

# Art - Deco ALBERT



GPS : 50° 00' 10" North 2° 39' 10" Est

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## Book a private guide...

*"Town of the Ancre river and the  
Art - Deco style"*

2 hours guided tour  
5€/person  
reservation all year round

## **The must-see buildings!**

- 1) The train station, Place du Général de Gaulle
- 2) Inside and outside of the Town Hall, Place Emile Leturcq
- 3) The facades in the town centre, the former public baths at the tourist office, Place d'Armes and Rue Gambetta
- 4) The statues and mosaics in the basilica, place d'Armes
- 5) The band stand, the bridge and the perron in the public garden, Rue Jules Ferry

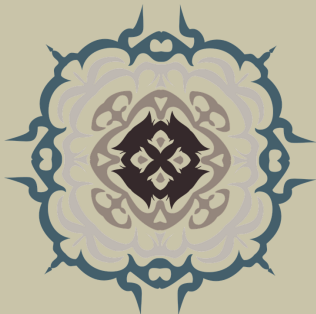


# Albert

At the end of the First World War Albert is completely destroyed. With force and courage the town of Albert adopts the challenge of a new policy of urbanism to reconstruct the town and its territory. Among the new architectural styles of the 1920s the Art Deco style becomes most influent.

The town of Albert was in the centre of the Battle of the Somme and is completely destroyed at its liberation on the 23rd of August 1918. After the war starts the adventure of the Reconstruction and the area around Albert becomes a unique experimental ground for the architects. They think about how to circulate and how to get easily from one place to another one. They create alignments, public equipments and embellishments.

During this period the Art Deco Style is developed. It includes the wish to construct in a regional style. The general use of bricks, already known in this area before the war, helps to reduce the cost of the Reconstruction. It takes about ten years to create the actual local homogenous charm.



## Art - Deco

The Art Deco style, also named style moderne, has been named after the international exhibition for decorative and industrial arts held in Paris in 1925. The artistical movement started already at the beginning of the century and is largely used in the architecture of the 1930s. It replaces the Art Nouveau style.

After the nightmare of four years of war the town of Albert tries to look forward. The inhabitants are influenced by the cultural way of life of the “années folles”, the Roaring Twenties. The architects require simplicity, geometry, no superfluous ornaments.

### The main characteristics of the Art Deco-Style:

**Concrete** The cheap, nice and solid material appears around 1900.

**Bricks** Already common for constructions in the north of France. Bricks are neither expensive in fabrication nor in implementation.

**Bow-windows** Salient windows also called oriels.

**Shapes and lines** Salient, blunted or rounded angles. Circles, rhombs and octagons. The shapes are often simple and mainly geometric. Curved forms disappear and give place to right angles.

**Motifs** Fruit baskets, bouquets of flowers, leaf festoons. But also the arrangement of bricks, the termination of windows, human figures, tie anchors, agraffes, fences, door cases, balustrades, ceramics and pediments.

**Wrought iron** Mainly at the window level, representing a balcony or hiding the shutters. They often represent floral motifs. Depending on the owner's funds the decoration can be extremely developed.

