

Les Halles de Béziers

A Landmark Bridging
Tradition and Future

Published in collaboration:
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HAHN Lamellen



The Halles de Béziers in Southwest France are a striking market hall of around 2.800 m², designed in the Baltard style.

First completed in 1891 and restored several times since, the building now stands at the heart of the city, combining a traditional marketplace with culinary experiences.



The “Baltard Halls” are a defining architectural phenomenon of 19th-century France, named after architect Victor Baltard (1805–1874), whose designs marked a turning point in urban life.

Before 1850, goods were often sold under makeshift conditions – without shelter from the weather, displayed on the ground in narrow, unpaved streets and improvised spaces. The advent of covered central markets represented a major advance for hygiene, public health, and the daily life of residents:

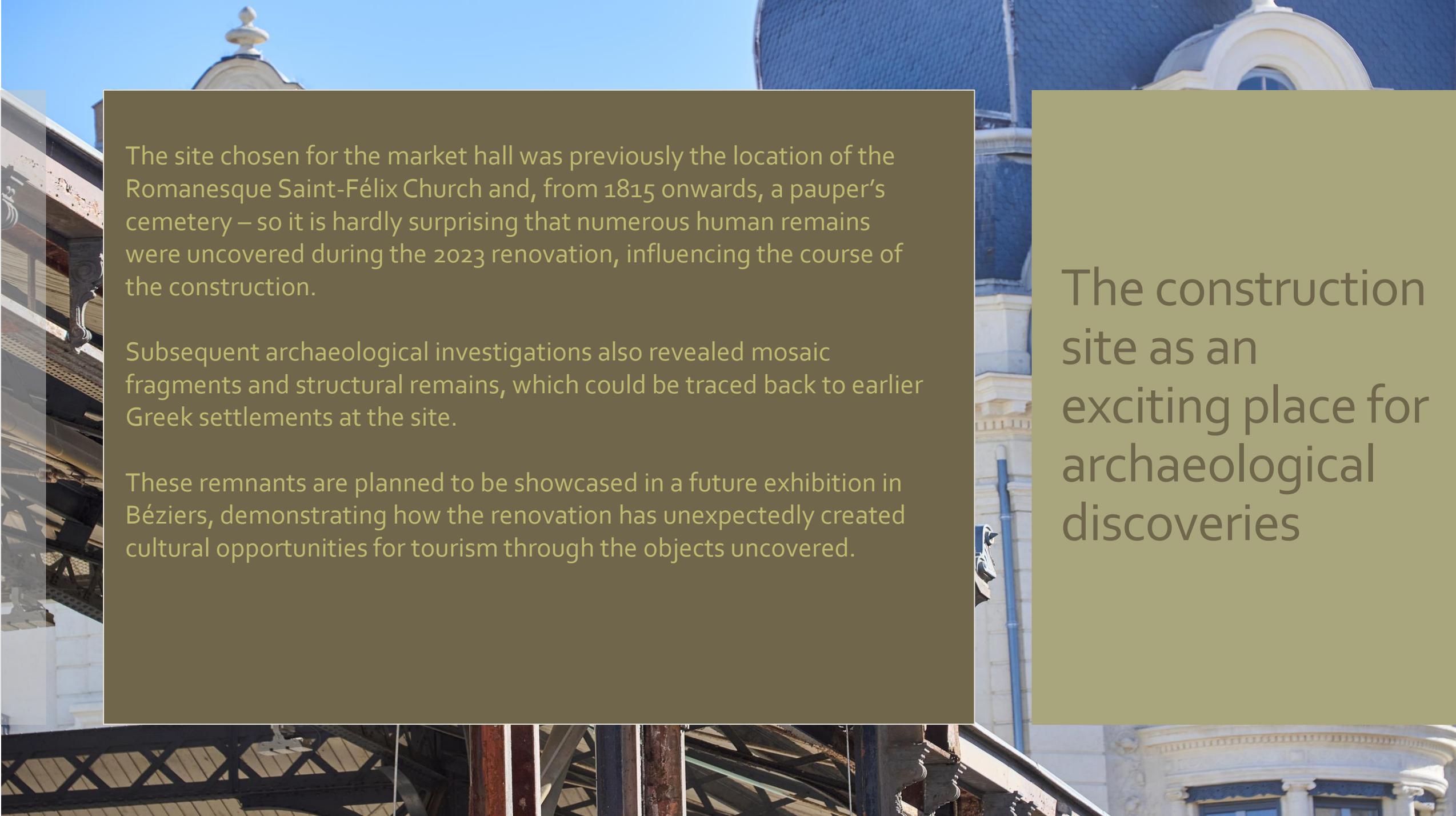
- Safety, hygiene, comfort, and order improved significantly
- For the first time, goods could be stored centrally in cooled conditions until being sold
- Glazed walls with integrated ventilation ensured fresh air circulation
- Markets evolved into civic gathering places, not only centres of trade
- Metal structures and glass roofs shaped the city’s aesthetic identity, while their modular systems allowed for flexible expansion

