

École Européenne Supérieure de l'Image, Poitiers (86)



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CO SA



A School of Contemporary Art is a place of individuation par excellence. The building for the École Européenne Supérieure de l'Image (EESI – Higher European School of the Image) in Poitiers needs to be a structure capable of meeting the evolving needs of the institution, of fostering the emergence of student individuality, through the proximity, the friction, between disciplines and media, offering multiple spaces for practice and exhibition. Experimentation is everywhere, permanently on display.

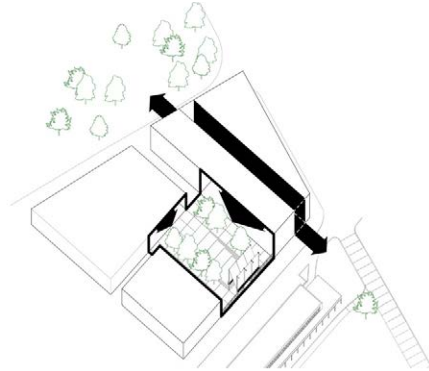
The EESI building is an exploration in low-tech. Its aim is to use the right materials for the right reasons, to seek greater frugality for more uses, versatility, simplicity and good sense. Decarbonised prefabricated concrete is used to create an earthquake-resistant structure that releases large spans with minimum material. The wood façade modules and floors store carbon, providing total modularity of uses without workings that undermine the integrity of the structure. The presence of a Nave that regulates light and heat levels, as well as fluids, reflects the same commitment to sensible design where passive systems are employed to avoid the technical profligacy that is too often the response to esoteric standards.

The programmatic and technical restraint produces a timeless architectural identity, a structure full of light and movement. Each element of the programme has its place on either side of the Nave: a public Forum; a high-ceilinged “Fabrique” able to accommodate every kind of medium; a Laboratory of image/sound/digital experiment that operates like a series of boxes within a box; an Incubator for creation and display; an administration and pedagogy centre with its arts terrace.

While the construction of the Couronneries district was inspired by a typically 1960s ideal of democratised comfort, the EESI reveals a modernity entirely of our own time: greater intensity of uses and pleasures together with optimisation of the earth's resources.

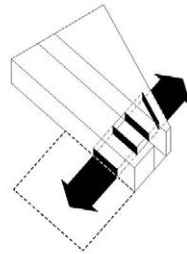
AGORA AND NAVE: THE SCHOOL'S WINDOW ONTO THE COURONNERIES DISTRICT

EESI is anchored in the Couronneries district by means of an Agora that will link the three Schools of the Creative and Cultural Hub and a Nave that will connect the future Grand-Place to Parc des Couronneries. Within the institution itself, the Nave links together all the elements of the programme, while offering the users of the School a place of interaction, of encounter, of work, of expression.



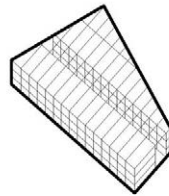
CROSSING FROM THE AGORA TO RUE DE MARBOURG

At the intersection of the Nave and the Agora, EESI's most public programmes are clustered within a Forum. It marks a new space of urban permeability towards rue de Marbourg, which will link the district to Poitiers' historic centre.



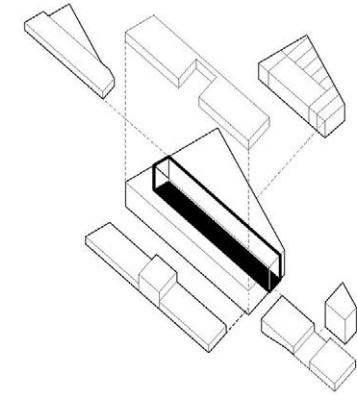
A STRUCTURE THAT GIVES FREE REIN TO MULTIPLE PRACTICES

The arrangement of the programmes, the flexibility, versatility and adaptability that each of them requires, demand an appropriate volume. Its structure – reduced to its simplest expression in harmony with the towers and blocks of the district – is home to a variety of uses. From the parts to the whole, the structure meets a multiplicity of technical demands, whether seismic, thermal and economic efficiency, or sustainability.



