

implementing another major project, the *Arbre aux Hérons* (the Heron Tree): a steel shaft, 50 m high and 47 m in diameter, topped with two herons. Visitors will be able to move from branch to branch over the stunning hanging gardens. The opening to the public is planned for 2017.

Conclusion

Providing new uses for monuments to ensure their preservation is not new and industrial heritage is no exception to this need, which has already been affirmed in the Charter of Venice. Heritage conservation has its history, methodology, and its ethical principles. But it is only well conceived when integrated with the purposes it serves: the education and enjoyment of the public, a form of social utility. Imagination and open-mindedness are not opponents to conservation. The values held by heritage, as well as the social and cultural issues of its preservation, must be analyzed on a case-by-case basis. This is in order to give rise to economically viable projects that respect these values as much as possible.

Notes

1. Aumale is a small French town in the department of Seine-Maritime, Upper Normandy. It has around 2 500 inhabitants; the Bresle River runs through it.
2. Nantes is a large city in the west of France on the banks of the Loire, 50 km from the Atlantic Ocean. As Prefecture of the region of the Pays de la Loire and the seat of the Regional Council, it is a central element of the urban community of Metropolitan Nantes, which has almost 600 000 inhabitants. The Île de Nantes is a fluvial island between two branches of the Loire. It is linked to the north and south banks by ten road bridges, a foot bridge and two railway lines.
3. Official website of the *Machines de l'île*: <http://www.lesmachines-nantes.fr/english/>

References

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- UNESCO. 2016. *The Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*. Paris. (also available online at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/basictexts/>).