representatives. The sovereign people and their choices of the fundamental guiding principles: making its missions and organisation have evolved. Its role is to audit independently and specifically designed and built for its own 1912 in the Palais Cambon, a building by Jean-Alfred Desbrosses. The ruins of the Palais d’Orsay.
**MAIN COURTYARD**

The Palais Cambon has four wings surrounding a main courtyard. It was designed to house the various offices and services of the Cour des comptes (around 200 rooms). Since 1994, the façades of the Palais Cambon, as well as those of the Chicago Tower, have been listed as historical monuments. It is a Republican building with an architecture that displays many symbols.

- **Staircase of the Prosecutor’s Office**
- **Cour des comptes**
- **13, rue Cambon**
- **F-75100 Paris Cedex 1**
- **Ph +33 1 42 98 95 00**
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**HISTORY**

The scales symbolise justice.

**STORAGE CELLS (ALvéOLES)**

Some of the storage cells that housed the archives until 2007 have been renovated and preserved as historical testimony.

**ATRIUM**

The Cour des comptes is the oldest of the grands corps de l’État. It is the successor to the Curia Regis (King’s Court) of the Middle Ages, which sat in the Sovereign’s residence on Île de la Cité in Paris. An 1190 order issued by Philip II, Augustus, mentions the procedure for presenting public accounts to the King in his Court or to the Court itself representing the Sovereign. In 1256, Louis IX, Saint Louis, confirmed the role of auditors, who, as of 1303, sat in a specific room of the Palais de Justice known as the camera computorum (the Court of Accounts). The institution was first established as a separate royal chamber by an order of Philip V, The Tall, in 1320. In the Middle Ages, other courts of accounts were set up outside Paris. They enjoyed significant power until the 16th century. These courts of accounts were dissolved during the Revolution.

By way of a 1791 decree, the National Constituent Assembly entrusted the legislative body with settling the nation’s accounts, supported by an auxiliary technical body known as the Bureau de Comptabilité (Bureau of Accounting). However, the Bureau de Comptabilité did not have enough resources or authority to guarantee that public funds were being used properly.

Thus, Napoleon I decided to re-establish a financial jurisdiction, giving rise to a law of 16 September 1807 which established the present Cour des comptes. This centralised, authoritative body reported to the Emperor alone on the basis of accounting compliance audit. Control was exercised using court-like procedures, with writ-ten contradictory procedures and collegiate decisions.

The role and missions of the Cour des comptes have expanded considerably since then, but the principles of independence, collegiality and objection still exist to this day.

**CHICAGO TOWER**

This ingenious and innovative building made from non-flammable reinforced concrete is the first example in France of 10 storeys spread over a height of 30 metres. The Tower, which has two listed façades and two blank façades, is an architectural jewel inspired by the Chicago school. It contained the Cour des comptes’ archives (around 400,000 files) until 2007. Since its 2009 renovation, it houses around 200 employees.

**GENERAL PROSECUTOR’S OFFICE**

This office is currently occupied by Catherine Hirsch de Kersauson, who has been General Prosecutor since 23 May 2019. As the guardian of procedures, the General Prosecutor’s administration is responsible for overseeing the enforcement of laws, providing the Cour des comptes with its opinions and helping it to make better decisions.