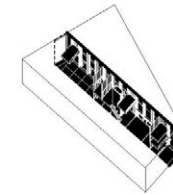
A CREATIVE HUB STRUCTURED BY THE NAVE

Urban composition and programmatic distribution merge. The School is organised around an internal Nave, which connects the Forum where the School's most public activities are clustered: the Fabrique and its high-ceilinged workshops; the Laboratory of boxes in the video and audio suites, photography and printing units; the incubator of the individual practice platforms; the administrative and pedagogy centre.



PASSIVE REGULATION

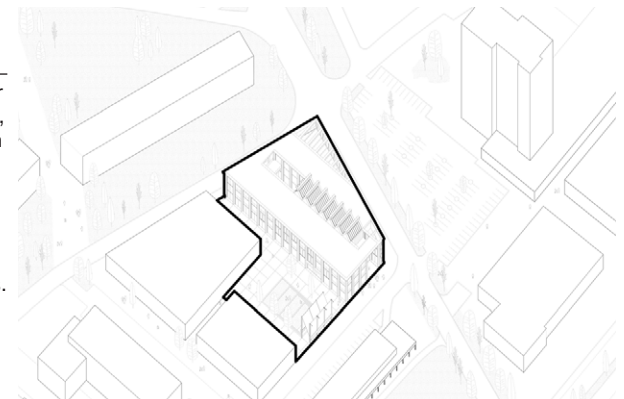
The Nave uses passive mechanisms to manage heat and light distribution. The seven shafts of the sawtooth roof function as solar chimneys, glass-covered in the North and modified Trombe walls in the South. They are arranged to accumulate or eject hot air, depending on the seasons, and to diffuse light. The windows of the Glasshouse that bridges the building contribute to this natural ventilation.



THE VIRTUES OF RESTRAINT IN ARCHITECTURE

The result is a façade design, whether seen from the street or from the Nave, in which the structure is ornament, an ensemble of containers with varied uses.

The powerful minerality of the concrete porticos contrasts with the lightness of the wood and the brightness of the fittings and glasses. The architecture takes a backseat to the garden of the Agora, the students' creations, the day-to-day uses of the building.





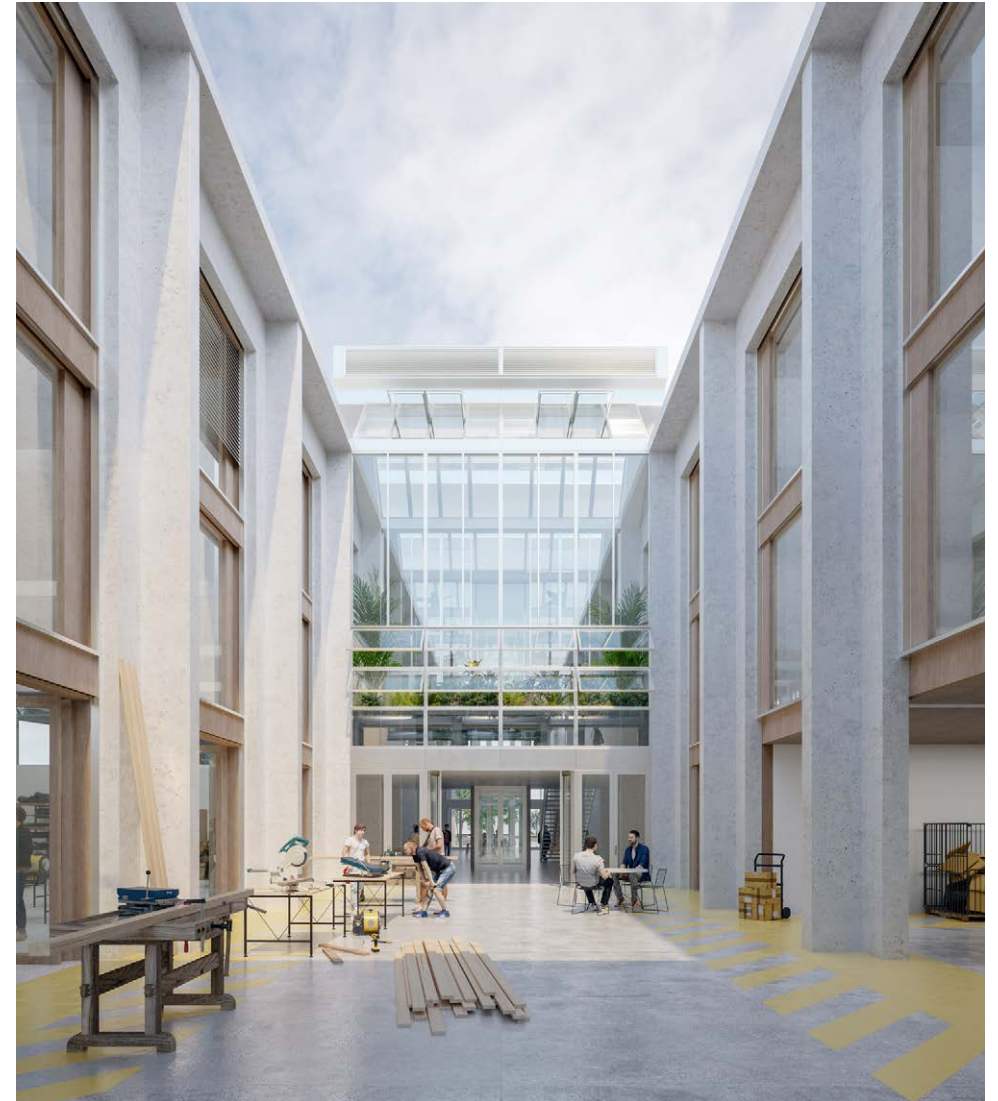
EESI's decarbonised concrete and timber structure is spotlighted in the Agora, the space where students, teachers, their partners and Poitiers residents come together.



