



Centre de Conservation du Louvre à Liévin

Liévin, France

The architects...have succeeded in taking the specific needs of properly preserving and accessing the Louvre's collections, and turning them into a first-class architectural creation

Jean-Luc Martinez, President-Director of the Musée du Louvre



Location
Liévin, France

Date
2015- 2019

Client
Musée du Louvre / Région
Hauts de France

Construction cost
€35 million

Area
20,000m²

Cost Consultant
VPEAS SAS

Landscape Architects
Mutabilis Paysage

Technical Consultant
Egis Bâtiments Nord

**Environmental
Consultant**
Iddigo SAS



In 2015, RSHP won an international competition to design a new facility dedicated to the conservation of the Louvre Museum's collections. The Louvre Conservation Centre is located in Liévin, in northern France - next to the Louvre-Lens, designed by Sanaa architects - and offers 18,500m² of space dedicated to conservation and restoration.

The building is designed to integrate the storage and preservation of more than 250,000 works of art which are currently distributed between over 60 different sites across France. The chosen proposal brings out an ecologically sensitive, sober, elegant and resolutely contemporary building whose discreet lines are transformed into the landscape.

Taking advantage of the natural slope of the land, the building emerges harmoniously from the landscape, contained by two pairs of concrete walls, reminiscent of Vauban's French military architecture. Its green roof forms a visual extension towards the Louvre-Lens park and a link with the green arc of the Euralens masterplan.

The building contrasts with the transparent and almost ephemeral building of the Louvre Lens Museum, exploring the potential for expression of what remains hidden and what is revealed. The main facade of the building consists of a wide 160m long by 12m high curtain wall which brings light into the study areas and conservation workspaces. This glazed façade not only allows optimal working conditions for the works to be studied and restored, it also offers the possibility of glimpsing the inner workings of this private establishment hidden behind a garden which slopes gently between the reserves and the street.

A post-beam construction system on an 8 by 10-metre grid offers great flexibility of use as well as a certain modularity. The workspaces are separated from the reserves by a top-lit central corridor - the internal 'artworks boulevard' of the building and its principal circulation space.

Under the superstructure made up of around 900 prefabricated concrete vaults, a succession of reserves is arranged on one level. The respective heights of the spaces decrease from more than 8m in the west to 3m in the east, in order to provide a direct response to the needs and formats of the different collections. All services are housed in the twin exterior walls, keeping the collection spaces completely clear.

State-of-the-art climate control technology works in tandem with the thermal mass provided by the concrete envelope of the semi-underground building and its garden roof to ensure extremely stable humidity and temperature conditions for the optimal storage of works of art, while limiting the environmental impact of the building. Water management is also fully integrated into the landscape design, in order to optimize reuse and avoid any risk of flooding.

A generous logistics area allows the loading and unloading of works in complete safety with a view to their transport to the conservation areas.