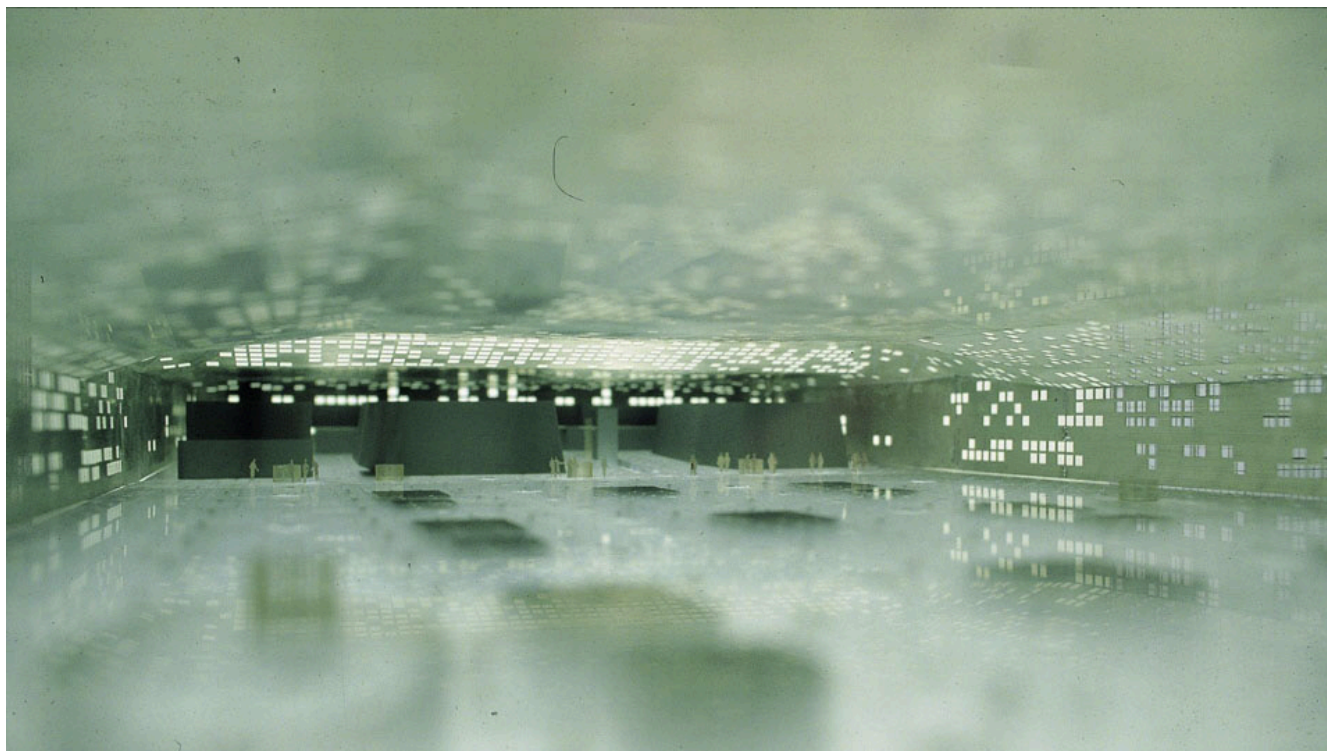# Métafort Multimedia Research Center
Aubervilliers, France
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» *image: LIN*   » *AMF-01-ESS-LIN-internal view of métaphor*