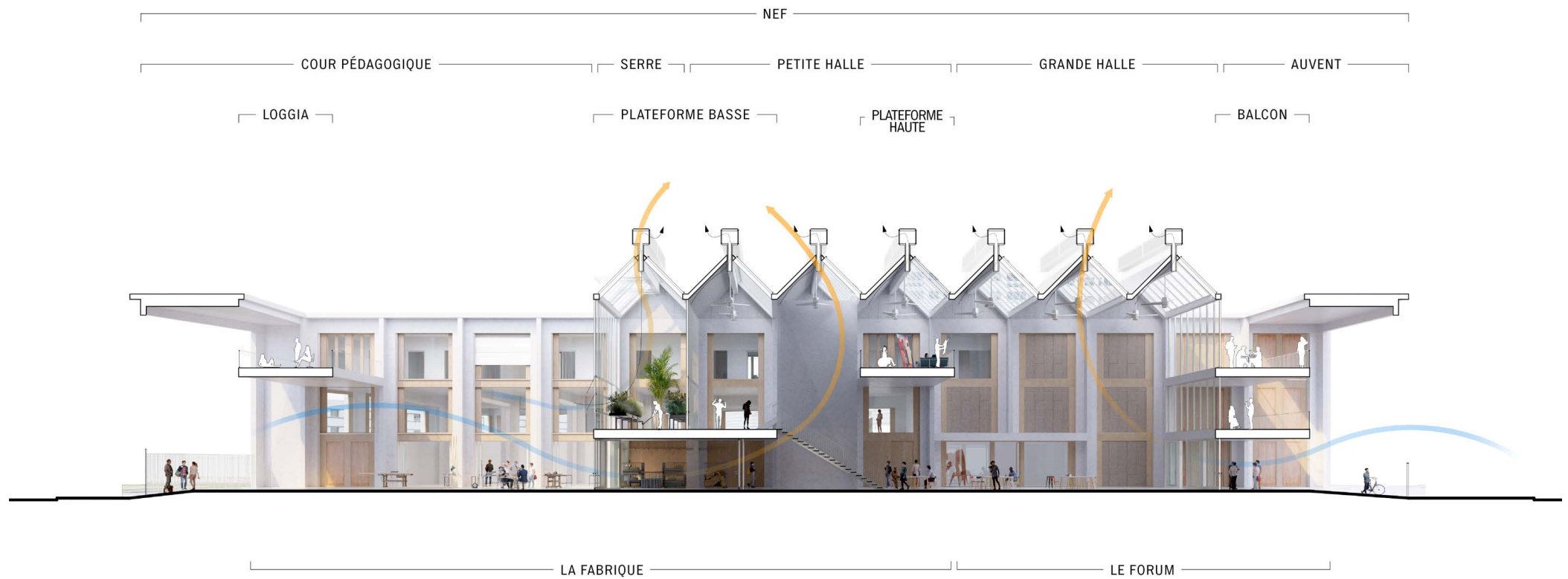
From the entrance on rue Marcel Paul, the Nave comes into view. The powerful minerality of the decarbonised porticos contrasts with the lightness of the timber infills that display the variety of the School's uses.



