Peter, pulpit (detail)

ALSO OF NOTE:

- * **THE TOWN HALL** (1862-63), Second Empire town hall, built in the typical neoclassical style.
- * **THE SCHOOL OF PASSY**, the school built with two wings following the contours of the landscape. The large windows, light wells and timber cladding subtly blend the modern and the traditional.

NOT FORGETTING:

- * **CHURCH OF ST DONAT DES PLAGNES** (1761), created on account of the windings of the river Arve. Recently restored, it contains a fine main retable, choir stalls and light fittings with protected Historical Monument status.
- * Just outside, the **FACSIMILE** of the Roman marker stone for the Col de la Forclaz (74 A.D.), the original sited a few metres further on, in front of the former Hôtel des Panoramas.
- * **LES CHAPELLES DE HAMEAUX** (17th C.) chapels, bearing witness to peasant life and prayers to the saints for protection (Bay - wooden gilt polychrome retable).
- * The large **TRADITIONAL HOUSES** and their outbuildings, and the **FORTIFIED HOUSES** on the hillside...



*The School of Passy, architect M. Desvallières
St-Donat des Plagnes (retable painting)
Bay chapel*

DESIGN: OT Passy, TEXT: A. Tobé, Commission culture.
PHOTOS : J. Basserode, C. Dekler, Jardin des Cimes,
C. Moreau, I. Moreaux-Jouannet,
A. & G. Tobé



ART
&
HERITAGE

PASSY
TOURISME
Camps de Base
ART ET PATRIMOINE

SPLENDOURS OF THE REGION PASSY, THE ADVENTURE STARTS HERE ...



3000 Degrees Celsius, R. Gosselin (detail)

3000 Degrees Celsius
R. Gosselin (detail)

CIRCUITS AND GUIDED TOURS

- * One-hour,
- * Half-day,
- * Full day with lunch facing Mont-Blanc,
- * Bespoke tours,
- * For groups, youth groups and individuals (mini. 10 pers.).



INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS

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