

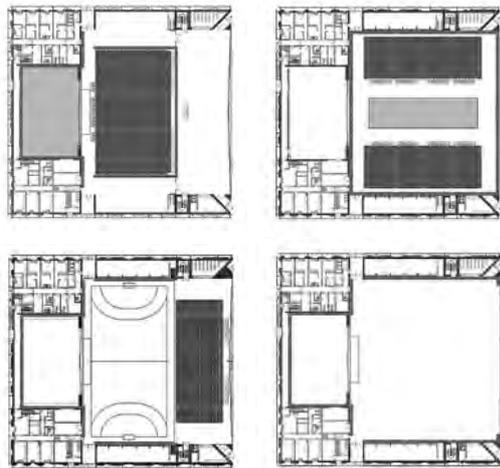
Multi-Purpose Hall in Dole, France



MULTI-PURPOSE HALL IN DOLE, FRANCE



The building, with its partly glazed north façade, is oriented towards the cathedral, thus setting up a link with the old town across the river.



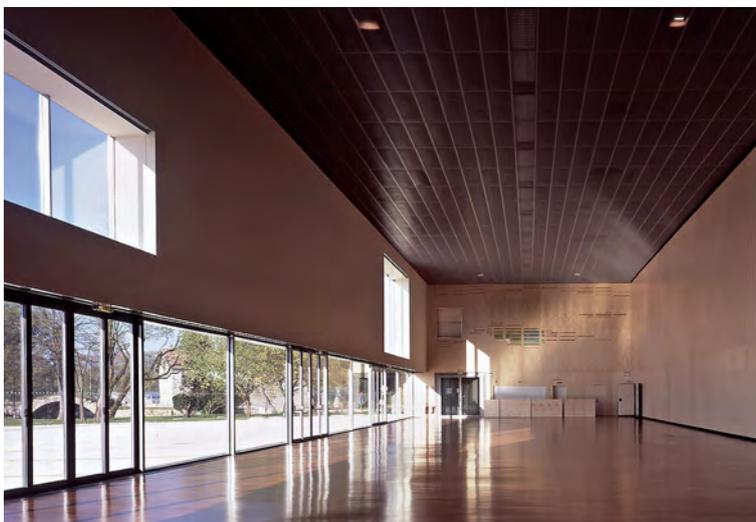
Utilisation options

The French town of Dole, located on the river Doubs half way between Dijon and Besançon in the Département of Jura, has an attractive old centre of historic importance. Grouped around the 16th-century collegiate church with its 75-metre tower is an extensive ensemble of listed buildings. Any modern-style building would impact negatively on the silhouette of this mediaeval town, so, when choosing a location for a new multi-purpose hall for the local community, it was decided to build it on an area of waste land on the opposite bank of the river.

The new hall, 59 x 56.5 metres in plan, now stands confidently yet respectfully facing the old town across the waters of the Doubs. Blocks of rough-hewn local stone are anchored into the windowless concrete walls on three sides of the 12-metre high hall. The fourth side is clad in stainless steel panels with a high-gloss finish that acts like a mirror, reflecting the ever-changing light moods and cloud patterns of the surroundings and the sky above.



Flexibility was a priority in designing the interior. The 44 x 39-metre column-free hall, spanned by steel trusses, can be used for a wide variety of purposes – from music concerts and theatre performances to exhibitions, congresses and sports events. It can be configured to accommodate anything from 200 to 1900 people (by opening up the hall to the foyer), thanks to a modular space concept featuring movable acoustic partitions and sliding blocks of seating. A 44-metre long steel girder spans almost the entire width of the building on the north façade. This enables the foyer to be opened up to the terrace, via glass doors in a continuous strip of glazing below the girder. The girder itself is clad on the outside with vertical sandwich panels, 9 metres high and 900 mm wide. Each panel is covered by a sheet of 1.5 mm thick stainless steel (grade: EN 1.4301) with a high-gloss mill finish.



The north façade of 'La Commanderie', as this multi-purpose hall is known locally, is clad with large-format panels of mirror-finished stainless steel.

The sliding glass doors in the continuous strip of glazing open to extend the foyer seamlessly into the outside space.

Fitted into the solid, 25 cm thick concrete of the other three façades are large blocks of Rocheret stone, a type of limestone quarried in the region. This stone, with its yellow-to-grey colouration, was also used in the past to build the mediaeval town centre; its use in this modern building represents a further visual link with the immediate environment. Positioned 90 cm in front of these sculptural walls is an irregular grid of stainless steel tube. This grid, which is attached to the wall at intervals via fixing plates, also acts as a frame for climbing plants.

The colours of the climbing plants change with the seasons, helping the new building to integrate well into the newly created park landscape by the river.



A grid of 20 mm welded stainless steel tube overlays the concrete walls inset with stone blocks.

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