



□ THE CHURCH

In 1648, Governor-General Leopold of Austria gave the Jesuits permission to settle in Marche-en-Famenne .

Construction work on the church began in 1731, although it had fallen into disuse by the end of the 18th century. In 1806, after the Marche parish church was damaged by fire, Masses were said once more at the Jesuit church.

During the Second World War, after the bombing of the neighbouring village of Marloie, the church was turned into a field hospital. After the war, it became a "parish hall" commonly known as "the Casino", and remained so until 1989.



□ THE NEW WING

The new wing of Quartier Latin, an annex to the church, is a contemporary building and has retained none of the features of the Jesuit school which formerly occupied the site.

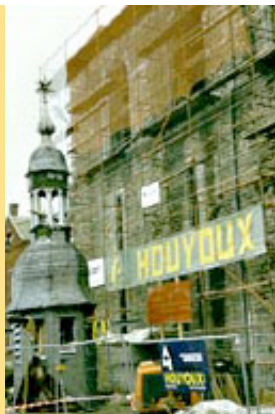
Built in 1650, this building later became a Teresian school, and finally a State primary school until 1952.

The building was then sold to the Marche-en-Famenne fire brigade, who used it as their headquarters, until the former school was finally demolished in 1991.

□ IT ALL BEGAN WITH A COMPETITION...

On 7 November 1989, the Municipal Council of Marche-en-Famenne decided to sell the former Jesuit church as well as the school buildings by an invitation to tender-cum-competition.

The applicants were requested to submit a proposal for the renovation and re-use of this site, which had received "historic monument" status from the Royal Monuments and Sites Commission.



The purchaser would be selected on the basis of the quality of the project submitted. This had to improve the economic, commercial and architectural aspect of the town centre.

On 6 March 1989, after the jury's due deliberation, the Municipal Council awarded the contract to the project submitted by HOUYOUX of Marloie, a construction company.

□ A LARGE-SCALE PROJECT

This project, the construction of a hotel and commercial complex, probably the most unique in Europe, would require an investment of no less than BEF 200 million.

The sale was completed on 31 January 1990.

However, it was only possible to begin the renovation work in May 1991.

HOUYOUX was forced to deal with a variety of complex administrative procedures and obtain the many permits required for the restoration of a historic site.

Although initially HOUYOUX was merely in charge of building and promoting the facility, the project proved so attractive that eventually HOUYOUX decided not only to retain ownership of it, but to manage it. This unusual diversification process by the company led to the creation of its third subsidiary on 25 June 1992: S.A. Quartier Latin.



□ WHY "QUARTIER LATIN" ?

"Quartier" refers to the fact that the complex is in fact an entire block which comprises various functions: hotel, restaurants and shops.



"Latin" is a reference to the primary destination of this facility, where Latin was commonly spoken, both in the church and in the school, where Latin grammar and other rudiments of the language were taught.

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