Refuge du Goûter

Saint Gervais, France

At 4,810 metres, for many, Mont-Blanc is the Holy Grail of alpine mountaineering. But before reaching the top, many must spend at least a night at the Refuge du Goûter shelter. Built in 1962, the shelter is the last stop before the final ascent. But at 3,835 metres, it has been subject to both intense usage and intense weather – not to mention being in the path of an advancing glacier. Thus, a new, stainless steel shelter has been built. The four-level building, which includes technical rooms, a common room and dormitories, was designed to withstand winds of up to 260 km/h, a load pressure of 400 kg/m² and a vacuum pressure of 600 kg/m². To ensure the building is able to withstand the extreme mountain conditions while providing a comfortable and safe shelter for climbers, 304L grade austenitic stainless steel siding was used.