Education France

Simone de Beauvoir School – Wooden school by Bond Society + Daudré-Vignier & Associés

This brand-new elementary school consisting of 10 classes, a leisure centre, and a school restaurant, pays particular attention to routes and views between its architectural volume and the lighting sources

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Photography by © Charly Broyez

Bond Society and **Daudré-Vignier & Associés** recently completed their latest project in Drancy, France – Simone de Beauvoir School. The project is based on three principal notions: spatial quality, functionality, and sustainable demand. Take a look at the complete story after the jump.

Delivered in 2020, this brand-new elementary school consisting of 10 classes, a leisure centre, and a school restaurant, pays particular attention to routes and views between its architectural volume and the lighting sources. 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.

Constructing a public building requires a conceptual, technical, aesthetic, and symbolic approach.

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A public school on a neighborhood scale

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

provide optimal free floor space, on one hand, and to create a boundary with Jules Guesde square on one side, and two 18-storey residential towers on the other.

Photography by © Charly Broyez

A spatial quality and flexibility providing comfort and brightness

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.

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Functional access and openings

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Outside, the openings have been tailored to its 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.

A tailor-made program and path

Four major hubs are located on the ground floor:

– The reception hall serves the floors, the administrative center, and the foodservice area. The administrative center is in direct contact with the reception area and teaching facilities. On the upper floors, circulation isolates the blind servant grid on the garden side to distribute the served spaces (classes) on the courtyard side.

– The leisure centre, located on the dividing line, is connected with the existing nursery school.

– The multifunctional room and its storage room are located opposite the leisure center. The two spaces are separated by an open-air educational garden.

– The restaurant located closest to the entrance is designed as a soothing stopover. It opens onto the reception hall and the playground, with a layout that reduces delivery routes and limits truck access to the playground.

The elementary school is accessed from rue Jacqueline Quatremaire, between the existing kindergarten and the Farandole nursery school. This entrance is central through the reception hall.

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An important sustainable demand

The choice of materials was executed in line with RT 2012 thermal and environmental objectives. The school group is a project in which the two elevation levels are designed in wood. The superstructure is justified in the following ways:

– Wood construction helps develop the forestry sector and constitutes a relevant alternative to an all-concrete structure.
– Environmental quality and ecological interest: wood is a biologically renewable material, and wood absorbs significant amounts of CO2 in its cells, thus contributing to a reduction of the greenhouse effect. It is also energy efficient during installation.
– Dry-sector prefabrication: speed and precision.

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

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.

Technical Sheet

Location : 64, rue Jacqueline Quatremaire à Drancy (93) FRANCE

Planning : Elementary school of 10 classrooms, school restaurant, activity classes and leisure centre.

Client : Drancy City Town Hall

Architects :

Architects : Daudré-Vignier & Associés + Bond Society – www.bond-society.com

Project supervisor (Daudré-Vignier & Associés) : Eric Mollard

Project supervisor (Bond Society) : Marie Labro and Adelly Laau

Project managements :

Design department Wood structure : SYLVA Conseil

Design department GO structure : Laboratoire I+A

Economist : Eco+Construire

Design department Fluids and HQE : Albert & Compagnie

Design department Acoustic : META Atelier acoustique

Design department Electricity : GT2E

Subcontractors :

Wood Corporation : Bois2bout

Stonecutter : JMR Taille de Pierre

Outside carpentry : CT2A

VRD : Vert.R.D

Electricity Corporation : E.V.A

Partition/false ceiling Corporation : Safe Pop

Inside carpentry : Botemo

Signage : Sapeur Sign

Structure : Wood from French fields, stone from Vassens

Calendar :

Beginning of the studies : Winter 2018

Delivery : Summer 2020

Construction costs : 5 800 000 € HT

Floor area : 2 100 m²

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