Baltard-Halls





Inspired by the advantages of the first “Baltard Halls” in Paris and the subsequent halls in Toulouse, Nantes, Lyon, and other cities, the construction of the Béziers market hall was initiated under the direction of then-Mayor Alphonse Mas



The site chosen for the market hall was previously the location of the Romanesque Saint-Félix Church and, from 1815 onwards, a pauper's cemetery – so it is hardly surprising that numerous human remains were uncovered during the 2023 renovation, influencing the course of the construction.

Subsequent archaeological investigations also revealed mosaic fragments and structural remains, which could be traced back to earlier Greek settlements at the site.

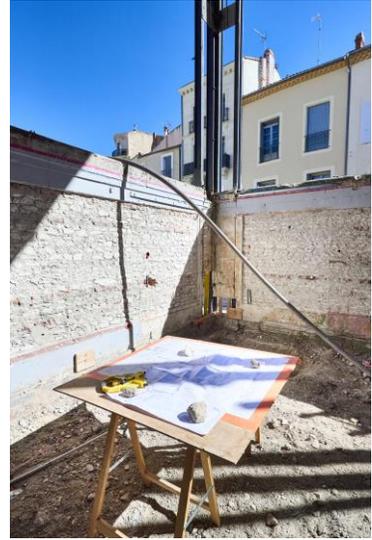
These remnants are planned to be showcased in a future exhibition in Béziers, demonstrating how the renovation has unexpectedly created cultural opportunities for tourism through the objects uncovered.

The construction site as an exciting place for archaeological discoveries



Archaeology
guides the
renovation
process

Visual journey:
Insights from
the renovation
phase

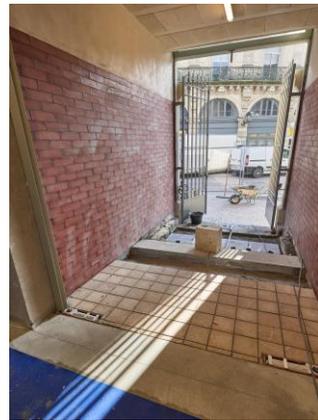




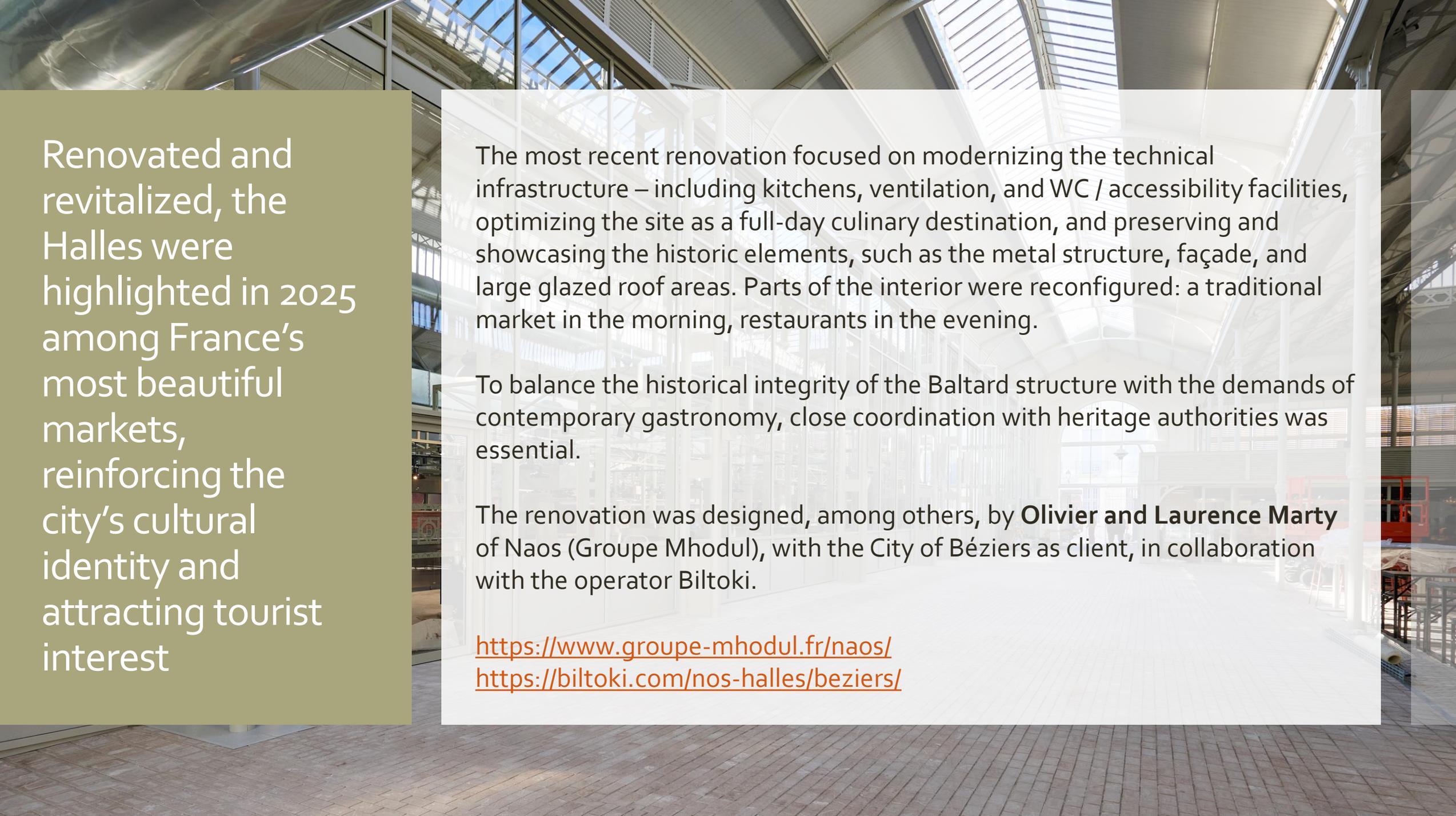
Visual journey:
Insights from
the renovation
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Visual journey:
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phase



