

# ARCHITECTURE STYLES OF FRENCH 'HOTEL DES POSTES'

**Introduction:** The term "Hotel des Postes" which literally translates from French to English as Postal Hotel was used extensively on early 20th century French Picture Postcards. This did not refer to any specific hospitality establishment, as the French Postal Department i.e PTT never operated any hotels. These were infact General Post Offices more akin to the French phrase "Hotel de Ville" which means town hall or city centre rather than anything to do with the English meaning of hotel. These large well designed buildings were established in city centres as the volume of postal mail was huge in those days. "Hotel Des Postes" or "Bureau de poste" or "La Poste" are synonymous terms for these buildings with "Hotel Des Postes" used more often in early 20th century.

**Purpose:** These buildings were constructed in varied Architectural styles in the city centre. This exhibit aims to classify these picture postcards as per the Architectural style of the building and aims to give information about the current status of the building.

**Treatment and Presentation:** French Picture postcards from Early 20th Century have been used in this exhibit. City/Town of the Hotel des Postes is in Blue. Information about the Card Printing is in Black. Details about the current status of the building as in early 2024 and Architecture are in Brown.

**Research:** Internet and Personal study are the primary research modes.

## Plan:

A) Art Deco Architecture - Page 2 to Page 6

B) Art Nouveau Architecture - Page 7 to Page 9

C) Neoclassical Architecture - Page 10 to Page 12

D) Neoclassical + Art Deco Architecture - Page 13 to Page 14

E) Neoclassical + Art Nouveau Architecture - Page 15

F) Wren + Renaissance Architecture - Page 16



Hotel des Postes  
in Angers  
Collotype  
Printing  
Undivided Back.  
Card No ML67.  
Printed in  
Nantes. Used in  
1904. This  
Neoclassical &  
Art Deco style  
Building is now  
converted to a  
Cafe and Hotel.



Art Deco architecture is typically defined by the use of geometric shapes and volumes.

Hotel des Postes in Chateauroux

Collotype Printing. Card No 715. Published by Au Belier. Divided Back.

Building broken down to house a new post office



This naming nomenclature was followed not only in France but in French Overseas colonies too like this Hotel des Postes in Casablanca, Morocco when it was a French colony. Coloured Collotype Printing. Card No 12. Divided Back . Published by Photo Flandrin. Building is now a local Government office

Collotype  
Printing.  
Divided Back.  
Card No 479.  
Published by  
La Cigogne.  
Used in 1938



Card on Top and Bottom shows Hotel des Postes in Vichy.  
The Building is now an Office Building



Coloured  
Collotype  
Printing. Divided  
Back. Card No  
286. Published by  
C Des Arts  
Photomecaniques.



La Poste  
Cayeux-sur-  
Mer  
Collotype  
Printing. Card  
No 76.  
Published by  
Galeries  
Modernes.  
Divided Back.  
Building no  
longer exists

Hotel des Postes in  
Poitiers.

Real Photo Picture  
Postcard. Published by  
Comber Imp Macon.  
Divided Back. Building  
broken down to make way  
for a new post office  
building.





La Poste Beauvais

Collotype Printing. Card No EH 46. Published by Harmignies.  
Divided Back. Building now has offices with a small post office



Hotel des Postes in Clermont-Ferrand

Collotype Printing. Card No 375. Published by L'Hirendelle.  
Divided Back. Building is now a local Government office.



Hotel des Postes in Brest

Collotype Printing. Card No 117. Published by G Artaud.  
Divided Back. Used in 1933.

Building Destroyed in World War II bombing



La Poste Niort

Collotype Printing. Card No 59. Published by La Civette. Divided Back.  
It is now an Office Building.

Main features of Art Nouveau architecture are asymmetric lines, or triangles or arches, curves and motifs inspired by natural elements.



Collotype Printing. Card No 5. Divided Back

Card on Top and Bottom shows Hotel des Postes in Marseille. The Building is now has offices, shops and a hotel



Coloured Collotype Printing. Card No 13. Divided Back. Published by G.Montanari.



