

Press-release

**The « Prix du patrimoine 2006 » (Award for the cultural heritage 2006) has been given to a resident of La Chaux-de-Fonds.**

The foundation for cultural heritage, under the presidency of the former federal chancellor François Couchepin, just bestowed its annual award for 2006. It is given to individuals or groups who engage unselfishly in protecting an aspect of the cultural heritage of the French speaking part of Switzerland.

The foundation is happy to honour the excellent work of Ms Martine Voumard with the “Prix du patrimoine 2006”.

Martine Voumard, who lives in La Chaux-de-Fonds, has participated actively in the rehabilitation of the Maison blanche, the first entirely personal work of Charles-Edouard Jeanneret, later called Le Corbusier. As a volunteer, she was the pivot for the restoration of the house the famous architect from La Chaux-de-Fonds had built for his parents and in which he lived for a few years himself.

In 2000, an association was founded to revive this architectural object with the aim of serving the general interest (access for the public, organization of conferences, concerts, exhibits, renting it for seminars). For 5 years, Ms. Voumard relentlessly looked after the project. The Maison blanche is under the patronage of the Swiss National Commission for UNESCO. It has been proposed by the Swiss Government for registration on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Ms. Voumard received the award on Wednesday, November 22nd 2006 at 6.30 pm in the Palais de Beaulieu during the 37th Salon des antiquaires de Lausanne (November 18th to 26th, 2006).

Information: Fondation pour le patrimoine culturel, Mr. Philippe Schibli, Route du Lac 2, 1094 Paudex, Tel. 021 796 33 00.

