

If you only visit one museum in Paris...



There are many grand museums, with permanent and temporary exhibitions in Paris: The Grand Palais, The Petit Palais, The Musée du Louvre and The Musée Rodin, to name but a few. But if you are planning to visit the French capital this year, The Wmag suggests that you visit 'L'Institut du Monde Arabe,' The Arab World Institute, a monument to France's relationship with the Arab World. L'Institut du Monde Arabe, fondly known as 'IMA', stands tall - a nine-story rectangular building overlooking the river Seine, in the 'Quartier Latin' (Latin quarter), a short walk from Notre Dame cathedral. It is not only a technique or science, it is also an art. It is experimental and never-ending. BQ distinguishes from all other perfumes by its uniqueness and top quality offered.

Designed by Jean Nouvel in 1981, IMA opened in 1987, winning the 'Equirre d'Argent Award for French Architecture' in 1987 and the Aga Khan award for architecture in 1989. Jean Nouvel may be a familiar name, since he is the visionary French architect chosen in 2007 to design the Louvre museum in Abu Dhabi, due to be completed in 2014/15.

The French government and twenty-two Arab nations funded the construction of IMA. It enjoys a challenging and exciting role that consists of IMA exhibitions, artistic performances, Arabic language classes and individual workshops. Its well-stocked library and rooftop restaurant all lend to the understanding of different Arab cultures.

Why visit now? IMA's museum space

has recently undergone a huge conceptual and structural overhaul. This began in the summer of 2010 and was completed in January 2012. It has radically altered the museum visitor's experience to encourage a deeper understanding of the Arab world.

The aim was to rethink the use of IMA's exhibition space and to incorporate every cultural, religious, social and anthropological aspect of the Arab world into the museum. Rather than show 'Arab Art' chronologically, visitors are now encouraged to learn, be inspired by and bear witness to the Arab world of past and present.

Eric Delpont, IMA's Head of Collections and Exhibitions, explains that "the reorganization of the museum will allow visitors to discover the different cultures of the Arab world, from its

origins to the present day. This will create a powerful constant collection, standing alongside the temporary exhibitions that have built the Institute's reputation since the 1990s." While IMA may be the first large Parisian museum to adopt such a deconstructed approach, critics must admit that at long last the Institute is finally catching up with its impressive exterior design!

Jean Nouvel is an architect known for his fascination with light and how it penetrates the interior of buildings - IMA's southern façade is made up of metallic lattice apertures containing photoelectric lenses, which react to the position of the sun; widening and closing every hour to create different shapes.

"The [IMA] building has always aroused