Collotype Printing. Card No 29. Published by Bonnet Journaux. Divided Back

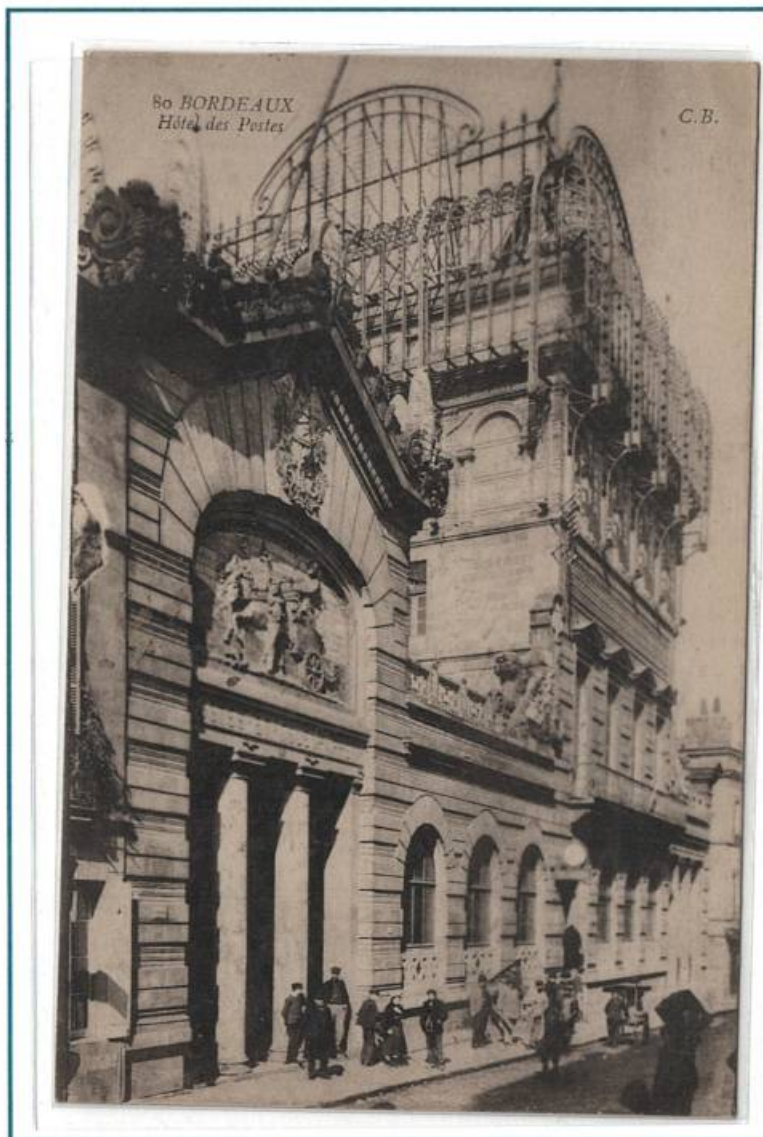
Card on Top and Bottom shows Hotel des Postes in Auxerre.  
The Building has now been broken down to house a new post office



