

Viaduc - Cafeteria and day care

Category:	Renovation
Location:	Brussels, Belgium
Environment:	urban
Use:	fence, façade, canopy, vertical and horizontal sunshade
Material:	316 stainless steel
Material thickness:	4 mm
Material quantity:	135 m ² stainless steel plate and structure of stainless steel
Architect:	B612architectes
Fabricator:	Neon Design
Photographs:	Serge Brison – Bernard Boccara
More information:	architectes.b612associates.com

History of the project

Located in Brussels, the project concerns the refurbishment of a patrimonial building hosting several cultural associations. The program required the renovation of the existing building as well as the creation within the building frame of a day care and a common cafeteria.

The intervention was also an opportunity to strengthen the relation between the public (and semi-public) spaces of the ancient building and the surrounding park.

B612architectes' proposal was to focus on the additional program (day care and cafeteria) and to open the old surrounding wall so to create transparency and a visual interaction from the street toward the building and the park. In order to achieve this goal the project replaces the blind partitions of the wall with laser cut stainless steel and aluminum sheets.





| Viaduc. Picture © b612architectes

The pattern designed by B612associates were inspired by an ancient map from the city archives. The aim of the architect was to induce a poetic relation between the renovated building and its historical context.

B612architectes has reunited several historical maps situating the building within the municipality at different ages of its history from 1878 till nowadays. Those maps were recomposed to create a contemporary pattern that weaves the skin of the new facade of the daycare and the cafeteria.

On the one hand, the concept expresses the renewal of the community center throughout a contemporary language and the use of steel, aluminum and digital technologies, on the other hand, it allows through the poetic and the symbolic of its design to reconnect the new intervention

Competing or alternative material(s)

Aluminium. Stainless steel was chosen over aluminium due to the material's properties, density, strength and resistance. The use of aluminium was limited to the interior of the intervention.

to the history of the city and the history of the building itself.

The translucent skin offers various possible degrees of transparency according to the map used to generate its pattern. Indeed, through the ages, the constantly growing density of the city could be interpreted as increasingly transparent motives. We have used these variations to adjust the skin of the building to its need. Using the stainless sheet as screens for the part that needed to be hidden and allowing light and view to flood in at other chosen places.



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The skin wraps up and winds around the building. This movement creates the terrace of the cafeteria. The canopy protecting it extends the spatial movement into a welcoming signal that extends itself within the building. It is an invitation to follow it and to penetrate inside the cafeteria. The wrapping also extends itself towards the upper floor and folds around the facade to generate the needed sunscreens for the southern windows.

The concept of the chosen pattern constitutes a narrative of the building. Its theme underpins the conception of the internal spaces that unfold themselves along this thread. It also allows the federation of the various associations and populations hosted in the community center around a geographical, urban and local identity.



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How did stainless steel contribute to the sustainability of the structure?

- Due to the material's weather resistance it doesn't require protective coating
- Low maintenance
- Long lasting

Why was stainless steel chosen?

- Low thickness
- Capacity to be CNC laser cut
- Weather resistance
- Strength
- Density