From the Forum, across the Nave, the workings of the School are clear: the passages are visible, the hubs apparent, experiment is everywhere, on permanent display.



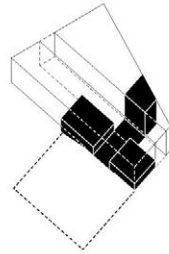
... right through to the Pedagogy Court, open to the sky for outdoor work, opposite the editing Hall, opposite the Glasshouse.



The Nave is the hub of both activities and flows. It distributes and interconnects all the programmes. Its bioclimatic design is characterised by passive systems that regulate the distribution of heat and light.

A PUBLIC FORUM IN THE PROW

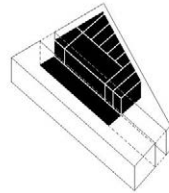
Between the Agora and the Nave, the Forum welcomes students and visitors for their searches in the documentary resource Studio, a lecture in the Amphitheatre or an exhibition in the experimental Gallery, followed by an animated debate at the Table d'hôtes. For an event, the Forum can be opened to form a self-contained space. On a day-to-day basis, it extends into the Small Hall and the Courts to form a Nave that interpenetrates the entire School.



THE FABRIQUE FOR THE MAIN WORKSHOPS

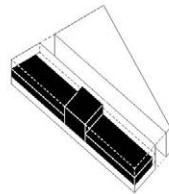
In the Fabrique, a high-ceilinged structure, students work in all media in the studios to assemble their productions in the assemblage hall.

The large open volumes communicate between themselves and with the Nave. They enjoy selective relations with the outside and appropriate illumination from above. They extend into the Pedagogy Court for outdoor work.



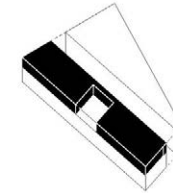
THE SOUND & IMAGE AND DIGITAL EXPERIMENT LABORATORY

On the mezzanine level, filming platforms, workstations, rooms, editing suites, sound units, print and digital studios form a combination of boxes within the box. Each hub follows the same sequence: a vestibule linked to the support functions distributes the production spaces, which themselves open into their own support spaces.



THE INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE INCUBATOR

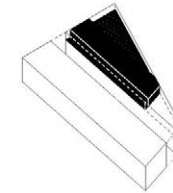
The individual workshops form a platform for both practice and display. From year to year, students will discover a new place, new points of view over the Agora and the city. The workspaces are robust, adaptable. The student cohorts work here, on their own, in groups, in mixed years, mingling with teachers and technicians. Collegiality is the essence.



THE ADMINISTRATION AND PEDAGOGY CENTRE (RÉGIE)

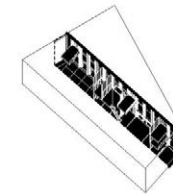
The administration and pedagogy team come together in the Régie. Here, the layout of these spaces transitions in increasing degrees of privacy, from the bustle of the Nave to the calm of the Arts Terrace. This structure releases the platform to leave space for the partitions.

People work here as they would at home, opening a window for a bit of breeze, going onto the terrace for a vape.



