

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

Sophie Denissof, Castro Denissof agency, special mention "original work" 2020



Living in the sky, a vertical village in the heart of Aubervilliers

From concept to completion - From Grand Paris to the Paths of Urbanity. It took 10 years for the tower to emerge: Habiter le Ciel is first of all a concept that the Castro Denissof Associés developed within the framework of the Atelier International du Grand Paris in 2008, then developed in the form of the «Chemins de l'Urbanité» (4 themes were developed: Elevating the city the city/Living on the river/Liberate uses/Inhabiting the sky) - concepts that concretely pose what the way of living in the metropolis of the 21st century,

- to anticipate urban and social mutations, in a context where sustainable development must be at the heart of urban and architectural projects, where the priority is to save space, land and networks land and networks;
- to reconcile the one and the common, that is to say to conjugate on the one hand the individuality, the intimacy, the domesticity and the relationship with the other,

and thus to promote a habitat which combines the qualities of the house - exterior space and the generosity of spaces to be shared.

Habiter le Ciel transforms the way of living in height by encouraging its inhabitants to appropriate it, by inventing multiple situations not only thanks to spectacular views but also thanks to the the generosity of the exterior ground that extends the dwellings and the common parts of the building. Four large courtyard-gardens form the heart of the tower. They form large loggias that host a garden and around which are organized each time about twenty dwellings.



These are places that offer proximity, vis-à-vis, in the manner of building courtyards, while forming large windows on the city, the distance and the Greater Paris. The inhabitant can not only identify his dwelling from the outside thanks to the play of scales, but also through the the identity of their courtyard which becomes their address within the tower. These are unique, unexpected places, They are unique, unexpected, poetic places to be shared, just waiting to be invested.



The dwellings are arranged like superimposed houses. The variety of typologies, often in duplexes, the depth of the loggias are all factors of appropriation. Like a vertical village, the tower reconstructs in space the happiness of living at home and in common. Located on Place du Front Populaire in Aubervilliers, at the exit of the metro, the tower rises up and emerges above the landscape of the Plaine Saint-Denis: it is an urban landmark and highlights the scale of this vast square. And thanks to the play of scales - double-step duplexes, four levels of large of the large boxes, it retains a lightness and gives a great comfort.



54 meters high, 18 floors high, the tower includes 88 housing units and a large retail shops. Two 7-storey buildings, a 113-unit student residence and a 40-unit social housing building and a 40-unit social housing building that enrich the program. The materials are declined in soft and luminous tones: white for the glazed brick base and the The materials are declined in soft and luminous tones: white for the glazed brick base and the matt rendering of the facade, and shades of ochre and gold for the bottoms of the loggias, the frames of the woodwork, the locks, the large posts that support the gardens and the grids that line the bottom. that cover the bottom.



Habiter le Ciel is in line with current urban, ecological and social concerns: controlling urban sprawl urban sprawl, favoring compactness, living in great heights without giving up hospitality and the pleasure of the pleasure of living.

- Developer: Plaine Commune Développement, - Project owner: Nexity - Architect: Castro Denissof Associates - Landscaper : Base - BET : AL conseil, Id Bati Photos ©Epaillard-Machado ©Benoît Florençon ©Vincent Bourdon Sophie Denissof, architect-urban planner, founding partner of the Castro Denissof agency