

LAN

Press Release
November 2012



Gymnasium and Town Hall esplanade Chelles

Wishing to participate in a new reading of the town of Chelles, the gymnasium and esplanade anchor themselves in the millennial history of the place.

Technical Information

PROGRAMME : Gymnasium and redesign of the Town Hall square
Client : Chelles City Council
LOCATION : Chelles, France
BUDGET : 4,34 M Euro excl. VAT (gymnasium) / 0,96 M Euro excl. VAT (esplanade)
PROJECT AREA: Gymnasium 2 322 m², Esplanade 2 857 m²
COMPETITION : January 2008
DELIVERY : January 2012 (gymnasium) / October 2012 (esplanade)
TEAM : LAN Architecture (architects), BETEM (TCE), Isabelle Hurry (HEQ)

The agora

The design of the gymnasium and the square of central Chelles was an opportunity to use an architectural project to address urban issues that have been left aside in past developments.

The plot is indeed in a central position between the Park of Remembrance Emile Fouchard, the town hall, the Weczerka high school and the centre for contemporary art «les églises»: a highly heterogeneous environment where all the symbols and powers of the city (the church, State, culture, education and sports) are concentrated.

All these components, in this case, seem more juxtaposed than actually ordered, despite the delicate intervention by Marc Barani

and Martin Szekely transforming the two churches into a center of contemporary art.

The aim of this project is to replay this rescheduling, elevating it into the category of an agora. The space, therefore, was in need of a strategic, volumetric insertion and an idea, contributing to the completion of the history and a new perception of the whole.

Urban role of the new building

Based on this observation, we considered the project as an operation of urban reassembly in which the gym and esplanade play the role of articulation. We relied on a detailed analysis of the operation, sequences and the scales of the various components.

The orthogonal footprint of the building is parallel to the facades of the high school and the town hall. In this way, it helps to redefine and enhance urban spaces as well as to connect the park to the church through a journey.

These public spaces, the piazza and the new pedestrian street, are drawn in a conventional manner: regular, surrounded and defined by buildings.

An urban object, a «catalyst» of views.

Once the volumes were constructed, the challenge of the architectural project has resided in the renewal of the traditional vocabu-

lary of the gym: very often, we deal with an opaque box, blind and deaf to the context in which it occurs.

Here, we had to escape from the imagery related to sports facilities to implement an object which «lets us see» a fragmenting urban kaleidoscope, diffracting and reflecting the image of the surrounding buildings in order to respond with a new, more sensitive vision.

To this end, the facade is composed of two layers, the first (the glass) reflecting and letting in light, and the second (the copper), coloring and magnifying the reflection, providing protection from glass impacts.

While the simple shape and the orthogonal location of the building allows to order spaces, the facades create an ambiguity emptying the building of its materiality, making it disappear. The whole gives an impression of lightness and magic.

At night, the game is reversed.

The gym, with its style and footprint, aims to be the symbol of a new vision of the city.

Internal organization

Once the urban strategy and the treatment of the facades were defined, the simplicity of the volumes allowed to turn the spatial organization of the gym into an efficient and functional area.

The technical system used for the envelope is simple: a steel structure, the bottom of the glass facades made of a concrete wall insulated by an indoor copper cladding. This double skin provides an ideal sound insulation. The copper, plated on timber, absorbs noise and reduces resonance in high volume areas such as multisport halls.

The realization of this project is also a good example of an eco-construction.

A project based on the logic of eco-construction

Thermal insulation

Ranked at the Very High Energy Performance (THPE) level, the building ensures a high level of comfort thanks to the inertia of its insulated concrete walls that contribute to cooling in summer and limited heat loss in winter. It is reinforced by the presence of night ventilation in the spaces. The system used consists of a power plant processing dual-flow air recovering energy from exhaust air. Each façade is equipped with a glazing area of 2.28 m², STADIP 44.2 «securit» type, on the external side and tempered glass (8 mm), with a 14mm argon heat-resistant blade.