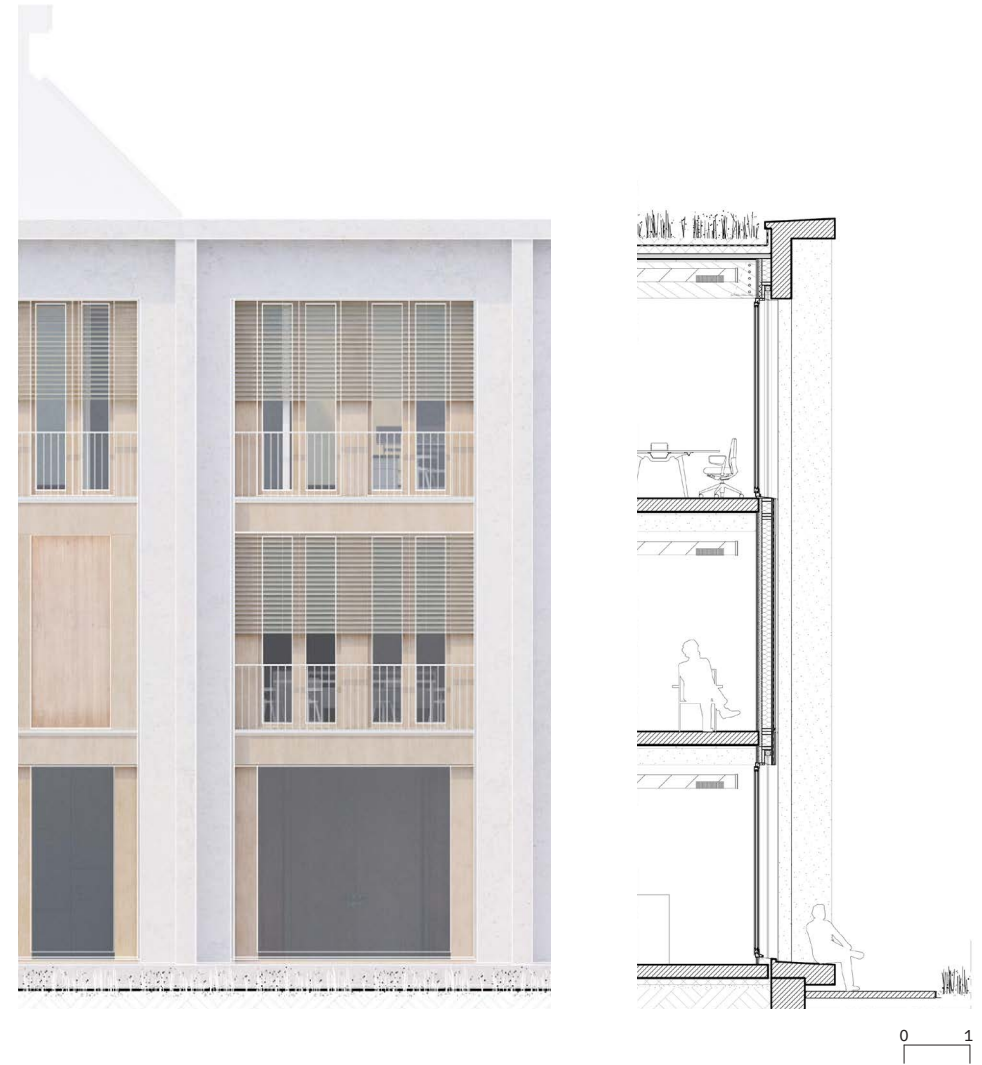
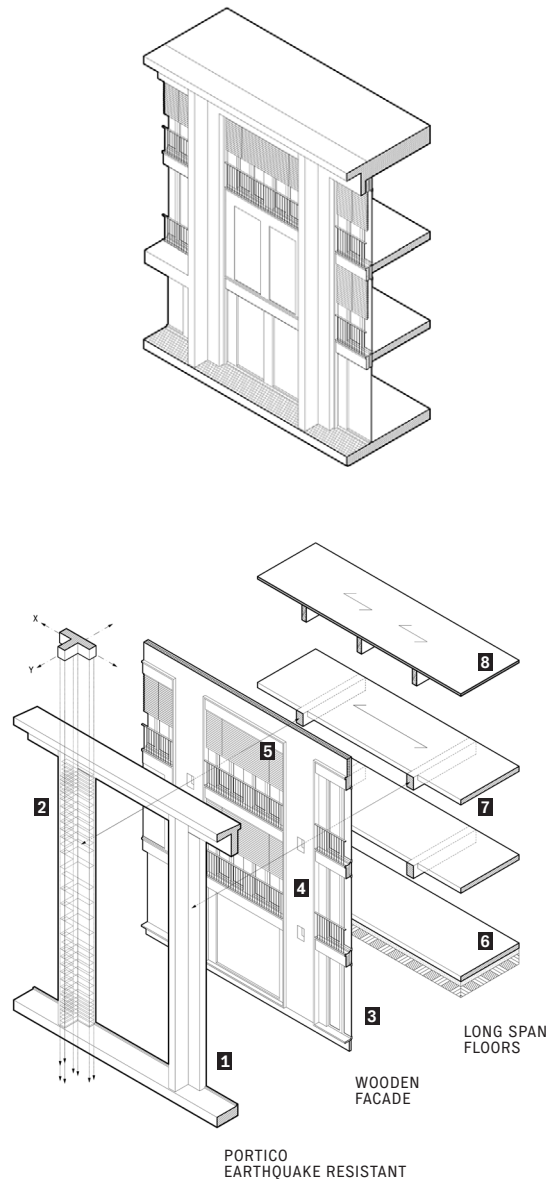
THE NAVE: FLOWS AND ACTIVITIES

