
VILLA LOUIS NOËL

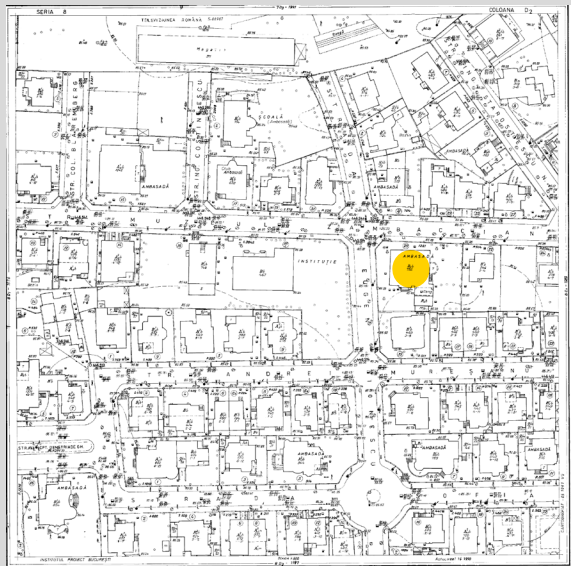
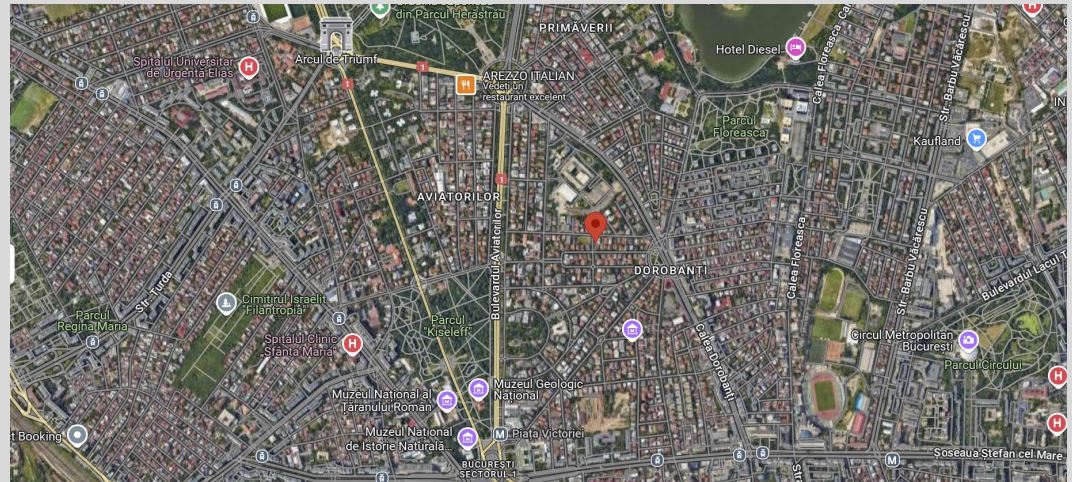


An Art Deco Gem

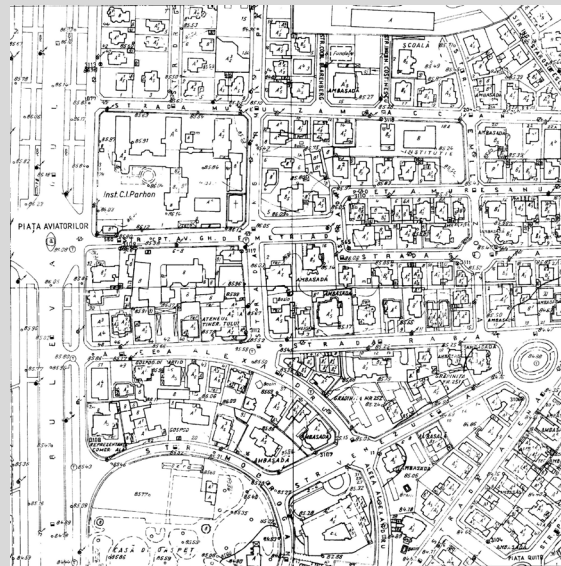
Architect Ernest Doneaud

Photo (<https://villanoel.unibuc.ro/la-villa-noel/>)

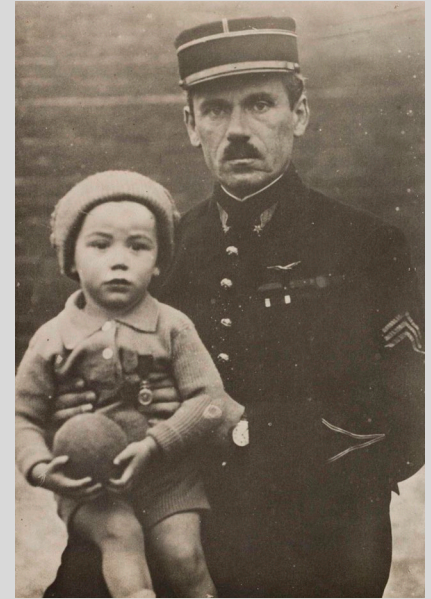
6, Emile Zola, Bucharest (GoogleMaps)



Cadastral map 1/2000



Cadastral map 1/500



Louis Noël (1872-1939) was a French aviator who learned to fly in Britain at Brooklands (1911).