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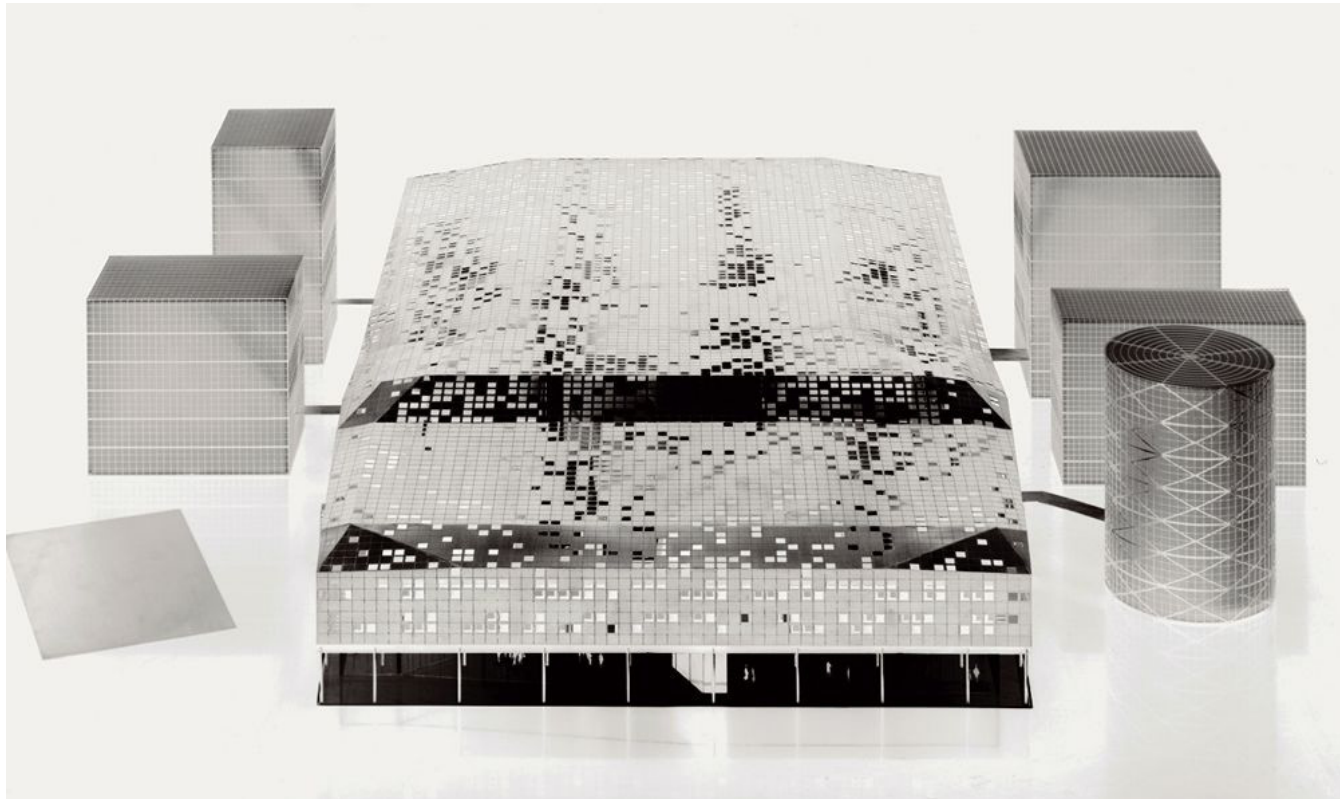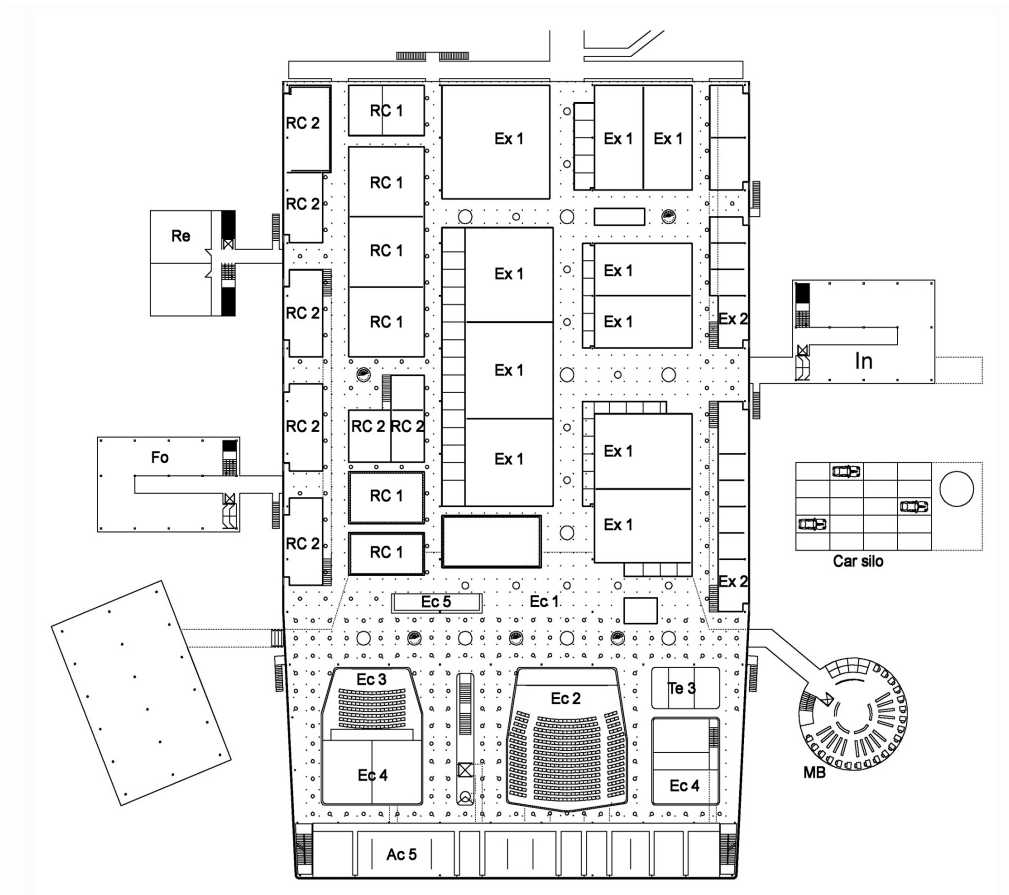Métafort Multimedia Research Center
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» *AMF-03-ESS-LIN-plan*

