



Restored Notre-Dame reopens

Five-and-a-half years after being gutted by fire, the Gothic masterpiece reopens following a \$750 million restoration, involving 250 companies and hundreds of experts and artisans

Apr 15, 2019: Fire ravages Notre-Dame



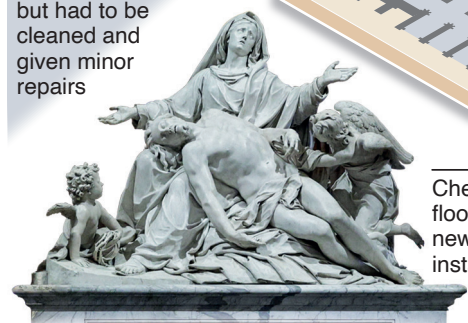
WALLS AND VAULTS

More than 42,000 sq m of stone restored using innovative latex peels to strip away centuries of grime without causing damage

True colour of pale Lutetian limestone – named after Roman word for Paris, *Lutecia* – re-established

ALTAR

Most famous sculptures – such as *The Vow of Louis XIII* (below) – survived unscathed but had to be cleaned and given minor repairs



ORGAN

Spared from flames, but coated in lead dust, its 8,000 pipes had to be painstakingly disassembled, cleaned and put back in place

Sixteen bellows replaced using original materials – sheepskin and animal glue



ROOF

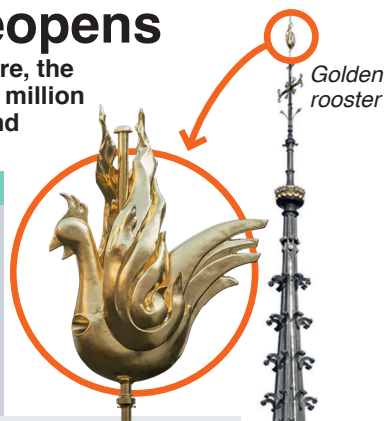
New wood framework, known as *"The Forest"*, made from 1,200 historic oak trees and restored using medieval timber techniques

Thermal cameras and timber dampening system integrated to put out fires. Fireproof trusses divide roof into sections to prevent flames spreading

SPIRE

Cathedral's 96-metre-high spire, added in 19th century by architect *Eugène Viollet-le-Duc* and destroyed in fire, faithfully recreated

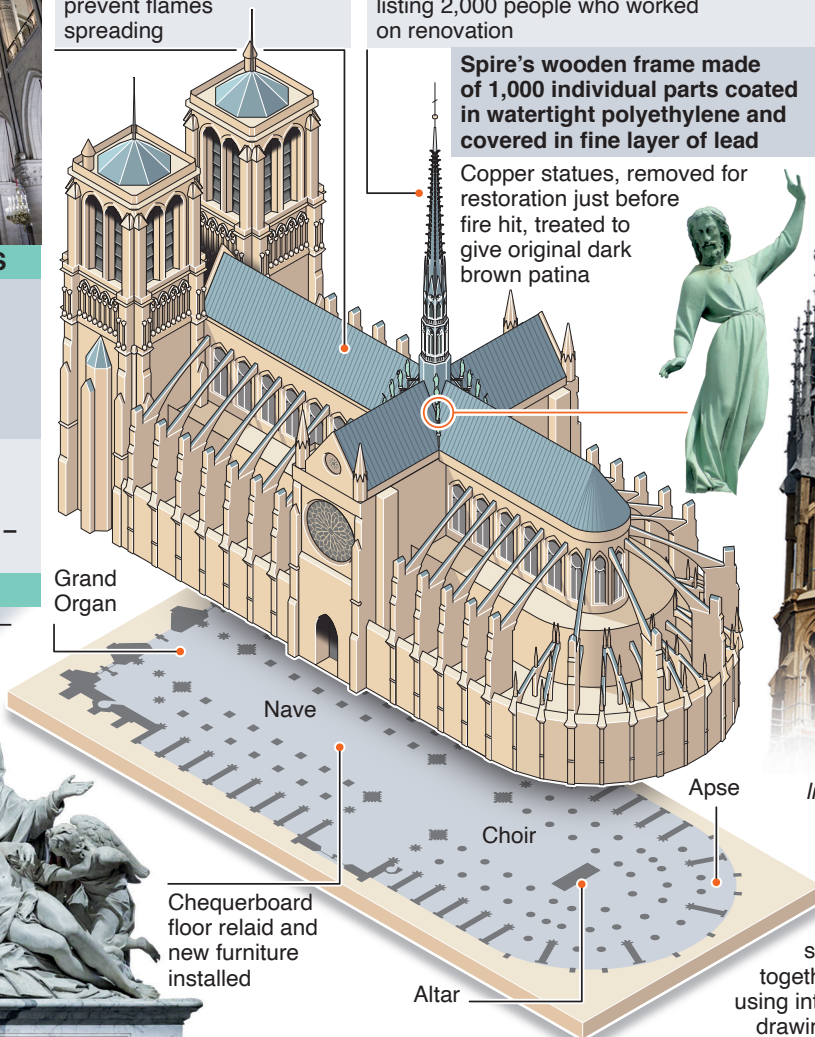
Crowned by gilded rooster containing religious relics, including piece from *Crown of Thorns*, alongside scroll listing 2,000 people who worked on renovation



Golden rooster

Spire's wooden frame made of 1,000 individual parts coated in watertight polyethylene and covered in fine layer of lead

Copper statues, removed for restoration just before fire hit, treated to give original dark brown patina



Grand Organ

Nave

Choir

Altar

Chequerboard floor relaid and new furniture installed

Oak frame before being lined with lead

Spire recreated using ancient technique of "scribing" where structure is fitted together in workshop using intricate pencilled drawings as template

WINDOWS

Famed stained-glass windows cleaned and restored by master glassmakers and locksmiths from across France, along with workers from Cologne, Germany

WHAT NEXT? Renovation work is set to continue on outside walls of apse and sacristy. There are also plans to redesign esplanade and to create museum in neighbouring Hôtel-Dieu hospital

GARGOYLES AND CHIMERAS

Damaged by centuries of pollution and high-pressure hoses used to fight fire, repaired and in some cases re-made

