

HE MAGIC OF PLACE, ARCHITECT AND IMAGE:

The Chapel of Our Lady on the Mountain (Notre-Dame du Haut) in Ronchamp, Franche-Comté, and architect Le Corbusier

Bohdan CHERKES, Professor, ScD,
professor of the Department of Visual Design and Arts,
Lviv Polytechnic National University
(Lviv, Ukraine)

email: bohdan.s.cherkes@lpnu.ua

The Chapel of Our Lady on the Hill (Notre-Dame du Haut) in the village of Ronchamp in the Franche-Comté region, located in northeastern France in the foothills of the Vosges, was built by architect Le Corbusier between 1950 and 1955. It was not the first temple to be built on the hill of Bourlémont, which towers above the settlement. A Celtic temple existed on this site from the 4th century, followed by various shrines, and then, starting in the 9th century, Christian chapels and temples, which replaced one another. The last of these was destroyed during World War II, and in the context of post-war reconstruction, architect Le Corbusier rebuilt, or rather, built a new church, or chapel, Notre-Dame du Haut, using authentic materials and attributes from the previous church. In 2016, this temple, along with 16 other works by Le Corbusier, was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List. In 2025, its 10-year restoration was completed.

The report primarily examines two aspects related to the construction of the Chapel of Our Lady on the Mountain (Notre-Dame du Haut) in the village of Ronchamp:

- the influence of the environment (“the magic of the place”) on the work of the architect, in this case Le Corbusier, who was a non-believer and at first did not even consider designing a Christian church on Mount Bourlémont in Ronchamp, but then remained connected to this place until the end of his life;
- the use of the experience of the brilliant architect of the 20th century, Le Corbusier, in the context of the future post-war reconstruction of Ukraine.