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Daudré-Vignier and Bond Society construct a new school as a public building requiring a conceptual, technical, aesthetic, and symbolic approach

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Quatremaire à Drancy, France

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ond Society and Daudré-Vignier & Associés have designed the new Simone de Beauvoir School in Drancy based on three principal notions: spatial quality, functionality, and sustainable demand.

The new elementary school consisting of 10 classes, a leisure center, and a school restaurant, pay particular attention to routes and views between its architectural volume and the lighting sources.



The Simone de Beauvoir elementary school is respectfully located in the heart of a dense residential neighborhood surrounded by soothing wooded areas.

It is part of a school context already present with the Jacqueline Quatremaire kindergarten, as well as the municipal La Farandole nursery school.

In accordance with the City of Drancy's requests, the building is oriented towards the heart of

the school complex, isolating itself as much as possible from all external nuisances.

The solid wood structure sits on a masonry plinth and is located in front of the existing kindergarten.



The project also provides classrooms designed with the most favorable orientation to the west and onto the playground.

Additionally, this project takes the form of two wooden quadrilaterals placed on a limestone plinth, largely glazed on the courtyard side and closed at the rear on the public space side.

It is established in an L-shaped composition to provide optimal free floor space, on one hand, and to create a boundary with Jules Guesde square on one side, and two 18-story residential towers on the other.



Firstly, the school's largely glazed ground floor forms a “center of life”. It is a place of education, social life, and interactions, extending the space beyond its simple teaching function.

Outside, the openings have been tailored to their location, thus limited to the level of the square and the two apartment towers.

In the interior courtyard, the building opens generously to reveal the rooms for school purposes, places of relaxation, and recreation.

Additionally, the courtyard integrates the ground floor functions and connects the kindergarten with the new elementary school.

More than an architectural gesture, this landmark for future students unites the different poles.

The playgrounds of the two schools are isolated by way of a fence and a plant line, thus preserving views and contact between the children.

Interior transparencies escape the feeling of confinement, and two double-height patios draw natural light and spatiality into the circulation patterns.

Far from being simple passages, these spaces are punctuated with custom-made fixed furnishings that integrate storage and benches.



The scale of the building, the flexibility of the interior layouts, and the choice of colors make it easier for children to navigate.

Furthermore, the visible wooden post/beam structure is an important intention of the project and illustrates an environmental example that raises the awareness of young and old alike.

Concrete construction is limited to the ground floor, the infrastructure, the stairwells, and the elevator.



The stone base is a relevant response to express and protect the building.

The play of lights on these materials produces a maternal softness that is pleasant for the children.

The stone used in construction was acquired from the Vassens quarries in the Aisne, less than 100km from the project.

This project represents a specific and prototypical production in its context and in its program.

Usability and environmental requirements prevail in the design, which is intended to be conducive to a study environment and the development of students in accordance with the latest educational guidelines.



Project: Simone de Beauvoir School in Drancy
Architects: Daudré-Vignier & Associés + Bond Society
Project Supervisor (Daudré-Vignier & Associés): Eric Mollard
Project Supervisor (Bond Society) Marie Labro and Adelly Laau
Client: Drancy City Town Hall
Photographers: Charly Broyez

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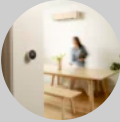
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