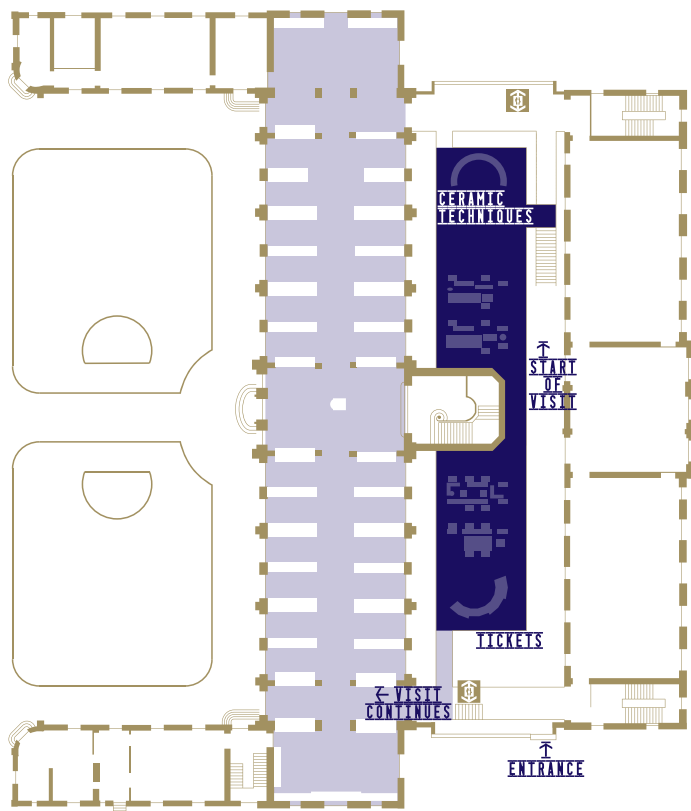


Ceramic techniques



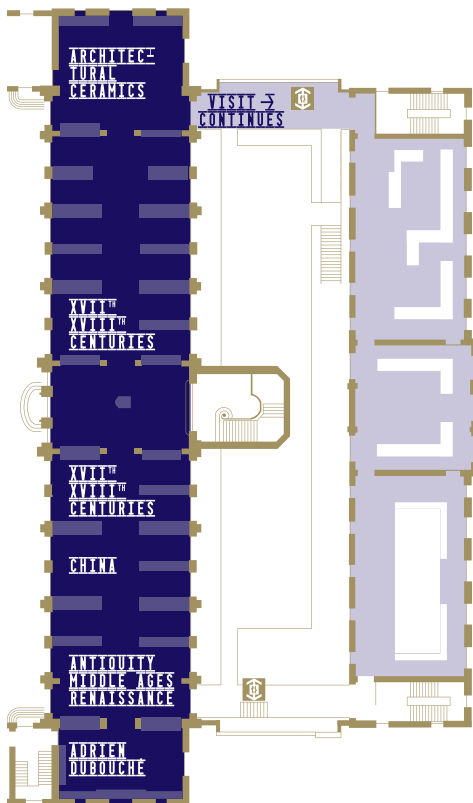
Garden

In front of the museum, *Une suite*, by Jean-Pierre Viot and Haguiko, highlights contemporary ceramic art. Commissioned by the museum in 2010, the monumental white concrete stele is covered with 600 enamelled porcelain bowls. The fountain with enigmatic porcelain heads in the garden is an artwork by Javier Perez entitled *Source*.

Mezzanine

Presenting the four stages of ceramic manufacturing, the mezzanine is part of the museum's new, open and light-filled extension. Period machines, illustrating the industrial heritage of Limoges, are displayed alongside contemporary designs.

Ceramics from Antiquity to the XVIIIth century



Level 1

The chronological presentation of the history of ceramics begins in the majestic rooms of the initial museum inaugurated in 1900. The major stages of ceramic manufacturing up to the XVIIIth century are displayed in the original showcases and spectacular decors of the historical museum.

Adrien Dubouché

The first room presents the history of the museum itself, focusing especially on Adrien Dubouché, the philanthropist and arts patron whose name is also that of the museum since 1875.

Antiquity, Middle Ages, Renaissance

The first section presents a panorama of ceramics discovered during archaeological excavations as well as Greek pottery and medieval glazed earthenware. The second section is devoted to faience, including famous Italian Renaissance era “majolica”.

China

For centuries, China was the only country to manufacture porcelain. This section presents key masterpieces retracing the evolution of Chinese porcelain, including the emblematic “blue and white” patterns. A selection of Japanese porcelain is also on view.