Beyond the specific working spaces, the entire School is a production and exhibition space. The sequence of Awning, Great Hall, Small Hall, Teaching Court, infiltrated with staircases, platforms, balconies and a loggia, generates a Nave. The big industrial gates can be opened and closed, either subdividing the Nave or creating a single open space.



ANALYSIS OF THE FAÇADE

- 1 Cruciform weight-bearing decarbonised concrete porticoes, multidirectional seismic design
- 2 Densification of ironwork around the recesses (zones exposed to powerful seismic flexing and twisting)
- 3 Façade module: prefabricated internal wood frames, continuous interposed dry walls, efficient and breathable to prevent thermal losses
- 4 Occasional cross spans supported by primary joists perpendicular to the façade
- 5 Practical and efficient extra devices (solar management and screening with directional sunscreens, corridors demarcated by guardrails)
- 6 Suspended concrete base floor
- 7 Decarbonised intermediate floors suspended parallel to the façade to avoid heat bridges
- 8 Decarbonised upper floor with timber joists and glulam panelling (small spans, optimised complexes, continuous insulation efficiency maintained by roof assemblages)



The decarbonised concrete porticoes release large volumes. Floors and slabs are set back from the façade to leave room for insulation and manage heat bridges without breakers. The prefabricated wooden façade fillers, floors, partitions, are inserted into the structure for simple disassembly and recycling, giving the School flexibility. Like the structure, they help to reduce the building's carbon footprint.



PROGRAM

Decarbonised concrete and timber construction of the École Européenne Supérieure de l'Image (EESI), Poitiers (86)

On either side of a bioclimatic Nave is arranged a Forum (Reception, Guest Table, Experimental Gallery, Documentary Resource Studio, Amphitheatre), a Fabrique (image studios, construction hall, woodwork shop, metal workshop), a Laboratory for the image, sound and digital experiment hubs (platforms, workstations, film and sound units, editing suites, post-production, digital workshops...), an individual practice Incubator (workshops, temporary exhibition spaces), an administrative and pedagogy Régie (offices, conference rooms), and community spaces: Agora, Arts Terrace, Pedagogy Court, Glasshouse, Logistics Court

ENVIRONNEMENTAL APPROACH

E3C2 Label

HEQ approach (HP targets 4, 7, 8, 13)

RE 2021 fited

Decarbonated cement + wood structure

Bioclimatic design: building compactness, facades, seasonal passive energy management, regulatory central nave with heat exchangers and photovoltaic panels.

Use of bio-based materials

Connection to the urban heating network (70 % of renewable energies)

