

Quai Henri IV
Paris, France
2015



photo: Maria Vittoria Trovato

» PAQ-ESS-LIN-photo_01

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2015

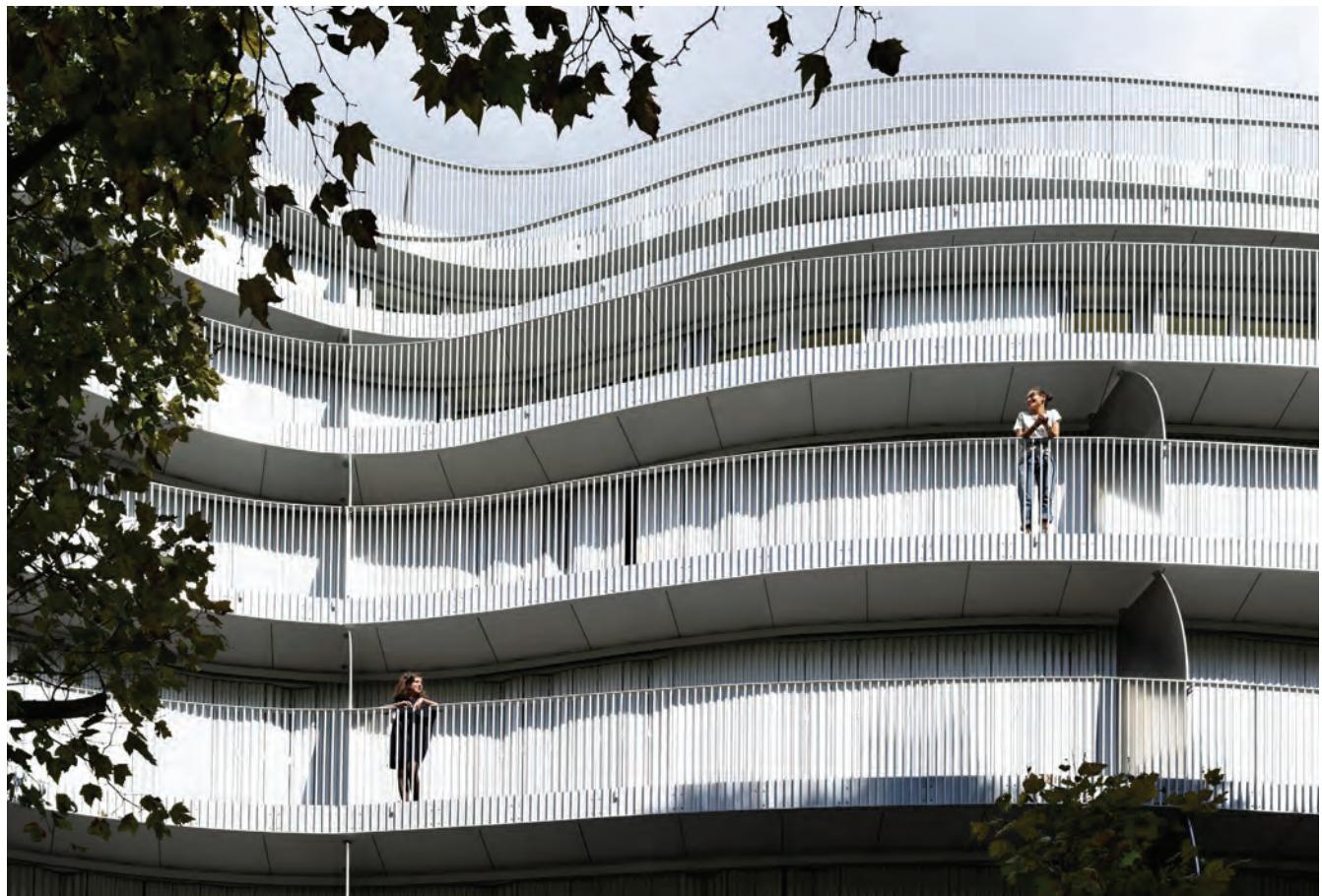


photo: David Boureau

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