



Urban House Development in Paris at the End of the Eighteenth Century

The Role of the Building Contractor - Owner or Builder?

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Abstract: Left by the wayside until now by historiography, the importance of the Parisian *maison urbaine* emerges clearly if we take a look at the surge in construction that dominated the capital at the end of the eighteenth century. The archival documents available that make reference to the *maison urbaine's* design are unequivocal: building contractors—master masons or architects—were among its main agents. The study of their production and a comparison of the sources enables us to understand the characteristics of the development of this type of dwelling.

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