SURFACE AREA

4 945 sqm

2 786 sqm landscaped outdoor

COST

6,65 M€ HT

SCHEDULE

Delivery 2023

Laureate 12/2020

CLIENT

Communauté urbaine du Grand Poitiers

ZAC des Couronneries urban planner: Lambert. Lenack

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Architect : COSA

Signage : Ateliers 59

Structural, fluids, environmental engineering : CAIRN ingénierie

Acoustics : Avel Acoustique

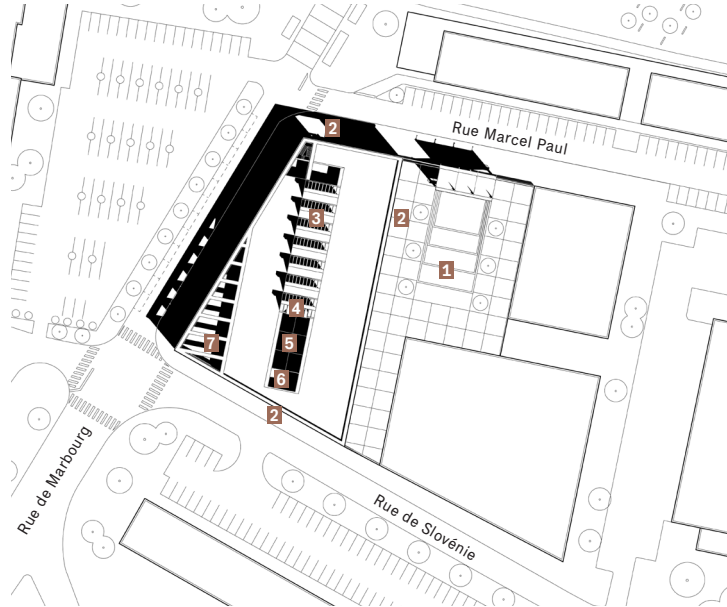
Economics : BMF

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SITE PLAN

- 1 Agora
- 2 Accès
- 3 Nave
- 4 Glasshouse
- 5 Pedagogy Court
- 6 Logistics Court
- 7 Arts Terrace

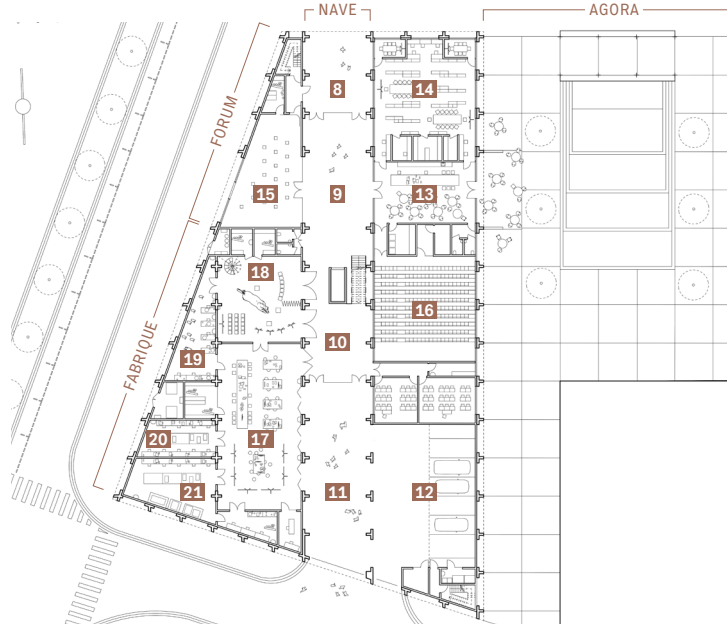
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GROUND FLOOR

- NAVE**
- 8 Awning
- 9 Great Hall
- 10 Small Hall
- 11 Pedagogy Court
- 12 Logistics Court
- FORUM**
- 13 Reception, Guest Table
- 14 Documentary Resource Studio
- 15 Experimental Gallery
- 16 Amphitheatre
- FABRIQUE**
- 17 Assemblage hall
- 18 Image studios
- 19 Sculpture workshop
- 20 Metal workshop
- 21 Wood workshop

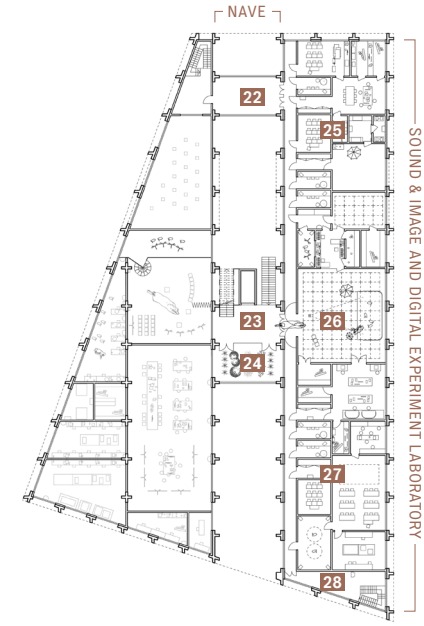
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MEZZANINE LEVEL

- NAVE**
- 22 Balcony
- 23 Platform
- 24 Glasshouse
- SOUND & IMAGE AND DIGITAL EXPERIMENT LABORATORY**
- 25 Editing and photography
- 26 Image, sound and animation
- 27 Digital experiment hubs
- 28 Loggia

