Nantes, France

Nantes’ new Gambetta housing complex features a stainless steel-enhanced façade that mirrors the contemporary while reflecting on the natural. Designed by architect Philippe Dubus, the building brings together 56 social housing units, a nursery, a rehabilitation unit and a number of administrative offices to create a new urban icon in the city’s historic center. All of the building’s façades are adorned with cladding sheet steel strips and lacquered panels, between which slides screen walls, shutters and stainless steel panels. This unique use of stainless steel resembles a curtain, which not only gives the building a cutting-edge contemporary feel, it also reflects the surrounding forests and natural light. The project, which utilises Aperam’s 304L grade with Uginox Bright Finish, won the 2018 Eiffel Trophy for Steel Architecture in the ‘Living’ category.

Environment: urban
Use: panel façade
Material: 304L with a BA - Uginox Bright finish
Fabricator: Raimond
Manufacturer: Aperam
Architects: Philippe Dubus
Photographs: Sergio Grazia
More information: aperam.com

Discover more possibilities with stainless steel in architecture