



# The Architecture of the Louvre

*Genevieve Bresc Bautier*

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## **The Architecture of the Louvre** Genevieve Bresc Bautier

The Louvre is arguably the most famous museum in the world. Not only does it house some of the greatest works of art, but it is also an architectural work with facades and interiors commissioned by royalty, and designed and decorated by craftsmen. Since the first medieval stones were laid at the end of the 13th century, the Louvre has seen many changes - numerous ambitious projects have shaped and reshaped its walls, new wings, halls and galleries have been built, parts have been destroyed by fire, and recent additions have given it yet a different character. This book encompasses eight centuries of the Louvre's architecture and design. From the bare stones of the medieval fortress to the grand colonnades and arches of the Renaissance, from the gold and crystal apartments of Napoleon III to I.M. Pei's pyramid, the long history of the Louvre is brought to life here in a series of colour photographs. A brief text traces the stories that have shaped the building and rebuilding of the museum.

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