Scale 1/1000 ☉



FIRST FLOOR

- NAVE**
- 22 Balconies
- 23 Platform
- INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE INCUBATOR**
- 29 Workshops and exhibition space
- 30 conviviality area
- 28 Loggia
- ADMINISTRATION AND PEDAGOGY CENTRE (RÉGIE)**
- 31 Conference rooms
- 32 Teacher room
- 33 Offices
- 34 Arts Terrace
- 35 Plant room

Scale 1/1000 ☉



Benjamin Colboc and Arnaud Sachet founded COSA in 2016. Feeding by the variety of projects, the agency designs both housing, equipment, hotel and service sector, with private and public project managers, in France and abroad.

Architectures are a reflection of societies. They embody their economies, their politics, their ideals, their doubts. They come in many flavours: radical, greedy, formal, private, rational, sensual, generous, authoritarian, strict... They are interesting in all their variety, provided that they are demanding on themselves.

COSA's architecture's inspiration is the Cartesian and the systematic. It seeks the purest equation between programme, structure and site. It denies itself arbitrary form, storytelling and the saviour illusion of problem-transcending design, instead pursuing geometric and constructional simplicity. Its quest is the pleasures of architecture: landscape, the passage of time, harmonious materials, beauty of implementation.

COSA's architecture is clear and restrained, rigorous. COSA supports the idea that architecture needs to be simple in order to answer complex questions. COSA's architecture looks for the programmatic frictions out of which new situations emerge, and their meanings in a globalised society.



Demolition and reconstruction, on site in three phases construction works, of the Leonard de Vinci technical college

Completed 2020

Client: Région Ile-de-France,
IDF Construction durable

Location: Saint-Germain-en-Laye (78)

Surface area: 69 240 sqm demolition, 14 880 sqm
construction, 11 600 sqm landscaped outdoor

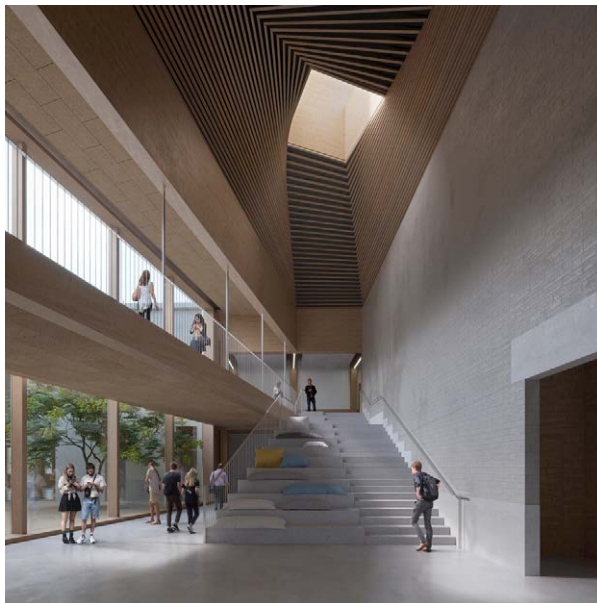
Redevelopment and wood + compressed earth block extension of the Nangis Henri Becquerel technical college, in three phases construction works, in an occupied site

Ongoing studies

Client: Région Ile-de-France, IDF
Construction Durable

Location: Nangis (77)

Surface area: 5 684 sqm,
3 600 sqm landscaped outdoor



Wooden school of architecture and redevelopment of the INSA - Institut National Des Sciences Appliquées

Ongoing construction works

Client: INSA Strasbourg

Location: Strasbourg (67)

Surface area: 2 200 sqm construction,
9 500 sqm refurbishment,
1 380 sqm landscaped outdoor



Hotels, student housing, youth hostel and rehabilitation of six silos into an art gallery

Ongoing construction works - spring 2021

Client: Legendre Immobilier

Location: Bassin à flots, Bordeaux (33)

Surface area: 17 000 sqm,
4 400 sqm landscaped outdoor



Construction of a mixed program combining a municipal equipment, a parking and housing units and an office building with shops, Bordeaux (33)

Ongoing construction works - winter 2021

Client: Les Nouveaux Constructeurs

Location: Quartier Paludate, Bordeaux (33)

Surface area: 13 000 sqm, 413 parking plots, 600 sqm landscaped outdoor



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