He became a flying instructor at Hendon and participated in aviation competitions until the outbreak of the First World War, when he served his native country.

It is not known when he settled in our country, most probably after the end of the war, perhaps having been brought by Prince George-Valentin Bibescu.

What is certain is that he lived in Bucharest at the following addresses: str. Eroului nr. 15 (1923), str. Romană nr. 20 (1924), str. Biserica Amzei nr. 26 (1937-1938).

The aviator had purchased several parcels, two whole lots and three half lots (numbered 18-20) being mentioned in the file, the total area being 1155 sqm. with the intention of building a house for his family, for which he appealed to the architect Ernest Doneaud. (Marinache, 2015, p.233)

Albert Léonce Alexandre Doneaud

(1879-1959) was a Romanian architect of French origin, born in Bucharest into the family of Josef Emile Edouard Doneaud and Louise Manoël, who had settled in Bucharest and owned a building firm.

Ernest studied at the Schewitz-Thierrin Institute for Boys before moving to Paris, where he continued his training in the studio of Professor Edmond Jean Baptiste Paulin. In 1907, he qualified as a diplomatic architect and became a member of the Society of Diplomatic Architects of the French Government.



Professional activity

His career began and grew thanks to the support of the liberal politician and Mayor of the Capital, Vintila Bratianu (1867-1930) as chief architect of the Technical Department of the capital's Cityhall, architect of "The social housing society" and of the first housing complex on Lânariei Street, as well as of the "Govora-Calimanesti" Society. Doneaud also worked for the War Ministry during the First World War. He has held several important positions in the field of construction, as general director of the company "La Construction Moderne", corresponding member of the Society of Urban Planners of Romania, member of the Commission for the Systematization of the Capital, to architect of the Directorate of the Superior Technical Council.

Style

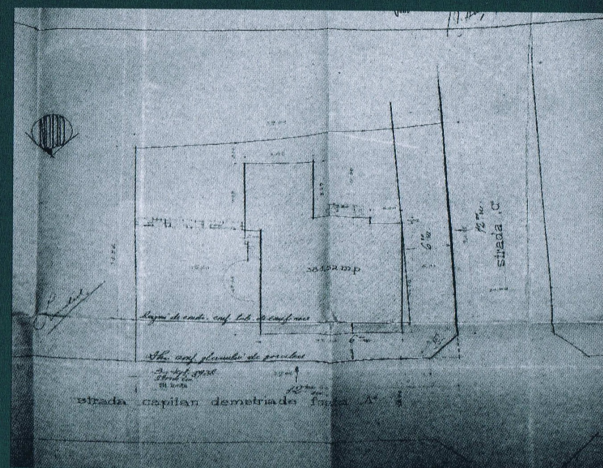
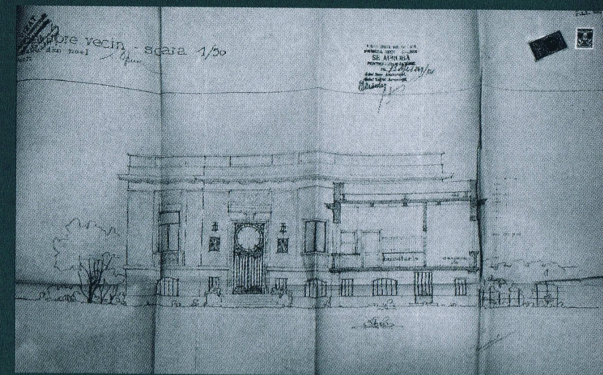
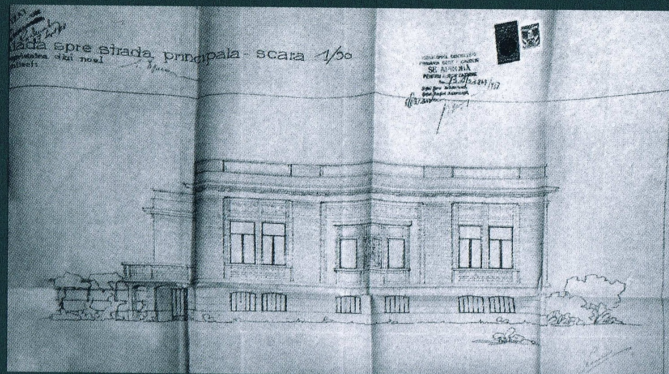
The first period of his activity is characterized by the **eclectic architecture** of the French school: Doneaud built several emblematic villas to the taste of the Bucharest aristocracy of the first quarter of the 20th century (Nanu-Muscel, Duca, Deșliu, Dănescu, Răuțoiu, Cerkez, Filitti).

