

## ESTAQUE NEIGHBOURHOOD



Air sight of the Estaque district. On the foreground, the port and the way of the littoral. On the background, the railway and the hills piedmont with ancient country houses. In the center, a large housing estate from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. ON the left, the Church district, mainly built in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century – picture M. Heller

The Estaque neighbourhood is typified by its extreme outer-suburban location at the boundary of the municipal land, by a form of urban development which was not concerted but grew



Boulevard Farrence – alignment of city houses build by 1910 – picture M. Heller

up haphazardly at the whim of private initiatives. During the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and up to the 1970s-80s the area, as a place where large chemical factories, cement works and tile kilns were sited, was inhabited by a very largely immigrant working-class population from the Mediterranean seaboard which became

The study of the Estaque neighbourhood embarked upon by the “Service Régional d’Inventaire PACA” (regional department responsible for the Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur Heritage Inventory) is intended to reconstruct the chronological and morphological process of the city’s construction, using the example of a working-class suburb of Marseille. The urban development phenomenon is tracked by 20-year stages. The mechanisms of land tenure and subdivision, and the social history, are investigated by identifying the subdividers and the owners/builders, and the morphological features of what they built.



Appartment building from 1914 : frontage on court with external stairs and gangway serving the accommodations upstairs – picture M. Heller



Big country house with private chapel build by 1870 for a masonry contractor

integrated through labour. Its position between the seaside and the hilly hinterland also made the Estaque neighbourhood a turn-of-century holiday spot with Marseille residents' country estates in the foothills, cottages in the higher hills, and seaside villas on the coast.



**Balneal Villa** a.k.a « l'Etoile polaire », built in 1899 for an acconier – picture M. Heller

The meeting of 27-28 November will afford the opportunity to present an interpretation of a micro-district according to an approach blending social history and urban morphology.

### **Bibliography**

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- DRAC PACA banque d’images –  
picture bank / base inventaire – inventory base: 700  
digitised shots covering the Estaque-Les Riaux sector  
(Marseille 16)