

City Planning,,, Place des Vosages - Paris 1605

Originally known as place Royale, *Place des Vosges* was built by **Henri IV** from 1605 to 1612. A true square (140 m × 140 m), it embodied the first European program of royal city planning.

Place des Vosges, inaugurated in 1612 with a grand *carrousel* to celebrate the engagement of **Louis XIII** and **Anne of Austria**, is a prototype of the residential squares of European cities that were to come.

What was new about the *place Royale* in 1612 was that the housefronts were all built to the same design, probably by **Jean Baptiste Androuet du Cerceau**,^[1] of red brick with strips of stone quoins over vaulted *arcades* that stand on square pillars. The steeply-pitched blue slate roofs are pierced with discreet small-paned dormers above the pedimented dormers that stand upon the cornices.

Only the north range was built with the vaulted ceilings that the “galleries” were meant to have. Two pavilions that rise higher than the unified roofline of the square center the north and south faces and offer access to the square through triple arches.