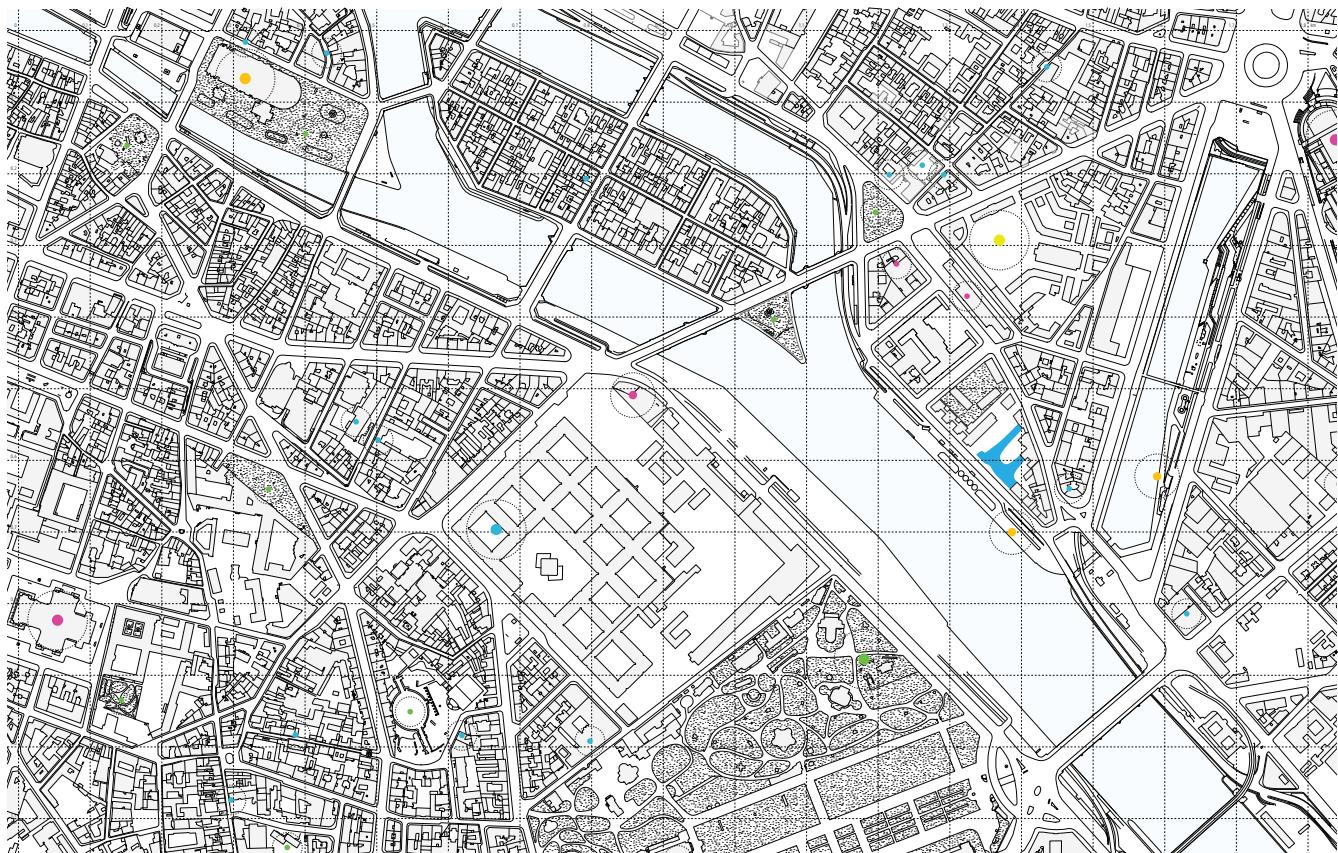
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