Heating

The site is directly connected to the city's geothermal heat network. A heating programmer prior to space occupancy is also implemented. The heat distribution ensures the needs of hot water and heating the gym, an extension, changing rooms and circulation spaces.

Electricity

Thirty-two photovoltaic modules with an output of 7360 Watts, or 6600 VA for resale to EDF, have been installed.

Water management

Outside, the rainwater recovery system works together with the green roof. It supplies the gymnasium's sanitary areas and the surrounding greenery.

Lighting

The building receives natural light through large windows on the curtain wall and roof. It is emphasized by the external presence of a LED light recessed floor.

The access points are marked by candelabra. Presence detectors are being used in all interiors, except for the great hall, optimizing power management based on attendance.

LAN (Local Architecture Network)

The studio was created by Benoît Jallon and Umberto Napolitano in 2002, with the idea of exploring architecture as an area of activity at the intersection of several disciplines. This attitude has developed into a methodology enabling LAN to explore new territories and forge a vision encompassing social, urban, functional and formal questions. LAN's projects seek to find elegant, contemporary answers to creative and pragmatic concerns.

LAN has received several awards: the Nouveaux Albums de la Jeune Architecture (NAJA) prize awarded by the French Ministry of Culture and Communication (2004); the International Architecture Award from the Chicago Athenaeum and the European Urban Centre for Architecture, Art, Design

and Urban Studies, the Archi-Bau Award, the Special Prize at the 12th World Triennale of Architecture, Sofia (2009); the AR Mipim Future Projects Award and the Europe 40 Under 40 Award (2010). In 2011 the office was awarded at the LEAF Awards with the Best Sustainable Development in Keeping with its Environment prize, the SAIE Selection Awards 2011 and the Special Prize AMO Fondation d'Entreprise Excellence SMA. LAN has been nominated at the Prix de l'Équerre d'Argent 2011 and recently won the Silver Medal at the International Prize for Sustainable Architecture Fassa Bortolo and the «Prix des 24h d'Architecture 2012» in the category «Equipements and Activities > Workplaces and activities»

Today, LAN counts around fifteen ongoing operations, with its activity spread over several countries.

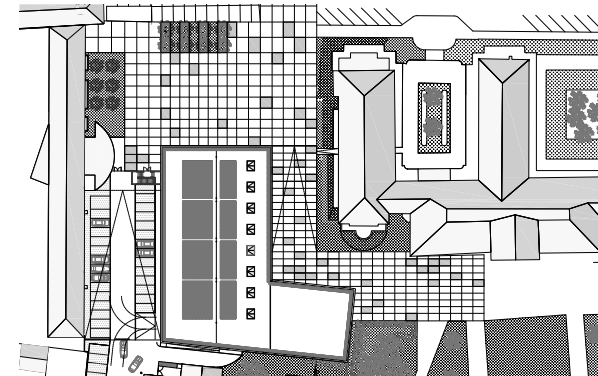


Urban context.

Located in the city center, the project contributes to the enhancement of the surrounding heritage value, consisting of the Węzka high school, the «Les Eglises» Center for Contemporary Art and the town hall. With respect towards the identity of each build-

ing, the project, including the esplanade, became a binding factor and contributes to the emergence of an aesthetic balance.

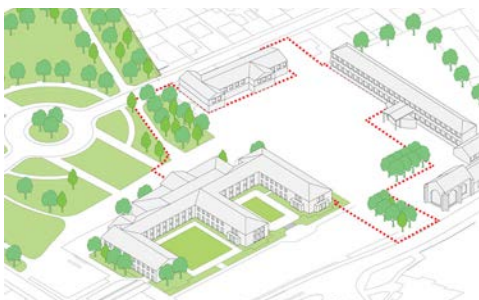
Gymnasium and esplanade site plan





The esplanade.

