

One of the main buildings of the shipyard (*Ateliers et Chantiers de Nantes*) was restored and dedicated to the memory of the sites and of the workers who worked there. It hosts the *Maison des Hommes et des Techniques* (Men and Techniques Centre), a site dedicated to permanent and temporary exhibits on shipbuilding, the *Centre d'Histoire du Travail* (Labour History Centre), which keeps records of labour and farmers unions of the *Loire-Atlantique*, and the *Centre Interculturel de Documentation* (Intercultural Centre for Documentation), which specializes in the cultures of migrant communities, or communities of migrant origin. These different associations ensure that history continues to inhabit the place.

Two huge Titan cranes made and assembled entirely in Nantes in the middle of the twentieth century, one of which is classified as a historical monument, were acquired by the City, secured (by means of counterweights and structural consolidation) and repainted—bright yellow for the oldest one (1954), and silver-grey for the other (1966). They now function as major landmarks in the urban landscape and are emblematic of its industrial past. In particular, several large shipbuilding halls or port warehouses have been preserved, but reinvested with new uses.

The most original experience is provided by Delarozière Francis, the creator of the *Royal de Luxe* Company's street theatre machines and artistic director of the association, *La Machine*, and Pierre Orefice from the Manaus Association. The former Alstom industrial hall has become the *Atelier* (Workshop), which hosts public demonstrations of the construction of interesting animated machines, the creative inspiration for which stems in part from the world of Jules Verne, a native of Nantes. It also hosts the mechanical universe of Leonardo da Vinci and other exhibits from the industrial past of the city. Nearby is the *Galerie des Machines* (Gallery of Machines), where visitors can see displays of the entire process of the creation of machines and can also operate some of them, such as the 'giant crab' and the 'sea serpent'. A central hall is occupied by the star character of the *Île des Machines* (Island of Machines): the Great Elephant. Measuring 12 m high and 8 m wide, it can accommodate 52 passengers per trip. Each outing is a fascinating festive event. On board visitors have a new panorama of the Île de Nantes.

In October 2007, the vast space of *The Machines de l'île*,<sup>3</sup> dedicated to constructions, animation and exhibits, was honoured with the Special Jury Prize by the *Salon International du Tourisme* (International Tourism Fair) which awards innovative tourist facilities. Just like the shipyards of old, it is constantly in the media, ensuring its appeal. The machines built in the workshop are exhibited in the *Galerie des Machines*. The most recent machines will be assembled on a gigantic carousel: the *Manège des Mondes Marins* (Marine World Carousel), which will be 25 m high, and filled with 35 moving parts, representing sea creatures. It will be inaugurated on 14 July 2012 and will hold 300 passengers. The *Atelier* will further enrich the gallery by