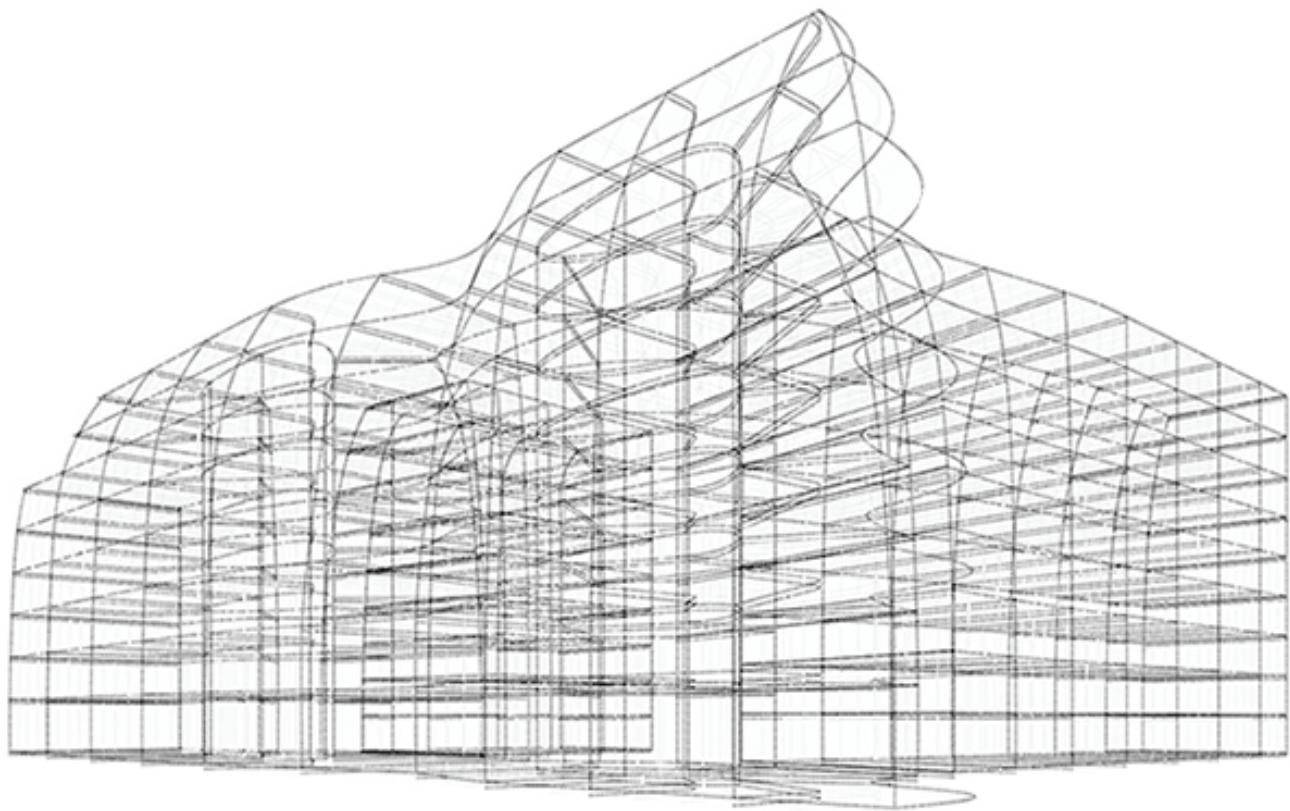
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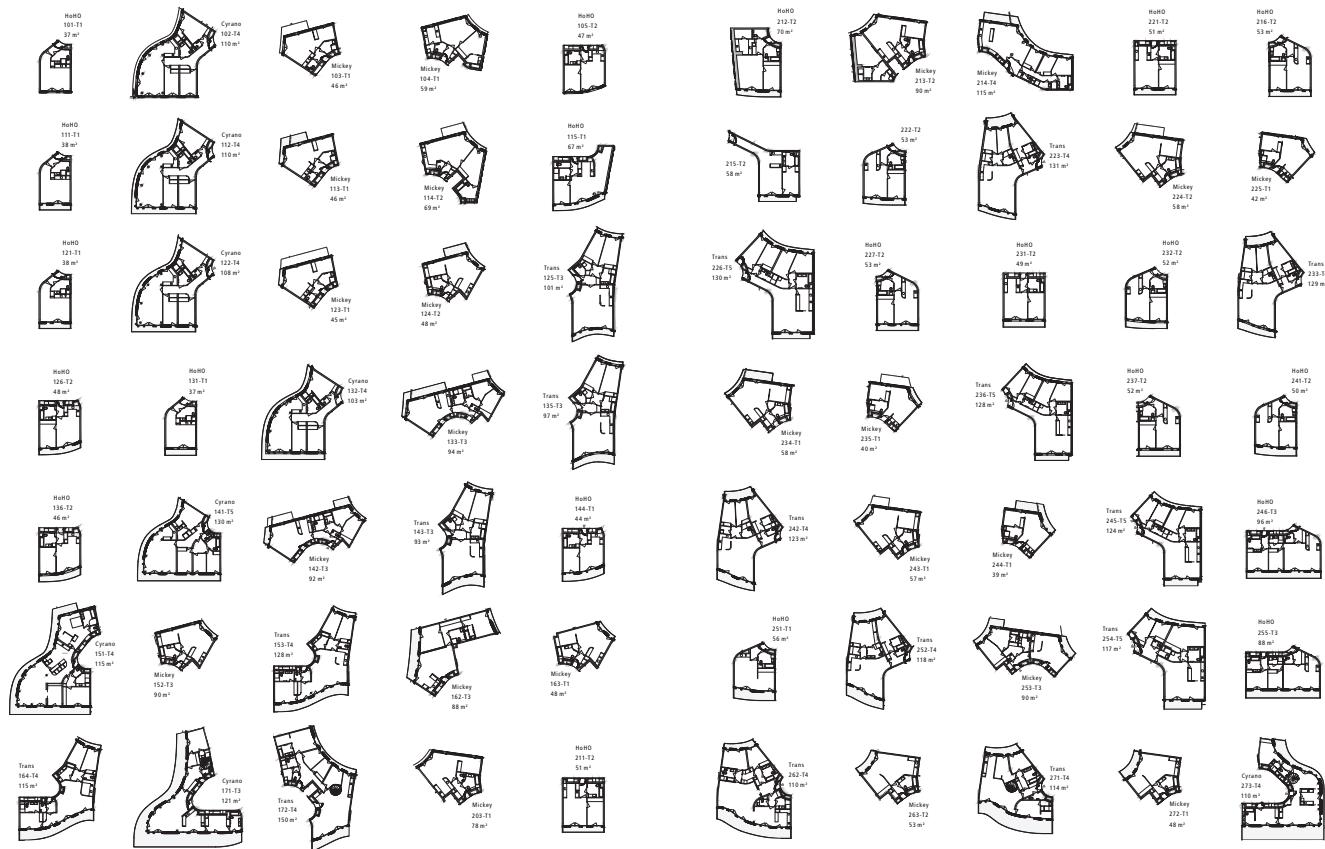