He has few elements of the **National Style** in his buildings, among which the Visarion Church, the Zaharoff Villa, the Străjescu Villa and the Royal Palace Hotel.

The second period of his career is in the Modernist movement, when he adopted **Art Deco** elements, the representative building both for its location on Magheru Boulevard and for its size being the Lido Palace, later transformed into a hotel.

Excerpt from the presentation of the book *Visul Liniei* launch . <https://villanoel.unibuc.ro/event/lancement-de-lalbum-ernest-doneaud-visul-linie/>
Marinache, O. 2015. *Visul Liniei*. Editura istoria Artei.

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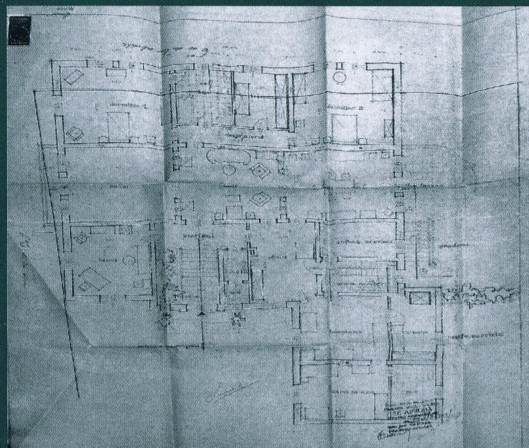
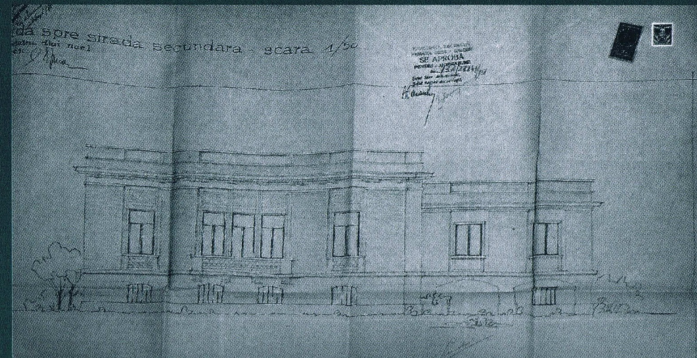
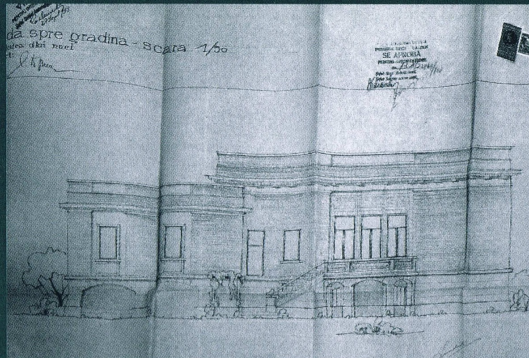
Ernest Doneaud

According to the archive documents (PMB Archives I Galben, file 7 / 1938), on September 29, 1938, Mr. Noël had applied for building permit for a house with basement and ground floor of 374 sqm. on the plot located at the intersection of Captain Demetriade (former A) corner and G street, corresponding today to the streets Emile Zola and Zambaccian Museum.

The city required him to build set back by 6 meters from the street alignment and to use concrete slabs, and to install a gas shelter in the basement.

It is possible that Doneaud did not carry out the actual construction, as among the documents on file is the name of the engineer Cesar Pop, who stated that he would comply with the plans on file and with the conditions for the execution of the work imposed by the town hall, which may have been carried out during 1939. According to research this is the last work identified in the archives as belonging to the architect Doneaud.

(Marinache, 2015, p.233)



The vestibule provides access either into Noel's study, or into the hall and parlor or dining room. The family bedrooms are set back towards the courtyard, separated by a closet.

Villa Noël used to be the headquarters of the French Embassy's Service for Cooperation and Cultural Activities and was recently renovated with the support of the Institut de France and now houses the "Centre Regional Francophone de Recherches Avancees en Sciences Sociales" (CEREFREA). (Marinache, 2015, 237)

Planurile fațadelor

Planul de situație

Planul parterului

Visul liniei

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The main volume of the house, roughly square shaped extends into the courtyard with another body used for the outbuildings.

The style adopted by the architect is in the modernist style, which he practiced in the interwar period, although the facades are stamped with the owner's profession and passion.

The decorative friezes with classical scenes, the columns and the prominent cornice take us back to another historical period, that of ancient architecture.

The mythological scenes with the Roman god Mercury at their center are an obvious reference to aviation and commerce, Noel's occupations.

The decorative elements designed for the property's fence are reminiscent of the first stage of the architect's career, which was deeply marked by the beaux-arts eclecticism of the French school.

(Marinache, 2015, p.233)