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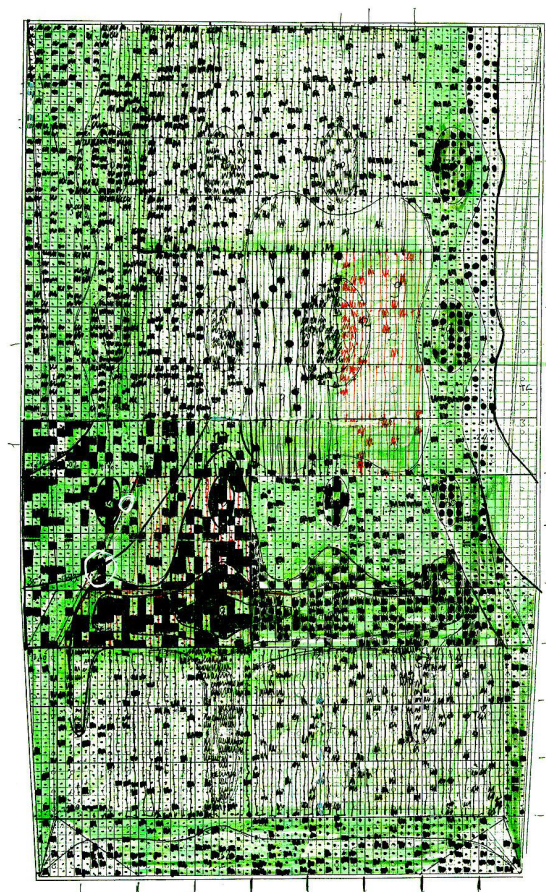
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» *4 Envelope Structure*
» *3 Village Structure*
» *2 Perforated Platform*
» *1. Services*
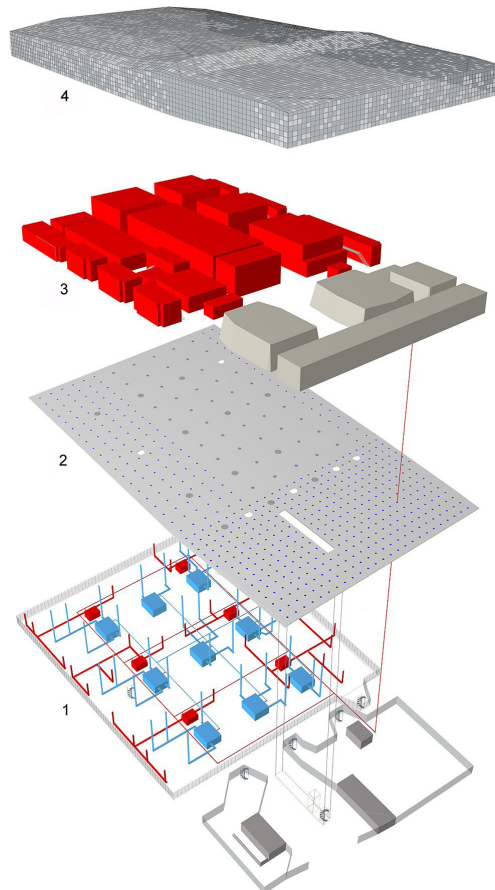
» *image: LIN*   » *AMF-05-ESS-LIN-axonomentric view of multiple layers*

