University Library of University Paris 13

Villetaneuse, France

With a campus separated from the city center and comprised of conventional, two-story buildings, Villetaneuse University was suffering from an identity crisis. But with a new tramway connecting the campus with the city, the University saw an opportunity to boldly affirm its presence. The answer was the extension of the library which, sitting on the edge of town and along the tramline, serves as a gateway to the campus. The striking new triangular building’s stainless steel cover (Uginox Bright) gives it a modern, industrial look, while its stainless steel shutters (grade 304) reflect the natural sunlight. Combined, these features give the library a subtle look of a bookshelf.

Environment: urban
Material: Aperam 304L with Uginox Bright finish
Manufacturer: Aperam
Architects: Bernard Ropa
Photographs: Luc Boegly
More information: aperam.com or uginox.com