The new square was designed as a true meeting place and a place of movement. Its treatment is seen as a continuation of the previously delicately outlined route by architects Marc Barani and Martin Szekely for the Center for Contemporary Art.



The plot, an area of 8,000 m², is bordered by the town hall, the Emile Fouchard memorial park, the Pierre Weczerka high school and the «Les Eglises» Art Center.

The programme has been divided into three volumes : , the multisport hall in green (1 100 m²), the adjoining space in blue (289 m²), and the administrative areas, logistics and services in orange. (406 m²).

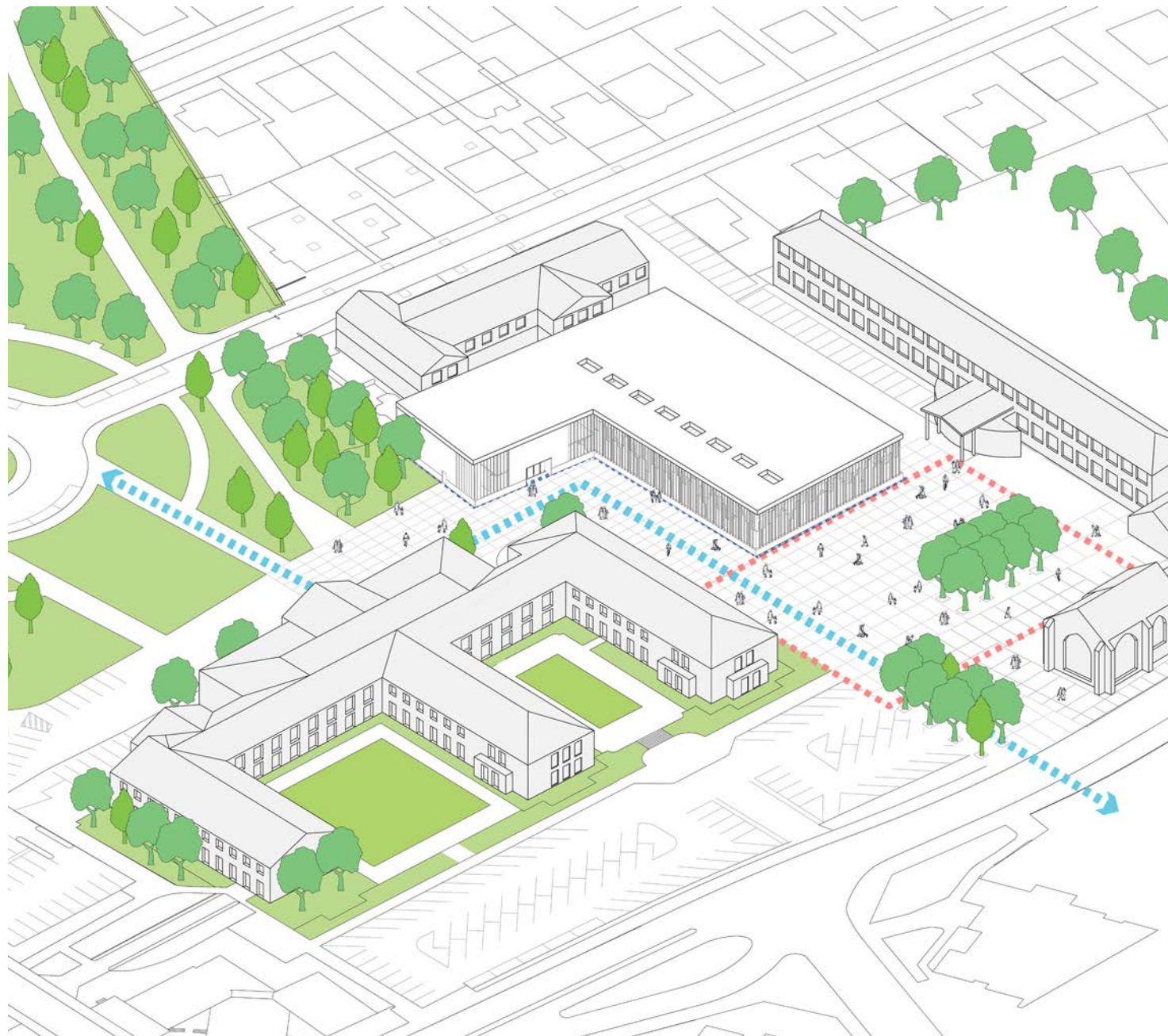
The small volumes overlap and attach to the multisport hall.

