

This new multi-storey car park, situated in the heart of Montpellier city centre, is part of the ZAC Nouveau Saint-Roch urban development project's plans to extend the central district. It is a key element in the structuring of the pedestrian areas between the Place de la Comédie and Saint Roch Station. Standing amid a railway-dominated cityscape, it will complete the multi-modality of the station's interchange area.

The creation of a raised street acting as a backbone for the building and the prolongation of the public space, will reactivate the synergies between the car park users and the district's residents, forming an area in which they can enter into contact. Indeed, this street represents both a thoroughfare and a meeting space, formed by the points at which it broadens, creating an area for social cohesion.

This space is a perfect example of the concept of participatory private space, inviting users to mingle, encouraging reencounters and the shared occupation of private spaces, as a natural continuation of the dynamics formed by the public space.

This building is capable of moving beyond its original programme, becoming a relational construction with the ability to impact on its environment. It is an element that creates an urban connection, linking the station district lying to the east and the railway lines, which are currently only connected to the rest by Sète Bridge. Inherent in this project is a vast potential for evolution and mutability that in the future will allow the building to house offices, homes or other, as yet unknown uses that will emerge from the information society. In short, the building reflects the time vector of architecture, looking ahead to the future.

The use of a hardy ceramic material, together with an innovative application in the form of a ceramic fabric, enables us to confer an urban perspective on this project, softening its scale and converting it into an organoleptic building that will vibrate as the trains rumble past and the wind blows.

Ceramic textiles are an innovative industrialised system based on a steel mesh that encloses a set of fired clay pieces arranged in a panel format according to the personalised designs of each specifier. This system allows for the production of flexible ceramic tile sheets that can be used to make up coverings (flooring, façades and roofs) or sheet structures (vaulted and curved). The most striking feature of this system is the creation of an innovative format for a traditional material which has been in use for thousands of years. In addition, its superb flexibility allows for easy storage and transport, either folded on pallets or rolled on bobbins, which means that installation in large strips on site is quick, easy and economical.