



JEAN PROUVÉ, INVENTOR OF HOUSES. AN EXCEPTIONAL EVENT

15/03/2026 (SAINT-PAUL-DE-VENCE) FRANCE

From March 14 to October 31, 2026, Laffanour | Galerie Downtown and Fondation CAB Saint-Paul de Vence present the exhibition "*Jean Prouvé - Inventeur de maisons / Jean Prouvé - inventor of houses*" dedicated to one of the most influential architects and designers of the 20th century, Jean Prouvé.

The exhibition brings together an exceptional selection of photographic archives (1930s–1970s), rare prefabricated elements — panels, sunshades, doors — as well as a collection of iconic furniture, from the Cité bed to the Compas table and the Standard chair. It perfectly aligns with the spirit of Fondation CAB Saint-Paul de Vence, which houses a 6×6 meter demountable home designed by Jean Prouvé, and continues its mission: to create a dialogue between minimal and conceptual art and the history of French design.



"Jean Prouvé - Inventeur de maisons" presented by Laffanour | Galerie Downtown and Fondation CAB Saint-Paul de Vence is an exceptional selection of works that testify to the multifaceted genius of one of the most influential creators of the 20th century. Architect and designer, Jean Prouvé redefined the relationship between structure, function, and form, advancing a modern vision in which every element from furniture to buildings follows the same rigorous and poetic constructive logic.

Fondation CAB in Saint-Paul-de-Vence, an architectural gem of the 1950s entirely renovated by Charles Zana in 2021, provides an ideal setting to explore this prolific body of work. The exhibition aligns with the Foundation's dual mission: to create a dialogue between minimal and conceptual art and the history of French design, while offering visitors an immersive experience punctuated by architectural elements, iconic objects, and references to the domestic environment.



At the heart of the exhibition, Jean Prouvé's research for the "Coque" and "Métropole" houses in Meudon embodies the culmination of his prefabrication philosophy. Confronted with the postwar housing crisis, he devised innovative structural solutions, axial portal frames, self-supporting panels, curved steel shells that combine lightness, rapid assembly, and enduring modernity. In every detail, Jean Prouvé reveals his social commitment: to make architecture accessible, functional, and formally ambitious.



"Meudon door", «Jean Prouvé - Inventeur de maisons» exhibition. Photograph of Laffanour | Galerie Downtown and Fondation CAB Saint-Paul de Vence.

The presentation curated by the gallery also highlights his emblematic furniture designs, in which structural innovation engages in dialogue with everyday life. The Cité bed, designed for the university residence in Nancy, exemplifies an approach in which function determines form. The Compas table, the Standard chair, the Antony armchair, and the Marcoule bench embody the hallmarks of his work: economy of means, material strength, and formal purity. Architectural elements such as doors from the Maison Métropole and brise-soleil panels for the Air France building in Brazzaville extend this reflection, revealing the intrinsic continuity between furniture and architecture.