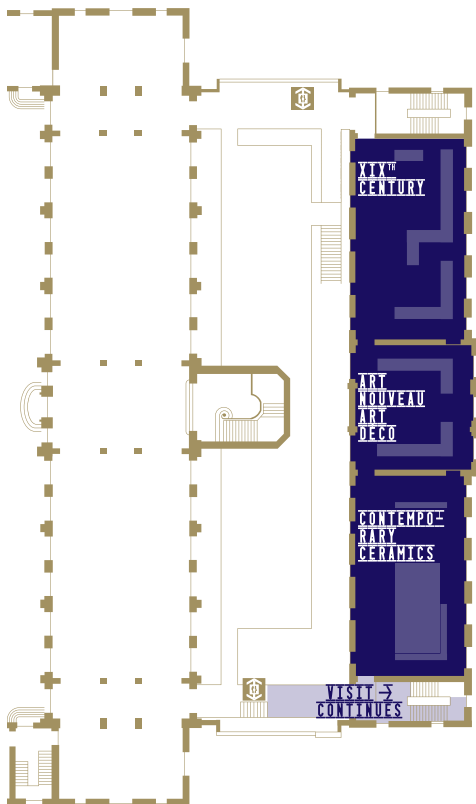
XVIIth - XVIIIth centuries

Faience, or tin-glazed earthenware, was immensely popular in Europe during this period. The major production centres are presented here, including Delft, in Holland, and Rouen, Nevers, Moustiers and Strasbourg, in France. This section shows the earliest examples of European made porcelain, which began in Germany in 1710 at the Meissen *manufacture*. They are displayed side by side with examples of what is called “soft-paste” porcelain, developed in areas where kaolin had not yet been discovered. It is only when kaolin deposits were found in the Limousin region that “hard-paste” porcelain began to be manufactured in France, as seen in the final showcases of this gallery.

Architectural ceramics

This area presents a selection of ceramic wall and floor tiles from the Middle Ages to the present.

Ceramics from the XIXth century to the present



XIXth century

The museum's outstanding collection of XIXth century ceramics is based on Adrien Dubouché's own vast collection of art from this period. The chronological presentation highlights the importance of ceramics throughout the main stylistic periods of European decorative arts: Neo-Classicism, Romanticism, Orientalism, Japonism, Impressionism, etc.

Art Nouveau and Art Deco

The Art Nouveau movement, which exerted a strong influence on the early XXth century, is illustrated by Hector Guimard's emblematic artworks, along with ceramics that reflect the aesthetic explorations of the period. Significant changes in terms of both shapes and patterns surfaced with the Art Deco movement, a term derived from the *Exposition Internationale des Arts Décoratifs* in 1925.

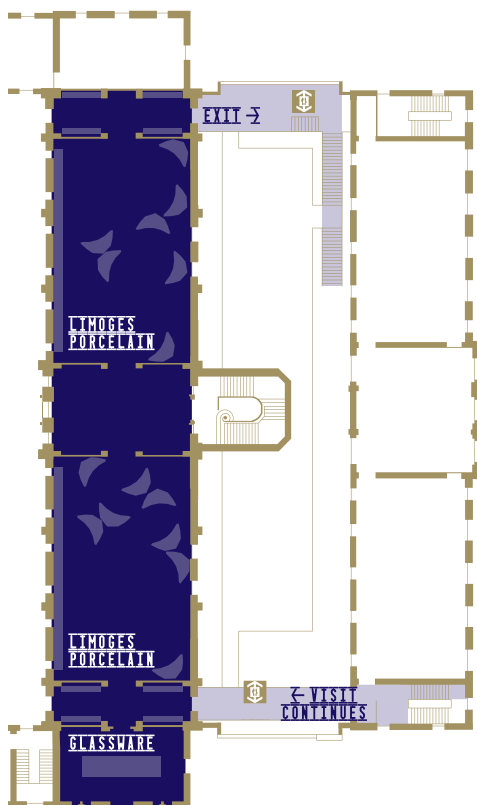
Contemporary ceramics

The ceramic medium has inspired countless famous artists; the museum's collections include an exceptional array of La Borne stoneware (Maurice Lambiotte donation) as well as artworks created by independent artists drawn to the specific nature of ceramic art (FRAC Limousin collections).

Level 2

Adrien Dubouché also founded a school of decorative arts to train qualified artists for the porcelain industry. The school building, next to the original museum, has been incorporated into the new structure and presents the collections from the XIXth century to today in three former classrooms. In addition to the permanent displays, a series of *galeries d'étude* ("pedagogical galleries") provides additional information and insight into the history of ceramics.

Limoges porcelain



Glassware

In a room whose decor has been restored to its original splendour, the main technical evolutions of glassware are presented: moulded glass from Antiquity, XVIth and XVIIth century European “Venetian-style” glassware, crystal, engraved XVIIIth century glass, etc.

Limoges porcelain

The first room focuses on the evolution of Limoges porcelain from 1771 – when the first *manufacture* was established – to the late XIXth century, the golden age of the porcelain industry. Distinctive masterpieces from each house are displayed, the high point being the *Grain de riz* (rice grain) service, shown in the *Salon d'honneur*, the epitome of XIXth century Limoges craftsmanship.

The second room highlights the stylistic evolutions that influenced Limoges porcelain since the early XXth century (Art Nouveau, Art Deco, contemporary designs, etc.). The chronological display emphasises the incredible diversity of porcelain making throughout the century. The many contemporary designs illustrate the vitality of Limoges porcelain in tableware as well as in fine arts.

Level 3

The museum’s unrivalled collection of Limoges porcelain covers the entire history of the art form from the late XVIIIth century to current designs. In this glass-ceilinged room bathed in light, the contemporary display cases present the exquisite pieces of this unique collection.