» PAQ-ESS-LIN-floor_plan

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» PAQ-ESS-LIN-typologies

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» *PAQ-ESS-LIN-photo_08*

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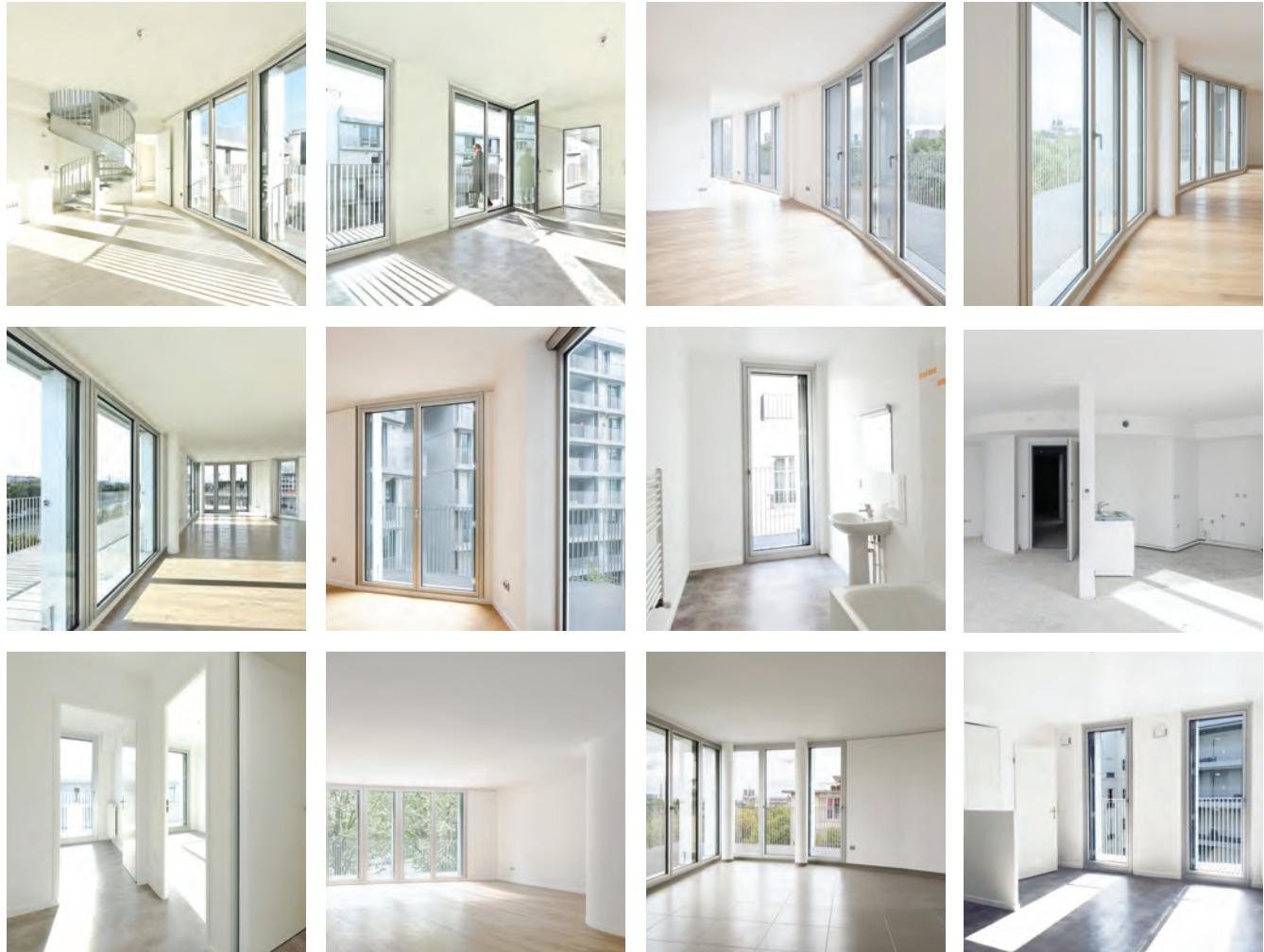
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Photos Christian Richters, David Bureau, Maria Vittoria Trovato, Sandra Badji

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Paris, France
2015



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Quai Henri IV
Paris, France
2015

