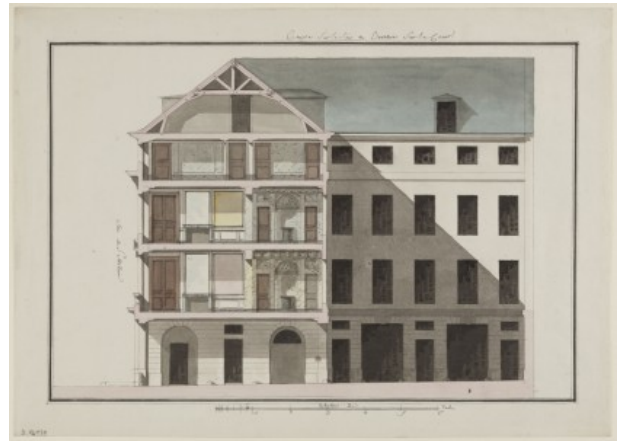


"MONSIEUR BARRÉ": AN ARCHITECT AND SPECULATOR IN 18th- CENTURY PARIS



Jean-Benoit-Vincent Barré (1734–1824).
Elevation of the Rue d'Artois facade. Section of
the length of the building and the courtyard.
Pen and coloured wash. Late 18th century.
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EXHIBITION
24 MARCH –
21 JUNE 2015

INFORMATION
[www.carnavalet.
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The Musée Carnavalet – Histoire de Paris is joining forces with the 24th Salon du Dessin, devoted to "architectural drawing in all its forms", for the spotlight exhibition *Monsieur Barré: An Architect and Speculator in 18th-century Paris*. The exhibition will be held in the Link Gallery from 24 March to 21 June 2015.

The museum's Prints and Drawings Department, home to over 3,000 architectural drawings, has opted for focusing on an unknown aspect of its collection: 27 drawings – plans, sections, elevations – of houses and mansions designed by Paris architect Jean-Benoît-Vincent Barré for the capital's newly emerging neighbourhoods.

Active during the second half of the 18th century but since ignored by art historians, this prolific architect was born in Paris in 1735 and died in retirement in 1824 in Seine-Port, near Melun. Son of building contractor Silvain Barré, Jean-Benoît-Vincent entered the Royal Academy of Architecture in 1763, but decided to abandon his classical training and learn his craft with architect Antoine-Mathieu Le Carpentier (1709–1773). This change was to have a decisive effect on Barré's career: Le Carpentier passed on to him part of his private clientele from the world of finance, and like his well-heeled customers Barré threw himself into the feverish property speculation that accompanied Paris's unprecedented urbanisation. The city's boundaries were expanding: to the north the booming neighbourhoods around the Chaussée d'Antin, the Boulevard des Italiens and the Faubourg Poissonnière were becoming the new heart of *la vie parisienne*, and Barré showed real flair in adapting the domestic architecture of the time to the needs of the rising elites.

ADMISSION

Free

CURATOR

Miriam Simon, Musée Carnavalet – Histoire de Paris
Assistant curator: Christina Lanteri

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