Three years ago, the City of Aix-les-Bains put its architectural heritage online based on the terms and conditions of an agreement signed with the government and then with the region. To do this, it took its data that was part of its numerical cadastre and matched them with GIS data.

Following the call for tenders, the decision was made to use Autodesk MapGuide Enterprise 2007 from GEOMAP, which partners with Autodesk. GEOMAP was mandated to coordinate MapGuide's GIS data with the electronic files of the municipal cadastre.

Prompt Deployment

“We thought that this solution met the expectations of the City of Aix-les-Bains for a solution available to the general public, and highlighted the heritage of the City of Aix-les-Bains. Indeed, elements such as simplicity, quick browsing ability and setting options are important,” explains Stéphane Viviand, Technical Director at GEOMAP. “Autodesk MapGuide lets address the constraints of the City of Aix-les-Bains through the possibility of adapting to a variety of GIS formats on the market (in this case, SHP format) and to the related databases. By being able to configure the Autodesk MapGuide application, we can quickly meet the requirements of the City of Aix-les-Bains in terms of ergonomics.”

The application was deployed after finalizing the site’s beta version. The mapping system was put online in early August. It is easy to access from the Mayor’s site, via the map itself, or through the cadastral information in HTML, but this access initially only looks at the historic architectural heritage of Aix-les-Bains.

“For the time being, only 200 buildings downtown have fully accessible data, but we of course want to provide information online for all the city’s buildings,” says Joël Lagrange, Inventory Researcher for the City of Aix-les-Bains.
“By being able to configure the Autodesk MapGuide application, we can quickly meet the requirements of the City of Aix-les-Bains in terms of ergonomics.”

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A Tool Available to Professionals and Citizens
The local authorities in charge of urban planning now have a tool to help in decision-making, especially regarding instructions for construction or demolition permits.

“The site can be used for professional purposes, but also for our citizens with a cultural or historic interest, who can easily access a mapping tool,” adds Joël Lagrange.

“We tested it online to see how the general public would react. The experience was very positive. MapGuide is easy to use, with its signs and pointers already adopted by a number of amateur users of mapping tools, including GPS and Google Earth. Internet users can thus go through the city map, select each building and open a descriptive file containing data from the “Inventaire du Patrimoine” (Heritage Inventory, data on architecture, building history, etc.).

Also, a search for a building based on several criteria can be done to access its descriptive file and locate it on a map through georeferencing.”

The Aix-les-Bains mapping project can be found at http://www.patrimoine-aixlesbains.fr/index.php.

About GeoMap
GEOMAP Systems is an international group operating in France, the Benelux countries, the United States, Northern and French Africa and the Middle East.

An editor and integrator of application solutions for technical infrastructure management, GEOMAP has deployed its technology on the Autodesk platform since 1987 in some of the largest companies in the world as well as in local and territorial communities. The sectors of activity covered are build heritage management (FM), transportation (road, rail, etc.), urban planning, network management and telecommunications management.

For more information on GEOMAP, please visit www.geomapgis.com.

About Autodesk
Autodesk is the world leader in 2D and 3D design software for the manufacturing, building and construction, and digital animation markets. Since the introduction of its AutoCAD software in 1982, Autodesk has developed the broadest portfolio of state-of-the-art digital prototyping solutions to help customers experience their ideas before they are real. Fortune 1000 companies rely on Autodesk for the tools to view, simulate and analyze real-world performance early in the design process. In this way, customers can turn their ideas into competitive advantages and thus enhance productivity, improve project quality and foster innovation.

For more information on Autodesk, please visit www.autodesk.com.

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“We tested it online to see how the general public would react. The experience was very positive. Autodesk MapGuide Enterprise is easy to use, with its signs and pointers already adopted by a number of amateur users of mapping tools, including GPS and Google Earth. Internet users can thus go through the city map, select each building and open a descriptive file containing all kinds of data.”

—Joël Lagrange
Inventory Researcher
City of Aix-les-Bains, France