In addition to hierarchising the facades, The orthogonal position to the town hall and school creates a vast esplanade. The classical model of the «piazza» has been used as a reference to define the void. In addition, a pedestrian link is established between the park and the Eterlet street.

To maintain the coherence of the whole, the same treatment was privileged: the materiality and the design of the ground correspond to the contours of the Arts Centre.

The size of the gym, especially its height, corresponds to the surrounding buildings. The facade is composed of two layers, the first (glass) reflecting and introducing light into the building and the second (copper), coloring and magnifying the reflection, providing a protection from glass impact.

The vertical blades and bright copper create a set of fragmentation and recomposition of the urban landscape.

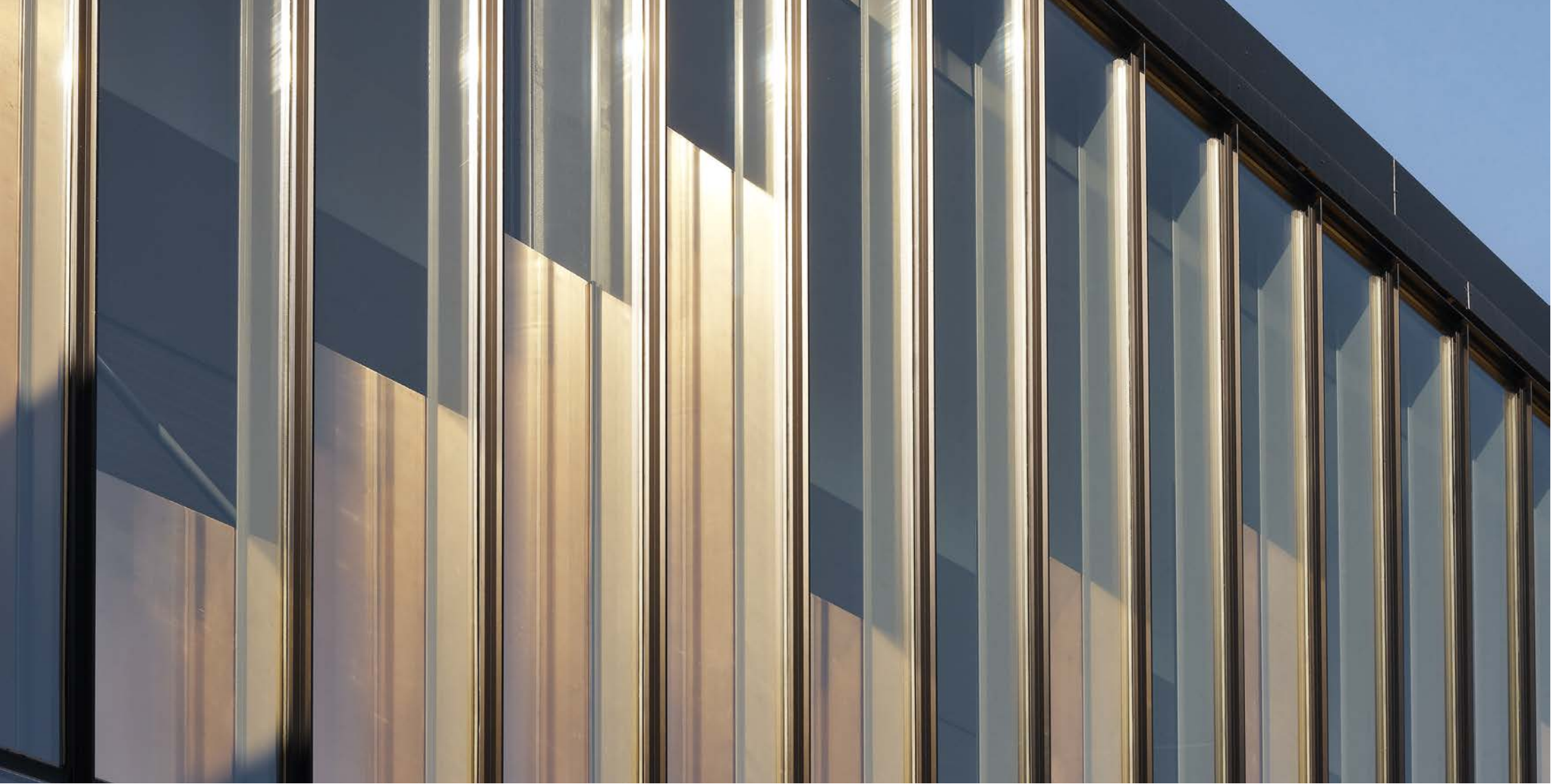




The reflection

The choice of cladding the facades into copper was dictated by the desire to escape the imagery related to sports facilities to implement an object which «lets us see» a fragmenting urban kaleidoscope, diffracting and reflecting the image of the surrounding buildings in order to respond with a new, more sensitive vision.