Renovated and revitalized, the Halles were highlighted in 2025 among France's most beautiful markets, reinforcing the city's cultural identity and attracting tourist interest

The most recent renovation focused on modernizing the technical infrastructure – including kitchens, ventilation, and WC / accessibility facilities, optimizing the site as a full-day culinary destination, and preserving and showcasing the historic elements, such as the metal structure, façade, and large glazed roof areas. Parts of the interior were reconfigured: a traditional market in the morning, restaurants in the evening.

To balance the historical integrity of the Baltard structure with the demands of contemporary gastronomy, close coordination with heritage authorities was essential.

The renovation was designed, among others, by **Olivier and Laurence Marty** of Naos (Groupe Mhodul), with the City of Béziers as client, in collaboration with the operator Biltoki.

<https://www.groupe-mhodul.fr/naos/>

<https://biltoki.com/nos-halles/beziers/>



The renovation of the Halles de Béziers is a remarkable example of how urban development, culinary innovation, and heritage conservation can come together – with the added surprise that the construction pits revealed the city's deep past, including Greek relics, mosaics, and human remains.

The project has thus delivered both urban revitalization and new insights into cultural history.

Urban
Development

Culinary
Innovation

Heritage
Conservation

HAHN Louvres:

A perfect fit for the iconic Baltard style

Keeping with the style of the historically “Baltard Halls,” HAHN Louvre Windows type S9-iVt-05 were installed beneath the roof as horizontal design and functional elements for ventilation, reflecting the Baltard-typical combination of metal and glass within the system.

Under particularly challenging conditions, the dismantling of the previous structure and the installation of the HAHN Louvres were carried out by a service partner of the Kingspan Group.

<https://www.kingspan.com/fr/fr/divisions/kingspan-light-air/>

The HAHN Louvre Windows take the existing structure further, integrating automated ventilation for precise, continuous control, contributing to visitor comfort and hygiene.

Crafted near Frankfurt am Main in the heart of Germany.

Healthy air, historic
flair:

HAHN Louvre
Windows for natural
ventilation



Today, following the completion of the renovation, the Halles de Béziers have become the new home for 24 vendors who turn every visit into an experience: fresh local fruits and vegetables, seafood, exquisite meats and charcuterie, fine wines, live music, cooking classes, restaurants serving market-fresh products – or just an Aperol at a standing table. The Halles de Béziers are more than just a market: here, history meets culinary delight.



History served
with flavour

Visual journey:
Insights after
project finalisation



Our sincere thanks go to Hugo Da Costa for his photographic documentation of the renovation process.

<https://hugodacosta.com/>

We also extend our gratitude to everyone involved in the project – from planning to on-site execution, to all the craftsmen and craftswomen, and to everyone who contributed their passion and dedication to this remarkable project.

A project of this scale could not have been realized without the deep commitment of each and every individual.

Interested in including HAHN Louvre Windows into your project too? Our team is ready to advise you:

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www.hahn-lamellenfenster.de

