



MAISON BERNARD

FONDS DE DOTATION

BIOGRAPHY

1922-1991, FRANCE

ADVENTURER & PHILANTHROPIST

PIERRE BERNARD, THE PATRON

The origins are found within a place, a landscape: the red rocks of the Esterel mountains, the endless view of the Mediterranean with the Bay of Cannes and the facing Lérins Islands. Pierre Bernard is smitten and acquires a plot of land. His initial project is fairly classic: build a holiday home for his family of three children. Fate decided otherwise. During a courtesy visit with neighbors, he met Antti Lovag. Family legend has it that Lovag shattered this initial project with a scathing criticism of his architectural choice. This initial provocation would seal the beginning of a long friendship/complicity and a successful adventure brutally interrupted by the disappearance of Pierre Bernard in 1991.

An industrialist engaged in automobile distribution since the 1950s, Pierre Bernard indeed wanted something more than a simple seaside residence. He had other ambitions and tastes. Convinced by Antti Lovag's ideas and talent, he became his patron. The two men, both with strongly-tempered characters, had first to adjust to each other in order for the architectural "utopias" of one to meet the aspirations of the other.

For nearly twenty years, Pierre Bernard provided Antti Lovag the means and the opportunity to implement his ideas and develop his architecture. In the absence of deadlines and without an obligation of immediate results, Antti Lovag was able to freely experiment with materials and spatial organizations, thereby developing innovative construction techniques using concrete veil. During these years he developed his unique style and created a distinctive image of the habitat to which his name is now attached. When the construction of the Bernard House ended, neither one of the two men wanted the adventure to end. They subsequently launched construction of the Côte d'Azur Observatory in Caussols followed by another residence which was later acquired by Pierre Cardin.

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