To this end, the facade is composed of two layers, the first (the glass) reflecting and letting in light, and the second (the copper), coloring and magnifying the reflection, providing protection from glass impacts.



The facade.

The technical system used for the envelope is very simple.

The building structure is made of steel, the facades' lower part of an externally concrete wall externally insulated by a curtain wall. Wood panels coated with copper are placed inside the building and act as sunscreens.



North Elevation



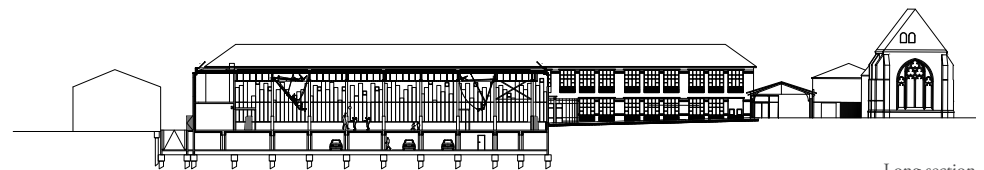
East Elevation



Energy performance.

Ranked as a Very High Energy Performance (THPE) building, it ensures a high level of comfort thanks to the inertia of its insulated concrete walls that contribute to cooling in summer and limited heat loss in winter.

The glazing of each facade has a surface of 2,28 m², stadiip 44.2 « securit » type at the exterior and tempered glass (8 mm) in the interior, with a 14 mm heat-resistant argon blade.



Long section



Interior Spaces.

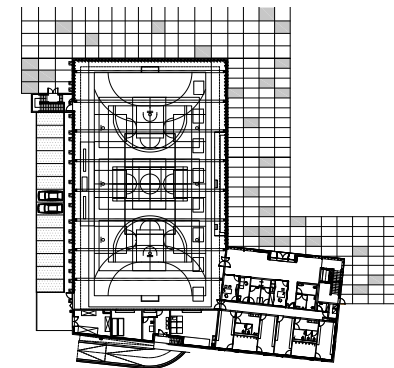
The volumes' simplicity allowed us a spatial, functional and efficient organization of the sports areas.

