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Architecture in a Changing World

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Palais Garnier

Palais Garnier was built in 1861 to 1875. It is the Opera house of Paris, and located in the ninth arrondissement. The architect for this structure was Charles Gernier. The Palais Garnier has been labeled one of the most famous opera houses in the world. The architecture dates back to the time period of the Second Empire. Palais Garnier has been described as a masterpiece of its time period.

The main facades is considered to be a mixture of “Neo-Baroque” with axial symmetry in the exterior designs. One of the most noteworthy façades is stationed on the south side of the building. The structure at the very top in cooper is the Greek god Apollo. The two figures that stand out the most are Harmony and Poetry. They are the two figures gilded on either side of the façade. Below these figures are detailed designs and sculptures with a row of columns. There are two Pavilions on either side of the building. Today one side houses the Bibliotheque-Musee and the other houses a passageway into the Opera House.

The interior is just as rich as the exterior. With a Baroque style presenting lavish god leaf, velvet, along with over the top characteristics. The grand staircase is a main feature to the building and is meant to accommodate large masses of people during the intermission of the Opera. The grand staircase is followed by the grand vestibule. This vestibule is similar to Versailles hall of mirrors. It was built for the socialites or imperial elite of Paris. Lastly and the most important is the auditorium. It was built in a half circle with a large chandelier in the center.

Work Cited:

"Architecture & Ground Plan." Architecture & Ground Plan. N.p., n.d. Web. 25 Mar. 2015.

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