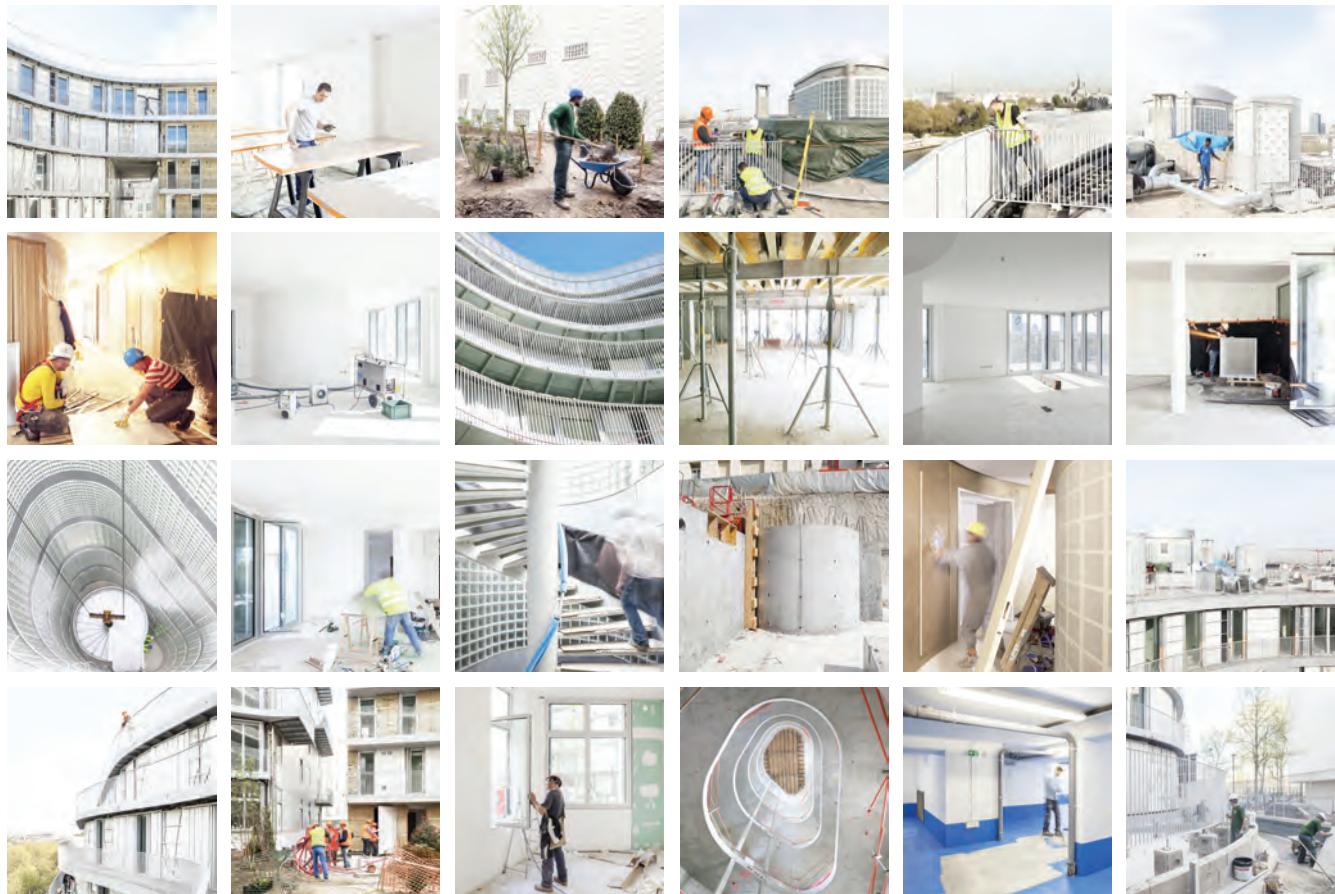


photo: Maria Vittoria Trovato

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Paris, Quai Henri IV 144 apartments and 1 kindergarten

Located on the riverbanks of the Seine in the 4th arrondissement, the mixed apartment building contains 70 social housing units, 74 privately owned apartments and 1 kindergarten. The building elegantly blends in the urban context of the Quai Henri IV, by reasserting the courtyard structure and bringing consistence to the existing block. The innovative design of the volume creates three courtyards with gentle vegetation and allows magnificent views over the Seine. The apartments are organized around vertical stairways, which also operate as light shafts and allow light to enter deeply into the building. The building contains a wide variety of housing types (90 types), resulting from both, the volume and a study on new types of living and family constellations. The volume is enfolded in a facade, which alternates transparent and opaque elements, laying out broad balconies and emphasizing the external poenness of the flats and the remarkable panorama offered by the construction. The facade itself is punctuated by an alternation of bay windows and metallic panels made of anondized aluminium, which colours shift from metallic-grey to champagne. All elements of the facade (nose and undersides of balconies, handrails...) present the same colorimetric shades and offer a radiant harmony, evolving with the ambiance and the change of natural light during the day.