The programme comprises three different parts put together into two volumes: a multisports hall (1 100 m²), creating the main volume, and a second volume including the building's administration, logistics,

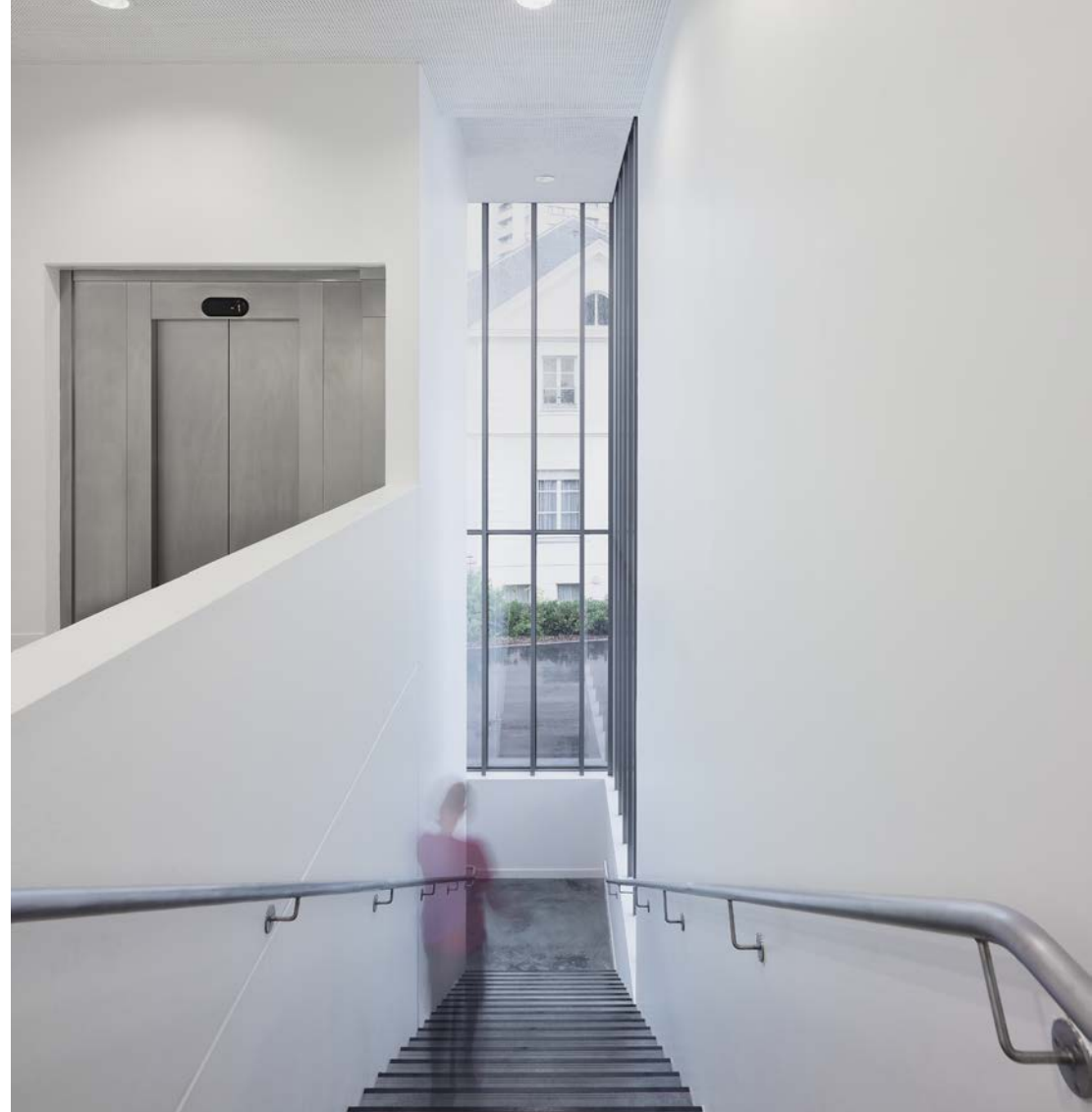
service spaces (406 m²) and an adjoining space (289 m²).

Visual connections are created between the different spaces.

Ground Floor







Photoshoot by
Julien Lanoo

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For more information

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