

KEY FIGURES: EPICO AT THE PETIT TRIANON, PALACE OF VERSAILLES, FRANCE

January 2023



HISTORY

In 1758, Louis XV decided to build a new palace in the middle of his gardens, which, by then, he had been working on for around ten years. He commissioned Ange-Jacques Gabriel, first architect to the King, to build a pavilion large enough for himself and some of his entourage to live in. The new King Louis XVI gave the Petit Trianon as a gift to his wife, Marie-Antoinette, who quickly made it her own and ordered an extensive redesign of the external areas. Napoleon restored the palace and gardens to their former glory, first for his sister Pauline and later for the Empress Marie-Louise, his second wife. Later, the palace was handed over to the Duke of Orleans, eldest son of Louis-Philippe. Then, in 1867, the Empress Eugénie, wife of Napoleon III, converted the Petit Trianon into a museum dedicated to the memory of Marie-Antoinette. *Versailles, château, domaine, collections, Lemoine, P., Benoît, J., et coll., Réunion Des Musées Nationaux, février 2017*

ORGANISATION

The EPICO method was applied to the Petit Trianon with the collaboration of the Sorbonne University students”, Master 2 « Conservation Préventive du Patrimoine » promotion 2022 - 2023.

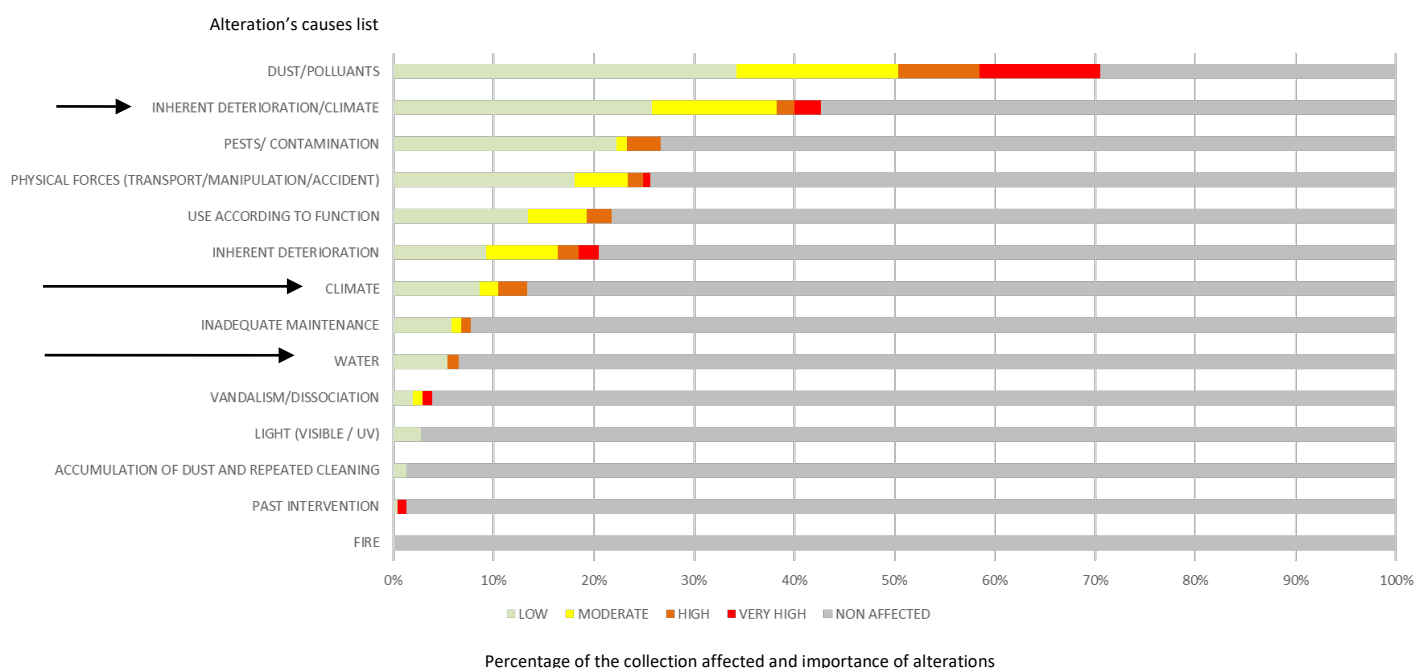
Assessment Steps	Time needed
Pilote inspection and preparation of files 2 persons	2 days
Zooning and sampling 1 person	4 days
Data collecting 16 students	2 days
Data treatment 2 persons	1 day
Results and recommendations 2 persons	2 days
Total for 81 rooms	11 days