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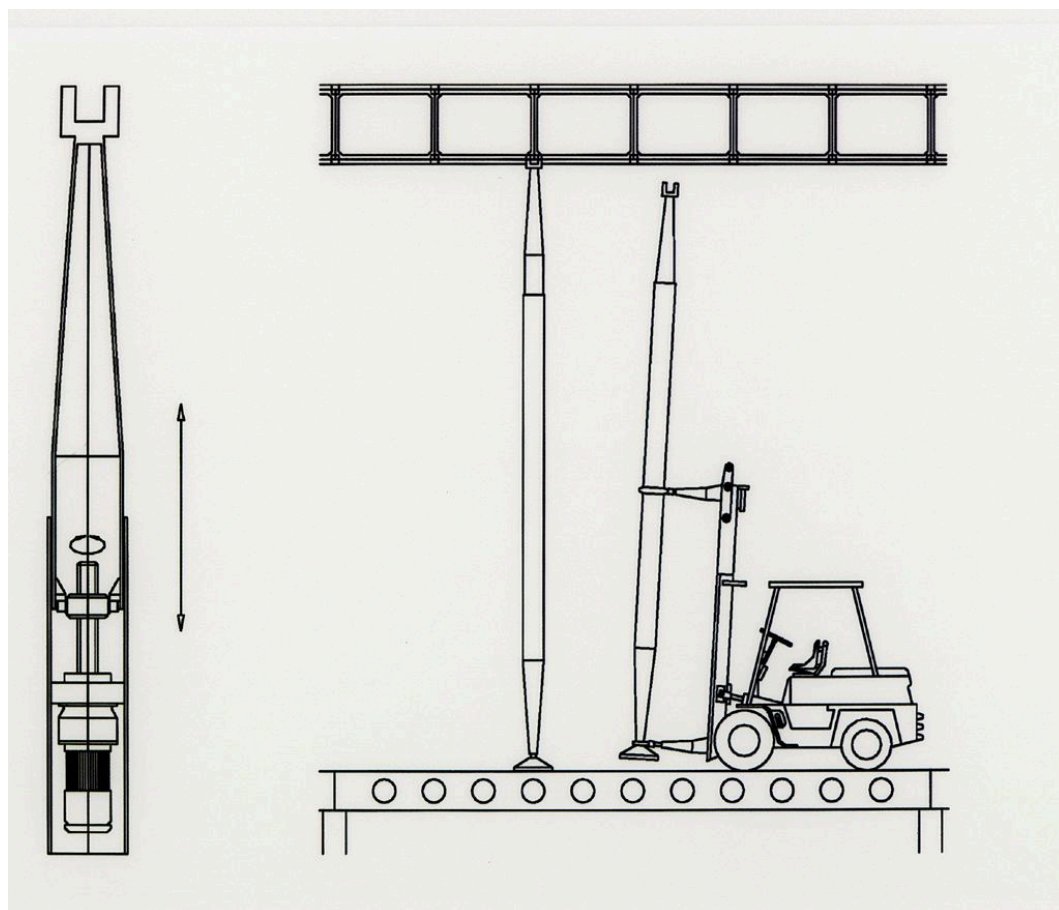
» *AMF-06-ESS-LIN-installation of moveable pillars*

