

City Hall

Illkirch-Graffenstaden, France

The rehabilitation and extension of this city hall connects three very different buildings: one dating back to the 19th century; and two others dating back to the 1970s. By adding a new reception structure and by improving the thermal performance and visual aspect of building envelopes, the project creates a new image of the City Hall, while adding a modern, open vision of administrative services. The project's different components transmit a contemporary feel to the City Hall. The glass façades, stainless steel structure and mesh used for the connecting elements were designed as aspects of a new urban landmark that provides the city with a modern light.

The shell resembles a carved object, with a protective metal skin that is both strong and delicate. Made of stainless steel, the curved form creates an impression of softness, calling up images of work by the artist Anish Kapoor. Facing the city, the shell reveals and reflects urban areas. Its anamorphic surface projects slightly deformed images of the square surrounding buildings and the constantly changing sky. Although it looks like a precious object, it is very strong having been fabricated using 5mm steel sheets. It was designed in 3D and made to measure for the project. It is suspended with pinpoint precision on steel tree structures and has no physical contact with the reception structure

or the ground. It was fabricated and finished using techniques reminiscent of the city's industrial and mechanical heritage.

Inside, perforations in the shell's envelope filter the light entering the building while still allowing visitors to enjoy views of urban areas. Outside, the shell seems to float on the water that surrounds it. This material does not need any maintenance or further treatment. Any dirt or dust can be removed by spraying it down with water.



Environment:	Urban
Grade:	304L/1.4301
Finish:	Uginox Mat
Architects:	Atelier Filippini
Photographs:	atelierfilippini.com
Completion:	September 2014
More information:	uginox.com