Coloured Collotype Printing. Card No 25. Divided Back.  
Published by Levy

Hotel des Postes in  
Bordeaux

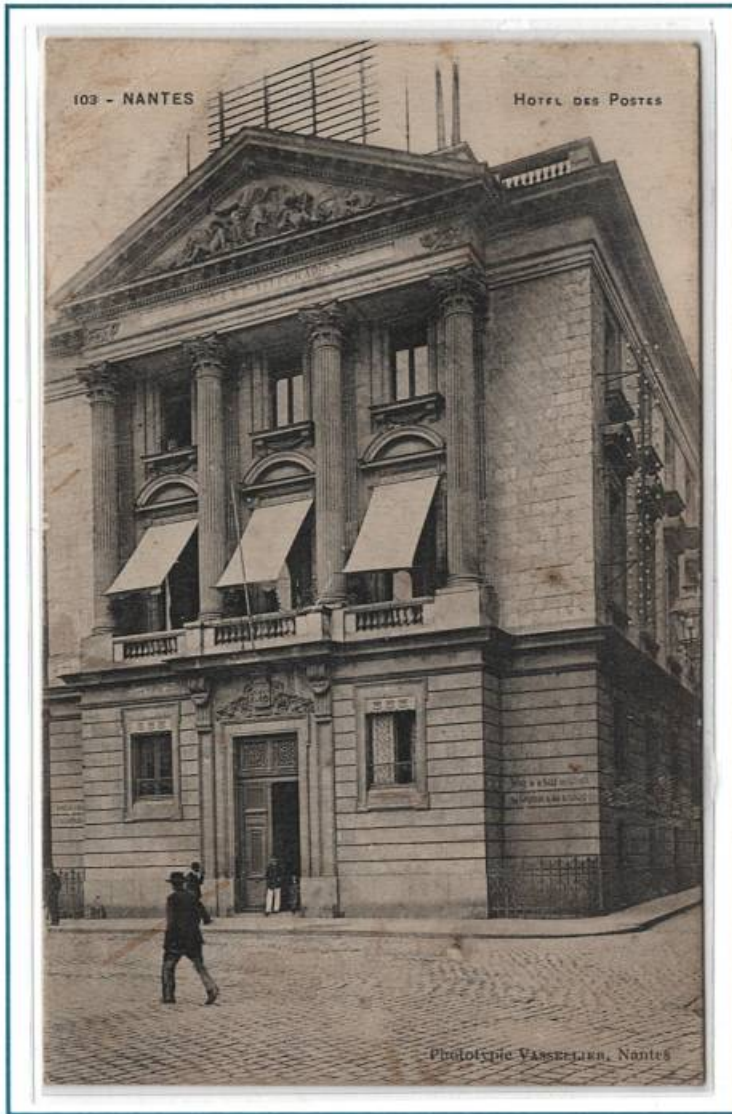
Collotype Printing. Card  
No 80. Published by CH  
Chambon. Divided Back.  
Building Destroyed in  
World War II bombing



Hotel des Postes  
in La Baule Les  
Pins

Collotype  
Printing. Card No  
16. Published by  
A Bruel. Divided  
Back.

Building no  
longer exists.



Neoclassical architecture is characterised by grand scale, simple geometric forms, Greek or Roman detail, dramatic columns and blank walls.

Collotype Printing.  
Card No 103.  
Published by  
Vasselijer. Divided  
Back.

Card on Top and Bottom shows Hotel des Postes in Nantes.  
The Building no longer exists.



Collotype  
Printing.  
Card No 10.  
Published  
by SGDG.  
Used in  
1905.



Hotel des Postes in Montpellier  
 Coloured Collotype Printing. Card No 2. Published by A Bardou.  
 Building is now a Local Government Office.



Hotel des Postes in Clamecy  
 Collotype Printing. Card No 30. Published by Satin.  
 Building no longer exists



Hotel des Postes in Chateauroux

Collotype Printing. Undivided Back. Published by BF Paris.

Building now broken down to make way for a new post office



Hotel des Postes in Agen

Collotype Printing. Divided Back. Used in 1917. Published by Nouvelles Galeries.

Building no longer exists.

Some of these buildings had a combination of multiple architecture styles like these showing a cusp of Neo Classical and Art Deco style.



Collotype Printing. Card No 1. Divided Back. Published by BF Paris.

Card on Top and Bottom shows Hotel des Postes in Lille  
The Building is now a local Government office.



Collotype Printing. Card No 43. Undivided Back.



### Hotel des Postes in Amiens

Collotype Printing. Divided Back. Used in 1907. Card No 81.  
Building no longer exists.



### La Poste in Rochefort-sur-Mer

Collotype Printing. Divided Back. Used in 1919. Card No 107.  
Published by Marel Delboy.  
Building now has Offices and a small post office.

Some of these buildings had a combination of multiple architecture styles like these showing a cusp of Neo Classical and Art Nouveau style.



Hotel des Postes in Orleans

Collotype Printing. Divided Back. Card No 203. Published by BF Paris.  
Building destroyed in World War II bombing.



Hotel des Postes in Strasbourg

Collotype Printing. Divided Back. Card No 53. Used in 1928.  
Building destroyed in World War II bombing.



Wren Architecture incorporated abundant natural light. Renaissance architecture used many classical elements including columns, pilasters (rectangular columns). These buildings were a cusp of both styles.

### La Poste in Metz

Coloured Collotype Printing. Divided Back. Card No 136.

Published by P Bonnevie

Building is now a local Government office.



### Hotel des Postes in Mulhouse

Collotype Printing. Divided Back. Card No 687. Published by Braun & Cie

Building is now a local Government office.