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A scientific yard next to the restoration yard of Notre-Dame de Paris

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Following the tragedy of 15 April 2019, a formidable restoration project was set up around Notre-Dame. In parallel to this work and in close interaction with it, a scientific project was developed, coordinated by the CNRS and the Ministry of Culture, with nearly 200 scientists, nine working groups, interdisciplinary research, a necessary link between the scientific project and the restoration project, and a synergy between institutions, skills and diversified practices.

On the scientific yard of Notre-Dame, the sciences of measurement and modelling rub shoulders with, for example, engineers specialized in structural calculations, acousticians or digital experts, physical chemists who try to understand how matter is arranged at the atomic and molecular level, but also archaeologists who study the medieval building, art and technical historians, anthropologists and sociologists. For several decades now, the boundaries between these disciplines have been blurred and have become interactive, articulating concepts and practices in a demanding dialogue. The archaeological and heritage sciences bring together all the disciplines that intersect in order to grasp the totality of an object from ancient times, as it may have been conceived at a given moment in history; it is this interdisciplinary approach that is at work at Notre-Dame.