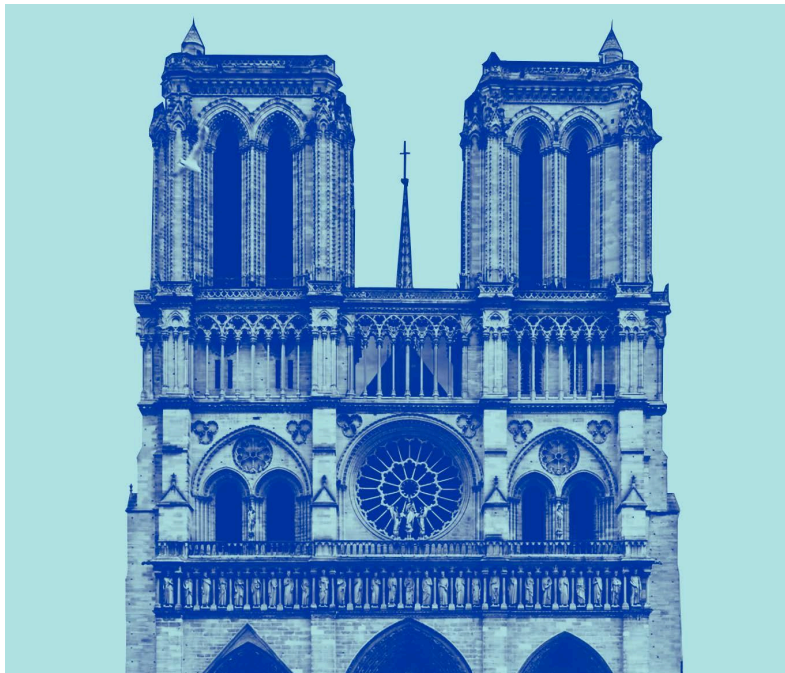




## BEHIND NOTRE-DAME'S MONUMENTAL RESTORATION, 2025 PAUL MELLON LECTURE

*A Free Event Co-Presented by the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, World Monuments Fund, and The Columbia University Maison Française*

*Featuring Philippe Villeneuve, Chief Architect, Notre-Dame Restoration Project*



*Notre-Dame, Paris, France*

**New York—February 4, 2025:** [World Monuments Fund \(WMF\)](#) today announces the 2025 Paul Mellon Lecture, highlighting the extraordinary project to restore Notre-Dame de Paris, France, after the cathedral's devastating fire in April 2019. Co-presented by the Columbia University Maison Française, the lecture will be delivered by **Philippe Villeneuve**, chief architect of the restoration of Notre-Dame, who will offer deep insights into the five-year process. The event will take place on **March 12, 2025**, at the historic **Cathedral of St. John the Divine** in New York City as a part of WMF's 60th anniversary public events.

Philippe Villeneuve will be joined by **Barry Bergdoll**, Meyer Schapiro Professor of Art History and Archaeology at Columbia University; **Bas Smets**, landscape architect and winner of the

2021 international design competition to reimagine Notre-Dame's surroundings; **Patrick Malloy**, dean of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine; and **Bénédicte de Montlaur**, president and CEO of WMF. Together, they will provide a behind-the-scenes look at the challenges of restoring one of the world's most treasured landmarks and highlight the innovative approaches and collaborative efforts that are shaping the future of cultural heritage preservation.

The Paul Mellon Lecture series was inaugurated in 2003 and is supported by the Paul Mellon Education Fund at WMF. This annual lecture enables audiences to learn about critical issues in the field of cultural heritage. Past speakers have included Kent Weeks on the challenges of tourism management in the Valley of the Kings, Egypt; Charles Dempsey on the history of the Carracci Gallery at the Palazzo Farnese, Italy; Anna Somers Cox on the impact of ever-increasing tourism on Venice; and Iwan Baan on his personal photographic style.

This lecture is part of a nationwide tour led by World Monuments Fund, with further events at the Legion of Honor in San Francisco on March 8, 2025, and the Society of the Four Arts in Palm Beach on March 10, 2025. Each lecture features Philippe Villeneuve, Barry Bergdoll, and Bénédicte de Montlaur, along with special guests, each offering insights into the complexities of preserving cultural heritage, fire prevention, and the innovative conservation approaches shaping its future.

To learn more about these events or to register, visit: [wmf.org/events](http://wmf.org/events).

### **Behind Notre-Dame's Monumental Restoration**

*2025 Paul Mellon Lecture*

Wednesday, March 12

6:00 PM (EST)

The Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine

1047 Amsterdam Avenue

112<sup>th</sup> Street

New York, NY 10025

*The Paul Mellon Lecture at World Monuments Fund is made possible, in part, by the Paul Mellon Education Fund.*

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### **About World Monuments Fund**

World Monuments Fund is the leading independent organization devoted to safeguarding the world's most treasured places to enrich lives and build mutual understanding. For 60 years, working at more than 700 sites in 112 countries, its highly skilled experts have applied proven and effective techniques to the preservation of important architectural and cultural heritage sites around the globe. Through the World Monuments Watch—a biennial, nomination-based program—WMF uses cultural heritage conservation to empower communities and improve human well-being. In partnership with local communities, funders, and governments, WMF seeks to inspire an enduring commitment to stewardship for future generations. Headquartered in New York City, the organization has offices and affiliates worldwide.

Visit [www.wmf.org](http://www.wmf.org) for more information, or connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

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### **About the Cathedral of St. John the Divine**

Over one hundred years ago, the trustees of the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine conceived its mission to be a house of prayer for all people, an instrument of church unity, and a center of intellectual light and leading in the spirit of Jesus Christ.

Today, as the mother church of the Episcopal Diocese of New York and the seat of its bishop, the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine serves the many diverse people of our diocese, city, nation and world through the worship of God; pastoral, educational and community outreach activities; cultural and civic events; international ecumenical initiatives; and the preservation of the great architectural and historic site that is its legacy.

To learn more about the Cathedral and other upcoming events, please visit

[www.stjohndivine.org](http://www.stjohndivine.org).

### **About the Columbia University Maison Française**

The Columbia University Maison Française has been a leader in fostering intellectual and cultural exchange between the United States and France, Europe, and the French-speaking world since its creation in 1913. Housed in historic Buell Hall on Columbia's Morningside Campus, the Maison Française organizes lectures, panel discussions, book launches, academic conferences, films, performances and more across a range of topics and disciplines. Visit [maisonfrancaise.columbia.edu](http://maisonfrancaise.columbia.edu) for more information, or follow us on [Instagram](#) or [Facebook](#).