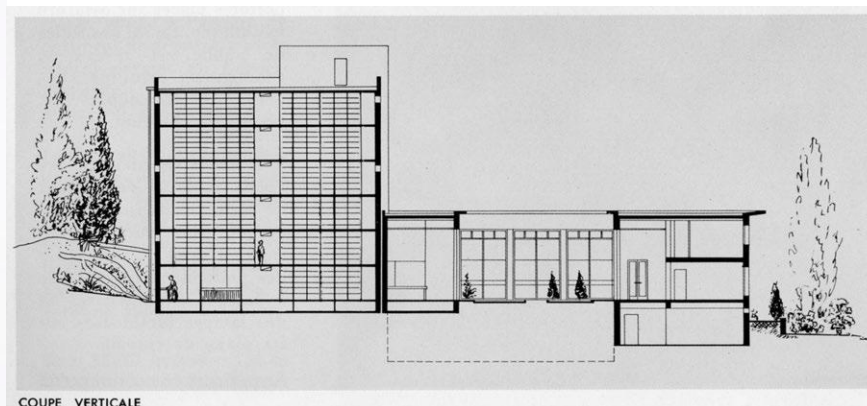


Architecture of the Archives Nationales d'Outre-Mer:

THE ORIGINS OF THE PROJECT



From 1959, the Direction des Archives de France [French Archives Department] found itself entrusted with responsibility for the archives and collections services from the former Ministry for French Overseas Territories. This important collection included not only the Ministry's own archives but also the different colonial collections repatriated from the Far East and Africa and until then established in various premises throughout France, including Paris, Vincennes, Bordeaux and Marseilles. New collections from Algeria were added to these already very diverse collections during 1961.

The problem was therefore to plan a definitive establishment for all these Overseas Territories documents, which would bring them together, provide them with suitable storage and allow them to be processed with a view to their scientific use.

The space available in the Archives Nationales in Paris, the imperatives as decentralisation began, as well as the extension projects for the University of Aix-en-Provence campus taking place at the same time, led to the integration of the building project for this new centre into the Aix University area. This was a mark of the desire to make the indispensable relationship between the University and the Archives much closer.

THE ARCHITECTURE

The initial building, designed by the architects Charles Musetti and José Levasseur, Architectes des Bâtiments Civils et des Palais Nationaux - architects of public buildings and national palaces, was inaugurated on 6 October 1966.





Extension 1985

Its warehouses were extended in 1985 under the direction of the architect, Claude Aureau.

An extension to the areas open to the public, carried out in 1996 by the architects, Thierry Lacoste, Antoinette Robain and Claire Guieysse, was awarded the Equerre d'Argent 1996, prize for the leading work judged by the paper, "Le Moniteur".

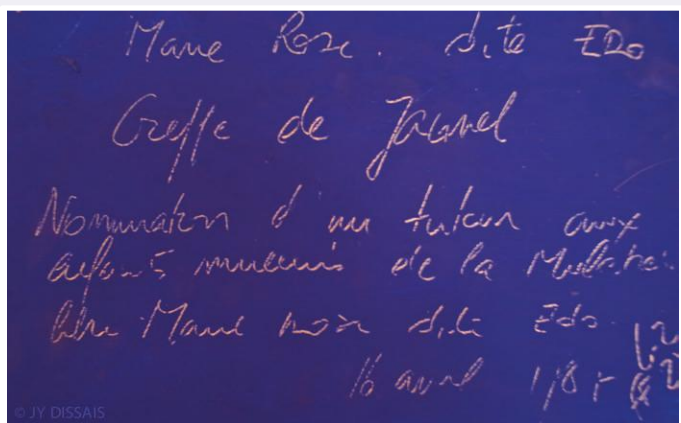


Extension 1996

1% Artistic

The work created within the framework of the 1% on one of the walls of the reading room, "Paysages d'Outre-Mer" is by François Seigneur.

The patio fountain was made in Carrera marble by Michel Herzelé.



François Seigneur



Michel Herzelé