

Palais de Justice

The Palais de Justice, now housed in the former 16th century Burgundian parliament building, still in use and with limited access, incorporates a number of outstanding woodwork features supplied by the family workshop of Hugues Sambin, architect, joiner and engraver. In 1583 the workshop was granted a contract involving the supply of an entrance screen in walnut (now incorporating a number of replaced elements in oak) leading to the Chapel of the Holy Spirit, at one end of the barrel-vaulted council assembly hall.

Our guide also introduced us to two adjoining 16th century chambers which had been subject to more recent modifications. One of these court rooms, known as the Golden Chamber, still retains the coat of arms of François I dated 1522. The semi-exposed, formal entrance doors to

An image of a carpenter planing a piece of wood on a lintel in Dijon





Fig 1

Fig 1 Sambin doors, Musée des Beaux Arts, Dijon

Fig 2 Detail of chapel screen, Palais de Justice, Dijon



Fig 2

the building in walnut (now displayed in the Musée des Beaux-Arts) were replaced in 1903 by a replica version in the same manner as those attributed to Sambin, itself an interesting example of good quality carving and a useful reference for the effects of a century of weathering.

John Boram