

Architectural tours of projects carried out by women architects awarded the ARVHA Woman Architect Prize

Fabienne BULLE winner of the 2019 Original Work Woman Architect Award

Anatole France School Group in Saint-Denis (93)

Built in 1890 according to the sacrosanct "Jules Ferry" principles and the characteristics of that era, the "girls" and "boys" schools first, then the "elementary" and "nursery" schools, have undergone many transformations... The most significant one being the establishment (in 1995) in the heart of the site, of a school restaurant associated with a leisure center. The passage de la Harpe became the rue de la Harpe. Now open to all, it concentrates all the accesses to better assume the surveillance. But it is also the identification of a unique place that it favors by using the last extension program to connect its different components, to create a facade that unites... A facade that takes shape on rue de la Harpe in wood and glass and by equipping itself with all the tools necessary for its solar protection.



With here a ventilated double skin integrating a blackout blind and there an edge of fine chestnut logs acting as sunbreakers, and also deliberately raised to act as a protective limit of the children's courtyard, which develops advantageously on the first floor, on the southern facade and therefore sheltered from any urban or school agitation.



The facade of the street of the Harpe turns over laterally (boulevard Anatole France and boulevard of the liberation) that the step of its measure. Preferring indeed to be framed by a quite other modernity which adorns its facades with a second skin of bricks - materials of predilection of Jules Ferry but satisfying here a contemporary implementation.

The second skin of brick is turned over at the roof, stretching a ridge line that follows that of the existing buildings, before ending at the mid-point of a green terrace. Such a device, if it gives the idea of the roof, essentially offers a modern writing with notably an attic used as a "volume of light" whose light is precisely picked up by a vertical skylight. Volumes, lights... their quest is omnipresent.



Superimposed one on the other, the two new restaurants offer beautiful volumes whose size they manage to manage with openwork acoustic screens 3 m high, and the contribution of light by alternating their facades with large sheets of glass and wood. The brick is used here in a game of full and empty spaces that is drawn like a checkerboard. A checkerboard with modules of 35 x 110 cm, which is supported by a wooden structure (associated with thin tubes on which the bricks are threaded).

A checkerboard that lets the light in, allows views, while controlling the sunlight and its thermal effects on the building. A checkerboard, finally, which has above all the effect of throwing lines of light onto the floors and walls, here in the kindergarten classrooms and there in the elementary school corridors. Playful and moving, these lines accompany the child in his daily evolution as they signify his passage from one school to another...



Client : City of Saint-Denis
Delivery : 2014
HON surface (new) : 2 305 m²
HON surface (rehabilitated) : 1 259 m²
Construction cost : 7 400 000 € HT
BET TCE, economy, environment: SIBAT
Acoustic engineer: Jean-Paul Lamoureux
Program: restructuring and extension of a school group; restoration; leisure center
Complexity: rehabilitation and extension, work in occupied site
Construction method: wood frame
Environmental approach: HQE approach according to the 2008 office and education standard
Thermal performance: RT 2005/ BBC-Effnergie® level