Paris, the courtyards

The project is integrated in a complex context of residential buildungs dating from the 70s and 90s and a series of Haussmann buildings organized around fragmented inner courtyards. Based on already existing gables, which were exposed by the demolition of the former SNPE building (Société Nationale des poudres et explosifs), the project reconstitutes wider courtyards. The new ensemble gives the block a new flair of urbanity.

The design process intended to respect the building law applied on the site (PLU), and to insert the building harmoniously into its urban context. The volume connects to the exisiting fire-walls of the neighbouring buildings, thus giving consistence to the whole ensemble.

Paris, reinventing the parisian courtyard

The site features a composite and dense structure, typical for the centre of Paris, along with a remarkable view over the Seine. The softly curved facade of the building gives a continuity to the displayed linearity of the existing buildings and gently reconciles to the vertical facade of the Yves Lion buildings. The volume integrates the existing buildings at the Quai Henri IV, creates three new green courtyards and thus activates the urban fabric of the block.

Typologies

The building contains a large variety of apartment typologies, 90 different typologies for 144 apartments, ranging from T1 to T5. More than 50% have an orientation to two sides. All of them have balconies overlooking the Seine or one of the courtyards.

The social housing units and the privately owned apartments are grouped in one single volume, enfolded by the same facade, all of them benefit from balconies. The passages in the volume and the seperated staircases allow a distinguished seperation of the two. The apartments are organized radial around the vertical staircases, that benifit from natural lightning. The technical supply lines are located in the middle of the building, allowing the living areas to profit from the light and the view.

Habitation, Harmony and linearity

The facade, composed of an alternation between bay windows and opaque panels, along with facade-long balconies, wraps the complete building with its curves and different levels, enabling a continuity between in and outdoor spaces. The large windows ensure the transparency of the facade, which can be regulated with mobile, vertical elements. The facade therefore constitutes an ever evolving filter, rich in reflections during the changing daylight.

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Habitation, Access

The two vertical staircases in the part of the building with the privately owned apartments, were designed in regard to the light-study for each floor. The staircases have skylights, allowing the light to deeply penetrate the building. Imagined as light shafts, they contain a wide helical metallic staircase, potentially substituting the elevator.

The social housing units are served by three staircases, accessible from the central courtyard. The outdoor platform is part of the continuity of the balconies and therefore benefit from natural lighting and the great proximity to the central garden. Every platform serves two or three housing units per level.

Figure, Heritage and a new perspective

The project refers to existing traditions in the Parisian culture of housing. It recycles inherited codes in favour of a contemporary and innovative interpretation. The figure, with its gentle curves, supports the building unity, allows social housing units and privately owned apartments to coexist. The staggered floors recall Sauvage's buildings and respect the given regulations; its curved shape animates the facade and creates a singular silhouette.

Figure, Fibonacci

The urban constraints and regulations of the site were carefully analysed in order to meet the requested density. The spatial potential, offered by the curved upper floors offers as much floor space as possible. The stepped structure follows Fibonacci's harmonious proportions and converts the long balconies into wide terraces. The difference between the social housing units and the privately owned apartments is visible in a variation of the balcony slabs, most prominently at the cuts on the facade and supports its shimmering appeal.

Figure, Structure

The global design was shaped by urban constraints and regulations. Lightning study's, that were conducted in parallel, added to the final definition of its form. The results were applied to optimize the depths of the building and to define the location of the vertical staircases. This process allowed to redefine and stretch the volume to an extend were the optimized situation for the natural lighting of the apartments was defined.