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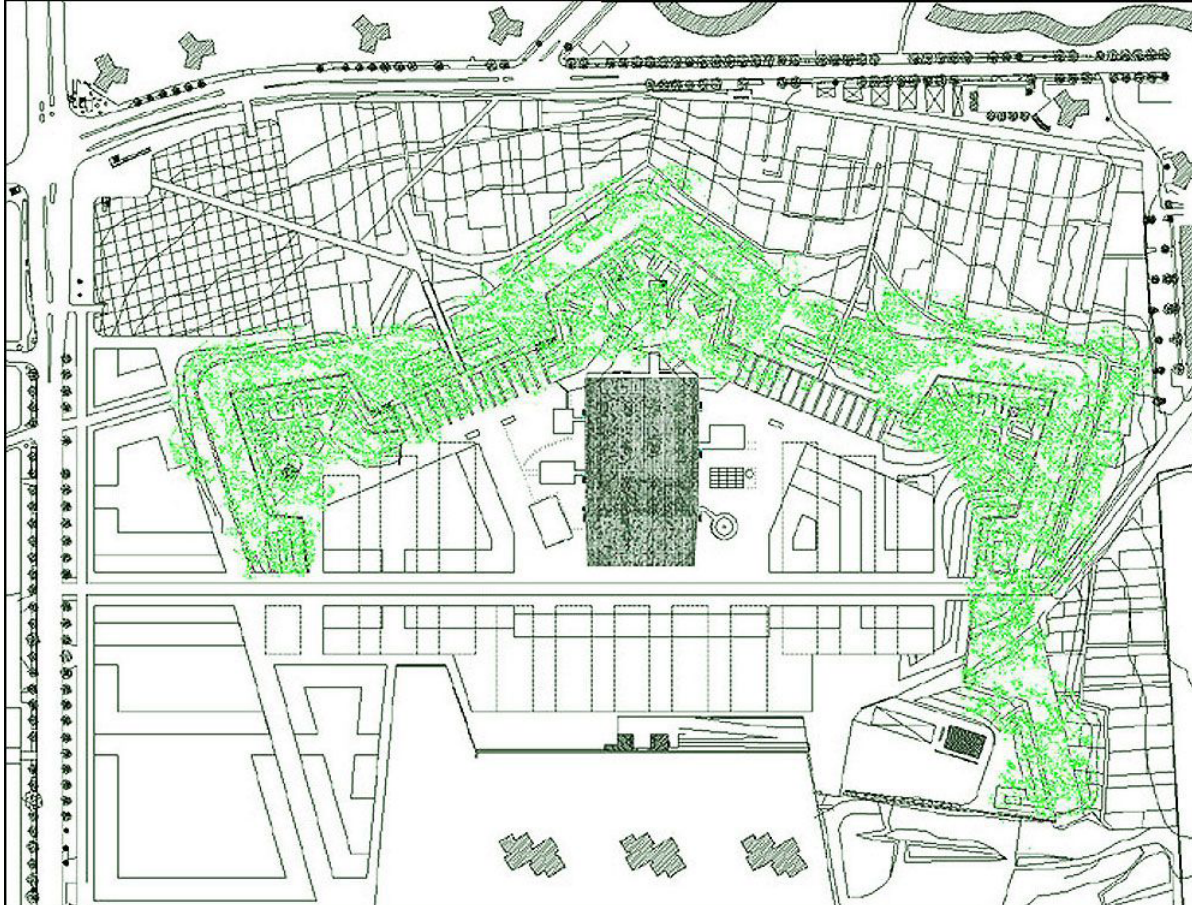
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» *AMF-08-ESS-LIN-aerial veiw*

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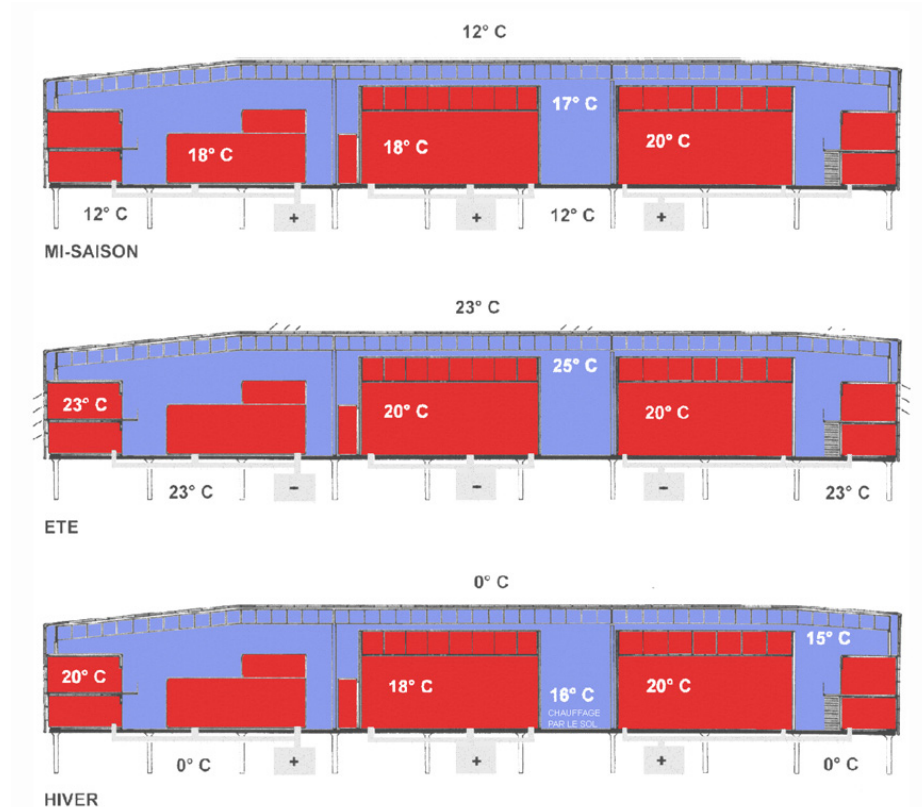
» *image: LIN*   » *AMF-09-ESS-LIN-thermal variation*

