

## The Hydr'élec museum

The Hydr'élec information centre was set up by EDF to explain how this Pumped Storage Power Station operates. It is also a museum that relates the history of hydroelectricity and a documentation centre.



*The Hydr'élec museum and power station (Art Technique)*

**The futuristic forms of the Hydr'élec Information Centre stand out from the background provided by the Grand'Maison power station. The nearby presence of the powerful hydraulic installations at the Oisans site has prompted EDF to set up an information centre which is also a museum that houses old machinery.**

**The museum takes visitors through 2,000 years of hydro energy, as the idea of using water power dates back to antiquity. It shows the development of machines from the water wheel to present-day pumped storage power stations. Some old mock-ups are on permanent loan from the Centre National des Arts et Métiers.**

**A bay window provides an outstanding view of the lower pondage and the superstructures of the power station. Interactive terminals, mock-ups and animations explain the operation of the installations (during off-peak periods the water from the downstream dam is pumped into the upstream pondage in order to drive the turbines during periods of high demand. This virtual visit has replaced the visits of the real plant which were possible during construction but prohibited once the plant was commissioned.**

**Visitors can watch a number of films in the cinema, which also serves as a documentation centre. Many of the films show construction of the the power station, in some cases with technical details, and others deal with the safety, history or technology of the plant.**

**A more technical display shows the transition from hydraulic power to electrical power. It describes the beginnings of hydroelectric power in the Alps by showing the machines that were installed in the power stations at the time (turbines, dynamos, circuit breakers, alternators and transformers).**

In 2002 an exhibition was mounted showing photographs of men working at the power station and described the ten-yearly inspections of the dams. This

museum is open all year round and entry is free.