

Gala Dinner to 2016, 10th June - International ISEOR's Conference co-sponsored by ISEOR and the Academy Of Management, ODC & MC Divisions, USA

Address : **Hôtel de ville de Lyon**

1 place de la comédie – 69001 Lyon (In front of the Opera)

Welcome to the City Hall



On 4th January 1646, the Consulate of Lyon (the municipal Council at that time) decided to build a new City Hall. On 8th March, it entrusted the design to Simon Maupin, the city surveyor, who took advice from the King's architect, Lemercier, and from the Lyon mathematician, Gérard Desargues. The building was finished in 1672. Its architecture was "resolutely modern", it was

seen at the time as a replica of the Louvre scaled down to fit Lyon and was acknowledged to be the finest City Hall in France.

On 13th September 1674, a fire destroyed most of the main building, facing onto the Place des Terreaux, as well as the belfry. The Consulate was not able to start restoration work until 1700 because of financial difficulties.

It turned to Jules Hardouin-Mansart, the architect of the Palace of Versailles, who added a "pre-classical" touch to the building's baroque style: the Place des Terreaux façade was raised, the belfry was rebuilt, and the roof of each of the four corner pavilions was curved to form a dome (restored in 2007). These transformations were completed in 1703. In 1793, the building was further damaged when it was bombarded by the troops of the Convention. It was not until 1850 that the Prefect Vaisse had repair work carried out, and a new hall, in the shape of an amphitheatre, was built for the municipal Council in 1887.

THE GRAND STAIRCASE



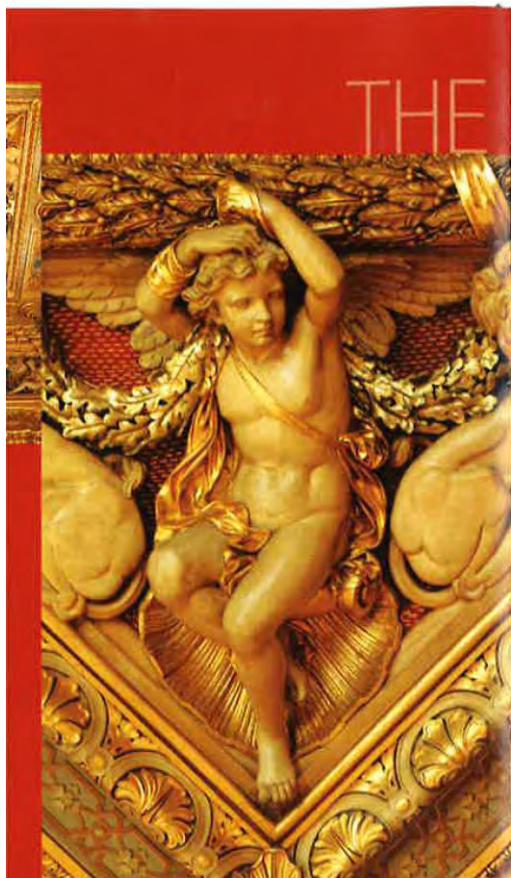
Based on the designs of the mathematician Desargues, the grand staircase leads up to the reception rooms on the first floor. It was painted in its entirety by Thomas Blanchet in the 17th century; the decoration is a huge composition in four sections: three side panels and a large arch (voûte à cannel) painted in grisaille, accentuated by figures, lions and garlands.

Using the complex allegorical style of the period, Thomas Blanchet depicted the great fire of Lyon during Nero's reign in the year 64, a year after Rome had burned. On the first two panels, the Furies with their blazing firebrands attempt to set fire to the city, the gods and goddesses try to prevent them from doing this, and the two rivers, the Rhône and the Saône, look on terrified by the unfolding catastrophe. The panel opposite

shows merchants, peasants and strangers who come to Lyon the day after the fire only to find it reduced to ruins.

The arch is one of these great 17th century allegorical compositions for which several interpretations have been suggested; the most common is that it represents Lyon's rebirth, as it passes from a paradoxically "dark" night (the fire) to a blazing sun (the reconstruction).

The Gala dinner will be in the Justin Godart Salon



THE JUSTIN GODART SALON

The preferred setting for receptions from 17th century minuets to the grand balls of the Second Empire, the great 'salon d'honneur' covers a surface area of 325 m². This was Thomas Blanchet's major work of art but the decoration was destroyed by the fire of 1674. However, all his sketches have survived and are housed in the Musée des Beaux-arts. For its restoration (undertaken in 1703), Mansart had suggested that it be rebuilt using marble and stone. The project was carried out, after 1717, using woodwork and painted canvas!

It was from 1862 onwards that this room was completely refurbished. The architect drew inspiration both from 19th century decorations and those in the Consulate salon. The white marble fireplace, created by Guillaume Bonnet, includes an overmantle where a bas-relief in white marble representing the founding of Lyon by Munatius Plancus was meant to be sculpted; the present model painted in gilded bronze was placed there "temporarily" in 1869!

On either side of the fireplace above the doors are two medallions showing Louis XIV and Marie-Theresa of Austria in the style of Claude Warin.

Facing the fireplace is a late 19th century Aubusson tapestry called "The Amazons' garden".

On each side of the central opening there are four oval medallions in blue monochrome showing the Four Seasons.

Two large medallions in the centre of the paneling represent Prudence and Strength.