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MÉTAFORT
MÉTAFORT represents a new kind of utopia that consists in moving in the
direction of current trends while at the same time aspiring to achieve social
and cultural "control" of multimedia technologies from within. Its origina-
lity lies in the opportunity to compare and cross "multimedia culture" with
more traditional forms of artistic expression, with a focus on the societal
aspects and the decision to set up the institution in an outer urban area. It is
in line with a series of similar projects like the ZKM, the MIT Media Lab and
the NTT InterCommunication Centre in Tokyo.
The institution will assume the role of producer: it will offer advice and
expertise, project engineering and technical facilities to players wishing to
combine their experiments. Projects will be generated by proposals rather
than commissioned.

MONOSPACE
Métafort is a socio-cultural multimedia research center established in the
old Fort d'Aubervilliers on the northern fringe of Paris. Consisting of a
monospace surrounded by six satellites, the main structure is comprised of
a raised platform sheltered by an enveloping skin with variable permeabi-
lity.
Fixed parts (conference rooms, control room) and flexible parts (laborato-
ries, performing and production studios) are articulated on the platform.
The satellites function as footbridges projecting into their immediate
surroundings – both literally and symbolically – housing the media library,
guest artist residences, training premises, a start up hotbed and a theatre
stage.

PROGRAM
Enveloped under one roof, the village presents the image of a uniform single
entity. The architectural space is differentiated by a gradation between two
poles – a "fluid" architectural system in the center (tall spaces, angles of
vision, sparse areas) giving way to a "water tight" system on the edges
(small spaces, little squares, narrow walkways). The connection between
the area of distribution and intimate space is made according to the "center
outline area principle", or the "remoteness-density" principle as regards
the quality of its interstices.

SYSTEM
The main building rests on a single slab raised on pilotis, a base plate which
acts as the fixed support for Métafort while protecting the ground-level
nerve center: a concentration of support systems incorporating delivery
points, technical equipment rooms and additional spaces that function as
the building's lifeline. The upper face of the plate provides for various types
of spaces, incorporating stable elements like the Forum and exchange
center while allowing for variable and hanging configurations of modular
spaces which can be adjusted in size and volume to adapt to different
projects – for example The Expression and Research centers (laboratories
and production studi – separated by spaces referencing village streets and
public squares.

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SKIN
The flexible roof ensures protection while distributing light throughout building areas via an arbitrary layout of glazed roof panels. The roof also allows the volume to become an INTERCLIMATIC space

STRUCTURE
The degree of sophistication of the methods of construction is proportionate to the life span of each element: content (the village) is achieved using "makeshift" methods; the adaptable framework (envelope) using light assembly techniques; the fixed framework (platform) using heavy techniques. The particulars of the mechanical assembly methods used for all construction elements allows for future dismantling of each component and therefore short-term adaptations and transformations as well as long-term recycling.
A similar structure implemented previously at the Ecole National d'Art Décoratif in Limoges, completed in 1993/94, provides the experience and a point of departure for the design of the
Métafort MONOSPACE

AERIAL VIEW
View over Aubervilliers fort as soon as it was built and now fossilized under a thick layer of greenery. It is separated from the Aubervilliers and Pantin suburbs by a network of traffic lanes and allotments.