



HOUSE OF EUROPEAN HISTORY

Memorial to the Abolition of Slavery, designed by Wodiczko + Bonder, Nantes, France



Source: Patrick Garçon, 'Nantes Métropole' © Patrick Garçon-Nantes Métropole



Source: Patrick Garçon, 'Nantes Métropole' © Patrick Garçon-Nantes Métropole

Explanatory Notes

- The horizontal shape of the memorial, its riverside location and the steep steps leading to it recall the slave trade boats.
- It is made of 2 000 glass plaques, 1 710 of which feature the names and departure dates of the ships that left Nantes on slave-trading expeditions. The other 290 plaques give the names of slave-trading posts, intermediary ports and trading ports in Africa, the West Indies, the Americas and the Indian Ocean.

Read more on the [Memorial website](#).





HOUSE OF EUROPEAN HISTORY

National Slavery Monument, designed by Erwin Jules de Vries, Amsterdam, Netherlands



Source: [What's up with Amsterdam website](#) © Nationaal Instituut Nederlands Slavernijverleden en Erfenis

Explanatory Notes

There are three moments within the monument – the past (an enchained slave group), the present (a liberated slave walking through the arch) and the future (a representation of belief in one day being freed from discrimination).

'Door of No Return' by Fortuné Banderia, Ouidah, Benin





HOUSE OF EUROPEAN HISTORY

Source: [Bicycle Africa / Ibike Tours](#) © Cindy Hopkins/ Alamy



Source: [Bicycle Africa / Ibike Tours](#) © Cindy Hopkins/ Alamy

Explanatory Notes

The end of the Route of the Slaves, running from the town itself to the coast and featuring several sculptures and monuments, marks the point where captives were loaded onto ships to the Americas.

- In your opinion, what is the architect/artist trying to express visually and emotionally through this monument?
- Do you think he/she has succeeded?
- Which monument do you think best conveys its message, and why?