RESULTS

- **1 142** number of inventoried objects → **82** objects in our EPICO sample
- **81** Rooms → **38** Zones
- **425** alteration → **261** alterations due to active causes
- **3 major causes of alteration:** dust, inherent deterioration coupled with climate, pests and contamination
- **1 short time action** implemented to improve the conditions of 70% of the collections: new organization of the teams responsible for maintenance

TYPOLOGY	SAMPLE
FOURNITURE	18
PAINTING	5
GRAPHIC ART	3
SCULPTURE	0
ART OBJECT	19
BUILDING DECORATION	37
TOTAL	82

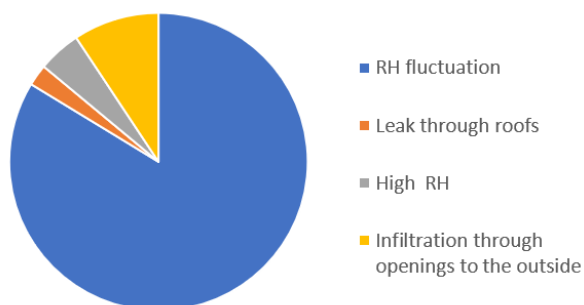
RANKING OF THE ALTERATION'S CAUSES (extent and severity)



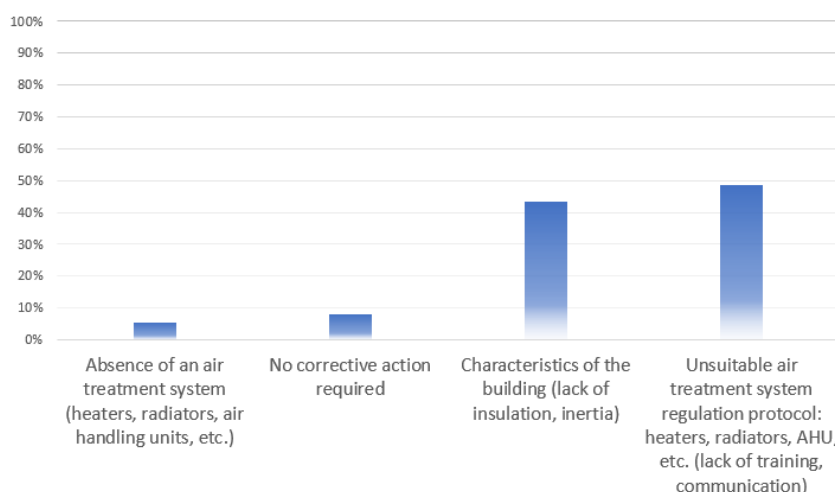
The alterations visible on the collections are analyzed in connection with their causes, using a diagnostic approach which highlights the cause and effect relationship. The 14 causes of alteration were ranked from the most important to the least important. As part of the EPICO 2023-2025 program, dedicated to the new challenges posed by climate change, energy efficiency and sustainable development, a focus is placed here on the impact of the climate.

IMPACT OF CAUSES : INHERENT DETERIORATION - CLIMATE – WATER

Specific causes



Diagnosis



For alterations attributed to climate, the diagnosis is, in more than 90% of cases, linked to a weakness in the architectural envelope and the regulation of the air treatment system.

EPICO TEAM OF THE PALACE OF VERSAILLES:

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